

Disability Advocacy Collaborative Bulletin

Disability Rights is a Civil Rights Issue

December 2004

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If you want something to appear in the next edition or have an article you would like us to include please send it to me at jayne@kleinmanconsulting.com or Jayne Kleinman, 55 Corrigan Ave., Meriden, CT 06451, 203-238-9391.

ADDRESS CORRECTIONS AND REMOVALS: If you are not interested in receiving this information or you would like this information sent to a different e-mail address, please e-mail Jayne Kleinman at jayne@kleinmanconsulting.com with your request, or simply reply to this message.

How can you find your federal Representatives and Senators? Go to www.congress.org and find the box under the heading “Write Elected Officials”. Type in your Zip code and press the “Enter” key. Then, when the names of your elected officials come on the screen, click on the word “Info” under the name of the elected official you want to contact. The telephone number will be listed on the page that comes up next. To find your CT representatives call the Capitol Switchboard at 1-888-818-6641, visit www.house.gov or www.senate.gov or enter your Zip code at www.congress.org.

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Calendar of Events

<u><i>Date</i></u>	<u><i>Event</i></u>	<u><i>Location</i></u>	<u><i>Sponsor</i></u>	<u><i>Contact</i></u>
Dec. 15 Deadline to apply	Summer Congressional Opportunities		Amer. Assn. of People with Disabilities	www.aapd-dc.org
Dec. 17 2:00-4:00	Long Range Housing Plan Comment Period	Rocky Hill	Dept. of Econ. and Comm. Development	www.DECD.org
Dec. 21 10:00	Report on state policy of mixing non-elderly and elderly populations in state funded housing projects	Legislative Office Building, Room 2D	Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee	Michele Castillo 860-240-0300 pri@po.state.ct.us
Jan. 7	EVERY New Home has Access – Visitability Telecon	Teleconference		(785) 233-4572 or 1- 800-711-8914 or jeklund@tilrc.org
Jan. 19 10:00 – 2:30	Kids' Mental Health Day (legislative initiatives to support children's mental health)	State Capitol, Room 310	FAVOR, Inc.	860-563-3232 mcole@favorct.org
June 3-4	Moving through Life Changes, Self Determination	Farmington Marriott	DD Council, DMR, and FAVOR	email <u>Yvette. johnson@po.state.ct. us</u> (860) 418-8709
July 25- 28,2005	Youth Leadership Forum	UCONN Storrs	CT YLF	Ctylf.org

Collaborative Initiative to Begin in January

The Council on Developmental Disabilities has accepted the Collaborative's proposal to develop a series of self advocacy events in 2005, and organization leaders are making plans to get the project up and running. A more detailed description of the project will be included in the January Bulletin

Important Report About Housing

The Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly has been conducting a study of the state policy of mixing non-elderly disabled and elderly populations in state-funded housing projects. The committee has scheduled a meeting for this topic on Tuesday, December 21, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 2D of the Legislative Office Building. Staff findings and recommendations on another topic (Diversionary and Alternative Sanctions) will also be presented on that date. If you have any questions about the meeting or the study, contact Michelle Castillo of the committee staff at (860) 240-0300 or pri@po.state.ct.us.

Update on IDEA Reauthorization

An updated IDEA, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, was finally reported out of a House/Senate conference committee on Wednesday, November 17, 2004. It then passed the full House on November 19, and the Senate agreed to it by unanimous consent on November 19.

In an announcement released after final action on the bill, the Disability Rights and Education Defense Fund (DREDF) reported that the voices of parents and advocates were heard loud and clear and that their hard work and dedication paid off in getting the best possible bill, given the political environment and considerable resistance to the act. DREDF acknowledged the bill is not perfect or ideal, nor is it funded at the level needed.

Among the changes in the revised Act: "measurable annual goals" and quarterly progress reports will replace short-term objectives and benchmarks; up to 15 states may be granted an opportunity to pilot optional three-year IEPs; students who violate school codes will have to remain in an interim placement pending an appeal of the manifestation determination (a hearing must occur within 20 days).

Parents and advocates fought back ferocious assaults on discipline provisions and due process protections, and prevailed in several key areas, from an increase in the number of certified special education teachers to expanded access to assistive technology to

sanctions on states that do not comply with the law. Continued services for students moved to alternative placements are still in place, as are attorney fee reimbursements for parents who prevail in due process hearings, and functional behavior assessments and manifestation determinations.

DREDF reports that in the main, the principals of IDEA are preserved. The extremely negative provisions in the House bill were eliminated, and parents' rights remain largely intact. The final bill does contain a few changes that are weaker or that can be interpreted to be weaker than current law. It is important that parents and advocates develop strategies to deal with these new provisions, recommends DREDF, stating that "now is the time to disseminate accurate information about the changes, develop advocacy strategies, and ensure that parents of IDEA students are trained in the new 2004 provisions."

Olmstead Coalition

An ad hoc committee of the Olmstead Coalition met in November to discuss its future role. Members agreed the committee should focus on furthering implementation of community-based supports and services. Interested individuals and organizations will be surveyed for their opinions regarding possible future activities, and small donations of "seed money" are being sought to allow the coalition to pay for supplies, mailings, etc. If you are interested in getting involved or donating seed money, please contact Carrie Czerwinski at the Disabilities Network of Eastern Connecticut in Norwich, at 823-1898, ext.16.

10th Anniversary Celebrated

The ADA Coalition of Connecticut celebrated its 10th anniversary on October 14, 2004 at the Farmington Club in Farmington. Lieutenant Governor Kevin Sullivan was the guest speaker. President Candace Low recognized the following individuals and groups for their disability rights support and advocacy work:

- Artful Access Award - The Connecticut Children's Museum in New Haven
- Town Hall Award - City of New Britain
- Legislative Awards - State Representative James Abrams; State Representative Christopher Donovan; and State Representative David McCluskey
- Impact Award - Katie Martin, Coordinator of the Keep the Promise Coalition; and
- the President's Award - The Nursing Home Transitions Grant Steering Committee

NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD **2005-2009 State Long-Range Housing Plan**

The state Department of Economic and Community Development is seeking public comment on its draft 2005-2009 State Long range housing plan. A thirty-day public examination and comment period will began November 18, 2004 and will end December

18, 2004. A Public Hearings will be held on December 17, 2004 from 2-4 at the office of CERC – 805 Brook St. Building 4 in Rocky Hill.

Interested parties are urged to attend and provide oral or written comments on housing development needs in Connecticut's communities. This information will be used in the development of the State's 2005-2009 State Long-Range Housing Plan. Copies of the draft 2005-2009 State Long-Range Housing Plan are available on the DECD's web site, www.DECD.org.

Written comments may be sent to W. Michael Regan, Community Development Assistant Administrator, Compliance Office and Planning/Program Support, Department of Economic & Community Development, 505 Hudson Street, Hartford, CT 06106-7106. Questions, concerns, complaints or requests for information in alternative formats must be directed to Rick Robbins, ADA (504) Coordinator at 860-270-8214.

“EVERY New Home with Basic Access!”
National Visitability Teleconference
January 7, 2005, 1:00PM EST

Learn from national experts about: The connection between MiCASSA and the Inclusive Home Design Act (HR 2353) *by Mike Oxford*;; Visitability history and basic principles *by Eleanor Smith and Becca Vaughn*; Legislation and other avenues: How it worked in Georgia and Kansas; Examples from other cities, states and countries; IHDA History and Strategies for passage and Action needed.

Contact Jeannine by Dec. 28, 2004 to reserve your spot at (785) 233-4572, 1-800-711-8914, or jeklund@tilrc.org

Personal Stories Needed

**Stories Needed Regarding the Impact of the
Social Security Cost of Living Adjustment**

The Keep the Promise Coalition is pursuing legislation that will address the long-standing injustice of individual elderly and disabled State Supplement recipients having their State Supplement benefits reduced dollar for dollar by the amount of the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) provided each year by the Social Security Administration. This means, in practical terms, that many low-income elderly and disabled individuals have had the same amount of money to live on for at least 13 years with no increase for the cost of living (with the exception last year of a meager \$1 pass-through of the COLA for married State Supplement recipients, but \$0 for single recipients). This "theft" of the federal COLA also means that there are some people -- those whose State Supplement is reduced to \$0 as result of this process -- who each year lose their Medicaid coverage and

are suddenly subject to a large spenddown in order to get back on to this essential medical assistance program (recipients who receive any State Supplement assistance automatically qualify for Medicaid, without a spenddown, regardless of the amount of their income).

In order to succeed with this legislative effort, individuals are being sought who are directly affected by this policy - so please help to get out the word that we are looking for people who are currently receiving (or recently were receiving) State Supplement and are willing to talk about how they have been, or are about to be, negatively affected. Particularly helpful would be information about individuals who were on State Supplement and Medicaid, and now get NO State Supplement and are subject to a substantial spenddown for Medicaid as a result. Please let Katie Martin of the Keep the Promise Coalition know if you aware of any such stories: Katie Martin, Coordinator, Keep the Promise Coalition, phone: 1-877-402-2299 x 5969; e-mail: keepthepromise@clrp.org).

"Help Save Medicaid with Personal Stories"

A message/invitation from Families USA [HealthAction@familiesusa.org]:

Do you know a senior, a child, a person with a disability, or a working family in your state that has Medicaid coverage? If so, we would love to hear from you and them!

Families USA is embarking on a campaign to protect the Medicaid program from federal cuts. To communicate our message clearly and in a way that resonates with a broader audience--including the news media, state legislators, Senators, and the general public--we need to humanize this debate. And the best way to do that is by enlisting the help of those who depend on Medicaid.

Seniors, children, people with disabilities, and working families in your state can speak on behalf of the thousands of Medicaid beneficiaries across the country who are so vulnerable to program cutbacks. Their voices can and should be heard in Washington, DC by Senators who can put a stop to any attempt to cut Medicaid funds.

Families USA is looking for people who believe that Medicaid is a vital health care lifeline. We are looking for people who can agree to speak to reporters in person and have their pictures taken to better illustrate our message. We are looking for those who can help spread the word that the federal government wants to cut their one and only source of health coverage and that this is not only unfair, it is morally wrong. We are looking for those who can talk about their fears of becoming uninsured and having to choose between paying for rent and food and paying for health insurance.

If you want to get involved contact Alexandra Zavala, Communications Outreach Coordinator for Families USA, at 1-800-593-5041 ext. 3614 or at azavala@familiesusa.org.

Medicare--Wheelchair and Scooter Coverage Policies

Disability Rights Advocates (DRA), a nonprofit law center in Oakland, California, is investigating complaints about Medicare wheelchair and scooter coverage policies. Please contact them at <http://www.drlegal.org> if you were unable to get a power wheelchair or scooter because you needed it for use outside the home, were able to walk short distances, or had not proven sufficient upper extremity weakness.

Also contact them if you, for any of the reasons listed above, had to pay out-of-pocket for the wheelchair or scooter you needed. DRA can be reached at: 510-451-8644, healthaccess@drlegal.org or by writing to Disability Rights Advocates - Attn: Medicare DME - 449 15th St. Suite 303 - Oakland, CA 94609.

Focus Groups on Barriers to Getting a Mammogram

Thanks to a grant from the Susan G. Komen Foundation, the Connecticut Women and Disability Network and Qualidigm are conducting a series of focus groups involving women across the disability spectrum to discuss the barriers to getting a mammogram. Eligible volunteers who participate will receive \$50. The purpose of the focus groups are to learn more about what women with disabilities think about breast cancer screening and whether or not you've had a mammogram. For more information or if you are interested in getting involved, please call 860-297-4381.

5500 People in CT Say they want to Leave Nursing Homes and Live in the Community

A recently released report by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) reveals that 21% of the 27,504 residents of Medicare or Medicaid certified nursing homes in Connecticut have expressed a desire to return to the community. Third quarter (April – June) statistics from the MDS (Minimum Data Set) Active Resident Report statistics reveal that approximately 5700 individuals want out of nursing homes. National figures show 19.5% of nursing home residents have indicated a desire to move into the community, representing 275,409 people nationwide.

The MDS Active Resident Report summarizes the data available on residents currently in nursing homes. The source of these counts is the resident's MDS assessment record. The MDS assessment information for each active nursing home resident is consolidated to create a profile of the most recent standard information for the resident.

To get more detailed information on nursing home residents, go to www.cms.hhs.gov/states/mdsreports .

CAN'T GET YOUR PRESCRIPTION FILLED?

Question: What should I do if I am on Medicaid, HUSKY, CONNPACE or SAGA but the pharmacy won't fill my prescription? Go to the last page of this Bulletin to find out how to get help.

Moving Through Life Changes: Individuals and Families Leading Self Determined Lives

The second annual conference on self-determination and family support will be held June 3-4, 2005, at the Farmington Marriott Hotel. Topical workshops include: self determination, self-advocacy, models of family support, community partnerships, resources, health, special education, behavioral health, financing, legal issues, communication and more. For more information contact Yvette Johnson (email Yvette.johnson@po.state.ct.us), (860) 418-8709, Molly Cole (860)563-3232 (email FAVORCT@aol.com) or Robin Wood (203)294-5147, (email robin.wood@po.state.ct.us).

AAPD 2005 Summer Congressional Internship Opportunities

The Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation and the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) Congressional Internship Program was created to provide an opportunity for students with disabilities to work on Capitol Hill and acquire valuable work experience that will enrich their academic studies. As congressional interns, participants gain insight into congressional office operations, public policy development, and constituents' roles in the legislative/political processes. In 2005, eight students with disabilities will be selected for this 8-week internship. Airfare, summer housing, and stipends will be provided. Submission Deadline: applications must be received by 5:00 pm (Eastern Time) on December 15, 2004. Semester Available--Summer 2005. Full-time/Part-time: Full-time Compensation: \$1,500 stipend. Additional information and the applications are available on the AAPD website: <http://www.aapd-dc.org> or call 1-800-840-8844 (v/tty).

Applications out for YLF 2005

Applications for the seventh annual Youth Leadership Forum for Students with Disabilities (YLF) are now available. The event is scheduled for July 25 – July 28, 2005 at the University of Connecticut, Storrs campus.

The program will bring together forty high school students with disabilities from throughout Connecticut for a four-day training forum focusing on enhancing community

leadership skills. The forum provides a concentrated educational and motivational experience for the students selected.

YLF delegates will explore personal leadership skills, define career goals and leave the forum with a very specific action plan that describes what they will do back in their local communities to enhance the lives of people with disabilities. Eligible applicants must be a high school sophomore or junior with a disability who demonstrates leadership skills in their communities and school. It is the goal of the YLF planning committee to select students from all regions of Connecticut, who represent a wide range of disabilities and ethnic backgrounds. Copies of the application can be obtained by logging on to the YLF website – www.ctylf.org

If you have any questions about the program, contact Karen Halliday at (860) 713-6923 or karen.halliday@po.state.ct.us or Kathleen Kabara at (860) 713-5231 or Kathleen.kabara@po.state.ct.us.

Paralysis Research Act Passes U.S. Senate

SCIE-News reports that the Research Review Act, which will promote collaborative paralysis research, passed the U.S. Senate in a late night session Tuesday, November 16th, 2004. The Act incorporates a vital component of the pending Christopher Reeve Paralysis Act which calls on the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to prepare a report on how they have and how they will encourage the use of multidisciplinary research teams to advance treatments, develop new therapies, and collaborate on clinical trials with respect to spinal cord injury and paralysis research.

The Lawsuit Dilemma Lawsuits. Everybody Seems to Hate Them.

By [Mary Johnson](#) [For the complete story go to raggededgemagazine.com/focus/molски1004.html].

Today, unlike the 1970s, lawsuits for social change are widely condemned. Yet they're the only real means we have for achieving access.

A generation ago, lawsuits were a proud means of ensuring social justice. Melissa Fay Greene, in her book **Praying For Sheetrock**, which tells the tale of how sleepy Darien, GA finally began in the 1970s to confront its racism, quotes one young lawyer of the era who came to Georgia to work for civil rights:

"The whole social conscience movement of the 1960s struck a deep chord in me for some reason... The only reason I went to law school was to perform public service. There was a sense in my generation that you could create social change."

Fast forward to the 1990s. Right-wing ideologues fighting government regulation focus on lawsuits -- frivolous lawsuits, as they're almost always called. Walter Olson of the conservative Manhattan Institute starts the website overlawyered.com. Philip K. Howard writes the slim best-seller **The Death of Common Sense**, which rails against attorneys who enforce civil rights laws. (Note that it is only attorneys who help the oppressed who are so singled out. Attorneys who help businesses fight these suits are OK.)

The favorite whipping boy of these pundits is the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act. The ADA has no federal enforcement mechanism. To get it enforced requires a lawsuit. The Department of Justice can file a suit; or suits can be filed by aggrieved disabled people.

Today's moral climate is very unlike the 1970s, when lawyers were seen as performing a public service. Today, a "lawsuit" is seen by almost no one as a noble thing -- at least nobody who speaks out publicly. It is in such a climate that disabled people, some of them lone wolves, some of them members of grassroots organizations, and others part of well-financed legal services groups, find themselves trying to use the lawsuit to gain their rights.

Because it is the only thing they have that works.

"Voting Accessibility Problems Persist"

Excerpts from a Chicago Tribune article, <http://www.chicagotribune.com>, by Trine Tsouderos, 11/5/04

The news [on election day] was good and bad for disability organizations working on a national effort to get eligible disabled voters registered and to the polls, and to ensure that those polls were accessible to all. Disabled voters turned out in record numbers but still encountered barriers at polling places, although those problems appeared to be fewer than in past elections, officials said.

With a goal of increasing turnout on Election Day by 1 million new disabled voters, disability organizations across the U.S. worked phone banks, sent out mailings, held rallies and sponsored candidate forums.

Nationally, an estimated 400,000 new disabled voters were registered, though hard data won't be available for several months, said Jim Dickson, vice president of governmental affairs for the Washington-based American Association of People with Disabilities, which is coordinating the national campaign. Anecdotally, Dickson said he heard--and

witnessed himself-- reports of people finding fellow disabled voters waiting in line at the polls.

The potential clout of the disabled, who polls say tend to favor Democratic candidates, is apparent in the 2000 census, which showed that 20 percent of the U.S. population has some form of disability. Even so, the disabled are at least 15 percent less likely to vote, according to a 1999 study for the Bureau of Economic Research and other organizations.

Advocates say one crucial turnoff is that polling places are often inaccessible, an issue that has become a focus of the disability organizations' campaign and one aided by an infusion of federal money thanks to the Help America Vote Act of 2002.

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CABHN Fever Highlights from the November 2004 Newsletter

For a complete copy contact the Legal Assistance Resource Center of CT and CABHN (CT Alliance for Basic Human Needs) at www.larcc.org

- Energy Assistance – It's Time to Apply (1-800-842-1132).
- A Consumer Guide for Medicare Users (kff.org/medicare/7067/)
- Flu Vaccine Hot Line (1-800-830-9426).
- November Elections Reshape Connecticut Senate and House
- Need Help with SAGA Medical? Contact Community Health Network of CT (CHNCT) to find out who your primary provider is (1-866-361- SAGA – 7242). Contact DSS Theresa Rugens 860-424-5156, Contact Statewide Legal Services 1-800-453-3320 or 860-344-0380.
- Infoline 211

RESOURCES

Long Term Care Services and Supports Website

Most people will need assistance with activities of daily living at some point in their lives, whether due to aging, injury, illness or disability. Knowing what kind of help is needed and available and how to obtain it is not an easy task. Whether you need help now or are exploring future options for yourself or a loved one, a new state initiative may be able to assist you. A Long-Term Care Services and Supports website is being developed by the Commission on Aging, the Long-Term Care Advisory Council and the state Office of Policy and Management.

The goal of this web site is to provide easy access to comprehensive information on private and public long-term care (LTC) services and supports in Connecticut, including: Home Care, Community Care, Housing, and Institutional/Nursing Home Care. Helpful information is also available for those who provide care and for people interested in the options for planning for their own future needs.



It's important to know you are not alone. There are many resources and organizations to assist you. If you need resources now, before the web site is up and running, call Infoline by dialing 2-1-1 or, if you are 60 years of age or older, call CHOICES at 1-800-994-9422.

Handbook Helps Parents--Learning Disabilities Laws

The National Center for Learning Disabilities and Schwab Learning has developed a handbook to help parents navigate -- and coordinate -- the federal No Child Left Behind Act and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. To learn more about the handbook, go to www.belleville.com/mld/belleville/living/10054529.htm.

Modifying the Home for a Person with Dementia It's Not Always About Physical Accessibility

[Excerpts from Alzheimer's Information, November 11, 2004]

What does it mean to modify the home environment? Research studies and anecdotal experience suggest that factors in the physical environment, such as lighting, color or noise, can greatly impact the behavior of a person with Alzheimer's. Making changes and adjustments to the home environment can help make day-to-day activities easier and safer for the person with Alzheimer's and can reduce specific symptoms, such as wandering.

How can modifying the home help the person with Alzheimer's? People who have Alzheimer's may eventually lose access to what has been called the "map room" of the brain, the systems that orient us in time and space. Wandering and losing one's way to or from destinations - even within one's own home - may result. One of the goals of so-called "environmental modification" is to help people with the disease overcome the loss of these internal mapping abilities.

What types of modifications are beneficial? There is little question that environmental modifications improve day-to-day functioning in people who have Alzheimer's disease. Researchers are still investigating which modifications are most beneficial and how things like lighting, music and furniture placement might interact to affect behavior. A number of specific home modifications have been shown to be beneficial in reducing certain problematic behaviors in people with Alzheimer's:

- low levels of light during meals (this may improve eating habits);
- simply furnished spaces with minimal distracting clutter;
- consistent background noise, especially music of the person's choosing or simulated nature sounds;
- placing objects that cue memories in clear view, such as photographs, mementoes and familiar furniture;
- ensuring privacy and personalizing space - especially if the afflicted person spends time or resides in a healthcare facility outside of the home.

Accessible Housing Opportunities

A three bedroom accessible home is for rent at 64 McKee St., East Hartford, CT. Contact (860)-870-5782 or email princeladsmom@aol.com. The goal is to rent to two adults with disabilities who could share the rent and still have a Personal Assistant there if needed, or to a family with a parent or child with a disability.

There is also a fully ramped accessible home for sale in Greater Waterbury (near the Wolcott Town Line) with two bedrooms and an in-law apartment. For additional information contact Fercodini Properties – Lynn Lombardi (203) 879-4973.

Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped

The Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped is a network library of the **National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped**, Library of Congress. The Library provides free mail loan of recorded and Braille books and magazines and necessary playback equipment to eligible state residents unable to read conventional print because of a visual or physical disability.

Recorded materials are provided by the National Library Service. The **NLS Catalog** lists these titles. Additional materials of interest to Connecticut readers are recorded by the **Connecticut Volunteer Services for the Blind and Physically Handicapped**. Catalogs of these recordings are available from the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.

To contact the library, telephone: 860-566-2151 or 1-800-842-4516. The library is open 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Monday – Friday at 198 West Street, Rocky Hill, CT 06067.

CRIS Radio



The Connecticut Radio Information System (CRIS) is Connecticut's talking newsstand for people who are visually impaired or otherwise print-handicapped

CRIS Radio will be receiving the Disability Advocacy Collaborative Bulletin and they may be able to broadcast it. To get on board with CRIS and to receive their program schedule contact them at 184 Windsor Ave., Suite C, Windsor, CT 06095, 1-860-527-8000, Fax: 860-727-9581, E-mail: crisradio@snet.net

CRIS also has studios in the following locations:

Danbury 198 Main Street, (Ives Manor), 203-778-2000	Trumbull Trumbull High School, Strobel Rd., 203-268-2758	West Haven U. of New Haven, 300 Orange Ave., 203-937-5900	Norwich Three Rivers Comm. Technical College, Mohegan Campus, 860-204-0165
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Are you on CONNPace or State Assistance but can't get your prescription filled?

HERE IS HELP!

Question: What should I do if I am on Medicaid, HUSKY, CONNPACE or SAGA but the pharmacy won't fill my prescription?

Answer: (provided by Attorney Sheldon Toubman from the New Haven Legal Assistance Association):

- : Do three things right away:
- (1) Ask the pharmacist why he or she won't fill the prescription
 - (2) If the pharmacist says that the State or HMO won't pay for your particular drug or the drug is not covered by your insurance, ask the pharmacist for a printout from the computer screen that shows the reason for the denial of payment for your drug, and take the printout with you.
 - (3) Call Statewide Legal Services (1-800-453-3320) with the computer printout in hand; ask for help fighting the denial

Additional steps if you are on HUSKY A (Medicaid):

- (4) If the pharmacist says the drug is not on the HMO's drug list, but you need the drug right away, ask the pharmacist to **call your doctor** to ask if it is urgently needed for you.
- (5) If the doctor is called and says yes, the HMO wants the pharmacist to call the HMO to ask for approval for a temporary supply of up to 30 days, while your doctor sends the paperwork to get prior authorization from the HMO for you to continue to get the drug. **Ask the pharmacist to make that call to the HMO.**
- (6) If the doctor is not available, the HMO also wants the pharmacist to call the HMO to ask for approval for a temporary supply. **Ask him/her to make that call.**

Questions? Please call Sheldon Toubman at New Haven Legal Assistance Association: (203)946-4811 or stoubman@nhlegal.org.