



April 2012

Issue: 22

MetroWest

Center for Independent Living, Inc.

Budget News

Greetings!

Earlier this month, we sent out a news flash asking everyone to please call their representative to increase funding for Independent Living in the FY 2013 House Budget. The House version was passed late last night, and while the \$50,000 for Assistive Technologies got through, our \$1,100,000 for Independent Living did not. We will continue to push for this increase to be added to the Senate version of the budget.

from Paul W. Spooner, Executive Director

Open Application for the ABI Waiver

The Medicaid Application period for Acquired Brain Injury Waivers is May 1-21, 2012. Waivers can enable people with ABI to get the services they need to live in the community instead of in a nursing home. The [Brain Injury Association of MA](#) can provide more information.

Increased IL Funding NOT in House Budget

Representative Tom Sannicandro of Ashland cosponsored an Amendment to increase funding to Independent Living Centers.

Unfortunately, the \$1,100,000 addition for IL Centers (or \$100,000 per center statewide) was removed from the

House version. Next, the Rep. Sannicandro at the 2011 Statewide Senate will pass their IL Education Day

own budget. After that, the Senate and House resolve their differences, and submit a completed version for the Governor to sign or veto. Finally, the House can override any of the Governor's vetoes by July 31

We will advise you on how you can help get increased funding for IL Centers as the Senate budget process gets underway.



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Donations

If you appreciate MWCIL and the support it provides you, please consider a 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!*

Got Computers?

MWCIL would like to thank all of the House Representatives who signed onto this amendment.

MetroWest Representatives

Tom Sannicandro of Ashland
Thomas Conroy of Wayland
Carolyn Dykema of Holliston
Chris Walsh of Framingham

Statewide Representatives

Denise Andrews of Orange
Demetrius Atsalis of Barnstable
Bruce Ayers of Quincy
Ruth Balsler of Newton
Richard Bastien of Gardner
Matthew Beaton of Shrewsbury
Marcos Devers of Lawrence
James Dwyer of Woburn
Robert Fennell of Lynn
Kimberly Ferguson of Holden
Jonathan Hecht of Watertown
John Keenan of Salem
Kay Khan of Newton
Jason Lewis of Winchester
Carl Sciortino of Medford
Benjamin Swan of Springfield
David Torrisi of North Andover
Steven Walsh of Lynn

Do you have computer parts sitting around unused? How about your employer or relative? Let MWCIL's Computer Recycling Program take them off your hands!

Donated computers are refurbished at MWCIL and given free to qualified consumers. All donated equipment **must be three years old or newer, and in working condition**, providing a charitable tax donation to the donor. Refurbished computers are given to consumers who have passed the Center's basic computer course, enabling them to better access resources necessary for independent living.

MWCIL is a licensed Microsoft reseller of operating systems, so each donated computer's hard drive is completely erased according to industry standards. MWCIL installs a new Microsoft operating system. Worried about your old information? Don't be! Past donations have come from schools, law firms, and even the Internal Revenue Service, which were satisfied with MWCIL's security precautions. For more information, contact Michael Gentile, Computer Services/Systems Administrator. 508-875-7853.

ADAPT Action in Washington

ADAPT activists, including actor [Noah Wyle](#), in Washington were arrested at the Cannon House Office Building this week. This April action is to prevent Medicaid cuts that will force more sick and elderly into nursing homes. ADAPT supports policies enabling people with disabilities to get care in their own homes.

ADAPT activists also protested against deadline extensions to hotel swimming pool compliance with the ADA. 20+ years should be enough.



From ADAPT facebook

Computer Tip

Most browsers support a simple technique to improve the readability of websites. Try pressing the CTRL button on your keyboard while scrolling



Larry Biondi is arrested. Photo from ADAPT facebook.



from ADAPT facebook

Visit the [ADAPT Facebook page](#) for more photos and news.

Administration for Community Living

Secretary Kathleen Sebelius recently announced a new organization within the Department of Health and Human Services -- the [Administration for Community Living \(ACL\)](#). The ACL will include the Administration on Aging, the Office on Disability and the Administration on Developmental Disabilities (ADD) in a single agency with the goal of increasing access to community supports and full participation in all aspects of society, while continuing to

the mouse wheel, and the website will zoom in or out. Adjust it to the size you need.

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MWCIL website
(past issues are available at our website)

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focus specific attention and resources on the unique needs of older Americans and people with disabilities. In addition, in order to honor and acknowledge the current landscape and changes in contemporary language, as well as the work done through ADD to support the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities, the Administration on Developmental Disabilities will become the "Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities."

Paul Spooner's Opinion

I am deeply concerned with the federal government's creation of the combined agency for community living. On the surface, this sounds like a great idea and a positive move forward to accessing community-based services for all individuals with disabilities and elders. However, when you look deeper into this change, what you find is the combination of a number of different groups under the umbrella of community living, but with no change to the silos of service based on age, disability type, or developmental levels. In other words, if you are 50 years old with a disability, by law, you still can not get meals on wheels until you are 60 years old. If your IQ is over a specific level, even though you have a developmental disability, you still can not access developmental disability services. So this change will not affect the same old categories of service based on age, function or disability which are the real barriers that many individuals with disabilities face every day in their efforts to live in the community of their choice.

Sports

New England Passage:

The New England Regional Spinal Cord Injury Center is sponsoring a presentation by the New England Passage: "Adaptive Sports and Recreation for Individuals with Spinal Cord Injury"

When: Wednesday May 16, 2012 6:30-8:00 PM

Where:

Boston Medical Center, B.U. School of Medicine
72 East Concord Street
14th floor, Heibert Lounge
Boston

[Click Here](#) for more information, and to register.

Power Soccer!

The US Power Soccer Association will be in Boston to provide a soccer clinic for anyone who uses a power wheelchair and would like a chance to try out the sport. There is currently teams in Sudbury, Canton, and Auburn - this presentation is a first step towards starting a Boston Team..

When: On Saturday, May 12, 2012, from 1 to 5 p.m.

Where:

Tobin Community Center
1481 Tremont St. (in the Mission Hill neighborhood)
Boston

Jim Wice, the inspiration and moving force behind the May 12 event, says, "As a quadriplegic with limitations to my upper body mobility, I long for a physical activity where I can feel the wind

against my face and have my heart rate rise to meet the challenge of competition."

For more information concerning Power Soccer and the May 12 clinic, call Jim Wice, the Power Soccer Project Director, at 617-772-0203, or to write to him at jwice@email.com .

Boston Self Help Center, a local nonprofit with 35 years experience promoting the self-determination of individuals with disabilities, is sponsoring the event. The Tobin Community Center, which serves the residents of Mission Hill with social, educational, recreational, and cultural activities, is providing the space.
(Thanks to the Disability Policy Consortium for the information)

Boston Marathon 2012

Dennis Moran, of Framingham, finished the long course in 1:57 on his hand cycle. Mr. Moran raced with the Dana-Farber fundraising team. He is a member of the Framingham Disabilities Commission. Read more about Dennis Moran's efforts in the [MetroWest Daily News](#).



Dennis Moran of Framingham

Visit our [Facebook page](#) for more photos of racers with disabilities.

Assistive Technology Conference and Expo

Easter Seals Massachusetts and MassMatch are hosting the Spring 2012 Assistive Technology Conference and Exposition on Wednesday, May 2nd at the Coco Key Hotel and Water Resort in Danvers, MA.

Visit the [Easter Seals website](#) for specifics.

Technology Aids Federal Employment Opportunities for People with Disabilities

An interactive online portal has spawned new hope for people with disabilities exploring a career in the federal government -- and for managers looking to recruit them. Launched in September 2011 in response to a directive that requires agencies to boost their efforts to hire employees with disabilities, [eFedLink.org](#) connects more than 400 federal human resource professionals, disability program managers and selective placement program coordinators to share policies and best practices around hiring, retention and advancement of people with disabilities in federal government. Read more at [Federal Computer Week](#).

The Spinal Cord Injury Newsletter recently linked to the survey results on employment after a spinal cord injury. You may be surprised: [Click Here](#) to read the report.

By the way, the Spinal Cord Injury Newsletter has some great advice, ideas and information for people with spinal cord injuries. [Click here](#) to subscribe.

MRC, MCB, MCDHH and SILC Consumer Conference

Employment, Independence, and Empowering Technologies: ***Making It Work!***

You're invited to this conference of consumers, employers, advocates, and all people with disabilities. Attendees network with one another and with agency staff in an educational environment. Many of the suggestions voiced at the conferences have a direct impact on policies and practices. Through the process of involving the constituency, programs can evolve and become more meaningful.

The conference is two days of workshops, as well as an exhibition area with employers and other organizations.

When: Tuesday, June 19 and Wednesday, June 20

Where: Four Points Sheraton in Norwood

Contact: (617) 204-3638 or email at

consumer.involvement@mrc.state.ma.us

Register by Friday, May 18

[CLICK HERE](#) to download registration materials.

Workshop Topics may include the following:

- Successfully Entering the Workforce
- Driving Your Way to Independence
- Money Follows the Person Project and HCBS MFP Waivers
- Interview/Disclosure Workshop

- Legal Planning: Legal Issues in Protecting People with Disabilities
- Successful Houseing Search Strategies: Overcoming Barriers
- Thinking Like an Employer
- MRC District Consumer Advocacy Councils
- SSA Benefits and Employment
- Mentoring Youth with Disabilities
- Developing Good Financial Habits: Managing Your Money and Organizing Your Finances
- MOD and CAP Services
- How Healthcare Reform Affects You
- Independent Voices: Consumers Speak to the PCA Council
- Explore, Prepare, Act: Finding the Job You Want
- How to Pay for the Assistive Technology You Need

Hosted by:

Charles Carr, Commissioner of the MA Rehabilitation Commission
Janet LaBreck, Commissioner of the MA Commission for the Blind
Heidi Reed, Commissioner of the MA Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Janet Shaw, Chairperson of the Statewide Independent Living Council

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