

**Disability Bulletin Board**  
**Disability Rights is a Civil Rights Issue**  
**Civil Rights for People with Disabilities through Communication**  
**Fall – 2003**

**We must come together**  
**We can learn from each other and we can support each other.**

**HOW?**

**Relay this information to your membership including constituents who do not have e-mail access. Make this available in large print, tape and for others who have difficulty accessing information.**

**Please sign on to this petition to Governor Rowland (See attached).** Watch for an important update from Tom Connors on the Resolution from Interroburst 2003 to “petition Governor Rowland to “assure that the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities fulfills its mandate... to convene the commissions of the Interagency Management Committee with the goal of integrated policy... ..to act on all pending appointments to boards and councils that relate to disability issues... **Please tell Tom you will sign on at [tomconnors3@comcaast.net](mailto:tomconnors3@comcaast.net) and let him know if you would like to help present it to the Governor.**

**Interroburst--October 2003 was a success!**

On October 28 and 29, 2003 a select group of forty individuals assembled at the Nathan Hale Inn on the campus of the University of Connecticut in Storrs, to explore issues related to feelings of isolation many people with disabilities experience. The forty included people with physical disabilities, mental disabilities, communication disabilities, intellectual disabilities, family members, advocates, and human service workers. Many of the individuals with disabilities had a long history of living in the community, while four participants were recently assisted in moving out of nursing homes under the Nursing Facilities Transition Grant. Several others were members of a Task Force from one of the three towns participating in the Real Choice Grant Model Communities Initiative. Individuals from the State Department of Social Services and its Bureau of Rehabilitation Services, the Department of Mental Retardation, the Department of Mental Health and

Addiction Services, and the Council on Developmental Disabilities were also present. During the two-day discussions the group identified the critical elements of community integration, the barriers to community integration, and strategies that could be pursued to achieve community integration. The participants agreed that strategies must be cross-disability, focus on bridging the gap between a person's physical presence in a community and real participation, include an education component, demonstrate the contributions people with disabilities make to a community, and include an advocacy component. Participants also discussed the importance of staying "healthy" (i.e., taking care of oneself so that they may better serve others).

A follow up meeting is being planned for early spring.

### **STUDY ON MEDICAID PERSONAL CARE SERVICES**

**Date: November 19, 2003**

**For Release: Immediately**

**Robert Wood Johnson Foundation**

**U.S. Department of Health & Human Services**

**Contact: HHS Press Office (202) 690-6343 RWJF Press Office  
(609) 627-5937**

**Headline: PEOPLE ELIGIBLE FOR MEDICAID PERSONAL CARE SERVICES GET MORE HOME CARE AND USE NURSING HOMES LESS WHEN THEY DIRECT THEIR OWN CARE, STUDY FINDS**

Model Consumer-Directed Care Program Costs Medicaid No More than Traditional Agency Care Arkansas Medicaid enrollees who had the opportunity to direct their own personal care services using a cash allowance were much more likely to actually receive such services than were enrollees who were eligible for services but had to get them in the usual way, from an agency, according the results of a study published online today by the journal Health Affairs. Furthermore, even those who did obtain care from agencies received only about two-thirds of the hours of care to which they were entitled, the study found. While this better access to care led to higher overall costs for personal care under the consumer-directed program, these added costs were offset by lower Medicaid costs for nursing homes and other long-term care services. Thus, consumers received significantly more personal care at no greater net costs to Medicaid by the end of the second year. These findings are from an ongoing evaluation of the Cash & Carry Demonstration and Evaluation Program...

An interesting piece by Bob Kafka on “Disability Rights vs. workers Rights: A Different Perspective appeared on the [CTDisAdvocacy@yahoogroups.com](mailto:CTDisAdvocacy@yahoogroups.com) on November 19. Contact My Terry ([mterry@snet.net](mailto:mterry@snet.net)) if you want to get a copy.

It is important to inform and pull in as support, outside groups such as the **CT Council of Methodist Ministers** that may not be labeled as disability rights groups. John Carr represents 55 churches on a district council that represents issues on accessibility.

### **DO YOU KNOW WHAT THESE GROUPS ARE DOING?**

The goal of the **ADA Coalition of Connecticut** is to promote compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act through ongoing telephone and e-mail technical assistance, workshops and custom designed training. The Coalition also develops special projects with youth, arts entities, municipalities and other entities as well as with the state legislature.

Their current legislative initiative (pending renewal of project funding) is to continue its efforts to import selected sections of the ADA into state statute. Contact Elanah Sherman at [ADACoalitionCT@aol.com](mailto:ADACoalitionCT@aol.com) if you want to become part of this critical effort.

The **ARC** held a strategic Planning Retreat on November 1 to develop our goals for the next five years. The legislative agenda for 2004 will be developed in December.

**The Olmstead Coalition** will be modifying and reintroducing its bill from 2003 that will (1) decertify and not replace nursing facility beds when a facility goes out of business due to bankruptcy or a vacancy rate in certified beds that exceeds x% for y months, and (2) provides community living supplements for “room and board” as a pilot program for a number of persons transitioning into the community equal to the number of beds not replaced.

The **Long-term Advisory Committee** will be introducing legislation to implement the Long-term Care Plan to the legislature in January 2004. Details are uncertain until the plan is completed.

**Advocacy Unlimited** provides advocacy training to consumers of mental health services. Contact Leslie Wood at 1-800-573-6929 or 1-860-667-2240. You can also contact Karen Roseman at [rosemk0@Bridgeport.ct.us](mailto:rosemk0@Bridgeport.ct.us).

The Board of the **Connecticut Women and Disability Network (CWDN)** wants everybody to know that domestic violence shelters across the state have been improving their accessibility to women with a variety of disabilities. One important recent development is that each shelter is now equipped with a TTY. Our biggest emphasis in the past few months has been on breast health awareness. Ten women with disabilities have been trained in the American Cancer Society's Tel-A-Friend program, and the American Cancer Society in Connecticut is modifying their curriculum to include a module on disability. Additionally 43 radiology technicians were trained this Fall in performing mammograms for women with disabilities, bringing the total number of technicians trained over a three year period to nearly 125.

We will be following with interest the implementation of the Women's Health Act, and additional implementing legislation the act may require, particularly as it pertains to women with disabilities.

CWDN has office space at the Office of Protection and Advocacy in Hartford, and our phone number in (860) 297-4375 for voice or (860) 566-2102 for TTY.

**The Connecticut Parent Advocacy Center, Inc.** is a statewide non-profit organization that offers information and support to parents of children with disabilities and the professionals who work with them. They publish *Speak Out* which lists parent training opportunities, support groups and in-service presentations. Contact them at [www.cpacinc.org](http://www.cpacinc.org) or call 1-800-445-2722 for more information.

**The National Council on Disabilities**, 1331 F Street, NW, Suite 850, Washington D.C. puts out a monthly bulletin including information such as NCD Abridged Olmstead report and news of the ADAPT MiCASSA Rally.

**The KEEP THE PROMISE Coalition** recently held Legislative Advocacy Training. Contact Katie Martin at 1-860-262-5035 for more information on their efforts.

**People First of CT** is collaborating with groups this year as we have with The Arc, DMR now SEIU. We expect to introduce a bill the next session that will include disability in the hate crime statute. Our friend Rick Whistnant died at the hands of a group of teens in a brutal murder. As a result we are spending a lot of time on bullying. I am sure that members would be interested in coming to a future meeting of the collaboration. Contact Jean Bowen for more information at [advozealot@aol.com](mailto:advozealot@aol.com).

The **Connecticut Alliance for Basic Human Needs and the Legal Assistance Center of CT** November 2003 Newsletter “Cabhn Fever” includes information on energy assistance, lost HUSKY A, Health Care Insurance, statewide legal services and Community Action Agencies. The reauthorization of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) remains stalled in Congress. The December issue reported on the “Extra Money for Working People: The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)”, “Help for Home Care Shoppers,” and the impact of budgets cuts on Husky and Medicaid. Contact [Dnoble@larcc.org](mailto:Dnoble@larcc.org). for more information.

So just what is **CTAPA?** The goal of the Connecticut Association of Personal Assistant is to elevate the job of personal assistant to a more professional level through support, advocacy, out reach, and public education; while meeting the need for dignity and quality of life for both assistants and employers of personal assistant. For more information call 1-860-643-6452, e-mail: [info@ctapa.org](mailto:info@ctapa.org) or go on their web Site at [www.ctapa.org](http://www.ctapa.org).

**CHOICE**--Connecticut Has Opportunities for Independence, Choice and Empowerment will be holding focus groups on “How can we make it easier for people who hire direct support workers and potential employees to connect?” on December 8<sup>th</sup>, January 6<sup>th</sup> and January 12<sup>th</sup>. Contact [abate@uchc.edu](mailto:abate@uchc.edu) for more information or look at their web site at [www.uconned.org](http://www.uconned.org).

### **Health Care for all efforts.**

**AARP** – Did you know anyone 50 or older can join? AARP is actively pursuing health care issues including “The Doctor is Out—How Age Discrimination in America’s Health Care System Imperils You” (*AARP Bulletin*, November 2003.) Contact them to join at [www.aarp.org](http://www.aarp.org) or call 1-800-424-3410.

**The Center for Medicare Advocacy, Inc.** publishes *Center News*. For more information about Medicare and Medicare Reform contact them at [www.medicareadvocacy.org](http://www.medicareadvocacy.org) or call 860-456-7790.

**The Health Care for All campaign of the Connecticut Citizens Action Group** can be reached at [gvivier@ccag.net](mailto:gvivier@ccag.net).

Sheldon Toubman at **New Haven Legal Aid** is actively pursuing Medicaid issues in CT. Sheldon's latest Alert includes a Medicaid co-payment incident report and a template of a letter to your Senator and Representative. Contact him at [Stoubman@nhlegal.org](mailto:Stoubman@nhlegal.org) for more information.

**The Office of Managed Care Ombudsman** can be reached at 1-866-HMO-4446 or [www.omc.state.ct.us](http://www.omc.state.ct.us). They will help you with a managed care/HMO situation, review the referral or re-authorization procedures required by your plan, help you understand your plan's complaint/grievance procedures and assist you in initiating the internal appeals or the external appeals process.

**Infoline can be reached at 2-1-1. They offer confidential, free human service assistance.**

If you have any training kits to teach people how to do self advocacy please let me know at [jjk1009@hotmail.com](mailto:jjk1009@hotmail.com).

**If you know someone who wants to get this bulletin on e-mail please send me their name, address, phone number and e-mail address.**

**If you want something to appear in the next addition send it to me at [jjk1009@hotmail.com](mailto:jjk1009@hotmail.com), Jayne Kleinman, 55 Corrigan Ave., Meriden, CT 06451, 203-238-9391. In Peace and Happy Holidays!**