

TEAM Act Would Re-Focus Funds to Support School Transitions and Integrated Employment

Earlier this month the TEAM Act legislation was re-introduced. There are three bills referred to as the "Transition toward Excellence, Achievement and Mobility Act (TEAM Act). This legislative package will focus on helping people with disabilities gain full-time employment in an integrated environment at a livable wage. The plan would also support long-term career development and community inclusion. The trio of bills would encourage employment, education and empowerment. To read more follow the link:

<http://thecpsd.org>
[\(The Collaboration to Promote Self-Determination\)](#)

Achieving a Better Life Experience

The Achieving a Better Life Experience or ABLE Act was re-introduced in both the House and Senate earlier this month. It would give people with disabilities access to savings accounts, allowing them choice and control, while protecting their Medicaid, SSI and other benefits. Savings accounts could be created accruing interest tax-free. The account could also fund a variety of essential expenses including medical and dental care, education, community based supports, employment training, assistive technology, housing and transportation. Upon introduction of the legislation, 59 original House and 16 original Senate co-sponsors have already signed on. This legislation is also backed by more than 50 local, state and national disability advocacy groups. For more information on the proposed legislation, follow the link:

<http://thecpsd.org>
[\(The Collaboration to Promote Self-Determination\)](#)

Regions Announced for Michigan's Integrated Care Proposal

Wayne and Macomb Counties have been chosen as two of the four regions to be involved in a pilot project to strengthen services and supports for people who are dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid. This pilot will be implemented by the Michigan Department of Community Health in conjunction with The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid.

This integrated care project is designed to improve access, quality and outcomes by more effectively aligning Medicare and Medicaid services and bridging the gap between physical health, long term care and behavioral health systems.

"MDCH's integrated project will support the work CLS has been doing over the last few years to align and integrate the services and supports it offers across systems for people with disabilities, older adults, veterans and the underserved, many of whom are dually eligible. We believe this will make it easier for people to navigate the system," said CEO/President of CLS Jim Dehem. "The new system, though, will not interrupt the way services are delivered to people supported by CLS. Integration will offer people more options to choose from but coverage will not lapse in any way. There will also be the choice to 'opt out' of the plan if people choose to do that as well," said Dehem.

The other two regions chosen are: the Upper Peninsula and a region in the southwest part of the state which includes Barry, Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph and Van Buren counties. The goal is to begin implementation in January 2014 with outreach, education and enrollment starting in October 2013.

Janey's Advice...



"I am glad to be a part of a group that is working on the statewide model for dual eligibility for Michigan," said Janey Vermeulen. Janey, who is currently training with CLS to become a Peer Mentor, has been invited to be a member of the Eligibility and Enrollment Work Group for the Integrated Care Demonstration Project. She is on the Outreach and Education committee. Part of her role is to give advice on how to educate the public once the project is finalized.

CLS is a private, non-profit, organization that provides supports and services to over 4,000 children and adults with developmental disabilities and mental illness in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb Counties. CLS also provides services to seniors and veterans. CLS is funded by The Detroit-Wayne Community Mental Health Agency and the Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority. The Long-Term Care Division is under contract with The United Way of Southeastern Michigan, Detroit Area Agency on Aging 1-A, Area on Aging 1-B, The Senior Alliance Area Agency on Aging 1-C, The Information Center and the City of Allen Park. The CLS Annual Report can be found on the website (www.comlivserv.com) under "About Us."



Wayne County



Ben Cain

Training Video Rock Star!

Ben Cain, who has been with CLS for many years, is featured in a new training series. These videos were

developed for Essential Learning, a nationally recognized distance learning company, offering continuing education to behavioral health, mental health, addiction treatment, community health, developmental disability, community action and child welfare organizations. "I'm proud that I could be in the video and help people," said Ben.

The two training modules focus on the basics of Self-Determination for Employers and Employees. The modules are designed to help people understand the principles of Self-Determination and then apply practical tools for implementation.



Support at Home Gets Rave Reviews

CBS Detroit is reporting the video *Support at Home* had a fantastic rating! According to Matt Eisenberg, National Sales for CBS, "That's almost unheard of for a show that is not regularly scheduled programming. Usually 60 Minutes pulls a 5 or 6 rating and CLS' *Support at Home* rates a solid 4. Congratulations!"

We would like to thank everyone who watched the program either on television, You Tube or on the CLS website. The 30-minute educational video focuses on seniors, veterans and people with physical, intellectual and developmental disabilities and how they are being supported at home. It also features exclusive interviews with Michigan Governor Rick Snyder, U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow, Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson and Michigan Department of Community Health Director Jim Haveman.

If you didn't get a chance to see it, please follow the links below. Also below is a link to a recent *Detroit News* article written by *Support at Home*'s Executive Producer Tom Watkins.

The show can be seen on You Tube and on the CLS website:
http://youtu.be/_yowUtlfKZ0 or www.comlivserv.com.

Detroit News THINK section: <http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20130124/OPINION01/301240332/1008>

COMING TO CLS!!

Wayne County's "Health on Wheels!"

This mobile health clinic will be in the CLS Wayne parking lot

Wednesday, March 13th

12 pm—4 pm



Free health screenings for:

Asthma, Body Mass Index,
Blood Pressure, Stroke,
Cholesterol, HIV/Aids

Free Dental check-ups

(Services may vary by location)

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! We will have our first batch of winners (5) picked the first week in APRIL!!!!

Oakland County



“Dazzling Dave”

Dazzling Dave Keeps on Smiling!

By David Dewitt Taylor

I am known as *Dazzling Dave* by my fans and I love every part of my life! I used to live with my parents but I was able to move out a few years ago. I hired my own support coordinator who works for me. I have my own radio show, “Motor City Music Matters” on WXOU 88.3 every Friday from 9-11 a.m.

A few years ago, my friends and I took a video production class which led to us starting a public access TV show called *Community Corner*. Once a month we invite guests to share personal stories all relating to different topics about people with and without disabilities. We have taped 64 shows. You can check it out on

www.communitycornerfeatures.info. Just recently we started taping the show at a public access station in Lake Orion (ONTV) so it will air on both ONTV and CMN-TV.

I have been supported by Community Living Services of Oakland County for several years. I have spread the message of Self-Determination at many conferences and am learning to be a Peer Mentor. I attended a workshop on business building and with help from the agency and my team, formed my D.J. business called *Dazzle Do Time*. My business uses the first letter of each of my names. Sort of neat huh? I love being a D.J. and my business is growing. I do some gigs without pay as I love playing music and giving back. Other gigs I do get paid and I save this income so I can purchase more equipment.

During the holidays last year, I wanted to give back to Friends of CLS for all they’ve done for me. I am proud to say that with proceeds from my D.J. business, I was able to make a donation to Friends of CLS! Doing that made me feel really good! Keep on dreaming!

Join local business owners as they sell their goods and services in honor of **March as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month.**

It will be a showcase of entrepreneurial spirit including: talent, refreshments, and a photo booth.

When you arrive at the Community Center, look for the “Banquet Entrance.” It is closest to the event.

**March 6, 2013
1-3 PM
Troy Community Center
3179 Livernois, Troy, MI 48083**

Are you looking for medical equipment i.e wheelchairs, crutches, canes, transfer benches, etc?

Look no further...FREE equipment is available and you can use it, in some cases, for as long as needed!

Please see the link below then scroll down to the county the person lives in and you’ll see all of the resources that are available.

<http://michiganloan closets.us/>

Long Term Care

Long Term Care Services for Livonia Family

Vera Plumaj is a busy woman. She runs her own business with her husband, is a Realtor and has three children. So when the question of who will take care of her mother-in-law was raised, she wasn't sure what to do. "My husband's mother has dementia and was being cared for by family, but when it became too much, a decision was made to place her in a nursing home. When I saw her in



Tereze with grandson Johnny.

there I knew we had to get her out and within three days, we brought her home to our house," said Vera.

After her 78-year-old mother-in-law came to live with her, Vera wasn't sure where to turn for help. They faced many difficulties with access and eligibility for Medicaid, primarily because the system was so difficult to navigate. It took help from the CLS Long Term Care division to secure temporary support through its United Way grant and then helped the family navigate the Medicaid eligibility system and secure MI Choice Waiver services. "I talked with Katie Olver and she set things in motion right away. There was a lot of paperwork and many obstacles but eventually we got approved for Medicaid and the waiver services and it has been working out very well," said Vera.

The MI Choice Waiver funds home and community based supports. This Waiver is for eligible adults who qualify for Medicaid and require consistent care so they can avoid going to a nursing home. Eligibility for Medicaid is approved through The Department of Human Services. Once the approval process begins, those who also meet the MI Choice Waiver requirements can begin working with a Waiver Agency to be approved for services within their home.

"I think my mother-in-law has adjusted very well and I am grateful to CLS for all of their help," said Vera.

If you need assistance with a loved one, please call the CLS LTC division at 734-722-4697.



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.



BEWARE! New Medicare Scam!

The Senior Alliance AAA 1-C is reporting calls are being placed to seniors throughout the nation from someone claiming to be a Medicare service rep. **This is a scam!** Medicare will **never** call a beneficiary!

The caller identifies themselves as a service representative from Medicare calling from Washington or Pennsylvania. Seniors are being told Medicare has a new "Preferred Medicare Card" that is to be used with the original Medicare card. The caller is requesting bank routing and account numbers to be used for this new card. Some seniors have been promised gifts. The caller claims this new Preferred Medicare Card is part of the ACA changes or OBAMA Care. Please let anyone you know not to give out their information!

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.