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Vision

Our vision is for self-advocates to work together to get the support we need to live the life we want in the community.

Mission

Our mission is to speak up for ourselves and each other while working together to make changes in our communities and in Illinois.

The Alliance is proud to be an Initiative of the Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities

Happy New Years!

Tara Wickey, The Alliance's Community Organizer, recently attended a managed care training given by The Institute on Public Policy for People with Disabilities. There was a lot of information shared, and this article contains the highlights:

Seniors and Persons with Disabilities (SPD's) in Illinois make up 16% of those on Medicaid yet spend 55% of Medicaid monies. SPD's need the most services due to health/behavioral needs.

Illinois wants to save money by having a Managed Care Organization (MCO) manage the care that people on Medicaid receive. There are concerns that the MCO's want to make money and that they don't understand the needs of those receiving Medicaid services. Managed care is coming and Illinois must make the transition. By January 2015, 50% of people receiving Medicaid services must be enrolled in care co-ordination through a MCO.

Illinois needs to continue building upon community options and opportunities for people with disabilities. Self-advocacy and self-direction must be a priority so that people are supported in saying what they want or don't want which will help the MCO's understand the needs and wants as services are provided.

Managed care has begun in other states and many of those states have created any other states have created task force agencies that are designed to be a key player in the conversations, creation, implementation and assessment of their state's Managed Care system.

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The Alliance News

Managed Care

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People receiving Medicaid in Illinois need to come together to make sure that the state hears what their voices. As people come together to learn and to share, some things to remember include:

- Managed care needs to be cost efficient and quality driven from an outcomes perspective
- Provide leadership through innovation and collaboration
- Learn the rules of managed care
- Support people in speaking up for the services they want and need
- Shift the focus from numbers of people using the services to the outcomes that have resulted from the service
- Ask questions:
 - Does the managed care experience provide better outcomes?
 - What are the differences between outcomes and supports provided in specific settings?
 - Do outcomes vary based on ethnicity, living situation, diagnosis, behavioral challenges, county, paid relative providing care, services and accreditation choice?
- Work with legislators & key players as managed care is implemented
- Be part of the process! Get involved. Join with others. Make your voice heard.

As managed care continues to move forward in Illinois, we have much to learn. By working together, we can create meaningful and lasting change that benefits people receiving Medicaid services.

~ Tara Wickey, Community Organizer



Does your self-advocacy group use Facebook or other social media to connect and share information with self-advocates? The Alliance wants to hear all about it! Contact Megan Norlin, Local Group Coordinator, at hottwheelz702@yahoo.com to share the obstacles and opportunities you've experienced in using social media.



The Alliance News

Advocacy Opportunity

A SHAMEFUL "NO" VOTE FOR CRPD: WE CANNOT REST!

Following the December 5, 2012 failed vote for U.S. ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), the American disability community is appalled. "**Disgusted**," "**Disappointed**" and "**Embarrassing**" are the words our community leaders and organizations are using in denouncing the result of this vote. Messages are pouring into the USICD office from disability leaders and advocates around the world in disbelief that the United States, the leader on disability rights, would reject the CRPD.

The American media is now covering the story with more attention than ever on disability rights. We must seize the moment for CRPD and our ongoing disability rights movement. Today USICD, DREDF and the campaign for ratification of the CRPD issue a call to action to Americans to contact 11 key Republican senators who tried to kill the CRPD in yesterday's vote and tell them shame on you! We also are asking everyone to thank the 8 Republican senators and Sen. Bob Dole who stood up for disability rights.

CALL THEM OUT! TOP 12 MOST SHAMEFUL NO VOTES

Call and email your message to these TOP 11 offices: **SHAME ON YOU!** Ratification failed by only 5 votes. These 5 Republican senators, longtime friends and colleagues of Sen. Bob Dole who himself was on the Senate floor urging them to do the right thing, voted NO. SHAME! SHAME! SHAME!

Senator Hatch (Indiana)
DC 202-224-5251
Local 801-524-4380
Jay_Khosla@hatch.senate.gov

Senator Graham (South Carolina)
DC 202-224-5972
Local 864-250-1417
Matt_Rimkunas@lgraham.senate.gov

Senator McConnell (Kentucky)
DC 202-224-2541
Local 502-582-6304
Reb_Brownell@mccconnell.senate.gov

Senator Roberts (Kansas)
DC 202-224-4774
Local 785-235-3665
Theda_Owens@roberts.senate.gov

Senator Cochran (Mississippi)
DC 202-224-5054
Local 601-965-4459
Darrell_Dixon@cochran.senate.gov

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Advocacy Opportunity

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These 7 Republican senators should have supported CRPD - including Sen. Moran who was a lead sponsor for the treaty. Senators Enzi, Blunt, Portman and others claim to be strong on disability issues. They ALL voted NO. **SHAME! SHAME! SHAME!**

Senator Moran (Kansas)
DC office 202-224-6521
Local 785-357-0759
Brian_Perkins@moran.senate.gov

Senator Isakson (Georgia)
DC 202-224-3643
Local 770-661-0999
Chris_Sullivan@isakson.senate.gov

Senator Blunt (Missouri)
DC 202-224-5721
Local 573-634-2488
Brian_Diffell@blunt.senate.gov

Senator Enzi (Wyoming)
DC 202-224-3424
Local 307-772-2480
Randi_Reid@enzi.senate.gov

Senator Corker (Tennessee)
DC 202-224-3344
Local 901-683-1910
Stacie_Oliver@corker.senate.gov

Senator Portman (Ohio)
DC 202-224-3353
Local 513-684-3265
Megan_Harrington@portman.senate.gov

Senator Coburn (Oklahoma)
DC 202-224-5754
Local 405-231-4941
Jeremy_Hayes@coburn.senate.gov

WATCH These Two Important Media Links

<http://tv.msnbc.com/2012/12/05/odonnell-rewrites-the-senates-day-of-shame/>
AND

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/3036789/vp/50083499#50083499>

Our opponents hope the disability community and the CRPD will just go away and forget what some senators called "the saddest day in the Senate." **We will not forget.**

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO STOOD UP FOR US

We must express our appreciation to the 8 Republican champions of disability rights and we must ask for their help to keep the CRPD alive in the Senate. Contact these 8 Republican Senate champions: Ayotte, Barrasso, Brown, Collins, Lugar, McCain, Murkowski, Snowe:
www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm

Send THANK YOU letters to Sen. Bob Dole for his tireless advocacy at egrant@uscd.org



The Alliance News

Learning Opportunity

RRTCADD in partnership with HealthMatters CAP presents HealthMatters 4kids ~ Today Counts Diabetes Prevention Workshop!

A 3-hour Today Counts Diabetes Prevention Workshop covers common barriers for children and adolescents with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) in choosing foods, being physically active, and coping with stress. The training aims to improve the health outcomes of persons with I/DD by preventing chronic diseases and their risk factors through awareness, advocacy and the reinforcing of healthy behaviors during childhood and across the lifespan.

Who can attend?

The workshop is designed for parents/caregivers, educators, and healthcare providers supporting people with I/DD.

Where?

Face to face - hosted at various venues or organizations *within the state of Illinois* or via Webinar.

Cost?

The Workshop is FREE of charge for Illinois residents. The Webinar: \$50/person (includes downloadable training materials) *Three CEUs are available for qualified professionals*

This workshop is brought to you by NorthPointe Resources, and made possible by funds received from The Illinois Department of Public Health.

For more information or to schedule a training or webinar please visit:

<http://www.healthmattersprogram.org/diabetes.html>



There will be a presentation by Tony Records, Ligas Court Monitor on January 10, 2013. This free session will take place from 7:00- 8:30pm at the Champaign Public Library, 200 W. Green Street, in Champaign. The meeting will be held in Robeson A&B. For more information contact Linda Tortorelli at ltortore@illinois.edu or 217.244.0928.

The Ligas Consent Decree was ordered by the U.S. Federal court on June 15, 2011. This Decree will provide choice and opportunities for thousands of adults with developmental disabilities. Tony Records will give updates on the state of Illinois's progress over the last year.

For more information about the Ligas Consent Decree go to

www.thearcofil.org/arc-and-ligas-court-monitors-first-annual-report.



The Alliance News

Learning Opportunity

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!

Learn how to empower yourself, assert your rights, and take personal responsibility during this valuable training!

FREEDOM SELF-ADVOCACY TRAINING

FREE training presented by a nationally known leader in the mental health recovery & advocacy movement, Susan Rogers, Director of the National Mental Health Consumers' Self-Help Clearinghouse and recipient of the 2011 Judi Chamberlin Joy in Advocacy Award from the National Coalition for Mental Health Recovery.

When: Jan. 31 and Feb. 1, 2013 – 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Where: IMPACT, 2735 E. Broadway, Alton, IL 62002

Lunch will be provided. Those who attend will receive a certificate of completion.

The **FREE** two-day training consists of three workshops covering the attitudes, skills and knowledge necessary for effective self-advocacy. These workshops include role-plays and other activities on topics such as housing, employment, and managed care. A fourth workshop, teaching presentation/public speaking skills, is also included. (Sacred Creations will apply to the Illinois Certification Board for CEUs.)

Audience participation is welcome! Past participants have benefited from the training! Among their comments:

- "This training should be offered at least three times a year for others."
- "This training will aid as a learning tool to advocate for previous issues unresolved and to help provide guidance to others who have issues advocating for his or herself."
- "I became more aware of things I can do to make my mental illness more manageable."
- "I will be able to use the information to better advocate for others in ways such as assertiveness training and letter writing."

The Freedom Self-Advocacy Curriculum was developed by the National Mental Health Consumers' Self-Help Clearinghouse with Mental Health America, the National Disability Rights Network and other organizations.

QUESTIONS OR TO REGISTER (advance registration is required by Jan. 18, 2013): Contact AJ French, Sacred Creations, (618) 792-2049, aj.french@sacredcreations.org – **email is preferred!**



The Alliance News

This & That

"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."

~ Martin Luther King, Jr.

Nick's Art Project

www.nicksartproject.com

Nick's Art Project was founded in 2010 by Nicholas Gammicchia as a means of giving back to his community. As a young child, he was diagnosed with severe Autism. Various interventions assisted him over the years, however the two that open doors for him were art and music therapy. His early self-portrait "Smile" is used as the trademark piece by the organization because it signifies an early breakthrough for him to communicating his feelings to others in the only way possible at that time, through his drawing and painting. As an aspiring artist, Nicholas realized he could use his passion to help others. He has a micro-enterprise where he has learned to be a self-determined business minded individual who hopes to be an inspiration to others. Check out Nick's Art Project, an example of providing a path of opportunity so that possibilities can be realized.



*Illinois Association of
Microboards and Cooperatives*

The Illinois Association of Microboards and Cooperatives have scheduled several online sessions after the holidays for your learning convenience:

- January 15 - 4:00 pm - Making the Most of Home-Based Support Services or Personal Assistance Funding
- February 15 - 10:00 am - Hiring the Ideal Personal Support Worker
- March 2 - 2:00 pm - Understanding Microboards and Cooperatives

To register for any of the above events, go to www.iamcinc.eventbrite.com

To learn more about the Illinois Association of

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If you wish to be added to The Alliance's newsletter e-mailing list, please e-mail Krescene Beck at krescenebeck@gmail.com.