

Equality for People with Disabilities

The 24th anniversary of the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act was July 26th. This was the first comprehensive declaration of equality for people with disabilities. The ADA is a civil rights law that prohibits discrimination based on disability in the areas of employment, public transportation, public accommodations and telecommunications.

“The ADA still has a few holes and room for change,” said CLS Peer Mentor, Andre Robinson. “But it’s the legislation we, as people with disabilities, live our lives by. That’s how we remain active citizens in the United States.”

The Olmstead Act, which is an amendment to the ADA, celebrated its 15th anniversary this past June. This is a ruling that requires states to eliminate segregation of people with disabilities and ensure that they receive services in the most integrated setting appropriate to their needs.

In the words of then president George H. Bush, upon signing the act, “Let the shameful walls of exclusion finally come tumbling down.” His message was meant to assure quality of opportunity, full participation, independent living and economic self-sufficiency for people with disabilities. Visit www.adaanniversary.org for more information on the Americans with Disabilities Act and ways to celebrate the anniversary.

Employment Stats Decline for People with Disabilities

The University of New Hampshire’s Institute on Disability and the Kessler Foundation just released information on people with disabilities and how many of them are employed. The results are not good. Americans with disabilities are way behind when it comes to paid employment and economic growth. There are bright spots however and creative people are finding ways to combat the problem. To read the full report, click the link, Institute on Disability.

15 Year Anniversary

I am Olmstead™



Wayne County’s Mental Health System Re-bids its System of Care

At the beginning of the month, the Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority held a bidder’s conference which was the first opportunity for interested organizations who want to become Managers of Comprehensive Provider Networks, to review the bidding process. The DWMHA is now re-bidding its system of care which is required by the Michigan Department of Community Health. The current system has several MCPNs, one of which is Community Living Services.

“This is an exciting time to be in healthcare,” said Tom Watkins, DWMHA President and CEO. “Without quality mental health, we don’t have quality health. The dedicated DWMHA Board of Directors and staff look forward to receiving quality proposals to build on past improvements to our system of care that enhance consumer focused outcomes and maximize the taxpayer’s investment to our fellow citizen.”

The deadline for all MCPN proposals is Friday, August 15th.

Supreme Court Rules Against Unions in Illinois

Home Health Care workers are of infinite importance to the self-determination movement. Read about recent ruling [here](#):

CLS is a private, non-profit organization that provides supports and services to over 4,000 children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb Counties. CLS also provides services to seniors and those with chronic illness. CLS is funded by the Detroit-Wayne Mental Health Authority, the Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority and Macomb County Community Mental Health. 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.”**



National and Local News

Brother and Sister Duo “Living the Dream!”



The old saying goes, “You never know until you try.” Siblings Theresa and David Podbielski never knew they were great painters until they got out of their comfort zone and took an art class offered in their community. “Friends of CLS paid for a membership to take an art class for fun,” said sister Sandy. “They ended up enjoying it so much and creating works of art that they want to sell. Who knew they would make a business out of that!” They also use the paintings to create holiday greeting cards. The duo is looking for different places to sell their art such as Facebook and craft fairs and is looking to set up a table in the Business Expo area during the annual Evening with Friends fundraiser on Thursday, September 18th. “My best painting is Santa Claus,” said David. “I sold it for \$25!”

Before joining CLS four years ago, David and Theresa were mostly homebound and their health was deteriorating. They didn’t attend any activities and spent much of their time in their rooms watching TV. They were very eager to become more independent and make their own decisions. Today, they are so busy they are rarely home! They also love to throw holiday parties with their family, especially Halloween where they have a costume contest! “We do stay home once in a while when we get tired!” said Theresa. “We like to watch horror movies together and David loves Star Trek and Star Wars!” They have also learned how to clean their apartment, take their medications on schedule and be financially responsible. Of course, they get on each other’s nerves like any roommates would, but for the most part, they are too busy to argue!

David and Theresa are both loving life and don’t ever want to go back in time. Theresa said, “I like being able to go places and have friends and do what I choose to do.” David said, “I will never let my disability control my life. I won’t let it take over. I am enjoying my life right now.”

Supports Intensity Scale Information

CLS is always striving to improve quality of care for the people we support. A new, state mandated standardized assessment tool called *Supports Intensity Scale* (SIS) is being implemented soon. It measures an individual’s support needs in six areas of life activity; home living, community living, lifelong learning, employment, health and safety as well as social activity. Each person will participate in an interview as part of their person-centered planning process to help identify and describe the types and intensity of the supports a person needs.

The SIS was developed by the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) over a five-year period in response to changes in how society views and relates to people with disabilities. The information gathered will help the person supported, their Supports Coordinator, the family or guardian and the state help establish life goals, provide a guideline for evaluation of progress and determine which supports are needed or desired.

A group of CLS professionals will be trained and then begin conducting interviews with people (over the age of 18) who are supported by CLS, within a three-year time frame.

Free Summer Meals for Children

Michigan’s No Kid Hungry program is working hard this summer feeding hungry school-aged children. This free program which is funded by the state of Michigan is called “Meet Up and Eat Up” and was created to make sure children in low income areas continue to receive nutritious meals during school recess. There are several “Pathways to Potential” school locations set up that serve as feeding centers during the summer months. For the location nearest you, please check: <http://www.mcgi.state.mi.us/schoolnutrition> or call 2-1-1 to get current information.



Oakland County News



Do You Need a Ride to a Medicaid Health Appointment?

In Michigan people eligible for Medicaid get their health care either through a managed care plan or through fee-for-service.

If you get Medicaid through fee-for-service and need a ride to a Medicaid health appointment (like a doctor or dentist), contact the person on [this list](#) who works for your county's Department of Human Services (DHS). If you get Medicaid through a managed care plan and need a ride to a Medicaid health appointment, contact your managed care plan.

OCCMHA Implements New

OCCMHA Implements New "Service Wait List" Policy



Effective Tuesday, July 15, 2014, all persons requesting out-patient services from Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority (OCCMHA) that require the use of General Fund resources, and whose service needs meet the service priority guidelines established by the organization's clinical staff, will be placed on a Service Wait List. However, this will only happen after an individual has been assessed, their immediate crisis needs have been met, and the situation is stabilized by Common Ground. People with developmental disabilities who are not on Medicaid and not on the Healthy Michigan Plan, will not be added to the wait list.

"The State recently removed approximately \$20 million of General Fund dollars from OCCMHA's budget. This decision was made with the understanding that many people we had been serving through the General Fund would now be insured under Healthy Michigan," explains OCCMHA Executive Director Willie Brooks. "Unfortunately, federal restrictions regarding the use of Healthy Michigan funding has created an \$8 million General Fund gap that we are addressing, in part, through the "Service Wait List" policy."

Assistance provided to individuals by OCCMHA's service network is funded primarily through Medicaid, as well as the state's General Fund, Healthy Michigan, and local dollars from Oakland County. In 2014, OCCMHA received a \$14 million Medicaid rate reduction. This reduction is the result of the Michigan Department of Community Health's (MDCH) actions to establish a uniformed Medicaid state funding average for all ten community mental health regions.

"The patience and support of the community is greatly appreciated as we navigate through this new system delivery model," adds Brooks. "I want to assure the people we serve, our service providers, and our community partners that we are doing our best to work within our financial means to ensure that people who turn to us for help continue to receive the quality assistance that they deserve."

For more information on the Service Wait List and two Public Forums that have been scheduled to address people's concerns, go to <http://www.comlivserv.com/OaklandCty-WWD.html>.

Let Your Voice Be Heard!

OCCMHA wants to hear from you! Please complete the organization's "Get Your Voice Heard" survey and help provide valuable information that will be used to develop its 2015 work plan.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/GetYourVoiceHeard>

11th Annual
WALK OF THE MINDS

SEPTEMBER 27, 2014
HERITAGE PARK 46202 HERITAGE PARK RD, CANTON, MI,
CHECK-IN: 10 A.M. START TIME: 12 P.M.

COMMUNITY MEMBERS COME TOGETHER TO SUPPORT MENTAL ILLNESS AWARENESS

TO JOIN TEAM "OAKLAND COUNTY HOPE GIVERS," PLEASE VISIT:
<http://namiwalks.nami.org/hopegivers>

OR CONTACT JESSICA GIBSON AT
GIBSONJ@OCCMHA.ORG

INSPIRE HOPE. EMPOWER PEOPLE. AND STRENGTHEN COMMUNITIES.

WWW.OCCMHA.ORG (248) 858-1210

Annual Report Now Available

The Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority's Annual report is now available on-line. Please follow the link below.

<http://www.occmha.org/images/pressreleases/Reports/OCCMHA%202012%202013%20Annual%20Report%20Web%20Version.pdf>

Friends of CLS / Long Term Care



Friends Fundraiser is 8 Weeks Away!

The biggest fundraiser of the year, *Evening with Friends*, is only a few months away! Planning is underway, videos are being shot and invitations will be in the mail soon. If you'd like to get started on supporting the event, there are several ways. You can purchase an ad in our Program Booklet, purchase a ticket for \$50, buy a table for \$500 or make a donation so a person with disabilities can attend the event which is **Thursday, September 18th** from 5-9pm at the Laurel Manor Banquet Center in Livonia. For more information, please e-mail Tiffany Devon at tdevon@comlivserv.com.



Michigan Seniors EXPO
Making Life Better For Seniors & Caregivers

2014

Michigan Seniors and Caregivers Expo

Planning is underway for the **2014 Michigan Seniors & Caregivers Expos**. All shows are filling up so register today at www.MichiganSeniorsExpo.com. This is a great opportunity to network with hundreds of Seniors and Caregivers at every event. Below is the fall schedule.

2014 Metro Detroit Fall Schedule

- Livonia - September 13th
- Troy - September 27th
- Detroit - October 20th