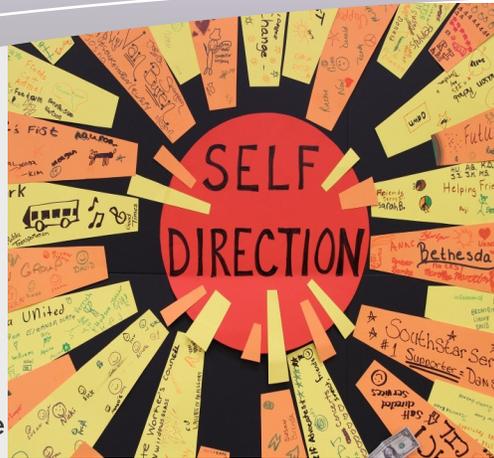


The Alliance News

February 2014



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

REGISTER NOW!

GOING HOME RALLY

Wednesday, March 26, 2014

Illinois State Capitol Springfield, Illinois



Living in the community offers people with disabilities the opportunity to be productive and social, live close to family and friends and enjoy an overall improved quality of life. Anyone can live in the community with supports and services. In 2012, Governor Quinn introduced the Rebalancing of the Developmental Disability System to offer people with disabilities the opportunity to live in a community of their choice.

Make plans to join with other self-advocates, family members, supporters and allies to share the message of Going Home with legislators.

Please see pages 12 and 13 for more details and registration.

Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance
PO Box 17704 Urbana, IL 61803 618.806.9431
Email: info@selfadvocacyalliance.org Website: www.selfadvocacyalliance.org
Find us on Facebook at Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance



The Alliance News

Waiver 1115 Update

On January 21, Jennifer Knapp and Megan Norlin led The Alliance's Path to Transformation Waiver 1115 webinar. After reviewing the components of the proposed waiver, comments and questions were shared. Those comments and questions were forwarded to HMPRG, the research group that is gathering input from stakeholders. Below is the list of questions and comments from the participants:

- Will the social and life needs of people with disabilities be included in the waiver? We have social and life needs too, not just medical and health needs.
- Will DT programs continue as they are now? What changes in DT programs are being considered?
- Will the waiver require agencies to be accredited?
- Will the accreditation be from an outside entity (CARF, CQL, etc.)?
- Some DD services receive adequate funding. If everything is put together in this waiver, will DD services lose funding so that other services have funding?
- There are a lot of unknowns to this waiver. It is not acceptable to keep hearing "we'll figure that out later". Plans need to be in place now.
- Will everyone with a disability be under this one waiver program?
- Will there be an opportunity to give comments on the proposed assessment tool before it is finalized?
- How will the assessment tool work?
- How will needs be assessed?
- How will personal assistant (PA) services be affected?
- How with the current individual grievance procedures (individual by current program/funding entity) be combined to serve individuals in the one waiver?
- How would someone new wanting to receive services apply with a new waiver?

Public hearings on the proposed waiver will be held in Chicago and in Springfield in February. Learn more by visiting www.hmprg.org/Events/1115Waiver.

The 2014 McHenry County Healthy Community Study seeks input on aspects of living and working in McHenry County to identify trends and guide community planning efforts. Participants will be asked to rate services such as public transportation, bike/walking paths, jobs and safe neighborhoods, as well as health care issues and insurance options. McHenry County residents can fill out an anonymous and confidential survey through February 15, 2014. Residents can access the survey by visiting www.mcdh.info and clicking on "Health McHenry." Results of the study will be presented from 9am—12noon on May 21, 2014 at McHenry County College. For information, call 815-334-4456.



The Alliance News

Advocacy Opportunity

Illinois Guardianship and Advocacy Commission Human Rights Authority

The Human Rights Guardianship and Advocacy Commission is in the process of developing a specialized Human Rights Authority panel to address disability rights issues specific to persons with disabilities living/working in the

community. The idea is to promote disability rights protections as more and more persons with disabilities move into and work in the community. The panel would consist of 9 members just like our current Authorities with most panel members being consumers, family members/guardians of consumers or concerned citizens providing representation from across Illinois. We also hope to have 3 representatives of service providing agencies. To be appointed to the panel, individuals must complete an application and be approved by our Agency Director or Commissioners. This would be a volunteer role but volunteers would be reimbursed mileage. Training will also be provided.

Initial goals of the panel are to:

- 1) promote disability rights education to consumers, families/guardians and agency staff;
- 2) Review disability rights issues as investigated by our existing Human Rights Authority panels across the state;
- 3) consider the need for macro-advocacy with state policymakers on community disability issues and meet with those policymakers to pursue improved rights protections and community services;
- 4) consider the need for and promote improved legislation to enhance disability rights protections and community disability services; and
- 5) evaluate newly created disability services.

There may be additional goals identified as the group develops. The group would meet approximately one time per month via teleconferencing and primarily act in an advisory capacity although panel members would also be asked to participate in some training activities, meetings with policymakers, and visits to newly created community providers/residences.

Interested individuals can contact Awisi Quartey at the Springfield office at 217-785-1540 or by e-mail at Awisi.Quartey@illinois.gov.

Check out this great video on JJ's List...you'll be glad you did!

www.jjslist.com/pages/about/4.php



As we provide learning opportunities and supports on self-advocacy, speaking up, and making decisions, here is another tool for your toolbox! Check out this YouTube video on "Decisions" by visiting www.youtube.com/watch?v=WmWO3E1kJT4.



The Alliance News

Learning Opportunity

Ray Graham Association's Monarch Services
and Our Saviour's Lutheran Church Disability Ministry
are pleased to present a learning opportunity for families, educators
and others in the community

HELPING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES ACHIEVE SUSTAINABLE WORK OUTCOMES

February 20, 2014 11am – 2pm
(doors open at 10.30am for registration, networking and lunch)

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
815 South Washington Street
Naperville, IL

Work is an essential part of our adult lives, and can reward us with income, meaningful and productive activities, social networks and community connections. Why, then, do so many young adults with disabilities leave high school or transition services without a clear understanding of what services do and do not exist to help them obtain, retain and maintain a job? How can parents better understand, engage and support work as an outcome beyond high school or age 22? Join us as we explore these and other important questions:

- ~ Looking for Work and Keeping it: The Critical Role of Families
- ~ Overview of Competitive Employment, Supported Employment and Self-Employment/
Microenterprise
- ~ Understanding eligibility criteria and services available through Division of Rehab Services (DRS) and Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) that can support paid work for individuals with disabilities

Presented by Kim Zoeller, CEO Ray Graham Association; Randy Staton, DRS Assistant Bureau Chief - Region 5; and Mary Beth Scholten, DRS Assistant Bureau Chief - Region 2. The cost is \$20 at the door in cash or check payable to RGA which includes handouts and lunch prepared by Catering with Care, a microenterprise operated by RGA Community Learning Center participants. To register call Laurie at 630-712-3232 or e-mail to jeruefamily@comcast.net



The Alliance News

Learning Opportunity

Sibling Training about Disability Policy

March 1, 2014 9:30am to 2:30pm

The University of Illinois at Chicago
1640 W. Roosevelt Road
Chicago, IL

March 15, 2014 9:30am to 2:30pm

The Autism Program of Illinois
5520 South Sixth Street Road
Springfield, IL

The University of Illinois at Chicago is offering free training for siblings and their brothers and sisters with disabilities. People who participate in this training will:

- increase knowledge of disability policy
- share ideas on long term services and supports
- identify strategies to be agents of change
- receive a toolkit of strategies for civic engagement

Participants will learn about:

- Disability policy
- Advocacy strategies
- How to effectively share your story and create change

The training is FREE and lunch will be provided. The training is funded by The Institute for Policy and Civic Engagement at the University of Illinois at Chicago. To register for the either training, please contact Katie Arnold at kkeiling@uic.edu or [312-996-1002](tel:312-996-1002).

In addition, UIC is conducting research right before this training to gain your perspective on long term services and supports. This will include a focus group discussion that will last up to 1½ hours. Your participation will provide important feedback that can potentially help guide, expand, and strengthen disability policy. Your participation is voluntary and your responses will be kept confidential.

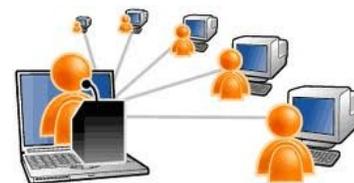


The Alliance News

Learning Opportunities

State Employment Process Webinar
sponsored by the Department of Central Management Services and
the Interagency Committee on Employees with Disabilities

February 25, 2014 10am



Anyone with a disability who is interested in a state job, should participate in this free webinar on the state employment process. Information about applying for state jobs and the Successful Disability Opportunities Program will be presented by staff from the Departments of Central Management Services and Department of Human Services. Reasonable Accommodations also will be discussed. The webinar is targeted to people with disabilities and those organizations serving them. Captioning will be provided as part of the webinar content. Individuals and libraries can register by emailing Susan.Allen@Illinois.gov. Sign on instructions will be provided to those who have registered.

10 Tips to Enable People with Disabilities to Get Jobs

~ Jennifer Laszlo Mizrahi

1. Demand your rights.
2. Be proud and loud in telling people you want a hand UP, not a hand OUT.
3. Encourage people with disabilities to start working in an unpaid internship or as a volunteer by age 14.
4. Know the facts.
5. Educate your elected officials.
6. Use the right messages and remember to K.I.S.S. - KEEP IT SIMPLE AND STRAIGHTFORWARD.
7. Talk about case studies that work.
8. Meet the print and TV reporters who cover business or disability issues in your area, bring them the news.
9. Network with business people who matter.
10. Never give up and stay positive.

To read the full article, visiting www.huffingtonpost.com and enter "10 Tips to Enable People with Disabilities to Get Jobs" in the search box.



THE ALLIANCE: Opportunities for Self-Advocacy Webinar

February 24, 2014 10:00am

Join members and the advisor of ROHSA (Ray of Hope Self-Advocates) to learn and share tips and ideas for organizational, community, statewide and national self-advocacy. Register now by visiting <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7186827269149204481>. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.



The Alliance News

Learning Opportunity

Investing in a Future Worth Creating: Putting Vision and Values into Practice
Saturday, March 8, 2014
10am – 4pm

Performing Arts Center
at Hubble Middle School
3 South 600 Herrick Road
Warrenville, Illinois

This workshop is intended for people with disabilities and those who care about them. Our time together will help you think about how:

- Friendships, relationships and circles of support make a difference in making life work;
- Investing differently (time, resources, etc.) to support a meaningful, full life in the community;
- Looking at alternative resources – minimizing dependence on DDD funding;
- Quinn Partridge and his experiences as he begins the journey of living on his own in Illinois can inspire others; and
- The stories about how others have been doing this across the country can inspire others.

Join Patti Scott, Neighbours International, Inc. www.neighbours-inc.com; Quinn Partridge; and Wendy Partridge of Heroes of the Game, Inc. as we strengthen our values, remember why we're all in this and invest in a future worth creating.

Registration is limited. Cost is \$15 per person and lunch is included. For more information or to register, please e-mail wendykpartridge@gmail.com.



I would like to thank Community Alternatives Unlimited for helping me in finding a place to live. I want other people to know that they are a good resource for parents/young adults with disabilities in northern Cook and Lake Counties. You can contact Community Alternatives Unlimited at 773.867.4000 or www.cau.org.

~ David W., self-advocate



The Alliance News

Learning Opportunity

TOOLBOX FOR EMPLOYMENT:

Learn more about creative employment options, building social capital and how different scenarios may affect benefits

March 10, 2014 from 9:30-12:30

College of Lake County- South Lake Campus

1120 S Milwaukee Ave, Vernon Hills, IL 60061

Featuring: Marsie Frawley of Griffin-Hammis Associates, LLC &

Cindi Swanson, Disabilities Ministry Coordinator – Our Saviours Lutheran Church, Naperville, IL

Topics Include:

- Increase the employment of individuals with disabilities by encouraging the use of local contacts through friendships, relationships, business contacts and places where individuals do business
- Increase the employment of individuals with disabilities by utilizing customized employment and exposing the target audience to potential opportunities for self-employment.
- Dispel the myth that if individuals with disabilities work they will lose their SSI or SSDI benefits and they will lose their health insurance.

3 hours of CEUS approved for NHA, LCPC, LPC, LSWs and LCSWs. To register, contact mgaramoni@clcollinois.edu or register online <https://toolboxforemploymentclc.eventbrite.com>.

This workshop is sponsored by SILC of Illinois, the Institute on Public Policy for People with Disabilities, Clearbrook, and the College of Lake County.





The Alliance News

Learning Opportunity

SEEC



Illinois Association of Microboards and Cooperatives
"Empowering Quality Lives"



Present

Regional Grassroots Housing Summit

Saturday, March 22, 2014

10:00am - 4:30pm

First Presbyterian Church

237 N. Kansas St. • Edwardsville, IL 62025

*For those who are thinking outside of the box to
create quality homes for the people they care about.*

*Invited guests include: Quinn Partridge and Wendy Partridge,
Heroes of the Game Microboard CILA; Maria Prato, Breath of Life
Microboard CILA; Ed McManus, parent and retired DDD Administrator;
Ann Sickon and Jane Doyle, Center for Independent Futures;
Lyle Vandeventer, DRS Home Services Division; Jim Hobbs,
DHS Manager, Office of Clinical, Administrative and Program
Support (OCAPS); and more!*

Lunch provided.

Register by mail or online at www.iamcinc.eventbrite.com.

For more information,

email qualitylifeinil@gmail.com or call 217-778-5388.

CEU and CPDU credit offered.



The Alliance News

Learning Opportunity

SPECIAL NEEDS FAMILIES

GET IT DONE DAY

Madison County Transition Planning
Committee

in conjunction with Lewis & Clark
Community College

DATE: March 25, 2014

TIME: 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

LOCATION:

N.O. Nelson Campus

600 Troy Road

Edwardsville IL. 62025



Come and meet the service providers.

They will be available to answer questions and provide information to you. Families will be able to begin the process of working with service providers while at this event.

Come and gather information and
Get It Done for:

- Employment Opportunities
- Housing Options
- Independent Living
- Assistive Technology
- Transportation
- Funding Sources
- Guardianship
- Special Needs Trusts
- College Programs

PRIZES

Door Prizes will be awarded to attendees.

CPDU's will be available for Educators.

This event is free to all attendees.



The Alliance News

Learning Opportunity



Illinois Association of Microboards and Cooperatives
"Empowering Quality Lives"

and



Present

Regional Grassroots Housing Summit

Saturday, March 29, 2014

9:00am - 3:30pm

**Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
815 S. Washington Street • Naperville, IL 60540**

*For those who are thinking outside of the box to
create quality homes for the people they care about.*

*Invited guests include: Quinn Partridge and Wendy Partridge,
Heroes of the Game Microboard CILA; Maria Prato, Breath of Life
Microboard CILA; Ed McManus, parent and retired DDD Administrator;
Ann Sickon and Jane Doyle, Center for Independent Futures;
Lyle Vandeventer, DRS Home Services Division; Jim Hobbs,
DHS Manager, Office of Clinical, Administrative and Program
Support (OCAPS); and more!*

Lunch provided.

Register by mail or online at www.iamcinc.eventbrite.com.

For more information,

email qualitylifeinil@gmail.com or call 217-778-5388.

CEU and CPDU credit offered.



The Alliance News

Going Home Rally Information



GOING HOME RALLY

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

Wednesday, March 26, 2014

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

Illinois State Capitol in the Rotunda

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. A t-shirt and a box lunch are included.**
- Sign language interpreters and PA's will provide accommodations.
- Please register by completing the Registration Form. Registrations must be in by Thursday, March 20, 2014 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 Form

Wednesday, March 26, 2014

Illinois State Capitol in the Rotunda

Springfield, IL

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 20, 2014 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

Coming Up



<http://weft.org/on-the-air/programs/disability-beat/>

Tune in on Monday, February 10, 2014 from 5.30 - 6pm to hear self-advocates of Personal Power Players from Piatt County Mental Health in Monticello speak on self-advocacy and The Alliance! Disability Beat is about and for people with all types of disabilities with a slant toward social justice, community supports, inclusion, accessibility, freedom and choice. It airs every Monday evening from 5.30 - 6pm.

Be a Part of Advocacy in Action by attending the Central Region Advisory Council Meeting

Thursday, February 13, 2014
12.30pm
Centrum Building
319 East Madison, 4N
Springfield, IL

Be a part of Advocacy in Action by attending the South Suburban Advisory Council Meeting

Thursday, February 20, 2014
2 - 4pm
Suburban Access
900 Maplewood Avenue
Homewood, IL

The Alliance Staff Contact Information

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hottwheelz702@yahoo.com

Tara Wickey, Community Organizer
tara.advocacy@gmail.com

Krescene Beck, Program Coordinator
krescenebeck@gmail.com

Jennifer Knapp, Organizational Consultant
jen.advocacy@gmail.com