

August 4, 2016

**MetroWest
Center For
Independent Living**

**People with Disabilities
Living in the Community**

Changes Coming to the PCA Program!

As early as this week, MassHealth will be notifying PCAs and users of PCA services of changes to the program that will limit overtime hours for PCAs. These limits apply to any PCA who works for 40+ hours/week, whether they work for one consumer or many. This could impact over 7,000 persons with disabilities across the state!

Since January, the state has been paying overtime to PCAs in compliance with the US Department of Labor's rule under the Fair Labor Standards Act; in mid-July, facing a shortage of money in the state budget, MassHealth issued new regulations which prohibit PCAs from working overtime hours without advance approval and in emergencies. Over 200 people attended public hearings on the proposed changes, and many people gave strong testimony against the proposal, but ultimately, the state decided to go through with the plan anyway, starting September 1st. Consumers know how difficult it may be to find a PCA, and PCAs, who have limited incomes, will now earn even less with reduced hours. Many consumers and advocates fear that this change will lead to a shortage of PCAs, which could result in shifts not being covered, no matter how many hours of PCA service a consumer is eligible for.

PCA agencies will be receiving information to help PCA users wade through the new rules. MWCIL, along with other groups such as the Disability Policy Consortium, other independent living centers, and 1199SEIU (the PCA union), have been meeting with MassHealth to seek a better exceptions policy, but at this point nothing positive has emerged. We therefore would encourage you to express your concerns directly to Governor Charlie Baker at 617-725-4005. Already people with significant needs are worried about going to a nursing home, so indicating to the governor that "it's better to pay for overtime than for a nursing home" may be the best message.

Paul Spooner,
Executive Director
MetroWest Center for Independent Living

JoinREV UP - as we encourage people with disabilities to vote!

For more information, visit www.revupma.org.



Sign up for our Newsletters and Action Alerts.

Subscribe



MetroWest Center for Independent Living
(508)875-7853
280 Irving Street, Framingham, MA 01702
info@mwcil.org | www.mwcil.org | [FaceBook](#)

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

SafeUnsubscribe™_srorke@mwcil.org

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by srorke@mwcil.org in collaboration with

Constant Contact 

Try it free today