

Actionline

A bi-monthly newsletter of The Arc of Texas Governmental Affairs Department

February 2006

In this issue:

- **February 13, 2007--TENTATIVE DATE for Capitol Day 2007 in Austin, Texas!**
- **Use Your Voice: Influence the Next DADS Legislative Appropriations Request on May 4th**
- **Key Legislative Dates for the 80th Texas Legislature**
- **Sign up for Texas Talk E-Newsletter**
- **Meeting Notices & Information Sites**

February 13, 2007--TENTATIVE DATE for Capitol Day 2007 in Austin, Texas!

Mark your calendars for the next Capitol Day on **February 13, 2007!**

Capitol Day 2005 was a huge success, thanks to the hard work of the many who were involved and those who participated in the great event. In keeping with the spirit of the rally, amazing advocacy efforts took place last session as advocates asked legislators to "Get to the Heart of the Matter" in addressing the waiting list and other important issues.

Now it's time to look ahead to next year as we approach the 80th Legislative session. We have recruited a wonderful team for the planning committee and the work has already begun. Many exciting plans are underway so stay tuned and get ready to join us for Capitol Day 2007!

Use Your Voice: Influence the Next DADS Legislative Appropriations Request on May 4th

For talking points, visit The Arc's website (<http://www.thearcoftexas.org/>) and click on "Input for FY08-09 DADS Legislative Appropriations Request" under "Advocacy News".

FROM THE DADS WEBSITE ([HTTP://WWW.DADS.STATE.TX.US/](http://www.dads.state.tx.us/)):

DADS LEGISLATIVE APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST VIDEO CONFERENCE SLATED FOR MAY 4

The Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) will conduct a **videoconference May 4 in nine cities around the state** to receive public comment and input on development of the DADS Legislative Appropriations Request (LAR).

The videoconference will be from 3-6 p.m. Individuals may sign-in at each site beginning at 2:30 p.m. The videoconference in El Paso will be 2-5 p.m. (MT) with sign-in beginning at 1:30 p.m.



The videoconference is organized to allow individuals at all sites to provide public comment. A moderator will facilitate the input process; a local staff host will be available at each site to assist with registration, sign-in, and other logistics. The capacity of each room is limited and varies by location.

Persons with disabilities who need auxiliary aids or services should call the local host listed below or call DADS at 512-438-4313 (TDD) no later than two days before the meeting date so that appropriate arrangements can be made. Persons who need Spanish language interpretation should call the local host listed below no later than two days before the meeting date so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

LOCATIONS

- **Abilene, Texas** — Abilene-Taylor County Public Health District Office, 850 North Sixth St.
Local Host: Rea Barry, 325-795-5724

- **Amarillo, Texas** — City of Amarillo Department of Health, 1400 Wallace Blvd., Room C-2-1
Local Host: Desha Henderson, 806-356-3174

- **Arlington, Texas** — 1301 South Bowen Road, Room No. 2210
Local Host: Deborah Hill, 972-337-6138

- **Corpus Christi, Texas** — Nueces County Public Health District Office, 1702 Home Road
Local Host: Roy Fuentes, 956-316-8341

- **El Paso, Texas** — El Paso Community College Advance Technology Center, 91900 Hunter Drive, Room 105
Local Host: Lynn Garner, 915-834-7563

- **Harlingen, Texas** — 601 West Sesame Drive
Local Host: Dago Garza, 956-316-8236

- **Houston, Texas** — Houston Health and Human Services Department, 8000 North Stadium Drive
Local Host: Hoxi Jones, 713-696-8007

- **Longview, Texas** — Gregg County Health Department, 405 East Marshall Ave.
Local Host: Donna Keenum, 903-509-5139

- **San Antonio, Texas** —Texas Center for Infectious Disease Office, 2303 Southeast Military Drive
Local Host: Renee Barrett, 210-619-8006

Key Legislative Dates for the 80th Texas Legislature
<http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/tlo/resources/legdates.htm>

Tuesday, January 9, 2007 (1st day)
80th Legislature convenes at noon

Friday, March 9, 2007 (60th day)
Deadline for filing bills and joint resolutions other than local bills, emergency appropriations, and bills that have been declared an emergency by the governor

Monday, May 28, 2007 (140th day)
Last day of 80th Regular Session; corrections only in house and senate

Sunday, June 17, 2007 (20th day following final adjournment)
Last day governor can sign or veto bills passed during the previous legislative session

Monday, August 27, 2007 (91st day following final adjournment)
Date that bills without specific effective dates (that could not be effective immediately) become law

Sign up for Texas Talk E-Newsletter

Texas Talk, the monthly e-newsletter published by The Arc of Texas is now available for free by email.

Find out about:

- Current and innovative upcoming programs
- Latest resources and links
- Individual consultation for parents
- Local Arc Chapters
- the newest “It’s a New IDEA!” manual
- A guide to Medicare prescription drug coverage

And more...

Go to www.thearcoftexas.org and from the home page, click on **Register for the Texas Talk E-Newsletter**.

Meeting Notices & Information Sites

May 1, 2006

Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), Austin, Texas
Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Legislative Appropriations Request Stakeholder Forum
Brown-Heatly Building, Public Hearing Room, First Floor

4900 N. Lamar Blvd., Austin, TX
Contact: Cathy Allen, (512) 424-6629

May 4, 2006

Department on Aging and Disability Services (DADS), [Read above for a list of the nine video conference locations.]

DADS LEGISLATIVE APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST VIDEO CONFERENCE

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May, 11, 2006, 9 a.m.

Medical Care Advisory Committee (MCAC), Austin, Texas
Texas Dept. of Aging and Disability Services, Public Hearing Room
125W
For more information, contact Jennifer Morrison (512-491-1128)

July 13, 2006, 9 a.m.

Medical Care Advisory Committee (MCAC)
Texas Dept. of Aging and Disability Services, Public Hearing Room
125W
701 West 51st Street
Austin, TX
Contact: Jennifer Morrison, (512) 491-1128

July 20, 2006

Promoting Independence Advisory Committee Meeting, Austin, Texas
Contact: Marc Gold (marc.gold@dads.state.tx.us)
Health and Human Services Commission (Brown-Heatley Bldg.) 3501

September 14, 2006, 9 a.m.

Medical Care Advisory Committee (MCAC)
Texas. Dept. of Aging and Disability Services
Public Hearing Room 125W
701 West 51st Street
Austin, TX
Contact: Jennifer Morrison, (512) 491-1128

November 9, 2006, 9 a.m.

Medical Care Advisory Committee (MCAC)
Texas. Dept. of Aging and Disability Services
Public Hearing Room 125W
701 West 51st Street
Austin, TX
Contact: Jennifer Morrison, (512) 491-1128

OTHER:

For up to date information from the Texas Education Agency on Special Education, go to <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/special.ed/whatsnew.html>.

For more information on Health and Human Services Commission meetings, public hearings, workshops and events, go to <http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/news/meetings.asp>.