



May 2013

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MetroWest Center for Independent Living, Inc.

May

Here at MWCIL, we are immersed in the implementation plans of the Duals Demonstration Project and Money Follows the Person. We are cautiously optimistic that both efforts will improve services and health care for people with disabilities. Unfortunately, both efforts are extremely complex to implement, and may take awhile to be effective.

In other news, we are very proud of MWCIL's Director of Services, Jini Fairley, and her upcoming award from the Carroll Center.

And finally, we hope you saw Prince Harry playing seated volleyball. He hasn't quite mastered the game, but gave it a good try. Seated Volleyball may be a sport that could be played together by people with and without disabilities. We posted a link on Facebook.

from Paul W. Spooner,
Executive Director of MWCIL

Jini Fairley Recognized with a Carroll Center Award

Jini Fairley, Director of Services at MetroWest Center for Independent Living, will be awarded the *Thomas J. Carroll Award for Employment* as the Blind Employee of the Year for her outstanding achievements. MWCIL is also being recognized as Employer of the Year!

At MWCIL, Jini is the Director of Services. Her position is that of a working manager; that is she works directly with consumers and manages staff. Both roles require staying on top of the constantly evolving state and federal regulations and processes, as well as the ever-changing availability of services and housing in the MetroWest area. As a user of assistive technology, she is also knowledgeable in the latest devices available. She is technically advanced, and as at-home on her computers as any sighted person.

In addition to her work as the Director of Services, Jini also serves on the Governor's Paratransit Commission which involved many state-wide meetings and significant extra work. The Commission completed it's recommendations, and is now gearing up for the implementation phase. Jini also participates in many advocacy events. She also actively participates in her local government as a member of the Disability Commission in Newton. She also became a member of the Carroll Society in 2009.

Jini has not let her impaired vision slow her down at all. She is a role model for the Independent Living philosophy in both her life style and her accomplishments.



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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!***



Kay, Jini and Pat

Medical Marijuana Regulations Approved

"On May 8, the Public Health Council approved regulations for the medical marijuana program that was supported by voters in 350 out of 351 communities last November. Advocates praised the Department of Public Health (DPH) for its efforts to solicit input from patients and concerned citizens from across the state through a series of Listening Sessions that began in February and concluded in April. "



..."The regulations approved will go into effect on May 24. They allow the department to establish a competitive application process for non-profits seeking certifications that will permit them to operate. DPH is required to certify at least 14, but no more than 35, medical marijuana treatment centers to open by January, 2014."

[Click Here](#) for the full story from the MA Patient Advocacy Alliance.

Dual Demonstration Open Stakeholder Meeting

When:

Friday, May 17, 2003, 10 a.m. - 12

Where:

State Transportation Building

10 Park Plaza

Boston

Contact:

Catherine Harrison (617) 573-1812

About Us:

MWCIL website

(past issues are available at our website)

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The purpose of this meeting is to continue discussion of key implementation topics for the Duals Demonstration.

All stakeholders and members of the public with interest in the Demonstration are invited. Reasonable accommodations will be made for participants who need assistance.

Please send your request for accommodations to Donna Kymalainen at Donna.Kymalainen@state.ma.us.

Commission for the Reform of Community, Social Service and Paratransit Transportation Services in the Commonwealth

Executive Order No. 530

The Commission will be resuming their duties in June. Jini Fairley, of MWCIL, will again be participating.

The original job of the Commission was to "conduct a comprehensive review of all state and federally-funded community transportation services, including demand responsive services, paratransit services, ADA complementary paratransit service and social services transportation and provide detailed recommendations for reform and the introduction of efficiencies in the provision of all state and federally funded community transportation services in the Commonwealth"... This report was completed in July of 2012.

The report included a recommendation to establish a Statewide Coordinating Council on Community Transportation (SCCCT). The SCCCT would develop a strategic and operating plan to implement the recommendations of the Commission and to further advance the Patrick-Murray Administration's agenda to provide responsive, comprehensive, coordinated and efficient community transportation systems.

Now, the EOHHS and MassDot are committed to implement the recommendations of the commission, and will establish the SCCCT to be co-chaired by the Secretaries of EOHHS and MassDot. The SCCCT will develop a two year plan for implementation of the recommendations. Regional Coordinating Councils (RCC) will also be created.

[Download the Memorandum of Understanding](#) for more details.

Survey on Health Needs of People with Disabilities in MA

from Rachel H. Tanenhaus, Program Coordinator Health & Disability Program of Massachusetts Dept of Public Health

"Help influence health care in Massachusetts! The Health and Disability Program, part of Office of Health Equity at the MA Department of Public Health (DPH) is conducting a health needs survey for people with disabilities in Massachusetts. The Office of Health Equity promotes the health and well being of minority populations, including people with disabilities throughout the Commonwealth. Results from the survey will be used to determine how best to address the current public health needs of the disability community.

To that end, first, please take a few moments to complete the health needs survey yourself at

<http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/1219419/Health-Needs-Assessment-2013B> . Then, as we would like to get a broad range of respondents representing all the facets of the disability community, please forward the link to your friends and colleagues in the disability community and ask them to complete.

Who should complete this survey?

- Residents of Massachusetts, over the age of 18 who have disabilities
- Caregivers or guardians of adults or children with disabilities
- Disability advocates
- Staff at community based organizations or state or local government offices that serve people with disabilities
- Academic researchers
- Healthcare providers
- Public health officials or professionals
- Health and wellness promotion specialists
- Health administrators
- Health policy experts

We also invite participation by anyone else who has an interest in the health of people living with disabilities in Massachusetts. Please forward as soon as possible, as the survey link will only remain active until May 31, 2013. We look forward to hearing from you!

This is a voluntary and anonymous survey. The responses are compiled and we do not have knowledge of individual respondents.

Contact:

(617) 624-5957 Fax: (617) 624-6062

Rachel.Tanenhaus@state.ma.us

Illinois Passes Accessible Fuel Pump



On January 25, Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn signed a bill into law that will make gas stations in the state more accessible for people with disabilities. The amendment to the Illinois State Motor Fuel Sales Act, which will go into effect on June 1, requires gas stations in the state to provide and display at least one Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant gas pump, as well as a direct

telephone number which would allow a driver with a disability to request fueling assistance. Violations will result in station owners having to pay an administrative fee of \$250.

In March 2012, the Department of Justice (DOJ) ruled that gas stations with self-service gas pumps must provide equal access for customers with disabilities. Upon request, an attendant must provide refueling assistance, while honoring the self-service rate. In addition, gas station management must display signage to let customers with disabilities know that they may request assistance, either by honking or signaling a gas station employee. DOJ offers the fact sheet [Assistance at Gas Stations](#) with additional information about accessible gas pumps. The DOJ's 2010 Standards for

ADA Accessible Design govern the design of facilities used by the public (including gas stations) to ensure they are accessible to people with disabilities, as required by the original ADA passed in 1990.

For more information or to file a complaint, contact the [DOJ Civil Rights Division](#). For information about the effort to ensure that gas stations throughout the country are accessible, visit the [Disability Gas Coalition website](#).

We're interested in hearing your experiences with accessibility at the gas pumps in Massachusetts.

App for Housing Discrimination

HUD (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development) has released a mobile app for iPhones and iPads to enable people to report discrimination violations of the Fair Housing Act.

The app also provides information on the act. The Fair Housing Act bans discrimination in housing on the basis of disability, as well as race, color, gender, and religion in the public and private sectors.

The app is available, free, from the [Apple Store](#). We'd like to see it also released on other platforms!

Group Homes Settlement

Fair Housing includes Protections for Group Homes for People with Disabilities

The Department of Housing and Urban Development announced a \$90,000 settlement against the seller, their real estate brokerage (Coldwell Banker) and the law firm (Bowditch & Dewey). "The settlement also includes provisions to further the public interest. Bowditch & Dewey will perform 200 hours of pro bono legal work related to the promotion of fair housing rights and disability rights. Both Coldwell Banker and Bowditch & Dewey will have employees and agents receive fair housing training."

"In this case, a prospective buyer alleged that the seller recorded a restrictive covenant after learning that the buyer intended to rent the property to a nonprofit organization that provides supportive housing for people with disabilities. The seller, who was the executor of the owner's estate and lived next door to the property, was an attorney with Bowditch & Dewey LLP. He allegedly enlisted a fellow attorney from his law firm to record a restrictive covenant that prohibited the use of the property for a group home. His real estate agent, an independent contractor for Coldwell Banker, allegedly conveyed the restrictive covenant to the buyer's real estate agent. The buyer said this caused him to withdraw from the sale."

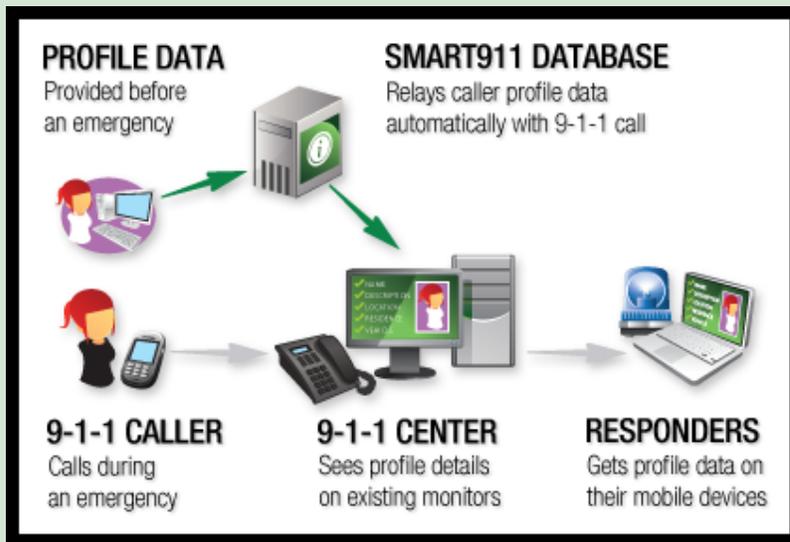
Read more at [Disability Blog](#).

Smart911 Service in Framingham

Framingham recently implemented Smart911, a service that allows

citizens to automatically share safety profiles with first responders. These profiles alert the 911 responder to any exceptional information such as a hidden driveway or a known medical condition. Thanks to the [MetroWest Daily News](#) for the information.

"Using a secure web site, citizens enter information they want to make available to 9-1-1 call takers in the event they call 9-1-1. Information can include family member data, medical conditions, disabilities, movement limitations, exact locations, even pets." (from the [Rave Mobile Safety Company website](#)). One example of someone who might benefit from the service is an asthma sufferer needing an ambulance, who is unable to breath enough to speak.



Rave Mobil Safety's *SmartPrepare* product looks especially interesting for people with disabilities during widespread emergencies. Where Smart911 helps when you call 911, SmartPrepare allows officials to be proactive in prioritizing who needs help first during emergencies. So far, local towns do not have this.

Boston - Community Forum on Disability Issues

The [City of Boston Mayor's Commission for Persons with Disabilities](#) and the [Boston Center for Independent Living](#) are conducting a forum on disability issues.

When:

Tuesday, May 21 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Where:

Boston City Hall, 9th floor, Room 900

Contact:

disability@cityofboston.gov or (617) 635-3682 OR (617) 635-2541 TTY

Do you have any concerns, questions or comments on a disability issue?

Topics include:

- Emergency Preparedness for People with Disabilities
- Communication for People with Sensory Disabilities

- Pedestrian Accessibility - Sidewalks and Curb Cuts
- Accessible Housing and Architectural Access
- Access to Hospitals and Medical Care

The venue is wheelchair accessible. ASL Interpreters are scheduled. Drinks and refreshments are planned.



Boston ATM and Vendor Accessibility

[Consumer World](#) recently tested ATM's and MBTA fare vending machines in the Boston area for accessibility to visually impaired customers.

"U.S. Department of Justice rules promulgated in 2010 under the Americans with Disabilities Act require at least one automated teller and one fare machine at each location to be speech-enabled by no later than March 15, 2012, so they can provide step-by-step instructions when earphones are plugged in.

Consumer World tested over 200 ATMs and fare machines at dozens of banks and T stations, and found many at two prominent entities that did not provide proper audio: Citizens Bank and the MBTA.

At Citizens, the second largest bank in Massachusetts, nearly half (47%) of the ATMs checked were either not producing audible speech or had yet to be outfitted with speech-enabling technology. At the MBTA, 60% of fare vending machines checked either produced no voice when earphones were attached or breached the customer's privacy by simultaneously announcing details of purchases and card balances over built-in loudspeakers for anyone nearby to hear. All MBTA fare machines had the required sound output connections present, but many simply did not work right."



Garden Access

It's that time of year again. [Access to the Garden](#) is a blog by Brenda Brown Parent, who has incomplete quadriplegia and lives in South Carolina. Search back through her older posts, too. She has a lot to say. Interestingly, Mount Pleasant (near Charlestown) recently has changed their paratransit, and now Brenda is outside the service area! We are rooting for her objections to be successful and restore her paratransit service!

Thanks to Marcy Marchello, who writes our Massachusetts [Everyone Outdoors](#) blog for the link to Brenda's blog. Accessibility can be enhanced in all gardens through the use of wide, smooth paths, raised beds, and even raised planters.



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