



## **Connecticut Disability Advocacy Collaborative Bulletin**

“Enhancing the effectiveness of disability activism by organizing and empowering individuals, families, groups, and organizations!”

**Empowerment! Opportunity! Justice!**

**November - December, 2008**

To include information in next month’s Bulletin please contact us!

Website: <http://www.ct-dac.org/contactus.htm>

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## 2<sup>nd</sup> Disability Convention and Expo a Success!

On a wet September Saturday over 800 individuals with disabilities, family members, and friends attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> Disability Convention and Expo, held at the CT Expo Center in Hartford. Nine candidates for state and national office were present to share their positions on disability issues and offered tips on how to communicate most effectively with elected officials. We were pleased to have Barbara Ebenstein, Esq. from New York join us as a surrogate for Barack Obama, and Chris Healy, Republican State Chairman, to represent John McCain.

In addition to political speeches, eighty exhibitors were present, sharing the latest in goods and services available to children and adults with disabilities. Advocacy groups representing a wide cross section of the disability world offered advocacy tips and signed up new members.

The Collaborative would like to extend a special thanks to the State Independent Living Council, the Council on Developmental Disabilities, the Department of Developmental Services, the Connect-Ability Project, OP&A, CDHI, BESB, the Brain Injury Association of Connecticut, CT KASA (Kids as Self Advocates), the Arc of Connecticut, and all other volunteers and supporters.

We plan to this again in 2010 when the next gubernatorial election will take place. Stay tuned.

## President-Elect Obama's Position on Selected Disability Issues

<b>ADA Restoration Act</b>	Supported
<b>Appointment of federal judges</b>	Will appoint judges who respect laws designed to protect people with disabilities. States that "when you look at what makes a great Supreme Court justice, it's not just the particular issue and how they rule, but it's their conception of the Court. And part of the role of the Court is that it is going to protect people who may be vulnerable in the political process, the outsider, the minority, those who are vulnerable, those who don't have a lot of clout."
<b>Autism</b>	<p>Will appoint a federal Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) coordinator to oversee all federal ASD efforts, fully fund the Combating Autism Act and federal autism research initiatives, and support special needs education for children with ASD.</p> <p>States, in regard to universal screening, that he believes "we should screen all infants, and also that we must set a national goal to provide re-screening for all two-year-olds, the age at which some conditions, including ASD, begin to appear."</p>

<b>Community Choice Act</b>	Supports (co-sponsor)
<b>Community integration</b>	<p>Will assure the rights affirmed in <i>Olmstead v. L.C.</i></p> <p>Will amend the Medicare Homebound Rule.</p>
<b>Community Living Assistance, Services and Supports (CLASS) Act</b>	Supports (co-sponsor)
<b>Early Intervention</b>	<p>Will invest \$10 billion per year in early intervention and developmental programs for children zero thru five.</p> <p>Will expand Early Head Start, Early Learning Challenge Grants, and other early intervention programs.</p> <p>Supports universal screening. In addition to prenatal screening, wants to provide re-screening for all two-year-olds.</p>
<b>Employment</b>	<p>Supports increased funding for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs to enforce anti-discrimination laws.</p> <p>Will increase executive branch hiring of workers with disabilities. Will reinstate Executive Order 13173 (Interagency Task Force on the Economic Development) to achieve its mandate of hiring an additional 100,000 federal employees with disabilities within five years.</p> <p>Will implement Section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act (prohibits discrimination and requires employers with federal contracts or subcontracts that exceed \$10,000 to take affirmative action to hire, retain and promote qualified individuals with disabilities). Will make changes for people with disabilities to more closely resemble Executive Order 11246 (affirmative action for people of color and women).</p> <p>Will provide private-sector employers with resources to accommodate employees with disabilities and encourage the private sector to use existing tax benefits to hire workers with disabilities.</p> <p>Will establish a National Commission on People with Disabilities,</p>

	<p>Employment and Social Security Commission.</p> <p>Will support small businesses owned by people with disabilities by amending the Small Business Act.</p> <p>Will expand the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA), encourage states to adopt paid leave, mandate a reasonable amount of paid sick leave and provide protections against caregiver discrimination.</p>
<p><b>Health Care</b></p>	<p>Stated goal: Affordable and high-quality universal coverage through a mix of private and expanded public insurance.</p> <p>Highlights of plan:  Require all children to have health insurance.</p> <p>Require employers to offer employee health benefits or contribute to the cost of the new public program.</p> <p>Create a new public plan.</p> <p>Expand Medicaid and SCHIP.</p> <p>Create the National Health Insurance Exchange through which small businesses and individuals without access to other public programs or employer-based coverage could enroll in the new public plan or in</p>

### **MFP Ready to Go!**

The State's Money Follow the Person program (MFP) is on the launch pad following two years of intensive planning. The Governor may announce the start up of the program this week (week of 11-17-08).

MFP is designed to revolutionize the way federal Medicaid money is spent in Connecticut, rebalancing expenditures so that individuals needing in-home care can receive that care in their own home rather than in a nursing facility, which has often been the "discharge plan". Here is a brief summary of MFP in bullet form:

- Connecticut has received a five year grant (\$24.2 million) to enable adults who are in a nursing facility – or in another, similar institutional environment - for at least six months to be eligible for services in the community up to the cost that would be incurred in a nursing facility placement; as an incentive, the state will receive reimbursement from the

federal government of 75% of the cost of in-home placement for the first year, substantially above the current 50% Medicaid rate.

- Existing waivers that will be expanded (even if there is a waiting list) to include people served under MFP:
  - Elder waiver
  - Physical Disability waiver (PCA)
  - ABI waiver
  - Individual and Family Support waiver (Dept of Developmental Services)
  - Comprehensive waiver (also Dept of Developmental Services)
- Approximately fifteen services will be available to qualified persons
- The cap on the Elder waiver and Physical Disability (PCA) waiver will be raised to \$150,000, and MFP will provide more comprehensive coverage for those at high level of need
- There is a new waiver under DMHAS that will address the needs of people with mental disabilities
- Persons to be served by MFP (700 over 5 years):
  - Elders – 265
  - Individuals with intellectual disabilities – 70
  - “ “ physical disability – 140
  - “ “ brain injury – 35
  - “ “ a mental disability – 140
  - Elders or individuals with physical disabilities at the highest level of need – 50
- individual assessments of institutional residents will determine the community based package that best meets their needs; persons transitioning under MFP during year 1 will be served under the most appropriate existing waiver in year 2 and thereafter; existing waivers that are near or at capacity now will be required to reserve slots for those migrating from the demonstration in year 2
- There are twenty three contractors under MFP, including five ILCs and 5 AAAs, (employing a total of twenty transition coordinators), CCCI, five housing coordinators, and a number of access agencies; each ILC and AAA will also get a part-time person to dedicated to assessment and transition of individualized not eligible for MFP (in a facility less than 6 months)
- The state General Assembly has required DSS to submit a plan to the legislature by 1/1/09 (for implementation on 7/1/09) to offer any individual needing long term care (either in a institution or “at risk”) the same menu of MFP service options as are available to those in a nursing facility more than six months. This service has sometimes been referred to as “MFP 2”.

- The legislature also created a "Long-Term Care Reinvestment Account" under MFP. Any new funds resulting from the enhanced federal match received by the state under MFP shall be deposited in the account to be used to further enhance community living options for elders and individuals with disabilities.

For more information on MFP contact Dawn Lambert, Project Director, at [dawn.lambert@ct.gov](mailto:dawn.lambert@ct.gov) or 860-424-4897.

## **New State General Assembly Leaders**

The new, 114-member House Democratic caucus has elected Rep. Christopher Donovan of Meriden as the House Speaker-elect and Rep. Denise Merrill of Storrs as the new majority leader. The 114 Democrats are the highest total in the House since 1975, when the Democrats controlled the chamber by 118 to 33 in the first year of the post-Watergate period.

On the Senate side, Donald Williams of Brooklyn will return as President Pro Tempore and Martin Looney of New Haven will return as the Majority Leader. With 24 members, the Democrats have a veto proof majority in the 36 member Senate.

## **Legislative Q&A**

Here are some tips re: obtaining legislative information from the General Assembly's web site ([www.cga.ct.gov](http://www.cga.ct.gov))

Who are my Representative and Senator and how do I contact them?

Click the House or Senate links (located on the left side of the home page or at the top of a secondary page), and click Find Your Legislator. Click the district number for your town and you will get to their individual web page, which contains contact information. If your town has more than one legislative district (more than one representative or senator) you will be directed to a map of your area to determine in which district you live.

How can I determine which Legislators are on a particular committee?

From the top of the page click Committees A-H & I-Z. From the list, click the appropriate committee, and then click Committee Membership.

Where can I get a list of all Legislators?

Click the House or Senate links (located on the left side of the home page or at the top of a secondary page). From the options, click Members. The alphabetical list includes district number, a link to email and website, political party, and a link to bills introduced.

## **Raymond v. Rowland Case Settled**

In January 2003, legal services organizations filed an ADA case in federal court against the Department of Social Services (DSS) and then Governor John Rowland. At the time the suit was filed, DSS was in the process of closing over a third of its offices and laying off the staff who

worked in those offices. The suit claimed inadequate accommodations were available to people with disabilities to allow them to successfully navigate the eligibility processes for DSS programs and obtain benefits for which they were eligible.

A settlement in the case has been reached. This settlement is designed to help low income clients with disabling conditions navigate their way through the DSS benefits systems. Although some structural changes are being made to district offices to improve access to people with physical disabilities, many of the terms of the agreement are designed to assist individuals with hidden disabilities. The improvements mandated by *Raymond v. Rowland* include:

- Designated, trained staff to assist clients with disabilities
- Improved telephone and document management systems
- Modified service needs assessments for employment services
- Computer tracking of clients' disabling conditions and reasonable accommodations
- ADA reasonable accommodation and grievance procedures

For more information on the settlement contact Greater Hartford Legal Aid, Inc. at 999 Asylum Ave., 3rd Fl - Hartford, CT 06105-2465 - Tel: 860-541-5000 - TTY: 860-541-5069 - email: [ghla@ghla.org](mailto:ghla@ghla.org)

### **Barzach “Dreamer into Doers” Award Winner**

Connecticut resident Amy Barzach has been named the winner in the “Dreamers into Doers” Awards competition, sponsored by Martha Stewart. The founder and director emeritus of Boundless Playgrounds, Barzach beat out 2200 candidates for the award, which was made during a three day stay in New York last week.

Amy's idea, conceived after the death of her son Jonathan, was to build playgrounds that were accessible to all, and make them appealing to children with and without disabilities. Over 100 Boundless Playgrounds have been built throughout the United States and Canada.

The Collaborative sends its congratulations to Amy for this well deserved recognition.

### **Save the Date!**

A presentation on “Siblings of Children/Teens with ASD” will be held on January 29 from 7:00 – 8:30 pm at the Autism Spectrum Resource Center, 101 North Plains Industrial Road, Wallingford. There is no fee to attend but limited space is available – call the ASRC to reserve a spot now: 203-265-7717. Julie Wolf, Ph.D. will be the presenter, and topics to be covered include: characteristics of the sibling relationship; the experience of living with a sib with ASD; psychological adjustment of typically developing sibs; sibling issues in adulthood; siblings' knowledge/understanding of ASD; and meeting the needs of typically developing sibs.

## **Update on Walgreens Employment Opportunities**

Walgreens has reported that they have exceeded their goal of having 1/3 of their workforce being persons with disabilities at their new Distribution Center in Windsor. To assist people with disabilities in their quest for employment at Walgreens, an advisory has been written to help individuals better understand the Distribution Center's hiring process. To obtain a copy of the advisory, contact Leslie Waite at the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services at 860-424-5622 or [leslie.waite@ct.gov](mailto:leslie.waite@ct.gov).

ADA paratransit services will be available to the Distribution Center for those paratransit-eligible individuals who can be picked up within ¾ mile of any regular bus route that goes between Windsor and downtown Hartford. This service will become available once there is regular bus service to Walgreens, which was scheduled to begin Nov. 3. Any ADA paratransit-eligible individual who has been scheduled to start at Walgreens and needs transportation should notify the Greater Hartford Transit District's ADA Coordinator, Pat Williams (860-247-5329 x3011) as soon as possible. If you have any questions, contact Leslie Waite, BRS Walgreens Project Manager, at the above listed number.

## **Other Employment Opportunities**

The Connecticut Association for Human Services has a job opening for an Outreach Advocate. The position will work to increase enrollment in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-SNAP (formerly Food Stamps) by conducting community-based outreach and education. Information provided through outreach will include SNAP income guidelines, application information, pre-screening for benefit eligibility, and other activities designed to raise awareness of the SNAP among eligible non-participants. Interested parties should contact Tracy Helin at [thelin@cahs.org](mailto:thelin@cahs.org).

The State Independent Living Council (SILC) is looking for an Executive Director to lead the Council's work with disability organizations and people with disabilities. Opportunities for growth exist in the areas of increasing membership; creating new revenue streams; and expanding the network of Centers. The SILC is seeking a committed, dynamic professional who possesses the leadership characteristics to help chart the course of independent living as well as foster continued growth and development for the SILC's directors and staff. The prospective Executive Director will have excellent communication and writing skills as well as administrative and organizational skills. Go to [www.ctsilc.org](http://www.ctsilc.org) (under categories—click Executive Director Position) for full details, or contact Debbie Melaragno, Administrative Assistant, Connecticut State Independent Living Council, 151 New Park Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106, 860-523-0126, [deb.ctsilc@gmail.com](mailto:deb.ctsilc@gmail.com).

## **“Expanding Horizons: Technology Benefits All Students”**

The “New” 11th Annual Conference on Educating Students with Disabilities in General Education Classrooms marks the merger of the Annual Assistive Technology and Expanding Horizons conferences. It will be held on Tuesday, December 9, 2008 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

at the Crowne Plaza Hotel and Conference Center in Cromwell. The keynote address will be given by LeDerick R. Horne of Horne & Associates, LLC, from Somerset, New Jersey. Inspired by the supports that helped him succeed beyond the boundaries of his severe learning disability, Horne has devoted himself to relating the message of self-advocacy. Mr. Horne is a disability advocate, a poet, and Board Chair of Project Eye-to-Eye, a national mentoring program for students with learning disabilities. Using stories from his own personal experience, he has become a nationally recognized speaker, reaching thousands of students, teachers, and education services providers.

For more information contact the State Education Resource Center at 25 Industrial Park Road Middletown, CT 06457-1520 or go to their web site: [www.ctserc.org](http://www.ctserc.org).

### **Statewide Parent Leadership Training Opportunity**

Is your child struggling? Do you feel alone? Don't know where to turn? Do you not feel heard by your child's provider? Families United is offering a unique parent leadership training series, called Agents of Transformation, for parents/caregivers of children with mental health challenges. There are six modules in the parent training series and there are parent stipends available for each of the modules.

For more information contact Lorna or Sherry at Families United, 860-343-7330 or [email@familiesunited.org](mailto:email@familiesunited.org).

### **Spend Down Survey Underway**

Earlier this year the North Central Regional Mental Health Board (NCRMHB) conducted a survey of forty six people who were on Medicaid with a spend-down (the spend-down which must be met to receive Medicaid coverage from the Department of Social Services). The respondents described spend-down as an unwieldy, difficult obstacle for those in recovery from mental illness and/or substance abuse, people with physical disabilities and older people. They indicated that it was hard to obtain the help they needed from the DSS – resulting in an overwhelmingly difficult time in understanding, accessing, and receiving the services they needed.

NCRMHB is now working with NAMI-CT, the Connecticut Legal Rights Project, and other provider organizations to reach out to additional individuals with disabilities who are affected by spend down. Because it was found through the previous effort that many individuals respond better when the survey is conducted through a face-to-face interview, they are prepared to do so at this time. The survey may be completed anonymously, but NCRMHB is also looking for individuals who are willing to share their story. They hope to complete 200 more surveys by December 12, 2008.

To participate in the survey, contact Marcia DuFore, NCRMHB CAC Support Specialist, at 860-966-8166, or [mdufore@ncrmhb.org](mailto:mdufore@ncrmhb.org).

**“Get Connected - Stay Connected”  
Third Annual Statewide Mental Health and Aging Conference**

The Connecticut Association on Area Agencies on Aging are sponsoring a day-long conference on aging and mental disabilities on Wednesday, December 3 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford. The keynote presentation - “The Double Stigma of Mental Health and Aging” - will be delivered by Dr. Rajesh Tampi, MD, Yale-New Haven Hospital.

For more information, contact the Agency on Aging of South Central CT - Attention: Jessica Sirella - 1 Long Wharf Drive, New Haven CT 06511 or Maureen C. McIntyre, Assistant Director, North Central Area Agency on Aging at (860) 724-6443 x 283 or [maureen.mcintyre@ncaaact.org](mailto:maureen.mcintyre@ncaaact.org).

**Opening on DD Council**

The Council on Developmental Disabilities has an opening for a parent who has a child with a disability. If you are interested in joining the Council, contact Ed Preneta at (860)-418-6157. You can also go to the Council’s website at <http://ct.gov/ctcdd> and download an application, fill it out and send it in for consideration.

**Mental Health Consultants Identified**

The Children’s Trust Fund has announced that a list of early childhood mental health consultants for children 0-5 yrs is available statewide at no charge. To obtain the list contact Tracy Morales-Gabelmann, LCSW, Primary Prevention Services Coordinator, Children's Trust Fund, 410 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106, (Phone) 860-418-8779, or email: [tracy.morales-gabelmann@ct.gov](mailto:tracy.morales-gabelmann@ct.gov)

**P&A to Continue Bill Tracking Service**

Beth Leslie, Legislative Liaison for the Office of Protection and Advocacy, has announced she will continue her weekly bill tracking update during the upcoming state legislation session. She will also send out e-mail notices regarding proposed legislation, budget proposals, public hearings and other legislative business affecting people with disabilities. To protect your privacy, Beth sends an e-mail to herself, and puts individual names in the "bc" or "blind copy" section.

Beth is eager to add anybody with an interest in state legislation to her distribution list. Feel free to contact her at [beth.leslie@po.state.ct.us](mailto:beth.leslie@po.state.ct.us).

## **Governor Announces New Energy Audit Program**

Governor M. Jodi Rell has announced a new program to help Connecticut residents save money by making their heating systems and homes more energy efficient. The new program, which is set to begin November 15, starts with the cleaning, tuning and testing of a customer's furnace. The efficiency of the heating system is then audited. The program is an \$800 value but costs the consumer just \$75. Once the audit is complete, the customer will be referred to the existing Home Energy Solutions program, which performs a whole-house energy audit as well as some weatherization measures.

The program will also work in the reverse – oil-heated households that work with the Home Energy Solutions program will be referred to a local licensed heating, piping and cooling contractor to have their systems cleaned, tuned and tested. In either case, the customer will only be asked to pay \$75 for both services. The state and the ratepayer-funded Home Energy Solutions program will pick up the rest of the costs.

To qualify for the program you will need to schedule whole-house audit services with your electric utility. You may also contact your licensed heating system service company to schedule cleaning, tuning and testing services between November 15 and June 30, 2009. You will pay \$75 for the first audit service and the rest will be paid for through the program.

## **Another Gubernatorial Announcement**

The Governor has also announced that Social Security disability claims will be put on a "fast track" for individuals with cancer and other rare diseases as part of the federal agency's Compassionate Allowances initiative. The expedited claims are for individuals with 50 diseases listed by the Social Security Administration. The list was developed as a result of public hearings from medical experts. More illnesses and conditions will be added.

Applications can be processed at any one of 17 Social Security field offices around the state. To find the nearest office, visit [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov) or call 800-772-1213. Social Security field offices are also listed in the blue pages of telephone books in the U.S. government section.

## **ITN Proposals Sought**

The Aging Services Division of the Department of Social Services has announced a third request for proposals for municipalities or non-profit agencies to plan and develop financially self-sustaining community-based regional transportation for elders. Last year five communities were awarded grants which will soon result in new transportation options for seniors regardless of destination or the time of day. From these efforts, Connecticut is pleased to be home to two ITNAmerica® affiliates in North Central and Central Connecticut. The new Request for Proposals can be found at: <http://www.das.state.ct.us/rfpdoc/DSS10/bids/crts.pdf>.

## **SSA Looking For Input at Public Hearing**

The Social Security Administration is considering ways to quickly identify diseases and other serious medical conditions that obviously meet the definition of disability under the Social Security Act (Act) and can be identified with minimal objective medical information. They are calling this method "Compassionate Allowances." In December 2007 and April 2008, two Compassionate Allowance public hearings were held. These hearings concerned rare diseases and cancers, respectively. The purpose of this third hearing is to obtain your views about the advisability and possible methods of identifying and implementing compassionate allowances for children and adults with brain injuries. They plan to address other medical conditions at subsequent hearings.

The hearing will be held on November 18 between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST), in Ft. Myer, VA. You may watch the proceedings live via webcast beginning at 9 a.m. (EST). You may access the webcast on the Social Security Administration Web page at <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/compassionateallowances/hearings1108.htm>.

If interested in giving input you may submit up to two pages of written comments about the compassionate allowances initiative with respect to children and adults with brain injuries, as well as topics covered at the hearing, by: (1) an e-mail addressed to [compassionate.allowances@ssa.gov](mailto:compassionate.allowances@ssa.gov) or (2) snail mail to Diane Braunstein or Nancy Schoenberg, Office of Compassionate Allowances and Disability Outreach, ODP, ORDP, Social Security Administration, 4671 Annex, 6401 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21235-6401.

## **Transportation Focus Group to Meet in Trumbull**

A Human Services Transportation Focus Group will be held on Tuesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10 am at the Kennedy Center, located at 39 Lindeman Drive in Trumbull. The purpose of the Focus Group is to discuss issues pertaining to the transportation needs of persons with disabilities in south western Connecticut

The Regional Planning Agencies representing the Bridgeport/Stamford urbanized areas have been working with transit providers, municipal social service organizations, senior centers and other providers of specialized transportation services to the elderly and persons with disabilities on the update to the 2007 Locally Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan. The intent of this planning effort is to identify gaps in services and ascertain the unmet transportation needs of targeted populations including seniors, persons with disabilities, and lower income individuals. The December 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting will focus solely on the needs of persons with disabilities.

If you wish to participate via phone, a teleconferencing option will be available to anyone wishing to call in. Individuals who are interested in participating in the Focus Group, or who have questions, may contact: Craig Lader - Senior Regional Planner - South Western Regional Planning Agency - Phone: (203) 316-5190 Ext. 17 - [lader@swrpa.org](mailto:lader@swrpa.org).

## Other Upcoming Events

Wednesday, November 19, 9:00 am – 12:15 pm, “The Call to Community” with a keynote address by Dr. Michael O’Laughlin - the event will focus on the life, works and words of Jean Vanier and Henri Nouwen and will be held at the St. Thomas Seminary, Alumni Lounge, 467 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield.

Thursday, November 20, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm – The 2008 Carlson Forum: Assessing CT’s Property Tax Relief Programs for Older Adults and Persons with Disabilities – Rm. 1-D - Legislative Office Building, Hartford – sponsored by the state Commission on Aging and the Coalition on Aging. Register Today: CT Commission on Aging office at 860-240-5200 or email [coa@cga.ct.gov](mailto:coa@cga.ct.gov).

Saturday, November 21 and Sunday, November 22, 9:00 am - 3:00pm - “Skills for Life,” Essential Skills Post Secondary Transition Workshop at the Simsbury Public Library, 725 Hopmeadow Street. Simsbury. Workshops will target the specific skills needed by students with learning disabilities to transition to adulthood, post secondary education and careers with confidence and ability. Learn more about resources, supports and services – the fee is \$239 for both days for a student and a parent. Checks should be made to NLD Transition Institute and mailed to LD Transition Institute, 542 Hopmeadow Street #126, Simsbury, CT 06070. For more information email [LDTransitions@aol.com](mailto:LDTransitions@aol.com).

Wednesdays, December 10 and December 17 - Essentials of Legislative Leadership Training for people with mental disabilities sponsored by the Keep the Promise (KTP) Coalition. Upon request, the trainings are also available to 15 or more persons in a condensed version. Contact Cheri Bragg, KTP Coordinator, at 860-882-0236 or 1-800-215-3021 if you are interested in holding a training at your office or clubhouse, or go to [www.ctkeepthepromise.org/eventsandtraining.htm](http://www.ctkeepthepromise.org/eventsandtraining.htm) .

Saturday, December 6, 7:30 pm, Annual Holiday Concert benefiting the Regina DeMarasse Memorial Fund for Music & the Arts – at SBM Charitable Foundation Auditorium, Manchester Community College, 60 Bidwell Street, Manchester. The event is presented by the MCC Institute on Disability and Community Inclusion. Tickets are \$15 general admission, \$10 for students/seniors and people with disabilities. For more information call 860-512-2789 or visit [www.timmaynard.com](http://www.timmaynard.com).

## Disability Advocacy Collaborative Regional Contacts

To get involved with one of the Collaborative’s Regional Advocacy Networks, contact the following:

Northwest – contact: Bill Knight ([lackerman01@snet.net](mailto:lackerman01@snet.net)) – meetings are held at the Litchfield Arc

Southwest –contact: Carol Kana ([pkana@snet.net](mailto:pkana@snet.net)) – meetings are held at the Norwalk Police Department

Danbury Area – contact Dale Brown ([dbrown@wecahr.org](mailto:dbrown@wecahr.org)) – meetings are held at Ability Beyond Disability in Bethel

North Central — contact: Candace Low ([clow@independenceunlimited.org](mailto:clow@independenceunlimited.org)) – meetings are held at 151 New Park Avenue in Hartford

Waterbury Area –contact: Mike Valuckas ([mike.valuckas@independencenorthwest.org](mailto:mike.valuckas@independencenorthwest.org)) – contact Mike for information about next meeting

Northeast Area – contact: Carolyn Newcombe ([cnewcombe@charter.net](mailto:cnewcombe@charter.net)) – meetings are held at the Mansfield Senior Center

Bridgeport Area – contact: Tony LaCava ([tlacava@drcfc.org](mailto:tlacava@drcfc.org)) – meetings are on the third Thursday of the month at various sites.

**For three years the Bulletin was supported by a grant that the Disability Advocacy Collaborative has received from the Connecticut Council on Developmental Disabilities. In addition, in-kind support is being provided by the UCONN Center on Disabilities, and Communitas, Inc. serves as the project's fiscal agent. To all three we extend our deep appreciation.**