



Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance



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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

The Alliance Continues Communication with DHS DDD Director Kevin Casey ~ Terah Green, State Issue Coordinator

Self-advocates representing ROHSA (Ray of Hope Self-Advocacy) in Chicago Heights, IL and staff of The Alliance met with DHS DDD Director Kevin Casey and other DDD staff on February 5, 2013.

During the meeting, self-advocates requested that QIDP (Qualified Intellectual Disabilities Professional) be changed back to QSP (Qualified Service Professional) as QSP is more positive and supportive. DHS DDD will look into changing it back; if it is not able to be changed back to QSP, they will send out an informational memo letting people with disabilities know why it was changed and why it cannot be changed back.

Self-advocates also discussed with DDD staff about short-term and long-term employment goals. All agreed that making Illinois an Employment First state was most important. A task force has been created and The Alliance is putting forward names of self-advocates to be members. The short-term employment goal focused on DDD and DRS working together to make the process of self-advocates choosing supported employment much easier. Providers should give self-advocates a choice annually on having supported employment or being involved in developmental training. Providers need training on providing those choices.

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The Alliance News

Going Home Project

Going Home: A Full Life in the Community

Illinois Rebalancing Initiative

What is the Rebalancing Initiative?

The Governor has developed the Rebalancing Initiative to assist individuals with disabilities and their guardians to make a safe and secure move from state-run institutions to community living. This approach requires the full participation of individuals and their guardians every step of the way utilizing a person-centered approach.

How do we transition people into the community?

Transitioning people with developmental and intellectual disabilities out of institutions and into the community is a process that offers opportunity, inclusion and choices for individuals and families.

The Active Community Care Transition Plan offers people with disabilities a personalized and individualized approach to living in a community setting close to family and friends. The transition from an institution to community care offers people an improved quality of life with the freedoms, opportunities and support not present in an institution. Each transition plan utilizes an Independent Person-Centered approach that is customized so families and individuals have control over the planning process and most of all, their own lives.

I think my son/daughter's needs are too great to live independently. Can you prove me wrong?

It is possible that just about everyone can make a safe and meaningful transition into community living. Even people that require 24-hour care and support, 365 days a year, can live in the community as long as they have the necessary supports and staff.

Community-based disability services make living independently a possibility for those who need help with acts of daily living. They can be described as supports needed by people with disabilities to be successful in their daily lives. Trained staff assist people with unique and severe disabilities and offers them the ability to flourish in a community setting. Supports include:

- Help with the everyday needs of life such as eating, bathing, grooming, and dressing
- Help with medications and therapies
- Help with developing skills for overcoming communication or behavioral challenges
- Help with learning social skills or offering support for work opportunities
- Respite to caregivers of children and adults with disabilities so that they can be the resource their loved ones need them to be

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Going Home Project

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What is a Community Integrated Living Arrangement (CILA)?

A CILA is a neighborhood home that consists of two but not more than four individuals. The home can be an apartment, town home or similar location. Depending on the severity of the disability, there may be a caregiver living on-site to offer 24-hour supervision and care. This living option has proven to be a successful option for people transitioning out of institutional care.

Are people in institutions more disabled than people living in the community?

People in institutions have a variety of disabilities, some with extensive support needs; however, there are many people who carry the label of having severe disabilities that are enjoying life in a community setting. There was a time when institutionalization was thought to be the only option. Nationally, there are now 14 states without any state institutions. In fact, Indiana closed its last institution in 2011, successfully transitioning its folks into the community.

What are some outcomes of this process?

Research demonstrates that moving people from institutions to the community has been extremely successful and that outcomes for people in the community are better than those individuals segregated in institutions. Recent research has also found this to be true of people with very serious challenges. Approximately half of those currently living in a community setting came from an institution or nursing home.

The state pays \$192,000 per person in an institution versus approximately \$50,000 per person for community based disability services. Nearly four people can be served with community-based services for every one person in an institution. Moving people to the community is not an issue of cost, but rather it is an issue of human and civil rights. All people, regardless of the severity of their disability, are entitled to community living.

How can I get more information?

Visit Going Home at: <http://goinghomeillinois.org/>

Like their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/GoingHomeLifeintheCommunity>

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The Alliance proposed a schedule of Kevin Casey meeting with self-advocates around the state every other month with self-advocacy groups/agencies hosting the meetings in their area.

Stay tuned for more updates as self-advocates and The Alliance continue meeting with Kevin Casey!



The Alliance News

Employment 1st Legislation



Employment First Legislation Introduced: HB 2591

Working with the Governor's Employment & Economic Opportunity for Persons with Disabilities Task Force, The Arc introduced House Bill 2591. The bill's lead sponsor in the House of Representatives is Representative Ester Golar. We intend to introduce a bill in the Senate as well. This bill supports the Governor's recent Executive Order on hiring people with disabilities.

Members of the Task Force are now preparing fact sheets on the bill that will make it the policy of this State that competitive and integrated employment shall be considered the first option when serving persons with disabilities of working age. Here is a link to HB 2591:
www.ilga.gov/legislation/98/HB/PDF/09800HB2591lv.pdf

You can ask your Representative to become a co-sponsor of House Bill 2591. To find your Representative, visit <http://votesmart.org/>.

Get a Taste of Independence This Summer

Summer @ CIP



Experience independence and get a taste of college life during CIP's two week summer programs for students with Asperger's, ADHD, and Learning Differences!

The Beyond High School program gives self-advocates a chance to experience independence, and the High School Summer Program provides self-advocates with a sneak peak at college.

Summer @ CIP is held at six locations across the USA, with one of the locations in Bloomington, Indiana (south of Indianapolis, Indiana).

Learn more about Summer @ CIP by visiting the website at www.cipsummer.com.



The Alliance News

Going Home Rally Day



GOING HOME RALLY

An advocacy rally dedicated to support self-advocates moving from state institutions to a community of choice.

Wednesday, April 10, 2013

11am – 2:30pm (begin gathering at 10:30am)

**Illinois State Capitol at the Lincoln Statue (outside at 2nd Street)
Springfield, IL**

Be a part of self-advocacy in action! Join with others as you speak up and speak out in support of self-advocates across Illinois who live in state institutions and want to experience life in a community of their choice. Following the Going Home Rally, self-advocates will visit with their elected officials to share information and ask for support of Going Home for self-advocates living in state institutions

For more information on Going Home, please visit www.goinghomeillinois.org. Find and "like" Going Home on Facebook at Going Home: A Full Life in the Community.

EVENT DETAILS:

- This event is **free**, and **a box lunch is included**.
- Sign language interpreters and PA's will provide accommodations.
- Please register by completing the Registration Form. Registrations must be in by Thursday, March 28, 2013 so that lunches can be ordered, and materials and accommodations prepared.
- The Alliance will reimburse mileage for self-advocate transportation.
- The Alliance will reimburse up to \$20 (with valid receipts) for supplies for homemade signs to show support at the rally.

For more information, please contact Krescene Beck, Project Director of The Alliance, at 618.806.9431 or krescenebeck@gmail.com.



The Alliance News

Going Home Rally Registration

GOING HOME RALLY REGISTRATION FORM

Wednesday, April 10, 2013

Illinois State Capitol at the Lincoln Statue (outside at 2nd Street)

11am – 2:30pm (gathering begins at 10.30am)

Agency/Self-Advocacy Group Name _____

Number attending: Self-Advocates _____ Support People _____ TOTAL _____

Names of Self-Advocates (please print clearly and include t-shirt sizes for each): _____

Names of Support People (please print clearly and include t-shirt sizes for each): _____

Contact Person

Name _____ Phone _____

Agency/Group Mailing Address _____

E-mail _____

Accommodation Requests

____ Dietary requirements – please specify (ie, Gluten Free, Dental Soft, No Styrofoam, etc.).

NOTE: Any physician-prescribed dietary requirements will be accommodated; food preferences will not be honored. _____

____ Other requests – please specify _____

Please register by Thursday, March 28, 2013 by mail, email, or fax to:

Krescene Beck Mail: 6754 Middlegate Lane, Glen Carbon, IL 62034

Email: krescenebeck@gmail.com

Fax: 217.875.8899



The Alliance News

Managed Care

The Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) implemented the Integrated Care Program (ICP) on May 1, 2011, for seniors and persons with disabilities (SPD), who are eligible for Medicaid but not eligible for Medicare. The program is mandatory and currently operates in the pilot areas of suburban Cook (all zip codes that do not begin with 606), DuPage, Kane, Kankakee, Lake and Will Counties.

HFS is pleased to announce that the ICP program will be expanded to four additional regions in 2013. ICP brings together local primary care providers (PCPs), specialists, hospitals, nursing homes, and home and community-based service providers to organize care around a patient's needs. ICP members have a choice of providers, receive better coordination of care, manage their own health-care needs, and receive additional programs and services to help them live a more independent and healthy life.

ICP in the new regions will cover both Service Package I and II: Service Package I includes medical and behavioral health services; Service Package II includes long-term supports and services (LTSS), including nursing home care and home-and community-based services. The roll-out schedule for 2013 for the ICP expansion is as follows:

4/1/13 Rockford Region (4/1/13- Service Package I, 7/1/13- Service Package II):

Counties: Winnebago, Boone, McHenry counties

MCOs: Aetna, IlliniCare

MCCN: Community Care Alliance of Illinois or CCAI (MCCN)

7/1/13 Central Illinois Region:

Counties: Knox, Peoria, Stark, Tazewell counties

MCOs: Molina Healthcare of Illinois, Meridian, Health Alliance

CCE: Macon County Care Coordination (CCE)

Counties: McLean, Logan, DeWitt, Sangamon, Macon, Christian, Piatt, Champaign, Vermilion, Ford, Menard counties

MCOs: Molina Healthcare of Illinois, Health Alliance

CCE: Macon County Care Coordination (CCE)

7/1/13 Quad Cities region:

Counties: Rock Island, Mercer, Henry counties

MCOs: HealthSpring, IlliniCare

CCE: Precedence CCE (CCE)

7/1/13 Metro East region:

Counties: Madison, Clinton, St. Clair counties

MCOs: Meridian, Molina Healthcare of Illinois

John Jansa, Director of Community Engagement for Molina Healthcare of Illinois, is available to come to your agency/organization/location to speak about Managed Care and answer questions. Contact John at 312.415.5324 or John.Jansa@molinahealthcare.com.



The Alliance News

Member Group Training



Although the "weather outside was frightful", participants at the Member Group Training on February 27, 2013 made their own sunshine indoors!

Self-advocates and advisors representing People 1st of Illinois, Strike for Better Change, Personal Power Players, CAPS, CTF Tigers, Change to Independence Altogether, and Self-Advocates of Lake County attended the training.



The day began with a presentation on bullying facilitated by Alliance staff Terah Green and Megan Norlin. The messages of "stop bullying NOW!" and "be a buddy, not a bully" were powerful. Following lunch, self-advocates and advisors brainstormed ideas of next steps as The Alliance begins a five (5) advocacy journey on April 1st. The Alliance looks forward to putting many of the ideas into place as self-advocates "work together to make life better in our communities and to work to make services better in our state".



The Alliance Staff Contact Information

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