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District of Columbia

## April 2018 Office of Disability Rights Newsletter

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April 2018

April 2018  
ODR  
Newsletter

### Community Events and Happenings

#### Autism Acceptance Month & Job Opportunity

**Did you know April is Autism Acceptance Month?** This month is focused on accepting and sharing respectful and accurate information about autism and autistic individuals. Want to learn more? Visit the Autistic Self Advocacy Network's (ASAN) [Autism Acceptance Month Webpage](#).



**Job Opportunity: ASAN is seeking a Programs Coordinator.** The Programs Coordinator works closely with the ASAN Director of Operations and other staff to run ASAN's programs and events. The job is a salaried position in the \$37,000-\$40,000

The Programs Coordinator will work at ASAN's Washington, DC office. [For further details and how you can apply visit ASAN's website.](#)

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## National Social Security Month

**National Social Security Month is an annual celebration in April that commemorates Social Security's promise of economic security for the nation's people.** During this month, Social Security and its partners promote educational materials to emphasize the importance of financial planning. Celebrate by seeing what you can do online at [SocialSecurity.gov](http://SocialSecurity.gov).



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## DC Hires Vets Event - Open to all Veterans and Veterans' Spouse



**Meet, apply, and be interviewed for positions with the District of Columbia government and private sector corporations.** The DC Department of Human Resources (DCHR) in partnership with the Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs and the DC National Guard will host its second DC Hires Vets event offering veterans and veteran spouses the opportunity to connect with District and Federal agencies as well as private sector companies. [Registration is required but is free.](#)

**When:** Wednesday, April 4, 2018, 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

**Where:** D.C. Armory, 2001 E Capitol St, SE,  
Washington, DC 20003

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## DC Emancipation Day Parade and Concert

**District residents and friends - Celebrate DC Emancipation Day** with a parade, concert and fireworks. Visit [emancipation.dc.gov](http://emancipation.dc.gov) for more information.

**For Reasonable Accommodations call 202-442-8150**

**When:** Saturday, April 14th, starting at 1:00 PM

**Where:** Pennsylvania Ave NW, between 10th street NW and 14th street NW



## Disability Policy Seminar 2018



**The Disability Policy Seminar** is the premier opportunity to cultivate champions on Capitol Hill and advance the grassroots movement for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). This event is hosted by The Arc, United Cerebral Palsy (UCP), Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD), American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD), National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD), and Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE). **Further details on how to register can be found on the [Seminar Website](#).**

**When:** Sunday, April 22nd to Wednesday, April 25th

**Where:** The Renaissance Washington, 999 Ninth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001

## D.C. Board of Elections - Voter Access Forum

**The Voter Access Forum gives the D.C. Board of Elections an opportunity to engage with members of the disability rights community, discuss accessible polling sites and independent voting.** The forum also creates a platform for language access advocates to discuss challenges facing voters with language barriers, proper translation procedures and practices. There will also be an interactive demonstration of our voting technology, and other auxiliary aids. [Register for this event \(Free\)](#)



**When:** Thursday, April 26th, 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

**Where:** D.C. Board of Elections, 1015 Half Street S.E.,  
Suite 750

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## D.C. Commission on Persons with Disabilities April Meeting



**The Commission serves as an advisory body to inform and advise the District** on programs, services, facilities, and activities that impact the lives of residents with disabilities in the District of Columbia. Meetings are open to the public and can be accessed by phone or in-person. For more information visit [ODR's website](#) for upcoming Commission Meetings.

**When:** Friday, April 27th 10:00 AM to 11:15 AM

**Where:** Teleconference

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## Service and Emotional Support Animals: A Primer on Animal Accommodation Laws

**\*Offered In-Person and by Webinar for MCLE Credit\***

ODR's Attorney Advisor, Jessica Hunt, will serve as part of a panel discussion on the basics of animal accommodation requests; the distinctions between service, assistance, and emotional support animals; and how to avoid common pitfalls. **Registration details coming soon - [Register Now](#).**

**When:** Wednesday, May 9, 2018, 1:00 to 3:15 PM

**Credit:** 2.0 Credit Hours

**Course Level:** Basic



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## 2018 NBCUniversal Tony Coelho Media Scholarship



**The American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) is proud to offer the NBCUniversal Tony Coelho Media Scholarship.** In 2018 the NBCUniversal Tony Coelho Media Scholarship will offer eight (8) scholarships to undergraduate and graduate students with disabilities who are interested in pursuing a career in the communications, media, or entertainment industry. Each recipient will receive \$5,625 to help cover the cost of education at their current college or university.

[Apply now!](#)

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## Grants for Adaptive Sports Programs for Disabled Veterans and Disabled Members of the Armed Forces (VA)

**Department of Veterans' Affairs announces funds to support eligible adaptive sports entities** to plan, develop, manage, and implement programs that will provide adaptive sports activities for disabled Veterans and disabled members of the Armed Forces

**Eligibility:** County governments, public and state controlled institutions of higher education, nonprofit organizations, public housing authorities, private institutions of higher education, for-profit organizations, small businesses, community-based organizations and DC government agencies

**Deadline:** 5/2/2018

**Funds:** \$8,000,000 is available for 95 awards

[View Grant Opportunity](#)



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## Looking Back on the Past

**See Me For Me: Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month Celebration**



**This year's Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month Celebration was a huge success!** Performances included singers, poets, bands, and dancers. Mayor Muriel Bowser joined Disability advocates and service providers in recognizing March as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month under the theme of See Me for Me and held a ceremonial signing of the [Disability Services Reform Amendment Act of 2018](#).

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## ODR Budget Oversight Hearing

**Executive Director, Mat McCollough, provided testimony amongst members of the public on ODR's Budget Oversight Hearing.** The Budget Oversight Hearing took place on March 28th, 2018 by the Committee on Human Services. The [recording](#) is now available for viewing and includes captions.



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## Staff Spotlight

### Erica Paris



**ODR is excited to welcome Erica Paris.** Erica joined the DC Office of Disability Rights in early 2018 to provide administrative support to staff members as well as assist with the Effective Communications Program and complaint intakes. Previously, Erica worked in the field of community health, where she worked to promote health in underserved communities by increasing health knowledge and self-sufficiency through activities such as outreach, informal counseling, and social support. In addition, she worked as an Analyst with Aetna Inc., where she researched, identified, and resolved data trends that affected the quality of Medicaid member's information. Originally from Washington DC, Erica holds a BA in Communications/Public Relations and a Masters of Science in Management/ Healthcare Administration.



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## Feature Future Community Events in our Newsletter

Do you know of Community Events happening in DC and want to share? Send them to us and they may be featured in our next month's newsletter! You can send the event, its details, time and date, as well as address to [Julia.Wolhandler@dc.gov](mailto:Julia.Wolhandler@dc.gov) with the subject line: community events - ODR Newsletter

For Information about ODR's Newsletter call (202)724-5055 or visit the web at [odr.dc.gov](http://odr.dc.gov).

441 4th Street NW, Suite 729 North, Washington DC 20001, Phone: (202)724-5055

Fax: (202)727-9484 E-mail: [ODR.Complaints@dc.gov](mailto:ODR.Complaints@dc.gov)

### MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the District Office of Disability Rights (ODR) is to ensure that the programs, services, benefits, activities and facilities operated or funded by the District of Columbia are fully accessible to, and useable by people with disabilities. ODR is committed to inclusion, community-based services, and self-determination for people with disabilities. ODR is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the City's obligations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) as well as other disability rights laws.



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