

DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

OIFA Member Newsletter - February 2020

Arizona ABLE Accounts

In December 2014, the U.S. Congress passed the Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act. In 2016, the Arizona Legislature passed House Bill 2388 which created the Arizona ABLE



Act and on March 5, 2018, the AZ ABLE Account Program was launched. This law allows [eligible individuals with disabilities](#), their family and friends, to contribute at least \$15,000 annually to the account. These savings do not impact their eligibility for means-tested benefit programs like Medicaid or Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Earnings in an AZ ABLE account are not subject to federal income tax if they are spent on [qualified disability expenses](#). Visit <https://az-able.com/> for more information or to open an AZ ABLE account.

DDD Town Hall Meetings

DDD is hosting town hall meetings in all districts twice a year. DDD will present details about Division initiatives and other news. This includes sharing the results from the Raising Special Kids forums held in Spring 2019. We are also asking for member, family and provider feedback about Division initiatives and issues important to them. Upcoming meetings in 2020 include:

- March 5, 2020 – Casa Grande Community Recreation Center Community Room 106, 1905 N Peart Road Casa Grande, AZ 85122, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- April 2, 2020 – TBA, Avondale 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- May 7, 2020 – TBA, Show Low 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

See the schedule on the [DDD website](#) for updated dates, locations and times.

February is American Heart Month



Your heart is a key part of your health and well-being. Heart disease is the cause of nearly 1 in 4 deaths in Arizona. Unhealthy eating habits, physical inactivity, and tobacco use are all behaviors that hurt your heart. Changing these behaviors can reduce your chance for heart disease and stroke. [The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute](#) website offers a number of ways to get involved and support American heart month.

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Family Caregiver Day at the Capitol

On Thursday, March 5, 2020, the Arizona Caregiver Coalition (ACC) is hosting a family caregiver day at the state Capitol. Family caregivers, friends and supports are invited to learn more about caregiver advocacy and to share personal caregiver stories.

The event will be held from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the AZ State Capitol Office Tower in the 3rd Floor Conference Room. The address is 1700 W. Washington St., Phoenix, AZ 85007. Call 1-888-737-7494 or visit azcaregiver.org to RSVP as space is limited.

Like DDD On Facebook

Like DDD on Facebook, [@OfficialArizonaDDD](https://www.facebook.com/OfficialArizonaDDD), and stay connected to the latest news and events.

Councils and Committees

There are many ways you can volunteer and positively impact the DD community. Visit the [DDD website](http://www.dddweb.org) to see all the councils and committees you can volunteer to be on.

Developmental Disabilities Advisory Council

The next Developmental Disabilities Advisory Council (DDAC) public forum and listening session will be held on February 20, 2020. Members, families, providers and advocates are invited to attend.

Two sessions will be held.

- First Session - 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
- Second Session - 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- Location: Goelet A.C. Beuf Community Center, Multipurpose Room - North, 3435 W. Pinnacle Peak Rd., Phoenix, AZ 85027

The next DDAC meeting will be held on March 11, 2020. The meeting is open for the public to observe. The meeting will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at 2200 N Central Ave. Ste 200, Phoenix, AZ 85004. [Visit the DDAC online for more details about both events.](#)

DDD is Here to Help

Please contact your Support Coordinator or the DDD Customer Service Center at 1-844-770-9500 ext. 1 (TTY/TDD 711) if you have questions.

Call the DDD Customer Service Center at 1-844-770-9500 ext. 1, TTY/TDD 711, to ask for this material in other formats. Language help is available at no cost to you.