

July 20, 2011

Issue: 13

MetroWest

Center for Independent Living, Inc.

Summer Days

Greetings!

The FY '2012 state budget has been signed by Governor Patrick. Thanks to many people's advocacy work, the support of our legislators and the intrinsic value of the line items, most of the services and funding for people with disabilities was maintained in the final version. At MWCIL, we are grateful for the recognition of the importance of our accomplishments. We will continue to ensure that every dollar we receive goes directly to providing people with disabilities choices in their living situations.

Nationally, we still have serious advocacy work to do while Medicaid is in the cross-hairs of Congress and the President.

July is the 21st anniversary of the signing of the ADA. Please join us on Friday, July 22 (see sidebar) in Gardner.

from Paul W. Spooner, Executive Director

Medicaid Alert

Even before any federal cuts are on the table, many states are reducing their support of Medicaid. This [Associated Press article](#) by John Seewer describes the costly effects, in both money and quality of life, of these cuts!

In Washington, Obama and Congress are discussing Medicaid cuts in their attempts to reduce deficit spending before extending the debt ceiling. Disability organizations are rightfully concerned. ADAPT and other groups are mobilizing to protect Medicaid benefits needed by people with disabilities. "We need to focus our energy on Congress to let them know that they need to *reform, not cut*, Medicaid." Valerie Jarrett of the [White House blog](#) brings personal stories of how Medicaid has helped people with disabilities and their families. ADDP has compiled a list of compelling studies and information in their [alert](#) regarding the dangers of cutting Medicaid.

The Disability Policy Consortium has identified the following as meaningful Medicaid reforms:

- Refocusing Medicaid spending away from higher cost institutional placements to meet beneficiary preferences for lower cost, preferred home and community-based services;
- Reducing the costly medical bias in long-term services and supports and placing greater emphasis on the necessary



In This Issue

[Medicaid Alert](#)

[Article Headline](#)

[IL Administration](#)

[Steve Higgins](#)

[MASILC ADA](#)

[Boston ADA](#)

[MA PCA Program](#)

ADA Day 2011

MWCIL and MASILC are celebrating the 21st Anniversary of the signing of the ADA with food and entertainment! Please join us!

When: Friday, July 22
Time: 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Where: Dunn Pond State Park in Gardner.

Dunn State Park is among the state's most accessible recreational areas, and even offers kayaking!

[Download](#) the flyer for more details.



Boston ADA Event

The City of Boston Disability

- functions for daily living;
- Expanding consumer-directed service options and engaging beneficiaries more fully and effectively in their own care decisions;
- Increasing care coordination of services for Medicare-Medicaid dual eligible beneficiaries; and
- Reorganizing Medicaid to eliminate wasteful bureaucratic duplication and realign services based on functional needs.

The Center for Disability Rights has set up online emails so that you can support these efforts. *Contact [Congress](#) or the [President](#) and share your thoughts on cutting Medicaid!* You can also call the White House at 1-888-245-0215.

Expo, Conference, Competition Products and Technology that Change People's Lives: Assistive Technology and Universal Design in Massachusetts

When: Friday, September 23 from 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Where: Hynes Convention Center, Boston

The Expo / Conference / Design Competition is free to the public. Experience and learn about the current state-of-the-art of inclusive products and technologies that transform the lives of people with disabilities and older people. Help initiate a strategy for integration of inclusive design and assistive technology into the Massachusetts innovation agenda. *Be a part of it!*

Agenda Themes

- Home
- Work
- Life-Long Learning
- Fitness/Recreation/Sport

Contact Information

General Info: info@ChangePeoplesLives.org
Join Competition: competition@ChangePeoplesLives.org
Be an Exhibitor: expo@ChangePeoplesLives.org

Hosted by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts - Governor Deval Patrick, Lt. Governor Timothy Murray, Secretary JudyAnn Bigby, MD (EOHHS) & Secretary Gregory Bialecki (EOHED) & Secretary Paul Reville (DoE).
Convened by the [Institute for Human Centered Design](#)

More Information at: www.changepeopleslives.org

Senate Introduces Independent Living Administration

"The National Council on Independent Living (NCIL) is very proud and excited to announce that a bill has been filed with the Senate HELP Committee which creates the establishment of a new Independent Living Administration (ILA), and strengthens America's Independent Living (IL) Program. The ILA would elevate the IL Program at the federal level, and would create an organization

Commission is sponsoring an ADA Celebration on Tuesday, July 26, 2011 from 12 - 3 PM on City Hall Plaza.

Some of the event's activities will include:

- Food
- Music by Mix 104.1 radio station
- T shirts (as available)
- Art exhibit
- Adaptive Rec equipment from Spaulding Rehab Hospital
- Mural and face painting for kids
- Remarks by Mayor Thomas Menino and long-time disability activist **Paul Spooner!**
- Preview of the City Hall Access Project

Call: 617-635-3682

Email: disability@cityofboston.gov

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 have posted our first [video](#). Thanks very much to Amy for sharing her experiences and thoughts.

We are actively seeking stories from consumers.

[Email us](#)

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

[Email](#)

independent of the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) within the Department of Education. The creation of this new administration marks a truly historic moment in the Independent Living Movement, and IL advocates across the country have much to celebrate this week. "

Read more at the [National Council on Independent Living](#).

Congratulations to Steven Higgins

Steve Higgins received the Region 1 Advocacy Award from the National Council on Independent Living at the 2011 Conference. Way to go Steve!



Steve, his wife Andrea and Senator Tom Harkins at last year's event.

Join Our Mailing List!

and visit our website

[MetroWest Center for Independent Living](#)

Phone: 508-875-7853
280 Irving Street
Framingham, MA 01702

Find us on Facebook 

Join Our Mailing List!



[Forward email](#)

 SafeUnsubscribe®

This email was sent to srorke@mwciil.org by srorke@mwciil.org | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

MetroWest Center for Independent Living | 280 Irving Street | Framingham | MA | 01702

Trusted Email from
Constant Contact
Try it FREE today.