

The Alliance News



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



Fall Regional Training



Join The Alliance for the Fall 2013 Regional Training and learn about

- Changes to the DHS/DDD website
- Workforce Incentive Program
- Being a leader on a committee or workgroup

The Regional Training will be held in September in Springfield and Joliet. It is free and open to all self-advocacy groups . There is a limit of fifty (50) participants at each location so don't delay...register today!

See the Registration Form on page 8 for more information!



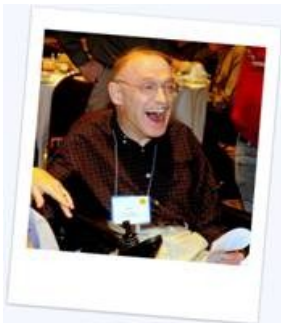
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The Alliance News

Save the Date!

Save the Date!



The Champaign-Urbana debut of the movie

Lester Pritchard: A Driving Force in Illinois for People with Disabilities

Date: Saturday, August 17, 2013

Location: Champaign Public Library

Time of Event: 3:00pm to 5:00pm

Please join us as we watch the movie and hear great memories of Lester Pritchard.

The library is wheelchair accessible and a sign language interpreter will be present.

* If your group would like to host a screening of the movie in your community, please contact Krescene Beck, Program Coordinator, at krescenebeck@gmail.com or 618.806.9431.

SAVE THE DATE(S) for a DHS DDD Webinar via the Internet

Dates: October 23 at 1:00p.m. or October 29 at 7:00p.m.
(same content both presentations)



Subject: Various reporting mechanisms regarding provider quality reviews, licensure/certification surveys, critical incident reporting, filing complaints about services, etc. Participants will have an opportunity to learn more about current and planned reporting mechanisms and the results and information they should expect after a report is made.

Suggested audience: Persons receiving services supported by the Illinois Department of Human Services' Division of Developmental Disabilities, families, guardians and other interested persons.

Presenter: Division of Developmental Disabilities

Registration: Registration information will be available at a later date. To participate, you'll need access to the Internet and speakers to hear the audio.



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PUNS LISTENING TOUR

**PUNS LISTENING TOUR:
THE DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
WANTS TO HEAR FROM SELF-ADVOCATES!**

Please join

Celia Feinstein from CFA, Inc. for a LISTENING SESSION about the
Prioritization of Urgency of Need for Services (PUNS) in Illinois

Wednesday, August 14, 2013 ~ 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM
Community Alternatives Unlimited (CAU)
8765 W. Higgins Rd., 1st Floor, Chicago, IL 60631

The Division would like to look again at the PUNS process to determine what improvements need to be made to make PUNS more efficient and useful to stakeholders. To that end, the ICDD has contracted with CFA, Inc. to conduct a series of listening sessions throughout the State of Illinois to obtain stakeholder feedback.

CFA, Inc. , will meet with individuals with disabilities, family members, PAS/ISC agency staff (service coordinators, managers, etc.), advocates, providers, DDD Central Office, including Region staff, and Equip for Equality. We look forward to your input. Once we have heard from all we will be making recommendations to the Division of Developmental Disabilities for improvements to the PUNS form and to the PUNS process.

Some questions to think about:

1. What was your experience like in filling out the PUNS?
2. Did you agree with the final PUNS form that was sent to you by your PAS agency?
3. Has your PUNS form been updated on an annual basis or whenever you/your family member's needs changed?
4. Are there changes to the PUNS or the PUNS process you would recommend?

Please come and share your experiences with us! EVERYONE is welcome!

Participation in the listening sessions will not affect your being selected to receive services.

**For any questions regarding the Listening Sessions, please contact
Rose Ann Kohrt, Administrative Assistant with the
Division of Developmental Disabilities, at (815) 584-3347, Ext 282.**



The Alliance News

Take Action



The Alliance is Looking for You!

We are looking for self-advocacy groups who want to be a part of The Alliance to

- continue growing our self-advocacy network
- support local groups by sharing ideas, providing information, learning together
- bring information to our communities
- working on state changes together and within our local groups

Contact any Alliance member to learn more!

TAKE ACTION – Summer District Office Visits



Dear Going Home Stakeholders,

There is no better way to TAKE ACTION then to visit your state representative and senator at their district offices. Legislators want to hear from their constituents and will welcome your visit. Please schedule your meeting by August 30, 2013 to tell your legislators why they should **support community living and the Going Home Campaign.**

Enclosed you will find information to assist you and your membership during your visit including talking points, fact sheet and frequently asked questions (FAQ) that you can leave behind. This information is also available on our website. **Please forward to your network of advocates and encourage them to pass this information along.**

How to Take Action

1. Identify legislators - <http://votesmart.org/>
2. Set-up appointments
3. Visit legislators and leave behind a Fact Sheet and FAQ
4. Report back – <http://www.etches.com/esurvey/goinghomelegrc>

Find Talking Points, Fact Sheet and FAQ at <http://goinghomeillinois.org/resource-center/>.

For more information, please feel free to call Michelle Arnold at 1.773.867.8564.



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Employment First News

“Employment First Act” Signed Into Law!

On July 16, 2013, Governor Pat Quinn signed the “Employment First Act,” a new law which requires Illinois state agencies to work together to make employment for people with disabilities a priority. The legislation was first proposed by Governor Quinn in his 2013 State of the State address and is part of his agenda to ensure all people have the opportunity to follow their dreams and reach their full potential.

“Every person in the Land of Lincoln should have the opportunity – regardless of the challenges they face – to pursue their dreams and achieve their full potential,” Governor Quinn said. “My goal is to make Illinois the nation’s leading employer of people with disabilities. We’ve made historic progress to change Illinois through our Rebalancing Initiative and today, we are breaking down more barriers to increase employment opportunities for people with disabilities in our state.”

Sponsored by State Sen. Daniel Biss (D-Skokie) and State Rep. Esther Golar (D-Chicago), House Bill 2591 requires all state agencies to work together to make competitive employment for people with disabilities a priority and establish measurable goals and objectives for the state. The law requires the Employment and Economic Opportunity for Persons with Disabilities Task Force (EEOPWD) – created in 2009 – to monitor progress towards this mission. All state agencies will be required to share data and information and ensure all policies, procedures and practices are aligned to these goals and objectives. The EEOPWD Task Force includes advocates, individuals with disabilities, business community members, disability services providers, representatives of state agencies and other stakeholders.

“The Employment First Act will go a long way toward aligning state policy with Illinois’ values of inclusion and fair pay for people with disabilities,” Sen. Biss said. “Illinois residents with disabilities have much to contribute to our workforce, and the law signed today will maximize their opportunities to live and work with dignity.”

“People with disabilities deserve an equal opportunity to receive gainful employment,” Rep. Golar said. “This legislation will level the playing field and make sure that no one is denied employment at a state agency simply because they have a disability.”

Employment First is modeled from a national movement that believes employment in the general workforce is the first and preferred option when exploring goals and a life path for people with disabilities. Competitive work in integrated settings for people with disabilities is proven to foster self-sufficiency, independent living, higher self-esteem and better integration into the community at-large.

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Employment First News

“Employment First Act” Signed Into Law! continued from previous page

Governor Quinn has been recognized both nationally and locally as a champion for people with disabilities. Two years ago, the governor launched his Rebalancing Initiative to improve the state’s system of caring for those with disabilities and mental health challenges. The initiative has successfully moved hundreds of people with disabilities out of institutions and into community-based care.

The Arc of the United States recently named Governor Quinn the Advocacy Matters! Award recipient for 2013, which is The Arc’s most prestigious honor. The award is presented annually to proven leaders who advocate and protect the civil and human rights of people with disabilities and increase resources, services and supports that promote their full inclusion and participation in the community.

"Governor Quinn is to be commended on his vision and perseverance in guaranteeing people with disabilities the chance to live their dreams," Tony Paulauski, executive director of The Arc of Illinois. "The Employment First initiative provides equal opportunity to achieve their potential and benefits the people of Illinois by offering a diverse workforce and unique perspective."

The bill signing took place at the Illinois Department of Human Services event which celebrated the 23rd anniversary of the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990. This year’s 23rd anniversary celebration, titled “ADA Breaking Down the Barriers,” highlighted the accomplishments of people with disabilities and recognizes how state agencies and other organizations have worked to comply with this law, improving access to environments, programs, services and opportunities for people with disabilities.

The Employment First law is effective immediately.

The Alliance Staff Contact Information

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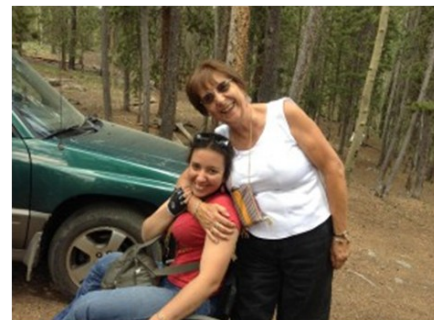
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FreeWheel Wheelchair Attachment

Free to Explore Using the FreeWheel Wheelchair Attachment

~ Nura Aly (posted July 12, 2013 on JJ's List)

A whole new world of adventures have opened up for me this past week. I am a young woman who happens to use a wheelchair and never in a million years did I think I could go hiking in the mountains with ease or even maneuver grass without help.



A few months ago I discovered a device called the Freewheel. I first found it at the Abilities Expo in Chicago. The expo showcases assistive devices and organizations geared toward servicing people with the disabilities. The Freewheel was created by a man who is a paraplegic like me. How does it work? I was skeptical myself.

The Freewheel is an attachment that fits on the footplate of a manual wheelchair. Once it is clamped on, it raises the front of the wheelchair so the small caster wheels are off the ground. When maneuvering without the Freewheel the small casters are what get stuck and make it close to impossible to manage on rough unpaved terrain. So with the casters elevated off the ground with the Freewheel attached the theory is rough terrain is no longer an obstacle. After seeing the wheel at the expo I discovered that other paraplegics I knew used it and loved it. I was no longer skeptical, but eager to try it for myself. My brother bought it for me months ago and it just sat unopened. I was nervous that my mom and I wouldn't be able to figure it out.

Finally, 6 months later my mom and I brought it on vacation with us. My brother helped us figure out how to use it. It was time for a dry run. We were heading up to the Rocky Mountains of Colorado, no real trails to speak of and in the treetops of beautiful and pungent Pine and Aspen trees, almost 11,000 ft up. I got out of the car, into my wheelchair and popped the Freewheel on and started slowly and cautiously maneuvering the new terrain. It was a miracle. I was having no problems. I started to go a little faster and less cautiously. I was able to push myself and go wherever I wanted with no more effort than any other time. I was free!

I looked on YouTube to see if there were videos of others using the Freewheel. There were videos of people using it on the beach! I love the beach and swimming but finding an accessible beach (with a ramp leading down to the water) is difficult. This means I can go to any beach I want and I can finally be free to do and try things I used to think were impossible. I am free! I love being out in nature and exploring and the Freewheel gives me that freedom.



The Alliance News

Fall 2013 Regional Training Registration

Wednesday, September 18, 2012
10am – 2pm
Registration Begins at 9.30am
First United Methodist Church
2941 S. Koke Mill Road
Springfield, IL

Wednesday, September 25, 2012
10am – 2pm
Registration Begins at 9.30am
Joliet Public Library ~ Black Road Branch
3395 Black Road
Joliet, IL

Please circle training location you will be attending. **Space is limited to 50 participants at each location.** Each agency/self-advocacy group may register up to a total of six (6) participants (self-advocates and support staff combined).

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

Agency/Self-Advocacy Group Name _____

Names of Self-Advocates (please print clearly): _____

Names of Support People (please print clearly):

Contact Person Name _____ Phone _____

E-mail _____

Accommodation Requests

Sign language interpreter

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 Friday, September 6, 2013 by mail, email, or fax to:

Krescene Beck 6754 Middlegate Lane Glen Carbon, IL 62034

Email: krescenebeck@gmail.com Fax: 217.875.8899