

The CJD SO News

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 1

APRIL 15, 2010

"A Brighter Tomorrow"

President:

Jean Bates
452-2555

Vice President:

Dawn Mattia
750-9164

Secretary:

Brenda Harms
378-2388

Treasurer:

Steve Newbold
668-0928

Buddy Walk:

Dawn Mattia
750-9164

Gala & Open:

Bill Crutcher
452-5556

Social Chair:

Judy Bates
726-1145

Newsletter:

Kris Dunlap
540-9688

Education

Coordinator:

Cindy Woods
826-5775

Advocacy and Resources:

Sandy Ginther
829-0968

Youth Advocates:

Abbey Heins
Christy Bates

New Miracle League is Scheduled to Open in June of

Great news! A new Miracle League will open in June of 2010. Go to www.MiracleLeagueCI.com to learn more, watch the video and to put your name on a list to receive a registration form. Miracle League has been around for about 10 years and can be found in cities all across the country. The closest one to us right now is in Joliet Ill. The Miracle League is open to anyone with any kind of a disability. Children 5 years and older - through adult can register for the League. Teams will be set up based on age and disability.

The program lasts eight weeks and will have two weeks of spring training. Registration fee is \$45.00 and includes insurance for players and Major League Uniforms.

This first year the league will be playing at existing fields in Normal, but by 2011 the Miracle League will have its own field north of the Corn Belters field.

The goal for this first season is to register 50 people to play in the League. So if you are interested go to the site and learn more right away!

2010 Joshua O'Neill and Zeshan Tabani

Enrichment Fund Application is Now Available

The Joshua O'Neill and Zeshan Tabani Enrichment Fund offers financial assistance to young adults with Down syndrome who wish to continue to enrich their lives by enrolling in postsecondary programs or taking enrichment classes that will help them to enrich life through employment, independent living skills, life skills or another way. To date, over thirty students have received grants from NDSS to help cover the costs of pursuing their postsecondary education and enrichment goals. Please visit the NDSS website at www.ndss.org for more information.

Major Effects of the Health Care Reform Act on the Disability Com-

By: Steve Newbold, Attorney

NewboldLaw-Special Needs Legal Services

snewbold@newboldlaw.com

www.newboldlaw.com

(309) 826-1658

"Securing the Future for Your Loved One"

Much is being written on the new Health Care Reform Act signed into law by President Barack Obama on March 23, 2010. Below are some of the major provisions that will have a direct effect on the disability community.

Insurance Reforms

- Effective six months after enactment, insurance companies can no longer deny children coverage based on a preexisting condition.
- Starting in 2014, insurance companies cannot deny coverage to anyone with preexisting conditions.
- Provides immediate assistance to individuals with pre-existing conditions through establishment of high-risk pools.
- Ensures that minimum covered benefits include products and services that enable people with disabilities to maintain and improve function, such as rehabilitation and habilitation services and devices and mental health services.
- Effective six months after enactment, requires insurers to offer and renew coverage for any applicant (guaranteed issue and renewal).
- Effective six months after enactment, require individual and group plans to extend dependent coverage to adult children up to age 26, prohibit rescissions of coverage, and eliminate waiting periods for coverage of greater than 90 days.
- Require group plans to eliminate lifetime limits on coverage and beginning in 2014, eliminate annual limits on coverage.
- Requires the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to collect data on beneficiaries with disabilities, access to primary care services and the level to which primary care providers have been trained on disability issues.

Major Effects of the Health Care Reform Act on the Disability Community

Medicaid

- Expands Medicaid to cover individuals 64 and under with incomes up to 133 percent of the federal poverty line.
- Increases federal Medicaid matching to all states (except expansion states) as follows: 100% in 2014, 2015, and 2016; 95% in 2017, 94% in 2018; 93% in 2019 and 90% thereafter to finance coverage for newly eligible individuals.
- Increases the Medicaid drug rebate percentage for brand name drugs to 23.1 percent (except the rebate for clotting factors and drugs approved exclusively for pediatric use, which increases to 17.1 percent); increase the Medicaid rebate for non-innovator, multiple source drugs to 13 percent of average manufacturer price; and extend the drug rebate to Medicaid managed care plans.
- Modifies the spousal impoverishment statute to mandate that states include the spousal impoverishment protections in their waiver programs, and that the spouses of all HCBS waiver participants, including those who qualify as medically needy, have the protections available. The provision will sunset after five years.
- Extends the Medicaid Money Follows the Person (MFP) Rebalancing Demonstration program through September 2016. The MFP program was authorized in the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 to encourage states to transition Medicaid enrolled individuals from nursing homes to the communities. The Medicaid coverage follows the person to the community and pays for the home and community-based services required.

Community First Choice Option

- Establishes the Community First Choice Option, a state plan option under section 1915 of the Social Security Act to provide community-based attendant supports and services to individuals with disabilities who are Medicaid eligible and who require an institutional level of care. These services and supports include assistance to individuals with disabilities in accomplishing activities of daily living and health related tasks. States that choose the Community First Choice Option will be eligible for an enhanced federal match rate of an additional six percentage points for reimbursable expenses in the program. This provision sunsets 5 years after it starts on October 1, 2011.
- The Community First Choice Option also will require data collection to help determine how states currently are providing home- and community-based services, the cost of those services, and whether states currently offer individuals with disabilities, who otherwise qualify for institutional care under Medicaid, the choice to receive home- and community-based services instead, as required by the U.S. Supreme Court in *Olmstead v. L.C.* (1999).

Major Effects of the Health Care Reform Act on the Disability Community Cont...

Mark the Date

The Community First Choice Option also will modify the Money Follows the Person Rebalancing Demonstration to reduce the amount of time required for individuals to qualify for that program to 90 days.

April 15th: Plan Now Rest Later Workshop

This all looks good, but keep an eye on the Illinois budgetary process to see how it all plays out in practice. Illinois is BILLIONS of dollars in debt. The new Health Care Reform Act greatly expands Medicaid, the costs of which are shared by the states. Illinois is at the bottom of the list of states in terms of how much money is spent currently to support programs for people with disabilities. It is not at all clear where Illinois will find the money to increase these programs.

April 27th: CIDSO Board Meeting

April 28th & 29th: ARC of Illinois 60th annual convention.

A great place to follow these issues is on the Illinois ARC website. Become a member today (it is only \$25) and join the fight to improve the programs in Illinois.

May 1st 4th Annual Family Conference.

CIDSO Library Additions!

A special Kind of Hero: Chris Burke's Own Story

Thicker Than Water: Essays by Adults of people with Down syndrome

Peer Buddy Programs For Successful Secondary School Inclusion.

Collin Gets a Chance: An inspirational look at how the acts of a child's peers can have such a significant impact.

Gifts 2: How people with Down syndrome enrich the world

I Can, Can You?

Brothers and Sisters: A special part of Exceptional families

Supporting Siblings and Their Families During Intensive Baby Care.

Behavioral support.

Married with Special needs Children: A couples guide to staying connected.

Negotiating the Special Education Maze: A guide for Parents and Teachers

Individual Support for Students with Problem Behaviors: Designing positive behavior plans

Parenting With Positive Behavior Support: A practical guide to resolving a child's difficult behavior

Learning Disabilities and Challenging Behaviors: A guide to intervention and classroom management

Disclaimer Policy

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