

May 2011

Issue: 11

MetroWest

Center for Independent Living, Inc.

Continued Budget Battle

Greetings!

The Fiscal Year 2012 budget negotiations continue. The House Ways and Means amended budget did NOT restore the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission (MRC) cut for Independent Living. There is still time to talk to your state senator!

- April 13 - House Ways and Means Budget released
- April 25 - Debate on the House Budget (amendments)
- May 18 - Senate Ways and Means Budget released
- May 20 - Deadline for Senate Amendments
- Week of May 25 - Debate on Senate Budget

In other news, we are amazed at the 2011 Boston Marathon and the athletes with disabilities. We've posted all of our photos on facebook, and provided a few stories below.

from Paul W. Spooner, Executive Director

Budget News

In the House version of the state budget, the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission's Independent Living line item was still short about \$550,000. The Senate has been meeting, and will propose a new version of the whole budget on May 18.

The Independent Living Centers have been actively working the Senate members to line up support for a half million dollar amendment should the Senate Ways and Means not restore the \$550,000 cut imposed by Governor Deval Patrick. All amendments need to be in place by May 20.

If you haven't already, please contact your senator right away and ask him/her to restore the IL funding to the MRC budget!

Health Insurance Anomaly

The [NY Times](#) reported on a big dilemma for nursing homes, for home care agencies and especially for their employees.

Many nursing homes and home care agencies do not provide health insurance to their workers, or they pay wages so low that employees cannot afford the coverage that is offered. The new health care law is supposed to fix the problem by guaranteeing



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Handcycle racer

Accessible Recreation Day

Saturday, June 4, 2011

10 - 3

Artesini Park
Brighton

The Department of
Conservation and

access to affordable coverage for all. Instead, nursing homes and home care agencies are lobbying hard for an exemption saying that their revenues are based on Medicare and Medicaid, and they cannot afford the expense.

Starting in 2014, the law will require employers with 50 or more full-time employees to offer affordable coverage or risk paying a penalty. (For a midsize nursing home, that penalty could easily exceed \$200,000 a year.)

While the discussion is complicated, shouldn't it be a priority to keep our health care workers healthy??

2011 Boston Marathon Stats

- 83 athletes participated in categories specifically for people with disabilities.
- 81 athletes finished the entire 26 mile course.
- The racers came from 22 different states, and 7 different countries.
- All of the Handcycle racers are from the U.S., while the wheelchair racers came from 7 countries.

Wheelchair racers	
Men: 24	Women: 8
Handcycle racers	
Men: 17	Women: 3
Visually impaired	
Men: 12	Women: 4
Mobility impaired	
Men: 12	Women: 3



Wheelchair racers in 2011 Boston Marathon

For more photos and links to racer information, visit our [facebook photo gallery](#).

Ernst Van Dyk

Ernst Van Dyk of Paarl, South Africa, Time: 1:18:51, Third Place, Age 38

Recreation's (DCR) Universal Access Program (UAP) is offering a free fun-filled day of celebrating **Accessible Outdoor Recreation** available for individuals, families and friends of people with disabilities. Activities will include a cycling fair with an assortment of accessible cycles available for use; adaptive recreational activities, including hiking, letterboxing, face painting, interpretive programs; a D.J. and Starbucks Coffee. [Bring your lunch.]

This is *THE PLACE* to find out about accessible recreation programs offered by multiple organizations in the Boston area and beyond.

For more information, visit the [DCR Webpage](#).

MA PCAs

MWCIL has partnered with other organizations to create the [PCAForever](#) website devoted to providing information about the Massachusetts Personal Care Attendant program as well as publicizing advocacy opportunities and needs.

We are actively seeking stories from consumers.

[Email us](#)

About Us:

[MWCIL website](#)
(past issues are available at our website)

[Email](#)

Phone: 508-875-7853
280 Irving Street



Van Dyk in 2011 Boston Marathon in Ashland

Ernst Van Dyk has won the Boston Marathon a record 9 times. A racing legend, Ernst has won marathons world wide and multiple medals at paralympics in both handcycling and wheelchair marathons, including gold in 2008 in Beijing.

Ernst was born in apartheid South Africa with a disability. Doctors told his parents he would only face a lifetime of hardship. Rather than listen to what people told him he could not do, Ernst was raised to believe that anything was possible. Today, Ernst is a world-renowned athlete, advocate, and champion who is an inspiration to thousands across the globe.

The 2011 race was almost a photo finish with Soejima's winning time of 1:18:50, Fearnley's second place time of 1:18:51 and Van Dyk's third place time of 1:18:51.



Van Dyk Honored at State House

This year, the Spaulding Rehabilitation Network and the Mass. Rehabilitation Commission honored Van Dyke at the Massachusetts State House on April 14th, in a special presentation, "Making

Framingham, MA
01702

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History and Breaking Barriers".



Van Dyke at State House

Anjali Forber-Pratt

Anjali Forber-Pratt of Champaign, IL, Time: 1:53:22, Age 26. Anjali placed fourth with a personal best.

Anjali grew up in Natick (one of "OUR" towns!). MWCIL was able to help her win a 504 Department of Education Civil Rights case to make Natick High School accessible.



2011 Boston Marathon - Ashland

She has conquered the challenges that have come her way with hard work, determination and a smile, and today has a Bachelor's Degree, a Master's Degree and is working on a Doctorate at the University of Illinois.

Anjali's current focus is on preparations for the London Paralympics in 2012. She juggles a six days a week training regiment along with the coursework required for a full-time student studying for her doctorate degree in Human Resource Education. Anjali is a

graduate teaching assistant for the University of Illinois College of Education.

Stay up to date with Anjali's accomplishments with her website:
www.anjaliforberpratt.com

College Wheelchair Athletic Programs

[Wheelchair and Ambulatory Sports, USA](#) has compiled a list of colleges offering varsity programs in wheelchair athletics. We've provided links to some of the programs. The ONLY school that lists their adaptive sports on their main Athletics web page is University of Illinois - we applaud them for this. We're looking forward to when adaptive sports are *embedded* in the list of varsity sports offered at *every college*.

- [Edinboro University](#), PA offers men's wheelchair basketball and several intramural programs for other adaptive sports.
- Oklahoma State University - unable to confirm any wheelchair athletic programs using the university website.
- Penn State - unable to confirm current wheelchair basketball program using the university website.
- University of Alabama, Birmingham - unable to confirm any wheelchair athletic programs using the university website.
- [University of Arizona](#) has several teams for students with disabilities, including men's and women's basketball (club level), quad rugby and wheelchair tennis.
- University of Central Oklahoma has an annual [Endeavor Games](#) competition for students with disabilities for students across the U.S. As a [Paralympic Training Site](#), UCO hosts the U.S. Men's and Women's Sitting Volleyball teams. Other sports include archery, powerlifting and track & field.
- [University of Illinois](#) has an adaptive *varsity* athletics program, especially in wheelchair sports, for men and women.
- University of Missouri has a men's [intercollegiate wheelchair basketball team](#).
- University of Oregon unable to confirm any wheelchair athletic programs using their website. Their [adaptive sports web pages](#) have not been updated since 2010.
- University of Texas - some blogs mention a wheelchair rugby team as well as racing, but we were unable to find any varsity teams, club teams or intramural teams listed on the website.
- [University of Wisconsin, Whitewater](#) has men's and women's basketball teams.

App Reads Money

The Bureau of Engraving has developed a free application for the iPhone (3G, 3GS and 4), 4th generation iPod Touch, and the iPad2 for individuals who are blind or visually impaired. The application



scans and identifies paper money. Cool! The app is called the EyeNote and can be downloaded free from the Apple App store.

For full information, visit EyeNote.gov.

We don't see anything yet for the other smart phones - hopefully more will be released soon as this is a great idea.

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