



September 12, 2011

Issue: 15

MetroWest Center for Independent Living, Inc.

Rally for Real Medicaid Reform

Greetings!

The Rally for Real Medicaid Reform is an extremely important event. With budget cuts to all social programs on the table, and the automatic cuts to everything if (when?) the Super Committee fails, our legislators in Washington need to understand how critical Medicaid is to all Americans, and especially to individuals with disabilities. We aren't suggesting that it be preserved as is; instead Adapt and other advocacy groups are recommending reform. Moving the focus and incentives from nursing homes to community services would save money. Pro-active health care instead of reactionary health care would also decrease costs. The list goes on - but without our voices to force Congress to look at real reform, nothing will happen. Services and safety nets will be lost. If you can get to Washington for the September 21 rally, *you will make a difference!*

from Paul W. Spooner, Executive Director



Rally for REAL MEDICAID REFORM in Washington, D.C.

Capitol Hill, Washington D.C., at noon on September 21.

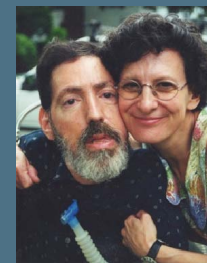
"Medicaid is on the table for arbitrary and draconian cuts. The disability and aging communities must show Congress that "My Medicaid Matters" by having thousands show up on Capitol Hill on September 21st for a "Rally for Real Medicaid Reform". So far, EVERY plan to address entitlements has included cuts to Medicaid. NOT ONE has included reform measures proposed by



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Paul Kahn PCA Service Award



Ruth and Paul Kahn

The Paul Kahn PCA Service Award will be presented on Thursday, September 15, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. at Nurses Hall in the Massachusetts State House. Five PCA's from

the disability rights community. Make YOUR voice heard in Washington! Join disability, aging and civil rights groups in Washington DC on Capitol Hill, Wednesday September 21st starting at Noon. Rain or shine!" from Adapt.org.

The rest is from Bill Henning at BCIL:

- Medicaid provides vital home and community-based services that allow seniors and people with disabilities to live independently in the community.
- Medicaid provides services that support families in caring for their children who have significant disabilities.
- Medicaid provides vital jobs for direct care workers who support their families.

Arbitrary cuts to Medicaid will mean the loss of home and community-based services that allow people to live independently, cuts to medical care that will put lives at risk, and the loss of jobs for thousands of direct care workers. The rally will begin at noon on September 21st and will kick off organizing efforts in all 50 states to show that My Medicaid Matters!

National Rally Sponsors (not full list): ADAPT, American Association of People with Disabilities, The Autistic Self Advocacy Network, Easter Seals, National Council on Independent Living, Self Advocates Becoming Empowered, Service Employees International Union, United Cerebral Palsy, United Spinal Association

Local Support: MWCIL, BCIL, Stavros, NILP, 1199 SEIU, the National Empowerment Center, CLW, ILCNSCA, and IA are sending participants.

For more information on getting involved:

- Adapt website,
- Contact Jim Kruidenier at Stavros (Amherst): jkruidenier@stavros.org or 413-256-0473
- Contact Bill Henning at BCIL (Boston): bhenning@bostoncil.org or 617-338-6665

Attendees will form as a group in Washington, meet with members of Congress, and seek media coverage. If you can go, contact your legislators now to get onto their calendars. Encourage them to attend the rally. Get involved!

Expo, Conference, Competition Products and Technology that Change People's Lives: Assistive Technology and Universal Design in Massachusetts

When: Friday, September 23 from 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Where: Hynes Convention Center, Boston

Experience and learn about the current state-of-the-art of inclusive products and technologies that transform the lives of people with disabilities and older people. Help initiate a strategy for integration of inclusive design and assistive technology into the Massachusetts

across the Commonwealth will be honored. These awards honor not only five individuals but the dedicated work of the more than 27,000 PCAs working in the MassHealth program throughout the Commonwealth. PCAs, consumers and agency staff are invited to attend. To confirm your attendance and get more information about this event or for special accommodations, please email Michelle Byrd at michelle.byrd@state.ma.us or call at 617-210-5715.

Online Donations

Have you or a friend or relative been helped by MWCIL? Would you like to give back and help the next person who needs support? If so, our new, SECURE online donation page is for you! Check out our PayPal button option for donating any amount to make sure that MWCIL is still here, when you or a loved one needs help. 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!*

MA PCAs

MWCIL has partnered with other organizations to create the PCAForever.org website devoted to providing information about

innovation agenda. *Be a part of it!* The Expo is free to the public. Sponsorships are available for the conference.

Agenda Themes

- Home
- Work
- Life-Long Learning
- Fitness/Recreation/Sport



Kelly Mitchell - Learning

Contact Information

General Info: info@ChangePeoplesLives.org

Join Competition: competition@ChangePeoplesLives.org

Be an Exhibitor: expo@ChangePeoplesLives.org

Hosted by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts - Governor Deval Patrick, Lt. Governor Timothy Murray, Secretary JudyAnn Bigby, MD (EOHHS) & Secretary Gregory Bialecki (EOHED) & Secretary Paul Reville (DoE). Convened by the [Institute for Human Centered Design](#)

More Information at: www.changepeopleslives.org

Budget Surplus

Governor Deval Patrick filed a supplemental budget in late August to "spend" our \$460 million surplus for the fiscal year that ended June 30. He has proposed to send \$300 million to the MA rainy day fund, \$16 million towards tornado and snow damage, \$35 million to shovel-ready projects, and about \$28 million for education and jobs. He also is directing approximately \$18 million towards human services. The full budget can be viewed at the [Provider's Council website](#). A summary (also from the Provider's Council) of the human services money can be [downloaded](#).

Feels odd, doesn't it??? *A surplus??*

Commission for the Reform of Community, Social Service and Paratransit

the Massachusetts Personal Care Attendant program as well as publicizing advocacy opportunities and needs.

We have posted our first [video](#). Thanks very much to Amy for sharing her experiences and thoughts.

We are actively seeking stories from consumers.

[Email us](#)

About Us:
MWCIL website
(past issues are available at our website)

Email

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Transportation Services

Executive Order No. 530



The general public is invited to six Listening / Comment Sessions which have been scheduled across the Commonwealth to seek input from the public. ASL, CART and Spanish language interpreters, along with listening devices, will be available. All locations are accessible to persons with disabilities and by public transit. If you need additional accommodation, please submit an email to: execorder@mbta.com, or call (617) 222-6260 or (617) 222-5415 TTY.

Governor Patrick's [Executive Order 530](#) charges the Commission members to examine and offer suggestions to improve/reform community, social service and paratransit transportation. The Commission is asking for input on recommended reforms, restructuring and cost-savings initiatives, including:

- Recommended service improvements or modifications to maintain or enhance current service levels and delivery method while achieving efficiencies and cost-savings;
- Potential modifications, if any, to existing eligibility criteria utilized by the RIDE, Regional Transit Authorities and human service agencies
- Any other reforms, initiatives or improvements to paratransit services in the Commonwealth that will enhance the quality, customer-service or efficiency of these services.

ALL MEETINGS ARE SCHEDULED from 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Tuesday, September 13, 2011 in Lawrence
Lawrence Public Library, 51 Lawrence Street

Wednesday, September 21, 2011 in West Barnstable
Tilden Arts Center, Cape Cod Community College, 2240 Lyannough Road

Tuesday, October 4, 2011 in Worcester
Union Hall, Union Station, 34 Washington Square

Wednesday, October 12, 2011 in Springfield
Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, 60 Congress Street

Thursday, October 27, 2011 in Pittsfield
BRTA Intermodal Center, 1 Columbus Avenue

Monday, November 7, 2011 in Boston
State Transportation Building, 10 Park Plaza

Paratransit users, community and social service users and providers, as well as other interested stakeholders and the general public, are encouraged to participate in any of these sessions, to speak to Commission members, provide input, and offer recommendations. If you are unable to attend a Public Comment and Dialogue session in person, you may

- Email a message to: execorder@mbta.com
- Call the comment line (617) 222-6260 or (617) 222-5415 TTY,
- Mail a letter to MBTA, EO530, 45 High Street, 5th Floor, Boston, MA 02110.

About the Commission:

As people's transportation needs change, so do their expectations of their public transportation system. As a result, the demand for services keeps growing, costs continue to rise and resources remain limited. The goal of the Commission is to develop detailed recommendations for reform and maximize efficiencies in the provision of these critical services utilized by persons with disabilities, persons with low incomes, persons with Limited English Proficiency, and seniors and visitors to the Commonwealth. View scheduled meetings, a list of the board members and ongoing news at the [Commission's webpage](#).



NYC from Jalopnik Blog

How did you make out with Irene? ***Please post your experience on our [Facebook page](#)!*** Many of us lost power for a day or two, and some for a longer time. Did your preparations help? Did you learn anything? Let's keep our fingers crossed that we don't have any more natural (or unnatural!) drama this fall!

**AARP, Commonwealth Fund and SCAN
Foundation Report
Overall Affordability and Quality of Long-term
Services and Supports**

"Massachusetts scores in the bottom half, at number 30, of all states when it comes to the overall affordability and quality of long-term services and supports (LTSS) - including home care, adult day health services, residential services such as assisted living and nursing homes, and respite care as well as other support for family caregivers. This according to a groundbreaking new report, released today, by AARP Public Policy Institute, The Commonwealth Fund, and The SCAN Foundation." ... [Download](#) the rest of this very recent report - it is sobering at best.

FREE Disability Rights Course

A free, self-paced web course available 24/7 that provides an overview of disability rights laws. The course takes approximately 2 hours and includes real life scenarios, quizzes and a final exam.

Register at any time for this free web course at www.DisabilityRightsCourse.org.

Course goals:

- Get a general understanding of the major federal disability rights laws (the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Fair Housing Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Air Carrier Access Act)
- Be able to assess what laws apply in different discrimination scenarios
- Have resources for help and information about disability rights laws

Who should take this course:

- People with disabilities
- Advocates for people with disabilities
- Lawyers and law students
- Rehabilitation counselors
- Social service providers
- Anyone else with an interest in disability rights laws



DBTAC - New England ADA Center is a project of the
Institute for Human Centered Design
200 Portland Street Boston MA 02114

The course was developed by the staff of the DBTAC - New England ADA Center, a project of the Institute for Human Centered Design. The New England ADA Center is part of the ADA National Network. Funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education through the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research. Grant number H133A060092.

For Your Calendar!

October 27 at 10 p.m. - The Independent Lens program on PBS will show a documentary on the history of America's Disability Rights Movement called "Lives Worth Living". Fred Fay is featured.



Trailer to the movie: "Lives Worth Living"

For more information about the film, visit the [Independent Television Service website](#).

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