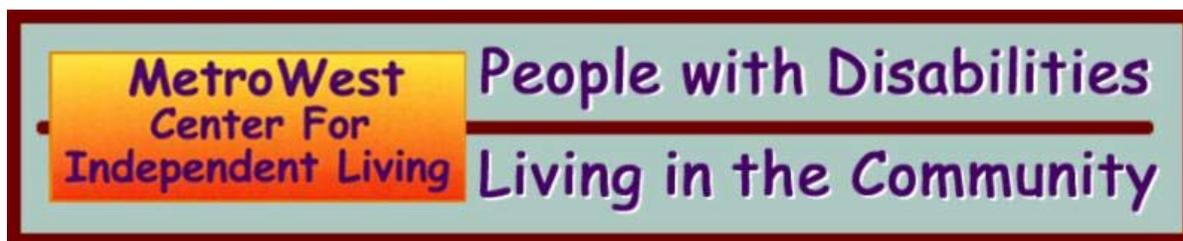


News from MWCIL - November 2017



Nationwide, the first ever women and people of color were elected as mayors, governors and state legislators. The disability fight for civil rights is not that different from other diverse groups fighting for civil rights - we feel this trend will positively affect everyone.

In Framingham, the *first mayor ever* is an African American woman and we wish her well on this historic task. (Read about the election in the [MetroWest Daily News](#).)

Meanwhile, we have had success with the Alternative Housing Voucher Program. The state House and Senate overrode the governor's veto and restored a \$400,000 increase in funding, which is now at \$5 million. *We thank our MetroWest Senators Jamie Eldridge and Karen Spilka for their support for AHVP.*

Have a happy Thanksgiving!

Paul Spooner,
Executive Director



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Affordable Care Act Open Enrollment

The Affordable Signup deadline is December 15, 2017. The online applications for enrollment are at HealthCare.gov. The website will be down for maintenance for 12 hours every Sunday except for December 10. *Our advice is to apply early!*

Issue of the Month: CVS Opening Mock Stores to Train People with Disabilities

Please read the story below. We do not know many details of CVS's plan, and cannot jump to conclusions. Naturally that doesn't stop us from thinking about the ways that good intentions can go awry. We will publish your comments in our next newsletter!

CVS Opening Mock Stores to Train People with Disabilities

CVS plans to open at least 8 mock stores to be used for classroom and hands-on training for prospective employees with disabilities. Once the program has been completed, students are eligible to apply for employment.

"...The first site opened in Virginia in 2016 and the company said 41 people have completed the training program and 11 are now on the CVS payroll..."

Read the whole story at [The Disability Scoop](#)

After MWCIL shared this story on Facebook, [Blue Water Center for Independent Living](#) (Port Huron, Michigan) posted this compelling comment:

"Interested in hearing different opinions. Personally I think ALL people should be trained in a regular store or ALL people should be trained in a mock store. Typically a person is hired and then trained so why are those with disabilities required to prove themselves first? However, I am glad to see CVS is trying, unlike many other retailers who will not even consider hiring employees with a disability."

MWCIL appreciates the large investment by CVS into increasing employment opportunities for people with disabilities. As we have learned with Special Education and other supports, people with disabilities sometimes need a different path to achieve an equal outcome. Perhaps "sometimes" is the operative word? I.e. we hope that CVS is hiring some people with disabilities without completing the training first, depending on their level of skills and experience. Is the training designed for specific disabilities? Is this extra step in pursuing employment fair?

What do you think?

[Email your thoughts](#) and we will print them next month.

Save the Date



You're invited to our annual Holiday Open House on Friday, December 15 from 1-4 p.m. We will send out more details later.

One Care Open Meeting

When:

Tuesday, November 14, 2017, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Where:

1 Ashburton Place, 21st Floor
Boston, MA

MassHealth will update stakeholders on the following:

- One Care quality performance
- One Care financial performance

- Preview of new approaches to improve care for dual eligible members through integrated care

All stakeholders and members of the public with an interest in One Care are welcome. 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.

Visit mass.gov/one-care for more information on One Care and enrollment.

World of Careers Workshop in Boston

When:

Thursday, November 16, 2017,
10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Where:

District Hall,
75 Northern Avenue
Boston, MA

Cost:

Free

Register:

[On-line registration](#)

Contact:

(617) 459-4084

president@ourspaceourplace.org

This workshop is for students and adults with disabilities who want to know more about the types of jobs in the working world and who want to figure out how to use their interests and experiences to get a job.

Attend the World of Careers workshop and learn:

- About the many types of jobs which exists
- Meet people working today and ask them questions about how they got their job and what they do every day at work and
- Work together with others to find out how your interests and skills can assist you to find a job

Light breakfast and lunch will be available.

Thank you to Disability Policy Consortium for this information.

Annual Technology Fair at The Carroll Center for the Blind

When:

Tuesday, November 21, 2017,
9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. (exhibits close at 2:30)

Where:

Rosenbaum Technology Center
The Carroll Center for the Blind
770 Centre Street
Newton, MA

Cost:

Free
Register:

[On-line registration](#)

Don't miss this annual opportunity to try out the latest products for individuals who are visually impaired. Free and open to consumers, families, friends, and professionals. The 2017 Technology Fair is sure to impress! "Registration is not required to attend the Tech Fair; However, pre-registered attendees will receive event updates and special offers from our vendors.

For more information, visit carroll.org.

Holiday Assistance Resources 2017

Thank you to the Massachusetts Network of Information Providers at Disability.info for this information.

Here are some helpful programs in Massachusetts whether you're looking to donate to children and families for the holidays or in need of holiday assistance.

Statewide Resources

[Mass 2-1-1](#)

This online directory is an information resource for emergency food, rent, help paying your heating and utility bills, mental health counseling, health programs, public health and safety services, child care referrals, job resources, and other help for individuals, parents and families. Click on orange circle, "Search for Help". Tip: use "holiday" under keyword search. Call 211 for resources.

[Project Bread Food Source Hotline](#)

Project Bread screens residents of Massachusetts for eligibility for the SNAP Program, helps people apply over the phone and provides information on community food programs. This hotline has translators available in 140 languages.

Hotline: (800) 645-8333
Phone: (617) 723-5000
TTY: 1-800-377-1292
Email: info@projectbread.org

[Salvation Army Massachusetts Division](#)

The Salvation Army endeavors to spread hope year-round while also acknowledging religious and national holidays. Provides children and individuals with clothing, toys and gifts. In addition, seniors and families may receive financial assistance to help them meet basic needs, such as vouchers for utilities, rent and grocery store / food pantry items.

[Toys for Tots](#)

The mission of the U. S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program is to collect new, unwrapped toys during October, November and December each year, and distribute those toys as Christmas gifts to less fortunate children in the community in which the campaign is conducted.

For more resources see our [Holiday Assistance Resources 2017 Fact Sheet](#).

Opioid Crisis in the USA: a Public Health Emergency

The Disability Policy Consortium has issued a **Call To Action - Substance Abuse and People with Disabilities in Massachusetts**. Please read their issue brief in [MS Word](#) or as a [PDF](#).

From [The Lancet, November 4](#)

The Lancet's editorial on the US opioid crisis analyzes President Trump's recent declaration of a nationwide public health emergency. His response addressed the supply and demand, but did not describe addiction as an illness. In spite of the estimated 53,000 opioid overdose deaths in 2016, no additional federal funds were recommended, and in fact funding has been threatened by budget and affordable care act proposals.

Massachusetts passed a law in 2016, and as of August, deaths were 5% over (but still too high) in 2017. Changes to prescription monitoring is credited with much of the improvement.

Communities in MA are providing their own supports. The [Telegram.com article: How one Massachusetts town is facing the opioid crisis head-on reports](#) on Plymouth. "One of the main things we have to fight is the stigma, because it keeps people from getting treatment," he said. "They feel ashamed. They feel embarrassed."

MetroWest has active groups. [MetroWest Daily News reports on the Natick Opioid Task Force](#). Milford / Franklin have the [SAFE Coalition](#) which has helped and educated many people.

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.

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.



Disability Pride Toolkit

[NCIL](#) (National Council on Independent Living) has compiled a [Disability Pride Toolkit and Resource Guide](#).

This guide delves into what Disability Pride is, and why it is so important. The difference between the Medical Model and the Independent Living paradigm offer a framework of the disparities between how society works and how it should work.

The guide also offers many resources and ideas on how to advance the discussion and how to educate others. *We highly recommend this toolkit and resource guide for anyone who wants to be active in the fight for disability rights!*





MetroWest Center for Independent Living

Website: www.mwcil.org

Email: info@mwcil.org

Phone: (508)875-7853

Address: 280 Irving Street, Framingham, MA 01702

Facebook: 

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