On behalf of the SC Department of Disabilities and Special Needs (DDSN), it is my pleasure to introduce the 11th edition of our Practical Guide to Services for People with Severe, Lifelong Disabilities.

The Practical Guide to Services is South Carolina’s most comprehensive directory for resources and information for people with disabilities and special needs, their families and the professionals who work with them.

DDSN provides services and supports to people with mental retardation and related disabilities, autism, traumatic brain injury and spinal cord injury and related disabilities. The Practical Guide contains valuable information about these and many other types of disabilities. It will help you discover resources available through government and private agencies, consumer organizations and support groups operating nationally and in your community. It is distributed, free of charge, to individuals and families, disability advocates, schools, libraries, health care providers, government agencies, chambers of commerce, and many others. The most current version is available on the DDSN website: www.state.sc.us/ddsn/

The Practical Guide to Services reflects our commitment to giving our citizens the information they need to live meaningful and productive lives.

Stanley J. Butkus, Ph.D.
State Director
About this Guide
This book is copyright-free. We invite you to duplicate and share information with others. For more information or additional copies, contact:

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Home Page: www.state.sc.us/ddsn/

Library Services
Through the SC Center for Disability Resources Library, groups or individuals may borrow publications and videotapes concerning disabilities and special needs. The library’s web site is available at: http://uscm.med.sc.edu/CDR/index.htm.

The Library is located on the grounds of the University of SC School of Medicine. For more information, please call (803) 733-1501, e-mail: wilsons@gw.med.sc.edu, or write to:

Librarian
Center for Disability Resources Library
School of Medicine Library, USC
Columbia SC 29208

Key to Communication Numbers
• V: Standard use of a telephone
• TTY: Teletypewriter used by people with hearing impairment to communicate via telephone; also referred to as TTD
• Fax: Facsimile machine for transmission of printed materials
• E-mail: Electronic mail delivered via computer
• Home page: Computerized resource of information on World-Wide Web.

DDSN and its service delivery system do not discriminate in any way in the delivery of services or the employment of qualified people.
Think “PEOPLE” First

All people, regardless of their disability, deserve dignity and respect. The language we choose when referring to another person indicates the respect we have for him or her. When referring to a person with a disability, use “people-first” language, or language that refers to the person first—not the disability. Here are some suggestions for using “people-first” language:

###

Think “people” first. Say “a woman who has mental retardation,” rather than “a mentally-retarded woman.”

###

Avoid words like “unfortunate,” “afflicted” and “victim.” Also, try to avoid casting a person with a disability as a superhuman model of courage. People with disabilities are just people, not tragic figures or demigods.

###

A developmental disability is not a disease. Do not mention “symptoms,” “patients” or “treatment,” unless the person you’re writing or speaking about has an illness as well as a disability.

###

Use common sense. Avoid terms with obvious negative or judgmental connotations, such as “crippled,” “deaf and dumb,” “lame” and “defective.” If you aren’t sure how to refer to a person’s condition, ask. If the disability is not relevant to your story or conversation, why mention it at all?

###

Never refer to a person as “confined to a wheelchair.” Wheelchairs enable people to escape confinement. A person with a mobility impairment uses a wheelchair.

###

Try to describe people without disabilities as “typical” rather than “normal.”
Our Mission and Values

The SC Department of Disabilities and Special Needs, as defined in the South Carolina Code of Law, serves persons with mental retardation, autism, traumatic brain injury and spinal cord injury and conditions related to each of these four disabilities.

VISION: Where We Are Going
Our vision is to be the best in the world at assisting persons with disabilities and their families.

MISSION: What We Do
Our mission is to assist people with disabilities in meeting their needs, pursuing their individual possibilities and achieving their goals, and to minimize the occurrence and reduce the severity of disabilities through prevention.

VALUES: Our Guiding Beliefs
Health, safety and well-being of each person
Dignity and respect for each person
Individual and family participation, choice, control and responsibility
Relationships with family, friends and community connections
Personal growth and accomplishment

PRINCIPLES: Features of Services and Supports
Person-centered
Responsive, efficient and accountable
Practical, positive and appropriate
Strengths-based, results-oriented
Offer opportunity to be productive, and to share gifts and talents with the community
Utilize best practices and approaches

Adopted 11/20/03
The Practical Guide to Services consists of seven sections:

Section I—SC Department of Disabilities and Special Needs
- How our agency is organized
- Where we deliver services
- How we deliver services
- How our services are funded
- The role of consumers and families
- Types of DDSN services available
- Determining eligibility for person-centered services
- Central office, district offices and regional centers, addresses and phone numbers
- District map
- Mental Retardation and Related Disabilities Division services
- Autism Division services and offices
- Traumatic Brain Injury and Spinal Cord Injury Division services
- Services for High Risk Infants
- Additional important information
- Most asked questions about the DDSN Qualified Providers List (QPL)
- DDSN List of Qualified Providers

Section II—Other State Agencies That Provide Services to People With Disabilities and Special Needs
- Other government service agencies
- Services offered by the Governor’s Office
- Assistive Technology Services
- Organizations working to prevent disabilities

Section III—Services/Resources
- A categorized list of local, statewide and national service organizations and resources for people with disabilities.

Section IV—South Carolina Support Groups
- A categorized list of organizations that provide consumer and family support in South Carolina

Section V—More Help
- Toll-free Numbers
- Foundations and Fund-raising Organizations
- Professional Organizations

Section VI—Index by Subject

Section VII—Index by Title

Access the Practical Guide to Services and information on other DDSN services and resources on our web site: www.state.sc.us/ddsn/ Visit us often!
# Table of Contents

I  **SC Department of Disabilities and Special Needs** ................................................. 1  
   How Our Agency Is Organized ...................................................................................... 2  
   Where We Deliver Services .......................................................................................... 2  
   How We Deliver Services ............................................................................................. 2  
   How Our Services Are Funded ..................................................................................... 3  
   The Role of Consumers and Families ......................................................................... 3  
   Types of DDSN Services Available ............................................................................. 4  
   Determining Eligibility for Services .......................................................................... 8  
   Central Office, District Offices, Regional Centers ...................................................... 14  
   District Map .................................................................................................................. 15  
   Services for People With Mental Retardation and Related Disabilities ..................... 16  
   Services for People With Autism ................................................................................. 19  
   Services for People With Traumatic Brain Injury and Spinal Cord Injury and Similar Disabilities ............................................................. 22  
   Services for High Risk Infants .................................................................................... 25  
   Additional Important Information for People With Disabilities and Their Families ....... 26  
   Health Insurance ......................................................................................................... 27  
   Most Asked Questions about the DDSN Qualified Provider List (QPL) ....................... 28  
   South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs List of Qualified Service Providers ......................................................................................... 32  

II  **Services Available From Other State Government Agencies** .............................. 89  
   Office of the Governor ................................................................................................. 108  
   Preventing Disabilities ................................................................................................ 110  
   Assistive Technology Services ..................................................................................... 111  

III  **Services/Resources** ............................................................................................. 115  
   Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation, Prevention of ......................................................... 115  
   Accessibility ................................................................................................................ 118  
   ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) ....................................................................... 122  
   ADD/ADHD—see Learning Disability  
   Adoption ..................................................................................................................... 125  
   Advocacy ..................................................................................................................... 126  
   Aging ............................................................................................................................. 143  
   Assistive Technology ................................................................................................. 145  
   Autism .......................................................................................................................... 150  
   Blind—see Vision Disability  
   Brain Injury and Similar Disabilities ........................................................................ 157  
   Cerebral Palsy ............................................................................................................. 166  
   Child Care/Respite Care ............................................................................................ 172  
   Children's Health ........................................................................................................ 177
Communication ................................................................. 182
Consumer Reviews .............................................................. 185
Dental Care ............................................................................ 186
Disability Determination ....................................................... 186
Disability Services and Support Groups .................................. 187
Early Intervention ................................................................. 200
Education ............................................................................... 205
Emotional Disability .............................................................. 217
Employment ........................................................................... 219
Epilepsy ................................................................................. 221
Estate Planning ........................................................................ 222
Evaluation & Planning—see Children's Health
Family Support ......................................................................... 222
Financial Assistance ............................................................... 235
Genetic Counseling ................................................................. 239
Head Injury—see Brain Injury and Similar Disabilities
Health Insurance and Financial Assistance.............................. 241
Hearing Disability ................................................................. 244
Home Health ............................................................................ 250
Housing ................................................................................... 250
Inclusion-School and Community........................................... 251
Independent Living ................................................................ 257
Information and Referral ......................................................... 261
Insurance—see Health Insurance and Financial Assistance
Learning Disability ................................................................. 280
Legal ....................................................................................... 283
Library .................................................................................... 284
Medicaid—see Health Insurance and Financial Assistance
Medicare—see Health Insurance and Financial Assistance
Mental Health .......................................................................... 285
Mental Retardation and Related Disabilities............................. 289
Prevention .............................................................................. 299
Recreation/Leisure Opportunities ........................................... 304
Rehabilitation ......................................................................... 311
Religious Organizations ......................................................... 317
Respite Care—see Child Care/Respite Care
Safety ..................................................................................... 319
Sibling Support ........................................................................ 321
Spinal Cord Injury and Similar Disabilities .............................. 323
Sports—see Recreation/Leisure Opportunities
Summer Services .................................................................... 329
Supplemental Security Income —see Health Insurance and Financial Assistance
Therapy ................................................................................... 334
Training Opportunities ........................................................... 339
Transition ............................................................................... 343
Transportation ................................................................. 347
Vision Disability ............................................................... 349
Vocational ................................................................. 355

IV South Carolina Support Groups .................................................. 359
   Autism ........................................................................ 359
   Mental Retardation and Related Disabilities ........................................... 362
   Brain Injury and Similar Disabilities ......................................................... 365
   Spinal Cord Injury and Similar Disabilities .............................................. 371

V More Help ........................................................................ 375
   Toll-free Numbers ........................................................................ 375
   Foundations and Fund-Raising Organizations ....................................... 381
   Professional Organizations ................................................................. 391

VI Index by Subject ................................................................. 397

VII Index by Title ................................................................... 423
We Need Your Help

Throughout the year, the Practical Guide to Services staff continuously updates information and gathers new resources for the next edition. You can help make sure this book contains the latest and most helpful information. If a currently-listed resource needs revising or deleting or a new resource needs adding, please let us know. Simply complete this form and mail it to us.

(Please print or type)

Agency/Organization: __________________________________________________________

Division/Office: ________________________________________________________________

Resource category: (Resource may be listed under more than one category. See Table of Contents for a list of categories.)

___________________________________________________________________________

Address: ___________________________________________________________________

City: __________________ State: __________ Zip: __________________

Telephone: ________________________________

Toll-free telephone: _________________________

TTY: _________________________________

Fax: _________________________________

E-mail: ________________________________

Home page/web site: ___________________________________________________________________

Brief mission statement: __________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________

Person completing this form: _____________________________

Title: ____________________________

Daytime telephone: _____________________________