



Adair County SB40 Developmental Disability Board  
314 East McPherson Street  
Kirksville, MO 63501

Postage  
Information

X

You can help support activities and classes at the Community Learning Center by donating to the [Adair County DD Link](https://sb40life.org)  
Visit <https://sb40life.org> or scan this QR Code



## Come Join Us!

Melissa and Angela would love to have you to visit them at the Community Learning Center (CLC)! It is a great place to meet new people, learn new skills, learn how to be your own best advocate, and meet your sensory needs while having fun. The Center is open to the community, as space allows, for most classes and activities. You can visit the Center Tuesday - Friday from 8AM-5PM and take part in the many scheduled activities and classes available, use the Sensory Room, or just hang out. **You can also make an appointment to visit on a Monday by contacting Melissa at the CLC by calling 660-665-9400.**

**SB40 Community Learning Center Activities for June**

Check out the Activity Calendar for more information and times

Tuesdays -	Coffee & Cards Dance Aerobics Project STIR Yard Games Cooking Class
Wednesdays -	Crafts Open Hearts Storytime Guided Painting (with story time on 6/26/24) Get Fit CIRCLES - Level 2
Thursday -	Science Fun Budgeting Basics
Fridays -	BINGO

\*Registration Required  
660-665-9400x4 or [clc@sb40life.org](mailto:clc@sb40life.org)

In June, Miss Bre, from Adair County Public Library, will be at the Center for Open Hearts Storytime on Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m. to share a story and craft. On Wednesday, June 26th staff from the library will also be here for a guided painting class based on storytime! For Science Fun, our volunteer Jim, will be doing some fun, hands-on activities with us each Thursday at 10:00 a.m. The Center is also bringing back a favorite class, Cooking! This is a class for beginners who have little to no experience in the kitchen. We are also offering a new class, Budgeting Basics. This class will begin at the beginning to teach you what a budget is and how to use it to live within you means.

**If you would prefer to receive this mailing as an email, please contact Melissa ([clc@sb40life.org](mailto:clc@sb40life.org))**



Developmental Disability Board

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DD Resource Center  
314 E. McPherson Street  
Kirksville, MO 63501  
(660) 665-9400  
[sb40@sb40life.org](mailto:sb40@sb40life.org)

Community Learning Center  
1107 Country Club Drive  
Kirksville, MO 63501  
(660) 660-9400  
[clc@sb40life.org](mailto:clc@sb40life.org)

Website: <https://sb40life.org>

## June 2024

### New Law Requires Airlines to Better Assist Travelers with Disabilities

by: Michelle Diament | May 24, 2024 | Courtesy of Disability Scoop

People with disabilities are poised to see big improvements when traveling by air thanks to a host of changes tucked inside a massive reauthorization of federal aviation programs.

The measure signed by President Joe Biden this month [May] includes new requirements for airline workers assisting wheelchair users, accessibility upgrades at airports, and enforcement of rules protecting the rights of flyers with disabilities.

The law mandates that airline workers be trained before assisting passengers boarding with an aisle chair or before storing wheelchairs and other mobility devices. It also requires airline websites, apps, and kiosks to be accessible and specifies that the Federal Aviation Administration must reconsider airplane evacuation procedures to ensure that all passengers can deplane quickly in an emergency.

The legislation gives people with disabilities the option to request seating accommodations on aircraft so that they can be with a companion, have more leg room or be near a restroom, for example. Further, lawmakers took steps to ensure that people know they can reserve onboard wheelchairs.

All medium and large airports will be required to install or maintain at least one universal changing station — designed to allow caregivers to assist people of all sizes who cannot use the restroom — in every terminal and to post signage about the location of these changing stations. The law also establishes a new pilot program providing grants to airports to upgrade accessibility.

Meanwhile, the legislation mandates that the secretary of transportation submit a “strategic roadmap” to Congress within a year on the feasibility of restraining wheelchairs on commercial airliners. If the idea is deemed doable, the secretary would have two years to produce a report studying the economic and financial implications of seating arrangements that could accommodate wheelchairs in flight.

The measure “represents the most significant effort by Congress in over a decade to make flying safer, easier and more accessible for passengers with disabilities,” said U.S. Sen. Tammy Duckworth, D-Ill., who uses a wheelchair and who championed many of the disability provisions.

Steve Cullen, board chair of All Wheels Up, a nonprofit that has funded research looking at including wheelchairs on aircraft, said it’s significant that Congress specified that training for workers assisting with aisle chairs must instruct employees on “how to effectively communicate with, and take instruction from, the passenger.”



“When traveling by air, passengers who use wheelchairs assume personal risks above that of the average flyer due largely to the need to physically transfer,” Cullen said. “To protect passengers’ personal health, safety and dignity, airport and airline personnel who assist wheelchair users need to be trained on standards of care and best practices, which includes listening to the passenger with a disability on what works for their wellbeing.”



## May's Spotlight Award Winner

### Kid's Inclusion Award

Adair County SB40 is thrilled to announce that Hannah Andino has been selected as the recipient of the May 2024 Kid's Inclusion Spotlight Award from Adair County SB40. Hannah was nominated by Adair SB40 Service Coordinator Amber O'Dell, who praised her for being a strong self-advocate for her disability needs and her community.

Hannah's mom, Carrie Orr, explained that Hannah was born profoundly deaf. She received Cochlear implants in 2013 and has been very good at explaining how they work. "She's always willing to show people if they ask." Orr said, "Hannah is an amazing student and does great in school. I have been very happy with the amazing team she has at school. She is in the marching band at Schuyler R-1 as a percussionist. Hannah plays the drums and does an awesome job with them."

O'Dell said, "Hannah does well in educating her peers about the Deaf community, cochlear implants, and other assistive technology related to her disability needs. She is quick to ask for assistance, reminds others when to use assistive technology, and overall goes above and beyond in her day-to-day life. She takes a strong leadership role in group activities, but also takes the time to help others. Her school-based supports are always impressed with her strong work ethic and accomplishments. Hannah hopes to apply for an excelled program educationally. Overall, I'm excited to see what the future holds for Hannah."

Raven Weaver with the Schuyler R-1 School District added, "Hannah started receiving services from Schuyler R-1 School District when she turned three years of age. She has had the same team working for her, as well as, working with her team of doctors from Columbia. Hannah has been such a joy to watch grow over the years. I think most teachers would say they learned as much from Hannah as Hannah learned from them. She has had an amazing support team along the way including her mother, Carrie, therapist, teachers, and her friends."



Tina Leslie, who has worked closely with Hannah as her school-based Speech Language support added, "Hannah takes strong ownership over her academic and personal responsibilities. She never ceases to amaze me with what she can accomplish. She has been a valuable member of the school band as a percussionist since fifth grade as well as the marching band during Junior High. Hannah was on the A Honor Roll this year. She has only been able to achieve these successes through strong self-advocacy and communication with her teachers and band director. All of whom strongly support her and appreciate her willingness to share her experiences."

Hannah's leadership skills shine through in everything she does. She has shown incredible dedication by teaching her classmates about disabilities, especially related to the Deaf community. Her efforts help everyone understand and appreciate the importance of inclusion.

Hannah will soon be sharing her presentation with the Adair County SB40 Board of Directors at an upcoming meeting. She and her family are excited for the opportunity. Crystal Aminirad, Executive Director of Adair SB40, stated "Inclusion is very important because it makes sure that everyone feels part of the community, no matter what challenges they face. When kids like Hannah teach others about their experiences, it helps everyone learn to support and care for each other. This makes our schools and communities stronger and more understanding places. Hannah's achievements are an inspiration to all of us. She shows us how being a leader can make a big difference. Her hard work and kindness are a reminder that we all have the power to help others and make our community better."



(Story continued on page 3)

## Crystal's Corner

When kids grow up, they go through many changes. This is called transitioning to adulthood. *For kids with developmental disabilities, these changes can be harder.* Holistic transition planning is a way to help these kids get ready for their future. It looks at all parts of their lives, like school, work, home, friends, and health. Starting this planning process early, no later than 10 years old, is very important.

### What is Holistic Transition Planning?

Holistic transition planning means making a plan that helps kids with special needs in all areas of their life. Here are some important parts of this plan:

- **School and Job Training:** Helping kids learn what they need to know for school and teaching them skills for jobs they might like to do.
- **Finding a Job:** Helping kids find jobs that they enjoy and can do well.
- **Living on Their Own:** Teaching kids how to do things like cooking, cleaning, and taking care of money so they can live by themselves.
- **Making Friends and Joining Activities:** Helping kids make friends and join clubs or sports so they feel like part of their community.
- **Health Care:** Making sure kids keep getting the health care they need as they grow up.

### Why Should We Start Early?

Starting transition planning early is very important for several reasons:

- **Learning Skills Slowly:** Kids can learn new skills bit by bit, which makes it easier for them.
- **Building Confidence:** When kids start early, they have more time to practice and get better, which makes them feel proud and confident.
- **Finding What Works Best:** Early planning helps find the best ways to support each kid, which can change as they grow.
- **Family Help:** Families can learn how to best support their kids during this time.
- **Getting Resources:** Starting early helps families find the programs and services their kids need.

### Transition Planning in Adulthood

While starting transition planning early is very important, it's also necessary to include transition planning in adulthood. *Sometimes, adults with developmental disabilities face new challenges or have changes in their lives, like moving to a new home or starting a new job.* Continuing to update and adjust their transition plan helps them keep building skills, find new opportunities, and stay healthy and happy.

**Work with us!** Adair County SB40 Service Coordinators and the Learning Center staff are trained to use a variety of life-planning approaches that are helpful in all stages of life and under all circumstances. We will meet you where you are and help you to build a life-plan that works for you! We pledge to work with you to ensure that your needs are being addressed in all areas and all stages of your life. Call us anytime! (660-665-9400)

### Spotlight Award Winner (Continued from page 2)

If you would like to nominate a great candidate for a monthly Spotlight Award, Adair County SB40 is accepting nominations. Anyone can make a nomination. Nominations can be made in any of the four following categories:

- Kids Inclusion Spotlight Award for children in kindergarten - 8th grade
- Youth Leadership Spotlight Award for youth in grades 9-12
- Community Volunteer Spotlight Award (any age)
- Entrepreneur or Employee Spotlight Award (any age)

In March 2025, a Spotlight Award of the Year winners will be selected from all of the monthly winners. Nominations can be made throughout the year by visiting the Adair County SB40 website or by contacting a SB40 staff member to assist you at (660) 665 - 9400. You can also find more information about the four nomination categories by visiting Adair County SB40's website, <https://www.sb40life.org>.