



December 20, 2011

Issue: 18

## MetroWest Center for Independent Living, Inc.

### December News from MWCIL

Greetings!

The holiday season is here, meaning that the state budget season is also beginning.

The Super Committee failed, and the country is now facing "sequestration", meaning automatic pruning of federal budgets, with no discussion on the individual merits or options. While social services took a smaller hit than other programs, many of our state services rely heavily on federal funding, so we definitely will notice the cuts. The Council of State Governments has written a [report](#) on what they think this will mean to states.

An important MassHealth Public Hearing is scheduled for January 4 on Dual Eligibles.

We'd like to thank everyone who celebrated the holidays with us at our annual Holiday Party. We are especially grateful to Mass. Rehabilitation Commissioner Charlie Carr for taking the time to attend and socialize with all of us. We had good food, great company, and even a magician to keep us all entertained!

from Paul W. Spooner, Executive Director

### Occupy Wall Street

Demonstrators continue to Occupy Wall Street and other business districts around the country. David Schultz at [MinnPost.com](#) writes extensively about the goals of the Occupy movement which highlights the growing political and economic inequalities in the U.S. The disability community feels these inequalities, with higher rates of poverty and unemployment than most other groups.

With the November 17 Day of Action, the movement appears likely to continue gaining support. People with disabilities may want to get involved, and keep the dialogue focused on inclusion.

### Dual Eligibles

Work on the Dual Eligibles Demonstration Grant continues.

The [Response](#) to Chairman Richard Moore from the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) Secretary JudyAnn



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#### Documentary

"A Friend Indeed - The Bill Sackter Story" is an inspirational feature length documentary that was the

Bigby was in November.

On December 7, The EOHHS released the [PROPOSAL TO THE CENTER FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID INNOVATION STATE DEMONSTRATION TO INTEGRATE CARE FOR DUAL ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS](#)

Two Public Hearings have been scheduled - one has already occurred on December 16. These hearings will provide members of the public an opportunity to give oral comments on the draft Demonstration Proposal (see "Related Information" section on [MassHealth's duals website](#) ). Commenters may also submit written testimony at the public hearings. Reasonable accommodations will be made for participants who need assistance. Please send any request for accommodations to Donna Kymalainen at [Donna.Kymalainen@state.ma.us](mailto:Donna.Kymalainen@state.ma.us).

The second hearing is scheduled for:

January 4, 2012, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. (Wednesday)  
State Transportation Building, Conference Rooms 2 and 3  
10 Park Place, Boston, MA

The issues are extremely complex and any mistakes will have huge consequences. Learn about the proposal at the state website, and find out what the leading advocacy groups (\*) think. DPC-MA and Boston CIL have published a [Flyer](#) and [Talking Points](#). They have concerns about insurance company roles, and are asking that interested people "speak on what works and what doesn't in healthcare". They have identified three key issues for people with disabilities.

- Choice of clinicians and providers
- Control of care team
- Independent long term supports coordinator

\* Leading Advocacy Groups:

[Association of Developmental Disability Providers](#)  
[ARC of Massachusetts](#)  
[Disability Policy Consortium](#)

## EOHHS Budget Hearing



The budget hearing for the Executive Office of Health and Human Services began with an overview of FY 2012, and general predictions for FY 2013. Key pressures on 2013 are:



#1 Audience Favorite at 5 consecutive film festivals and was screened at The Arc's National Convention. It tells the incredible true story about Bill Sackter's amazing journey from being abandoned in an institution to becoming a hero for people with disabilities. You can now watch it online for free [Click Here](#).

## MWRTA Rides



Starting on November 10, the MWRTA will offer rides to the West Roxbury and Jamaica Plain Veterans Administration Hospitals.

Rides must be booked in advance, and will cost riders \$2 each way.

Buses will make three trips a day on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Buses will leave Framingham at 9 a.m. and noon, with a final trip at 3 p.m.

Call Lisa Long at 508-820-4650 to register.



Thanks to [MetroWest Daily News](#) for the info!

Donations

Revenue assumptions are similar to 2012  
Increased spending pressures from debt and pension responsibilities  
Some revenue sources in 2012 were one-time investments.

After several years of reducing budgets, more cuts for 2013 will cause *reductions in services*. And Secretary Bigby expects reductions in the 2013 budget.

With over 200 people in attendance, advocates for people with disabilities gave testimony for over 2 hours - from speakers in support of Day Rehab to supporters of Independent Living, DBCAN, mental health services, options counseling, deaf services, blind services and much more:

Hang Lee of Boston's Multicultural Independent Living Center spoke up for Independent Living.

Joe Bellil, VP of Easter Seals and BOD President at MWCIL, spoke about the importance of Assistive Technology and Employment.

Paul Spooner, Executive Director at MWCIL, talked about the state independent living centers, and the important work that is done. He asked for an increase in funding, so that more work can be accomplished. 150 - 200 individuals are moved from nursing homes to the community. Each individual not in a nursing home saves the state at least \$20,000 per year.

Steve Higgins, Executive Director at IACIL also spoke of the importance of the state's independent living centers, and how level or increased funding is necessary.



Steve Higgins of IACIL and Paul Spooner of MWCIL testify in support of Independent Living

## Framingham Disability Commission Member, Dennis Moran, is Back in the Saddle

After a multi-year break because of surgery, Mr. Moran was happy to enter and win the Wheelchair Race in the annual Framingham Turkey Trot. Mr. Moran reports: " 4 Framingham cops escorted me. The only cop that was not winded was a motorcycle cop!" Great effort!

If you appreciate MWCIL and the support it provides you, please consider a year-end gift of any amount.

By showing your appreciation and giving back, MWCIL can provide more services for the community. We thank you! Go to [MWCIL Webpage](#) or click on the Donate button.

**Donate**



All online gifts are tax deductible. *We couldn't carry out our important mission without you!*

## MA PCAs

MWCIL has partnered with other organizations to create the [PCAForever.org](#) 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)

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## New Travel Show

The Oprah Winfrey Network (OWN) will debut a new 6 episode travel show in December. The show is called "Rollin' with Zach", and features Zach Anner (who won Oprah's "Your OWN Show" contest) as he travels to different cities. Zach doesn't let his cerebral palsy or his wheelchair get in his way as he tries water skiing, rock climbing and more.

[Rollin with Zach](#)

premieres Dec. 12 at 8 p.m. ET on OWN.

Thanks to the [AAPD](#) newsletter "Justice for All" for this information.

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