

**CLS Sponsors First Ever Job Fair and Community Participation Event**

Community Living Services is sponsoring a Job Fair/Community Participation Event and is looking for companies to participate. The event is set for Tuesday, April 8<sup>th</sup> from noon to 4pm at the Doubletree by Hilton in Dearborn. Below are just a few companies that have registered and have available jobs or volunteer positions: Antonio's Restaurants, Auto Zone, Meijer, Oakwood Hospital, Hiller's Markets, McDonald's, Lowe's, Toarina's Pizza, Dearborn Animal Shelter, MADD and many others. We still have a few **free** vendor booths and are looking for companies in these areas:

- Child Care
- Hotels
- Flower Shops
- Health and Beauty
- Landscaping
- Pet Care
- Retail
- Schools

If you own a company or know someone that does and would like to attend the event, please call Tiffany Devon at 734-722-7185 or sign up on-line at:

<http://www.comlivserv.com/CPE2014-Employer.html>

**Excellence in Mental Health Act Moves Forward with Demonstration Program**

This week the Senate acted on part of the Excellence in Mental Health Act, authored by U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) and Roy Blount (R-Missouri), by passing a demonstration program that will begin in eight states. Last year, the Mental Health Act was approved and is being called the biggest step forward for community mental health funding in decades. The bipartisan bill will expand mental health access in communities and make sure people get the treatment they need.

Stabenow, whose father suffered from bipolar disorder that went undiagnosed for 10 years, knows how difficult it is to find good, quality care. "We need to have mental health services receiving the same access to funding as physical health services," said Stabenow in a news release.

The new legislation allows community mental health centers to bill Medicaid for mental health services. The legislation establishes an eight-state, two year demonstration program that could be expanded to additional states.



**Detroit Wayne Adds Another Public Forum to its Line-up**

The Detroit Wayne Community Mental Health Authority (DWMHA) has added a new Public Forum to its schedule to give people another opportunity to learn about the Authority's Manager of Comprehensive Provider Network's (MCPN) re-bidding process. The new forum is scheduled for:

**Monday, April 14<sup>th</sup> 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**  
**CHASS, (Community Health and Social Services Center)**  
**5635 W. Fort Street, Detroit 48209**

The DWMHA transitioned into an Authority in October 2013, becoming a separate, legal entity, independent of Wayne County. As part of its agreement with the Michigan Department of Community Health; it is required to manage the funds for large numbers of people with developmental disabilities and mental illness, children with emotional disturbance and people with substance use disorders. This has been done by contracting with Managers of Comprehensive Provider Networks (MCPNs) since 2002 and offers choice to the people they serve. These MCPNs are now involved in a review and re-bidding process in which DWMHA has outlined four areas of change:

**The elimination of conflict within the governance of current MCPNs**-This means the MCPNs must have a wide variety of people on its Board of Directors. This includes people who are being served by that particular MCPN, community members, advocates, business leaders, etc. A provider cannot be on the Board of Directors if they stand to receive any kind of financial gain from the MCPN.

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**Healthy Michigan Launches on April 1<sup>st</sup>**

Tuesday, April 1<sup>st</sup> is the day the state began accepting applications for the Healthy Michigan (Medicaid expansion) plan according to a news release issued by Governor Rick Snyder's office.

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**CLS is a private, non-profit organization that provides supports and services to over 4,000 children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb Counties. CLS also provides services to seniors and those with chronic illness. CLS is funded by the Detroit-Wayne Mental Health Authority, the Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority and Macomb County Community Mental Health. The Long-Term Care Division is under contract with The United Way of Southeastern Michigan, Detroit Area Agency on Aging 1-A, Area on Aging 1-B, The Senior Alliance Area Agency on Aging 1-C, The Information Center and the City of Allen Park. The CLS Annual Report can be found on the website ([www.comlivserv.com](http://www.comlivserv.com)) under "About Us."**



# National/State

## House and Senate Unanimously Pass Bills Removing the “R Word” from Statute

In the March issue of Freedom Press, it was reported that new legislation was introduced to remove the “R” word from the Michigan law books and now it is official. On March 5, 2014, the Michigan House and Senate, unanimously passed respective bills that will remove the “R word” from state statute and replace it with “developmental disability” or “intellectually disabled”.

CLS Peer Mentor in training and advocate Janey Vermeulen is extremely happy with this legislation. “I’ve been telling people for years to look at my ability and not my disability. Finally the state is listening to advocates who have been preaching this for years, getting rid of the “R word” is absolutely the right thing to do.”

### CLS MISSION

To assist and advocate for each person to have supports they want and need:

- To control and exercise authority over their own lives.
- To live a life of freedom, opportunity and relationships, as family, friends and neighbors.
- To share in full community membership and citizenship.

### CLS VISION

People will fully participate in their communities and have a quality of life, which comes from freedom and its responsibilities, the authority to make their own life decisions and the financial resources to implement them.

## CLS Offers Medicaid Autism Benefit

CLS offers the Medicaid Autism Benefit or Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) benefit to young children from 18 months up to age six with autism spectrum disorders (ASD). This benefit is being offered by the Michigan Department of Community Health after federal approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

ABA is evidence-based treatment that has been researched for over 30 years and is endorsed by the U.S. Surgeon General. ABA research has shown that therapy makes a difference for children with ASD by improving behavior, communication, academic/cognitive skills, daily living and social skills. Also by qualifying for the Autism benefit, a child may be eligible for additional services such as physical, speech and occupational therapy, respite, community living supports and family training. For more information, call the Customer Service/Intake department at 734-722-6364 or Family Services department at 734-722-7159. Below is a list resources:

- Autism Society of Michigan 1-800-223-6722  
[www.autism-mi.org](http://www.autism-mi.org)
- Michigan Alliance for Families 1-800-552-4821  
[www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org](http://www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org)
- Autism Alliance of Michigan  
<http://autismallianceofmichigan.org>
- Michigan Department of education Office of Great Start 1-517-373-0485  
[www.michigan.gov/mde](http://www.michigan.gov/mde), [www.michigan.gov/greatstart](http://www.michigan.gov/greatstart)
- Michigan Department of Human Services  
[www.michigan.gov/dhs](http://www.michigan.gov/dhs)
- Michigan Department of Community Health  
[www.michigan.gov/autism](http://www.michigan.gov/autism)

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**Provide Care Management/Supports Coordination**-the MCPNs must offer Care Management and/or Supports Coordination as part of their overall services and supports to the community.

**Vetting, enrolling and “privileging” the broader provider network of the PIHP in Detroit Wayne**- This means ensuring the highest quality standards when it comes to enrolling people in the system and selecting what companies will be part of the provider network.

**Performance-based contracting and standardization of measureable participant outcomes**- Each MCPN must meet certain contractual standards and provide measurable outcomes that display the work they’re doing is providing value and choice to the people it is serving.

The Authority is urging people who access the system of care, to go to its website, and fill out a short questionnaire, <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/DWMHAReBid>. It will ask you questions about the strengths in the current MCPN network and what your opinion is on how to improve it.

There are also several public forums remaining if you would like to learn more. These will be held on Thursdays from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

April 3<sup>rd</sup>-Redford Community Center, 12121 Hemingway, Redford  
April 10<sup>th</sup>-WCCC Conner Campus, 5901 Conner, Detroit

Please take a few minutes to fill out the questionnaire and/or attend one of the public forums. This is your opportunity to let the Authority know how it can best and effectively serve people to live the lives they want in their community. All forum presentations and Q & A’s are also available on the above website and give you an opportunity to ask questions if you are unable to attend the forums.

# Wayne County



**Certified Peer Mentors  
Ray and Andre.**

## Peer Mentors are Pioneers

Peer Mentoring has become a beneficial service offered by CLS. Certified Peer Mentors take others with disabilities under their wing to share their experiences and offer community resources and support to help bring changes in a person's life. They help others understand self-determination, independence, community inclusion, how to be an advocate, as well as how to advocate for others. "We have peers willing to do the right thing and stick their neck out to help people," said DWMHA President and CEO Tom Watkins. "These people are the pioneers rather than just being the settlers."

To start the process, a person with disabilities supported by CLS, can request Peer Mentor services from their Supports Coordinator. They receive six visits and more can be added if needed. This is a Medicaid billable service under the Mental Health 1915 (b)(3) waiver and these covered services serve as a complement to treatment or as a stand alone service. The Person Centered Plan must include one of the following to be Medicaid eligible; community integration and participation, independence, productivity, recovery or resiliency.

The Michigan Developmental Disability Council is expanding its Peer Mentoring services across the state and is offering a two-day Peer Mentor 101 training June 5-6, 2014. To participate, a person must be referred by their local Community Mental Health agency and meet the eligibility guidelines. Those include being 18 or older, having a developmental disability and being committed to following through with the program. For more information visit [www.michigan.gov/ddcouncil](http://www.michigan.gov/ddcouncil).



## 10 Year Anniversary of Walk a Mile Rally

The Walk a Mile in My Shoes Rally is going to be the best one yet! Mark your calendars for Wednesday, May 14 from 1:15-3:00 p.m. at the state capitol in Lansing. The rally has grown in size over the last decade as 3,000 are expected that day. It's a chance to celebrate May as Mental Health Awareness month and put an end to the stigma related to people with mental illness and developmental disabilities.

The day's activities will include some spectacular entertainment by Dazzle Do Time DJ David Dewitt Taylor. One of the guest speakers will be Peer Mentor Andre Robinson and the emcee for the event will be CLS Board member Scott Decker.

There will be fun activities, two photo booths and a performance by Poetry Performers, Kinetic Affect.

You can call Tiffany Devon at 734-722-7185 or e-mail [tdevon@comlivserv.com](mailto:tdevon@comlivserv.com) to sign up for transportation to the rally that day.

## **Free College Tuition**

At this time of year, many parents are scrambling to find scholarships for their kids who are graduating this year. The Detroit Regional Chamber is trying to help by establishing a scholarship fund which offers free college tuition for the first two years of school. This opportunity is being offered for those students who graduate from a Detroit high school in 2014. The deadline is June 1, 2014. For more information about the Detroit Scholarship Fund log onto to:



<http://www.detroitchamber.com/economic-development-2/education-talent/detroit-scholarship-fund/>

## 2014 Revolutionary Leaders Webinar Series Announced

CLS is once again sponsoring a 12 part webinar series beginning Wednesday, April 23rd, 2014. This live video series was created as an opportunity for participants all over the globe to listen, learn and interact with inspirational speakers whose legacies have laid the foundation for today's best practices. These dynamic leaders have also helped initiate a shift in focus toward the vital and fundamental importance of community inclusion and self-determination.

The video series is from 1:00-2:30 p.m. every Wednesday for the next 12 weeks and will be held in the CLS auditorium. Please call Katy McDonnell to RSVP 734-722-4595 or [kmcdonne@comlivserv.com](mailto:kmcdonne@comlivserv.com).

## Nominate Now and Nominate Often!

We are doing things a little differently this year for our biggest fundraiser of the year, *Evening with Friends*, which is **THURSDAY, SEPT. 18, 2014**. We would like to start getting nominations for the video awards ceremony **MUCH** earlier this year. If you are interested in nominating a person supported by CLS or a community partner, please call or e-mail Tiffany Devon 734-722-7185 or [tdevon@comlivserv.com](mailto:tdevon@comlivserv.com) for the nomination form. You can certainly nominate someone **NOW!** Instead of waiting until July!



This publication is written in part by people supported by CLS with the help of the Public Relations department. For more information visit [www.comlivserv.com](http://www.comlivserv.com) or contact Tiffany Devon at 734-722-7185.

# Oakland County

## From Homeless to Helping People in Housing Crisis



If you had known Kim Rosario a few years ago, he was a lot different then! He was a graphic design artist, played drums in a “Death Metal” band and performed amazing stunts on a skateboard. His life is much more subdued now! Kim works part-time for Community Housing Network, taking calls from people experiencing a housing crisis such as falling behind on rent or being homeless. He also conducts audits on customer files to ensure they are updated to reflect current government guidelines.

“I thoroughly enjoy what I’m doing at CHN,” said Kim. “It brings me a lot of joy to help someone in need, because I’ve been in their situation. It’s scary and I’m glad I can help.”

Kim is also busy at home raising daughter Aliza with girlfriend Paris in their Madison Heights home. He is able to balance work and family life very well because Paris is very supportive. “I’m not able to do everything I want because I don’t have use of my hands, but Paris handles much of the daily care,” said Kim. “But Aliza is understanding more every day and knows right from wrong. We have become a great team. She loves to help!”

“Kim has worked for Community Housing Network for a few years,” said Chuck Bratton, Kim’s supervisor. “He has worked with hundreds of people in housing crisis, helping them figure out what choices they have, what their housing goals are and what can be possible. Kim is part of a very close team and makes CHN look good.”

Kim also writes for the CHN company blog and is working on a five-piece series on what makes a home accessible. He notes that when most people think of accessibility, wheelchairs automatically come to mind, “but there are so many other disabilities that need to be accommodated in a home, such as being blind or hearing impaired.” He is also developing a Google Maps project where a person will be able to locate an apartment or house that is accessible and the listing will offer information such as whether it’s Section 8 housing, the disabilities that would be compatible and the hospitals and transportation that would be close by. “We need to make this easily accessible to the people we support,” said Kim. “This would have been very helpful to me when I was homeless. I just want to help others find affordable, accessible housing.”



Joshua sang, “The Greatest Love of All”



Emcee Charlie Langton tweeted a group shot!

## Champions for Achievement 2014

The fourth annual Champions for Achievement event celebrated March as Developmental Disability Awareness Month! The day was filled with microenterprises, a photo booth, entertainment and special guest, WWJ reporter and Fox 2 Legal Analyst Charlie Langton!



Carrie shows Charlie the items she creates!



Autumn played four songs on her keyboard.



Katie shows off her hip hop dance moves.



Dorothy made a custom key-chain for Charlie!

# Long Term Care/Friends of CLS

## Evening with Friends Fundraiser Date is Set!

Believe it or not, our biggest fundraiser of the year is only five months away! Evening with Friends is set for **Thursday, September 18, 2014**. To gear up for the event, we are sharing some of the inspirational stories.

Doressa Jeffrey knows what it's like to live behind institutional walls. She was forced to live at the Plymouth Center for Human Development, a state-run institution for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, for many years. She knows what it's like to have other people in control of her life. "I was not treated well. It was not a nice place to live," said Doressa, who is now living in a beautiful home in a small community. Doressa doesn't like to talk about those days in the institution, rather she likes to talk about her boyfriend, her house and her friends.

"I have some money in my purse and when I get a chance, I'm going shopping. I also like to go out to lunch with my boyfriend."

Doressa worked for ten year at Sears before retiring and enjoys giving back to the community by delivering meals to seniors. She also enjoys spending time with her two roommates.

"My daughter is a strong woman. She won't let anyone run over her," said Patricia, Doressa's mom. "I am proud of her and I know she is happy. I never thought she could live this kind of life and I am so grateful."



# APRIL IS AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH!!

## Walk 4 Autism



The Walk 4 Autism sponsored by the Autism Society of Oakland County will be held on Sunday, April 27 from 8:00-11:00 a.m. inside Oakland Mall. Something new this year, the event will also offer a microenterprise fair.

If you know someone who has a microenterprise, please pass along this information. They can sign up at <http://autismsocietyoaklandcounty.org/page/micro-enterprise-fair-at-the-2014-walk-4-autism> or email your information to [asocmi@gmail.com](mailto:asocmi@gmail.com) or call 248-393-3131. Cost for the booth is \$20 and scholarships are available.

Anyone is welcome to sign up and walk. Registration is \$10 and walker will receive a t-shirt and gift bag.

*"If we all did the things we are capable of, we would literally astound ourselves."*



~ Thomas A. Edison

## Cont. from page 2 **HEALTHY**

"A healthier Michigan is an important part of our state's continued comeback. It will help improve health and quality of life, save money for taxpayers and job providers and boost our economy," said Snyder.

Residents can now apply for the Healthy Michigan plan online, via phone, or in person at one of their local Michigan Department of Human Services (DHS) offices to determine eligibility.

The plan offers essential benefits such as emergency services, hospitalization, mental health and substance use disorder services and many others.

Below are just a few of the qualifications:

- 19-64 years old
- Not currently eligible for Medicaid
- Not eligible for or enrolled in Medicare
- And earning about \$16,000 for a single person or \$33,000 for a family of four

For more information visit:

[www.healthymichiganplan.org](http://www.healthymichiganplan.org) or call 1-855-789-5610.