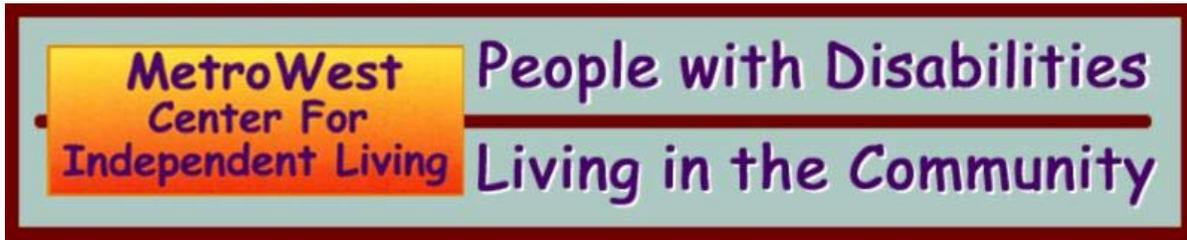


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News from MWCIL - August 2018



We were especially pleased with the state budget this year, with a generous increase for Independent Living and an increase in the Alternative Housing Voucher Program (may be 100 additional vouchers).

We were disappointed that the bill to align MA AAB regulations with the ADA was not even voted on in the House and the Senate. We will continue to push that issue during the upcoming informal sessions, and into next year if needed.

MWCIL is working closely with REV UP MA to get more people with disabilities voting. Some of the articles below should convince you to vote! Register by Wednesday, August 15, to vote in the September 4 state primary.

Stay cool!

Paul Spooner,
Executive Director



2014 ADA Celebration at Dunne Pond

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Architectural Access Board Bill S. 1379 and H.2498

WAS NOT EVEN VOTED ON IN THE HOUSE AND THE SENATE

This bill was not a budget item, and would cost the state *no* money! Yet the bill would *greatly* increase the number of accessible housing units and accessible jobs. Not having this bill is essentially an act of discrimination! We had support from our MetroWest legislators, but without a vote...

We will continue to work on this important bill.

Download the [flyer](#) from IL Education Day for more information on this important bill.



Ashley and David talk to Rep Lewis about the AAB bill

EVV Delayed

From [Home Health Care News](#)

July 30, 2018 by Robert Holly

"President Donald Trump late Monday officially signed off on H.R. 6042, a widely supported bill to delay the nationwide deadline for electronic visit verification (EVV) in Medicaid-reimbursed personal care services.

The 21st Century Cures Act, signed into law in 2016 under the Obama Administration, originally required home care providers and state agencies to begin adopting EVV systems by Jan. 1, 2019. H.R. 6042, sponsored by Rep. Brett Guthrie (R-Kentucky), pushes that deadline back to Jan. 1, 2020..."

Ohio has decided to implement EVV according to the original schedule, despite complaints.

In Massachusetts, there are conflicting opinions within the disability community as to whether and how EVV should be implemented. The biggest complaint is that it is an invasion of privacy because of the geo-tracking feature. At the same time, it's not too soon to move from paper to digital data collection.

HHS APPEALS SHOCK TREATMENT COURT DECISION

From [the State House News Service](#)

July24, 2018 by Chris Triunfo

The MA Executive Office of Health and Human Services has asked Attorney General Maura Healey to file an appeal of the Probate Court's decision regarding the Judge Rotenberg Center. *Healey's office has begun the appeal process.*

After 30 years of debate and condemnation by the U.S. Department of Justice, The UN special rapporteur on torture and the FDA, the aversive therapy of electric shock treatment continues to be allowed. "In June, Judge Katherine Field of the Bristol County Probate and Family Court ruled in the center's favor. The deliberation took years, following a 44-day evidentiary hearing that ended in October of 2016."

Read the whole story - the Disability Community has repeatedly demonstrated against this therapy, and in fact, considers it torture. ADAPT has protested in Washington and at the center in Canton. You can read more about opposition to the treatment at [the Center for Disability Rights](#).

Trump Ends Union Dues for Home Care Workers

From [Home Health Care News](#)

July 10, 2018 by Tim Mullaney

"The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has taken action to tighten Medicaid payment rules related to independent home care providers..."

The proposal is anti-union, and means that SEIU and other organizations will not be able to have states automatically deduct Medicaid payments for union dues. Read the article for more information.

Disability Integation Act

The Disability Integration Act is federal legislation that has been proposed in both houses of Congress - [S.910](#) and [H.R.2472](#). As you get to know your candidates this fall, ask the ones running for the Senate and House of Representatives if they support the Disability Integration Act. A "what's that?" answer is a problem, however, it's a teachable moment with an opportunity for followup.

What is the DIA?

[The Center for Disability Rights](#) has an excellent description. The DIA would remove the nursing home bias that exists in today's insurance and Medicaid

benefits.

This federal law would address these problems in *every* state.

- It would require both public and private insurances that cover any kind of long term care to give equal coverage to home and community support services, so you could simply choose that option if it's what you want.
- It would require this in every state, so no matter where you live, your right to independence would be the same.
- It would, in effect, add teeth to the Supreme Court's Olmstead decision, which first set out the principle that these services aren't just benefits, they are the practical embodiment of the right to independence for people with significant disabilities.

Congratulations to Senator Karen Spilka

MetroWest Center for Independent Living extends our heartfelt congratulations to Senator Karen Spilka on her appointment as Massachusetts Senate President. As a compassionate, smart and effective legislator, she deserves this new job. We have full confidence in her ability to be an exceptional Senate President!

Senator Spilka is from Ashland, which is in our service area. She always attends our local and State House legislative advocacy events. She listens and supports the issues that are important to people with disabilities. We applaud her work, and know she will continue to be a friend to people with disabilities.



Senator Spilka at swearing in ceremony. Photo by Paul Spooner

President Spilka was interviewed on August 1 by Jim Braude on PBS (spoiler alert: he is tough):

<https://www.wgbh.org/news/local-news/2018/08/01/new-mass-senate-president-karen-spilka-on-what-lawmakers-did-and-didnt-accomplish-this-session>



Senator Spilka at IL Ed Day in 2015. Photo by S. Rorke

New PCA Directory!

The MA PCA Workforce Council has launched a new PCA Directory. Visit www.masspcadirectory.org. The interface is easy - with users choosing whether they are looking for a job or looking for a worker.

Benefits of the new site include:

- Email alerts when a new worker match is found for you
- Access from your Smart phone and mobile devices
- Backup worker listings
- Translation and interpreter services in all major languages spoken across the state
- Enhanced job posting board

The website is free, and registration is good for one year.

Follow the PCA Workforce Council on Facebook for announcements:

www.facebook.com/MassPCA.

Email: pcacouncil@state.ma.us

Meet and Greet Events

The PCA Workforce Council is working to establish local meet and greet events for MassHealth PCA Consumer-employers to meet PCA candidates in a neutral place. The meet and greet events are formatted in a speed-networking style with each consumer-employer spending about 8-10 minutes with each PCA candidate, with the goal of talking to as many PCA candidates as possible, and hopefully finding a few people to interview for the open position. If consumer-employers are unavailable, they can send a surrogate, family member or friend to attend in their place.

Wednesday, August 15, 2018, 1:00-2:30 p.m. at

Old Colony Elder Services

144 Main Street

Brockton, MA 02301

To register, call: 508-584-1561 or email: mgallant@ocesma.org

Wednesday, August 29, 2018, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

1199SEIU Union Hall

108 Myrtle Street

Quincy, MA 02171

Thursday, August 30, 2018, 3:30-5:00 p.m.

GSM Labor Council Office

560 Pleasant Street

New Bedford, MA 02740

Thursday, September 27, 2018, 3:30-5:00 p.m. at

Fall River Public Library

104 N. Main Street, Nagle Room

Fall River, MA

To register, call Lisa Lemieux at 774-328-0394 or email:

lisa.lemieux@1199.org

1199SEIU Summer BBQs

1199SEIU is having a series of Summer Unity BBQs around the state to promote the new PCA Directory and bring union workers together with other members of the community.

Join 1199SEIU healthcare and homecare workers, our families and community advocates at our Summer Unity Barbecues! Bring your family, friends, and neighbors to build community and enjoy the free food and entertainment.

While you are there, sign up for the new PCA Directory *and* register to vote at a

REV UP MA table.

Access community resources including a job fair, and learn about other organizations that can help you and your family

For more information: Lisa Lemieux 774-328-0394 lisa.lemieux@1199.org
Download the DOCX flyer:
[NewBedfordBBQ.docx](#)

Boston:

Saturday, August 18, Malcom X Park, 131 Dale Street - noon-5
For more information Nancy Luc 617-284-1143 nancy.luc@1199.org
Download the PDF flyer: [BostonBBQ.pdf](#)

Lawrence:

August 18, Manchester Park, 77 Manchester St, noon-5
For more information Diana Richard 508-641-3603
diana.richard@1199.org
Download the PDF flyer: [LawrenceBBQ.pdf](#)

Brockton:

August 31, 470 Forest Ave., Brockton High School Lawn (near the pool), 2-6
For more information: Dana Alas 585-205-1311 dana.alas@1199.org
Download the PDF flyer: [BrocktonBBQ.pdf](#)

Voting Updates

The **Registration Deadline** for voting in the September 4 primary is Wednesday, August 15. PLEASE REGISTER TODAY! *Make a plan* to vote in the primary. Your vote will make a difference.

Absentee Ballots for the September primary are now available from your town clerk.



Primary Ballot information is available from the Secretary of State website.

- Visit www.sec.state.ma.us/wheredoivotema and enter your address. (note that the street address is over 3 different fields)
- Click on "Show My Results"
- See the Election Information For page. Scroll down to see the town clerk address, as well as current elected officials.
- Under View My Ballot, click on your party affiliation to see who will be on the September 4th Primary ballot. Many candidates do not have a

- primary opponent, but may have one in November.
- Consider printing the ballot, and using the remaining weeks before the primary to get to know the candidates. Candidates with opponents are very busy meeting as many voters as they can.

November Election:

Registration deadline for the November 6 election is Wednesday, October 17. *Why wait? Register Now!*

After the primary, we should see increased opportunities for debates and events where you can get to know the candidates. We also have three ballot questions to consider in November.

Want assistance? Reply to this email!

Questions? Visit RevUpMA.org, or the state website: www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/eleidx.htm.

The Disability Vote could make a difference. Read this article from medium.com by Gregg Beratan and Colleen Flanagan: [Failing to Effectively Leverage the Disability Vote may have Cost Democrats a Seat in the House](#). The Ohio election is still waiting for absentee and provisional votes to be counted, but will probably be decided by a very slim margin for the Republican.

Framingham City Hall Patio is Non-Compliant

From [The Framingham Source](#)
July 31, 2018 by Susan Petroni

Framingham City Hall's New Patio Does Not Comply With Americans With Disabilities Act

28 Years after the signing of the ADA!

"Earlier this month, the City of Framingham's Economic and Development office and Downtown Framingham Inc, a nonprofit, partnered to unveil a new patio in front of the Memorial Building.

However, those tables and chairs for that patio do not meet the standards of the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA), according to the Framingham Disability Commission."...

Read the entire article including comments from the Framingham Disability Commission and Chair Karen Dempsey.

Disturbing Comments by ACL Official

From [The Disability Scoop](#)
August 3, 2018 by Michelle Diament

Community Living Agency Denies Disability 'Segregation' Remarks

The ACL's (Administration for Community Living - Independent Living is under this administration) principal deputy administrator, Mary Lazare, is alleged to have publicly stated that she favors segregation of people with disabilities. The comments were supposed to have been made at two disability conferences on the same day - The Autism Society, and The National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities.

If true, this is a chilling attitude... The head of the administration, Lance Robertson, has denied that Lazare expressed the alleged views and renewed his commitment to community living.

She is getting significant push-back from the disability community. Living in the community is central to the Independent Living philosophy.

Read the article. We would like to see updates to this story from ACL.

Activist Resources and Directories

National Contact Information

[Directory of House of Representatives](#)

[Directory of Senators](#)

Senator Edward J. Markey

Address:
255 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

Phone:
(202) 224-2742

Contact:
www.markey.senate.gov/contact

Website:
<http://www.markey.senate.gov/>

Senator Elizabeth Warren

Address:

317 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

Phone:

(202) 224-4543

Contact:

www.warren.senate.gov/?p=email_senator

Website:

<http://www.warren.senate.gov/>

State Government Contact Information

[Directories of State Senators and Representatives](#)

[Contact Governor Baker](#)

[WhereDoIVoteMa.com](#) - Enter your address, and get a list of all of your elected officials.

National Resources

Indivisible - A practical guide for resisting the Trump agenda - Former congressional staffers reveal best practices for making Congress listen. [Download the pdf](#) or [Visit the website](#).

Save My Care - a movement to bring together families, advocates and health care providers to protect the health and financial security of all Americans. [Visit the website](#).

National Council on Independent Living has Action Alerts for issues on the table in Washington. [Visit the Advocacy Monitor webpage](#).

Join REV UP - Make the disability vote count!

For more information, visit www.revupma.org.



Disability Pride Toolkit

[NCIL](#) (National Council on Independent Living) has compiled a [Disability Pride Toolkit and Resource Guide](#).

This guide delves into what Disability Pride is, and why it is so important. The difference between the Medical Model and the Independent Living paradigm offer a framework of the disparities between how society works and how it should work.

The guide also offers many resources and ideas on how to advance the discussion and how to educate others. *We highly recommend this toolkit and resource guide for anyone who wants to be active in the fight for disability rights!*





MetroWest Center for Independent Living

Website: www.mwcil.org

Email: info@mwcil.org

Phone: (508)875-7853

Address: 280 Irving Street, Framingham, MA 01702

Facebook: 

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