

FREEDOMPRESS

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A monthly publication from Community Living Services

June 2014

Timeline for MCPN Request for Proposals

Several weeks ago, the Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority Board of Directors finalized the work plan for the re-bid process that is taking place with the Managers of Comprehensive Providers Networks (MCPNs). The plan had to be submitted to the Michigan Department of Community Health on May 31st for approval.

Once the work plan is approved, there will be a mandatory bidder's conference at which time the actual Request for Proposal (RFP) will be released. Thirty days after the RFP is released, all applicants must submit their response/application to be considered as an MCPN.

There must be at least two MCPNs approved for the intellectual/developmental disability population and three for those who have a mental illness. The MCPNs can apply as an administrative service only organization (ASO), or as a case management entity that will also provide ASO. If you'd like to read the work plan study or feedback from public forums, log onto: www.dwmha.com.

Walk a Mile in My Shoes Rally 10th Anniversary

The rain came down but it did not deter the thousands who attended the 10th annual Walk a Mile in My Shoes Rally. The event is held as part of the Mental Health Awareness activities every May. CLS Board member Scott Decker got the crowd fired up as he kept everyone informed of the Tigers game throughout the day. CLS Oakland County representative David Dewitt Taylor entertained the crowd with this upbeat music and CLS Peer Mentor Andre Robinson was a guest speaker and talked about the importance of Self-determination in his life.

Kicking off the event for the crowd of about 2,500, was motivational speaker and former MSU basketball player, Anthony lanni who talked about how he has overcome many obstacles while living with autism. Chief deputy director of the Michigan Department of Community Health, Nick Lyons, offered comments and poetry slam artists, Kinetic Affect wowed the crowd with their powerful poetry. There were also several other speakers from around the state including a keynote address from former disability reporter for the Oakland Press, Gerry Wolffe.

Spokespersons for all 83 counties gave statements related to supporting persons with disabilities and providing opportunities for recovery, Self-determination, and community integration. Next year the date is May 20th, 2015.



Michigan Works is holding a Job Fair on Wednesday, June 25th from 10-3pm in the Towne Square Plaza building. This event is open to anyone looking for a job, especially those supported by CLS. Please call your Supports Coordinator for more information. There will be over 30 companies on hand to interview people and offer positions. Please bring an updated resume. Registration is not required.



Former MSU basketball player and guest speaker Anthony lanni.





Andre Robinson says, "Don't underestimate me!"

Roxanne keeps Gerry Wolffe dry during his speech.





Annette Keda
received
recognition for
being a CLS Board
member for
15 years.
Congratulations
Annette!

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) under "About Us."









National and Local

ACTION ALERT!

Ask Congress to Support Bill to Prevent Dangerous Restraint and Seclusion
National Call-In Day, June 12th

Restraint and seclusion are practices used in public schools that have killed, injured and traumatized students. More than 20 children have died according to a Congressional agency report. At least 107,000 students were subjected to restraint and seclusion in isolation rooms according to data from the 2011-12 school year. To prevent these practices and protect students and staff, Senators Tom Harkin and Chris Murphy have introduced the Keeping All Students Safe Act in the senate (S. 2036) and Representatives George Miller and Gregg Harper have introduced the House bill (H.R. 1893).

DURING THE WEEK OF JUNE 12th

- Call your senators and/or representative and urge them to co-sponsor the Keeping All Students Safe Act ~ US Capitol Switchboard 202-224-3121 (leave a voicemail if there is no answer) Sample message: "Please cosponsor the Keeping All Students Safe Act and protect all American students nationwide from restraint and seclusion in our nation's schools."
- Encourage your friends and family to do the same.
- · Email (Senate: http://bit.ly/RepWrit)
- Get Social! Use Facebook and Twitter! National Call-In Day is June 12th.
 Help keep all students safe by calling 202-224-3121.

Follow these links to read more www.gao.gov/new.items/d09719t.pdf or www.facebook.com/stophurtingkids.

CLS Video Nominated for an Emmy Award

Community Living Services produced a video called "Support at Home," which has



been nominated for an Emmy award by the Michigan Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. The 30minute, commercial free, educational video dives deep into questions about caring for loved ones at home. The program features prominent leaders such as Michigan Governor Rick Snyder, State Senator Debbie Stabenow, Michigan Department of Community Health Director Jim Haveman and Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson, discussing deeply personal issues about caring for loved ones, relying on other's for care and how supporting people in their homes is less expensive and provides better life outcomes. An awards ceremony will be held June 14th to determine the winners.

Follow the links to the Support at Home video. http://www.comlivserv.com/supportathome.html

https://www.youtube.com/watch? v=SuUfnycRpik&feature=player_detailpag

Social Security Office Changes

<u>From: Vonda VanTil, Public Affairs Specialist, Social Security Administration</u>

Beginning **August 2014**, we will no longer issue Social Security number printouts in our field offices. Individuals who need proof of their Social Security number and cannot find their card, will need to apply for a replacement card.

Also, in **October 2014,** field offices will stop providing benefit verification letters, except in emergency situations. Benefit verifications are available online, and can be obtained anytime by registering for a my Social Security account located at: www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount or requested through our national toll-free number: 1(800)772-1213.

Please share this information and help us get the word. To assist your outreach activities, we developed and updated outreach materials listed under Fact sheets on our third party page at: http://www.socialsecurity.gov/thirdparty/whatsnew.html.

I appreciate your continued support helping to inform the American people about these important service changes.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact me at vonda.vantil@ssa.gov or by phone at 1-877-322-5883 X18872.



Perseverance Paid Off

Carey Leach has the qualities that employers look for in their employees. She has a great work ethic, works hard, shows up on time and is very helpful to her customers. So it was surprising that she had a hard time finding a job. She attended Job Fairs, went on job interviews but started to get a little depressed when nothing came through for her. Her family and friends encouraged her to not give up, and then she met with CLS Employment Specialist Jessica Eason. Jessica

got to know Carey and discussed what kinds of jobs she was interested in. The two filled out online applications and worked on getting Carey comfortable with the interview experience. Her confidence began to grow and she finally landed a job at Kroger in Northville as a Courtesy Clerk!

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Thank You to Our Community Partners!

Friends of CLS recently received two generous donations from large companies! Yazaki North America, who has helped CLS families through the Giving Tree program the past eight years, donated \$500.00! And through the Oakland County Office, Panasonic donated \$2,500.00! Thank you for



Tiffany Devon and Shari Davidek accept a \$500 donation from Lisa Banks of Yazaki North America!

helping people supported by CLS reach their goals and realize dreams!

Wayne County

You Still Have Time to Register for The Arc Michigan Conference

The conference this year has great guest speakers, several fun workshops and a chance to attend a baseball game! The event will be held in Lansing at the Radisson Hotel on Thursday, June 19 and 20th.



Registration includes a ticket to the Lansing Lugnuts baseball game. For more information, you can register on-line https://adobeformscentral.com/?f=QP7dhGqRnXuzDQaSGS8t7Q# or call Courtney Trunk for more information. Also if you need accommodations, please call (800) 292-7851, courtney@arcmi.org. Room rate is \$109 and hotel parking is \$5.00. For reservations, call (517) 482.0188. **Be sure to reference promo code ARC614.**

Also during the Arc Michigan conference, the Michigan Partners for Freedom will hold their Summit beginning Thursday evening. Local leader workshops include: Working with legislators, Public speaking, Owning the Process DVD & how to use it and how to reach people living in group homes and working in sheltered workshops. For more information call or e-mail Jill Gerrie@arcmi.org or (800) 292-7851 x 114.

Mental Health First Aid Awareness Training

Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority is offering FREE training through September to teach people to assist someone who may be developing a mental health challenge or crisis.

"This is an effort to reduce stigma, improve mental health literacy and greatly empower the individuals serviced throughout our region," said Tom Watkins, DWMHA President and CEO.

Mental Health First Aid will teach people the potential warning signs and risk factors for a wide range of mental health problems such as depression, anxiety, psychotic disorders, substance use and self-injury. It also gives people the skills, knowledge and resources to assess a situation, decide the appropriate intervention and help the individual in crisis find professional care.

Scheduled Trainings for June:

June 12th, 8:30 am ~ 5 pm Youth Mental Health First Aid The Guidance Center 13101 Allen Rd. Bldg. #2 Southgate, MI 48195 June 16th, 8:30am ~ 5 pm Youth Mental Health First Aid Lincoln Behavioral Services 9315 Telegraph Rd. Redford, MI 48239

June 26th and 27th, 9 am ~ 1 pm Adult Mental Health First Aid The Guidance Center 13111 Allen Rd. Bldg. #2 Southgate, MI 48195

Visit www.dwmha.com for more dates and details.

Oakwood Hospital Volunteer Opportunities

Community Living Services is partnering with Oakwood Hospital and offering volunteer opportunities to people supported by CLS. There are several openings



Oakwood

available in these various areas: Gift Shop, Bookmobile, Welcome Center, Emergency Department and Clerical. If anyone supported by CLS is interested, please call Employment Specialist Jessica Eason at 734-722-6598 or send her an e-mail: jeason@comlivserv.com.

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"My daughter is ecstatic and on cloud 9...no, cloud 11!" said Ruth Leach, Carey's mother. "She will be greeting customers, helping them find what they need and doing some stock work." Carey has a Job Coach who will stay with her until she is confident that she knows the job and is comfortable on her own. Carey received vocational training at Western Wayne Skills Center and worked at Larry's Food Land in Livonia for 11 years. She cannot wait to start her new job! "I love meeting new people and I want to get to know all of my coworkers," said Carey. "I like making money too so I can go out with my friends and have fun!" Carey loves to bowl, ride her bike, scrapbook and cook. Congratulations Carey and best wishes in your new job!



For a listing of Michigan Fireworks Displays visit:

http://michiganfireworks.com/

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 or contact Tiffany Devon at 734-722-7185.

Oakland County

A Look Back at One of Last Year's Winners



Friends of CLS holds its annual fundraiser this year on Thursday, September 18th. The night is full of friends, family and fun as many people supported by CLS are honored for accomplishments and obstacles they've faced over the years. Let's take a look back at one of last year's winners who is choosing to life her life on her own terms.

Emily Monroe is a go-getter! She has two small businesses and also gets paid to work in a child care center during the school year. Despite having a developmental disability, Emily doesn't let anything get in her way. "I just wrote the President of the United States about a few things that were on my mind!"

Emily is supported by Community Living Services of Oakland County and participates in presentations at conferences discussing self-determination and how people with disabilities should be proud. "People need to look at my ability, not my disability!"

Emily lives with her parents but her fierce independence keeps them at bay at times. "Emily is taking the bus all over town and making her own appointments," says dad, Richard. "She really can do anything she sets her mind to and for that we are so proud of her!"

Get Involved! The Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council Offers Opportunities

Now is your chance to get involved! The Michigan DD Council has a vacancy open for a person with a developmental disability and two openings for parents who have children with disabilities. The Council is a group of 21 advocates who are appointed by the Governor. A Council member's term is 4 years and meets six times a year in Lansing. This is a volunteer position but members are reimbursed for travel. This is a great way to advocate for yourselves and others and also work to be a part of the change to the way the state supports all people with developmental disabilities. If you're interested please fill out the application as soon as possible.

http://www.michigan.gov/mdch/0,1607,7-132-2941 4868 4897---,00.html





"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

~Maya Angelou

Caregiver Trainings

The Creating Confident Caregivers (CCC) training program is offering free workshops for people who are caring for loved ones. The CCC is not a support group but an opportunity to learn new information and strategies that will make the job of caregiving easier. Some topics discussed are:

- · How to reduce stress
- · How to improve confidence
- Creating a positive environment
- · Planning daily activities
- Dealing with behaviors caused by dementia and its effects on the brain

The trainings are two hours, once a week for six weeks. This program is sponsored by the AAA 1-B and the Alzheimer's Association. For more information, please call the Area Agency on Aging 1-B at 800-852-7795. Below are the 2 locations where the workshops will be held.

Novi Civic Center

45175 West 10 Mile Road, Novi, 48375 Thursdays, June 5,12,19,26 and July 10 and 17th (no class July 3rd)

SarahCare-Lakeside Adult Day Service

13425 19 Mile Road, Suite 500, Sterling Heights, 48313 Thursdays, June 5,12,19,26 and July 10 and 17th (no class July 3rd)



Friends of CLS

First Ever Friends of CLS Bowling Fundraiser!

Strikes and spares and splits, oh my! Great fun was had at the Friends of CLS Bowling Fundraiser May 18th. The lanes filled up quickly and more than \$1,000 was raised through raffle basket and 50/50 sales as well as lane sponsorships and donations. Jamie Guy, who bowled with his brother Richard and friend Ray said, "This was a fun way to spend my Sunday and help a great cause!"













Jackie Paige and Roop Raj

Co-Host Evening with Friends Gala

WWJ Newsradio 950's midday news anchor Jackie Paige and Fox 2 News reporter Roop Raj have confirmed they will be hosting the annual Evening with Friends fundraiser on Thursday, September 18th at Laurel Manor Banquet Center in Livonia. Jackie and Roop are very excited and honored to be a part of the celebration.

Now is the time to nominate people for the video awards ceremony. If you are interested in nominating a person supported by CLS or a community partner or would like to sponsor the event by purchasing an ad, a ticket (\$50) or a table (\$500), please call Tiffany Devon at 734-722-7185 or tdevon@comlivserv.com.

