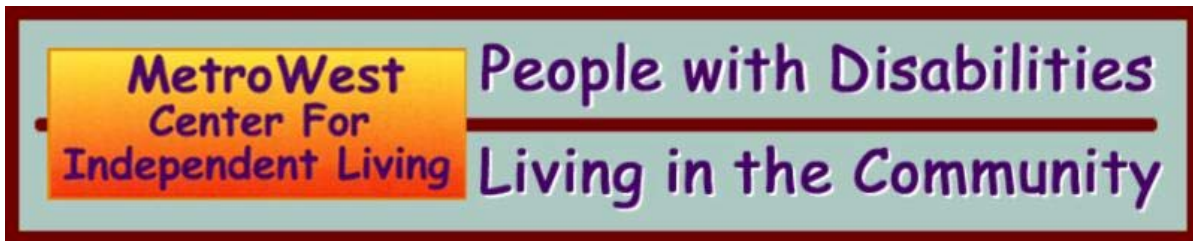


News from MWCIL - July 2017



Paul at 2016 ADA Celebration. Photo by Bill Allan

IL Funding increase did not pass the Conference Committee budget and we probably will remain level funded. The Alternative Housing Voucher Program increases passed the Conference Committee, only to be vetoed by Governor Baker (see below). Both items are extremely important to the services we can provide our consumers.

Trumpcare continues to threaten us all - especially Medicaid users. While the Massachusetts delegation is all on board with blocking Trumpcare, phone calls to Senator Markey, Senator Warren and your Congressman will help them keep up the fight.

On a happier note, I recently celebrated my 25th (yes - twenty five long years!) anniversary as the Executive Director of MetroWest Center for Independent Living. Running MWCIL has been an honor, a pleasure, and a lot of hard work! Thank you to everyone who sent their congratulations.

Thank you,

Paul Spooner,
Executive Director

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Architectural Access Board Bill S. 1379 and H.2498

Please continue to contact your state legislators and ask them to support the AAB bill. This bill is not a budget item, and will cost the state *no* money! Yet the bill will greatly increase the number of accessible housing units and accessible jobs. In our minds, it's a no-brainer. The bills were recently heard in committee, but we still need you to call your representatives and senators!

Download the [flyer](#) from IL Education Day.

Alternative Housing Voucher Program (AHVP) Line Item # 7004-9030

Governor Baker signed the budget with a \$320 million reduction. One of his reductions was the increase in the Alternative Housing Voucher Program

which provides mobile housing vouchers to individuals with disabilities under 60 years old who qualify for Chapter 667. Housing is the most difficult piece of the puzzle when freeing people with disabilities from institutions. More vouchers are desperately needed.

Please call your state representative and state senator, and ask them to override the governor's veto of the AHVP increase.

For more information on this line item, download the [AHVP flyer](#) from IL Education Day.

ADAPT Actions are Nationwide!

After a dramatic die-in Mitch McConnell's senate office ([Rolling Stone article](#), [Time Magazine article](#)), ADAPT has been protesting at sites all over the country. Today (July 10), they are at Senator Bob Casey's Healthcare event in Pennsylvania, They are on Day 6 at a sit-in at RNC offices in El Paso, and they are protesting at the RNC headquarters in Washington D.C. And we believe they are being arrested in Ohio right now. We cannot thank these activists enough, as they put themselves on the front lines to get the message across that Trumpcare's slashing of Medicaid is so wrong.

27th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act

Please join us at our annual celebration at Dunn Pond State Park in Gardner, MA on Friday, July 21 from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. We will enjoy accessible kayaking and hiking, great food, great music, and great company! RSVP to sadie@masilc.org.



Carmon gets ready to kayak.

Local Farms and Food

Huge thanks to [Upswing Farm](#) in Ashland! Brittany Sidway Overshiner and Kevin Overshiner began farming this land in 2016, using organic practices. Brittany mentioned to MWCIL staff that she has some surplus produce that she wanted to donate to a food pantry. MWCIL contacted [A Place To Turn](#) in Natick who knew just what to do with the delicious vegetables. A Win Win Win situation.



The first beautiful donation

Our Information and Referral expert has compiled a list of all of the farmers markets in our service area. Many of them accept SNAP benefits. Download the [flyer](#) for a list of local Farmer's Markets.

Framingham State Offers Degree in ASL

Framingham State students can now complete all 4 years of a bachelor's degree in American Sign Language. (Previously, the first two years had to be at a community college.) "The need for ASL interpreters in hospitals, government agencies, classrooms, courts, private companies, nonprofits and other businesses across Massachusetts is growing, according to the school." You can read the whole story in the [Worcester Business Journal](#).

GOP Fumbling on Healthcare

Thanks to the advocacy work by millions of people across the country, the disastrous Trumpcare has not managed to squeak through the Senate.

Please read this [article from NCIL](#) - National on Independent Living. "... while the bill may be dead, the efforts to get rid of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and cut Medicaid are not over."

Stay informed and involved!

National Disability Voter Registration Week July 17-21, 2017

The [National REV UP](#) has formed new partnership with [EveryLibrary](#). MetroWest Center for Independent Living has asked libraries in our service area to support our drive to register people with disabilities. If you aren't registered to vote, stop by your library and see if they are participating. Or visit [revupma.org](#), **sign up** with Rev Up, and **register to vote!**



Disability Voter Registration Week packets ready for MWCIL libraries

Rev Up will also be at the Gardner ADA Celebration (July 21) and the Boston ADA Celebration (July 25). Please register and sign up with Rev Up!

Activist Resources and Directories

National Contact Information

[Directory of House of Representatives](#)

[Directory of Senators](#)

Senator Edward J. Markey

Address:

255 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

Phone:

(202) 224-2742

Contact:

www.markey.senate.gov/contact

Website:

<http://www.markey.senate.gov/>

Senator Elizabeth Warren

Address:

317 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

Phone:

(202) 224-4543

Contact:

www.warren.senate.gov/?p=email_senator

Website:

<http://www.warren.senate.gov/>

State Government Contact Information

[Directories of State Senators and Representatives](#)

[Contact Governor Baker](#)

[WhereDoIVoteMa.com](#) - Enter your address, and get a list of all of your elected officials.

National Resources

Indivisible - A practical guide for resisting the Trump agenda - Former congressional staffers reveal best practices for making Congress listen. [Download the pdf](#) or [Visit the website](#).

Save My Care - a movement to bring together families, advocates and health care providers to protect the health and financial security of all Americans. [Visit the website](#).

National Council on Independent Living has Action Alerts for issues on the table in Washington. [Visit the Advocacy Monitor webpage.](#)

Join REV UP - Make the disability vote count!

For more information, visit www.revupma.org.



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