



Medicaid Reform

The FY 2014 budget is being finalized in the Legislature and Medicaid expansion will not be included. Currently House Bill 4714, which would establish parameters for Medicaid expansion, is still before the House Committee on Michigan Competitiveness. So far it's not known when the committee will meet again to continue discussions.

A few weeks ago, talks were underway in the House that would expand and reform Medicaid. Representative Matt Lori (R-Constantine) introduced HB 4714, which is a starting point in negotiations regarding reforms. Lori maintains promoting a healthy lifestyle is critical to combat the rise in health care. Some of the key elements of the bill are:

- Capping benefits at 48 months (wouldn't count previous Medicaid benefits against them)
- Only expanding as long as it's 100% federally funded
- Develop incentives for healthy behaviors

State Rep. John Walsh Discusses Medicaid Expansion at Coffee Hours

Several people supported by CLS have Medicaid expansion on their minds and they made sure they shared their concerns at a recent coffee hour with State Rep. John Walsh in Livonia. Ray Schuholz, Kurt Hugger and Jaime Guy all attended the in-district coffee hour to discuss why they believe Medicaid should be expanded for those who need it.



L to R: Ray Schuholz, Rep. John Walsh, Jaime Guy and Kurt Hugger.

"I know several people who can benefit from Medicaid and I told Mr. Walsh that it should be expanded," said Hugger who lives in Livonia.

Walsh explained that he isn't opposed to expansion or reform, he and other legislators just want to make sure the federal government makes good on its promise to help the state with the dollars they'll need to expand.

Integrated Care Launch Date Moved

There's been a lot of discussion about integrated health care in Michigan and those that are dually eligible, meaning those that receive both Medicaid and Medicare. Well now the proposed demonstration or pilot project to integrate Medicaid and Medicare has a new implementation date of July 2014, previous reports indicate the project was to begin January 2014. According to the Michigan Department of Community Health, moving the target date will give MDCH more time to make sure the state is prepared to provide quality care to Michigan residents.

As you've read in previous Freedom Press issues, the goal of the integrated care project is to improve quality and access to those that receive Medicaid and Medicare. The project is also being designed to bridge the gap between physical health, long term care and behavioral health systems.

There are four regions that will implement the plan first. Those are the entire Upper Peninsula, Branch, Berrien, Barry, Calhoun, Cass, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph and Van Buren; Macomb and Wayne counties, each a separate region. The demonstration will take place in these regions for three years.

WALK A MILE RALLY HUGE SUCCESS

The 9th Annual Walk a Mile in My Shoes Rally in Lansing was a smashing success! The weather was perfect and the entertainment was outstanding! Several people supported by CLS entertained the crowd. David Dewitt Taylor was the guest DJ, playing tunes everyone enjoyed. Redford resident Gino Byrd was the emcee and he fired up the crowd as they listened to several presenters including Peer Mentor in training, Sarah Palk.



Gino Byrd



Sarah Palk

Crowd estimates topped 2,500. Plans are already underway for next year. It will be the 10th annual rally and promises to be a HUGE event!



Wayne County

Local Leaders Travel to East Lansing

Michigan Partners for Freedom Local Leaders Roxanne Riggio, Janey Vermuelen and Jim Gaylor were presenters at the recent AAIDD conference in East Lansing. Each spoke about Self-Determination and what it means in their lives.



Towne Square Plaza Open House

Wednesday, June 5th, 2013

9 am—1 pm

35425 Michigan Avenue
Wayne, MI



Stop in to meet the mall tenants, enjoy some shopping and refreshments!



COMMUNITY
Living
Your Life, Your Way



Celebrating 30 Years!

2013 Revolutionary Leaders Live Video Webinar Series!

CLS is once again offering a summer full of informative and educational webinars. Each presenter has experience in working with people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. If you would like to join us, please call Katy McDonnell in our Training department at 734-722-4595.

6/5/13 Marca Bristo *ADA's Global Legacy: The International Treaty on the Rights of People with Disabilities* (CLS Boardroom)

6/12/2013 Michael Kendrick, Ph.D *The Enduring Role of Positive Values in Underpinning Good Lives: Why Should This Matter to Leaders* (CLS Auditorium)

6/19/13 Valerie Bradley *Celebrating Our Victories and Facing the Challenges Ahead* (CLS Auditorium)

6/26/13 Jack Pearpoint and Lynda Kahn *People, Planning and Possibility* (CLS Boardroom)

To view the biography of each presenter, visit:
<http://2013revolutionaryleaders.eventbrite.com>

SAVE THE DATE!!

Dohn Hoyle, Arc Michigan President and CLS Board Chairperson will be the featured speaker in the Revolutionary Leaders Webinar Series on Wednesday, **July 17th**. The topic is Rethinking Guardianship: Facilitating Life-Long Self-Determination.

RESERVE YOUR SEAT NOW!
Call Katy McDonnell at ext. 4595

Arc Michigan Conference

June 20th and 21st
McCamly Plaza Hotel
Battle Creek, MI

To register or for more information:

www.arcmi.org

Detroit Wayne County Town Hall Meetings

Several hearings were held this past month to discuss the transition from the Detroit-Wayne County Community Mental Health Agency to an Authority.

The public hearings, led by Wayne County Commissioner Tim Killeen, were to ensure the public understands how the transition will work.

"This is a major alteration to the funding of this program and we're taking necessary steps in assuring that services will not be affected as we undergo the transformation," said Killeen.

The difference between an Agency and an Authority is the Agency operates under a \$700-million-a year budget with the bulk of the funding coming from the state of Michigan in the form of Medicaid dollars. Last December, the state legislature passed a bill which would change the Agency into a free standing Authority, thus altering the flow of money through the county to the Agency. The Authority will qualify for state funding support. (CONT, on page 4 see MEETING)

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. 19, 2013**. We would like to start getting nominations for the video awards ceremony MUCH earlier this year. So 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). You can nominate someone now instead of waiting until July!

Oakland and Macomb County

The “Joy” of Siblings



Joy Wilkins of Royal Oak has two younger siblings with disabilities, Jenene and Jimmy Nagy of Troy. Growing up, she didn't feel that her family was different from anyone else's. "We had a normal childhood, went on vacations, participated in activities, just like everyone else," said Joy. "The only difference was I didn't discuss my family situation with just anyone. I was private because I didn't want to be judged or be bombarded with questions."

In most families, the oldest child usually has more responsibility which was the case for Joy, but not because her siblings had disabilities. "I had to babysit when my parents went out, but most of my friends had to do the same thing," said Joy. "My parents didn't expect me to care for their needs all of the time. I participated in any activities I wanted and had fun just like any other kid."

Jenene and Jimmy live together and receive supports and services through Community Living Services in Oakland County. They hire their own staff to assist with daily activities and their parents live close enough to help when needed. Joy describes Jenene as everyone's best friend because of her loving personality and Jimmy is a "gentle giant" with a kind heart. They both volunteer at Gleaners Food Bank.

Joy is married and has a 17-month-old daughter and believes that helping out with her siblings and following her parent's example make her a better parent. "I'm more patient and compassionate," said Joy. "I watched Jenene and Jimmy mature and develop far beyond anyone's expectations and I get the same joy watching my daughter grow up."



PLEASE NOTE:

The You Tube link for the "Support at Home" video has changed:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?=SuUfnyRpi&feature=player_detailpage



Pictured are OCCMHA Board Chairperson Malkia Newman, award winner Jeff Guthrie and OCCMHA Executive Director Jeffrey Brown.

OCCMHA Presents Hero Award

Congratulations Jeff Guthrie, the May recipient of the Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority's "Hero Award." In honor of its 50th Anniversary, OCCMHA is presenting monthly Hero Awards to individuals who champion for change, inspire and support others, lead anti-stigma efforts, advocate for equality and independence, and give back to their community.

UNDER THE BIG DOME!



**Oakland County
Community Mental
Health Authority's
50th Anniversary
Community
Appreciation Carnival**

**Thursday, July 18, 2013
2 pm—7 pm**

**Great Lakes Golf Done
3951 Joslyn Rd
Auburn Hills, MI**

**Food, games, prizes, vendors,
talent show and a live performance
by Annabelle Road!**

www.occmha.org



SAVE THE DATE!!

**OCCMHA
Self-Determination
Conference
August 19, 2013**

Details coming soon at:

www.occmha.org



Long Term Care

LTC Division Offers Wide Array of Services

“The CLS Long Term Care staff saved my life,” said Wayne resident Eva Police. “If it weren’t for them, I would not be here today.”

Eva was living in a new apartment with multiple disabilities; she was not getting anywhere when she called for help. She was looking for resources that would help her get a new wheelchair.

“CLS helped me and within a couple of weeks, not only did they find me a new wheelchair, I also got a power scooter and food assistance through the MiCafe program.

Through the various contracts with the Area Agencies on Aging and partnership through the Aging and Disability Resource Collaboration, Eva was able to access those services with the help of the LTC division.

If you or a loved one are looking for home and community-based assistance, please call 734-722-4697.



Peer Mentor Andre Robinson is now working with Eva to help educate her on other resources available in the community.



If you would like to make a donation to Friends of CLS, please go to the website, www.comlivserv.com and click on “Friends of CLS.” Donations allow grants to be

given to people for items such as college courses, start-up monies for small businesses and memberships to places in the community.

To make a secure, online donation, visit www.comlivserv.com and click on the *Friends of CLS* tab and scroll to the bottom of the page.

(CONT. from page 1 MEETING)

Commissioner Killeen drafted an enabling resolution so the Authority can begin effective October, 1, 2013. That resolution will now go to the Commission’s Health and Human Services Committee on May 21st and then to the Committee of the Whole on May 22nd. The Authority is slated to be up and running by October 1, 2013.

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.

OLDER MICHIGANIANS DAY RALLY

June 4th, 2013
10:30 am—2:30 pm

Join more than 800 seniors as they converge at the State Capitol to meet with elected officials, urging them to make policies and budget decisions that are “senior” friendly.

The theme this year is
“Healthy Aging—Healthy Michigan”

For ticket information, contact your local Area Agency on Aging or visit www.oldermichiganiansday.com.

