

THE HAPPENING

Summer 2015

COMMUNITY
Living SERVICES
OAKLAND COUNTY DIVISION
CITIZENS' ADVISORY
COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

SAM MORRIS – I MADE IT!!!



Sam Morris is a young man that greets everyone with a smile. He currently lives in West Bloomfield with his family who is very supportive and has encouraged Sam to live a fulfilling life within his community. Sam enjoys being plugged into his community's social scene. He enjoys

bowling, going to the movies, eating out with friends, and attending the Jewish Community Center Social Club.

While in high school, Sam gave back to his community by volunteering at the local library and at Henry Ford Hospital in West Bloomfield. After high school Sam went on to West Bloomfield Transition Center until June of 2014. Sam then participated in the "Project Search" employment initiative and was able to return to a familiar place - Henry Ford Hospital. Sam worked on various rotations inside of Henry Ford Hospital in West Bloomfield. Working with Project Search gave Sam some great work experience and made an important contribution to Sam's resume.

Sam hires his own support staff and self-directs his services via a Self-Determination model of support. He experiences Autism, an intellectual disability, and other challenges including a condition called synesthesia that could cause some people to shy away from working in their community, but not Sam! Sam began to work hard on becoming a great interviewer and marketing himself and his skills, and this new skill paid off tremendously when he went on his first job interview at the Farber Soul Center. Following his interview, Sam proudly made this announcement on his Facebook page:

"Good afternoon everyone. I'm feeling warm hugged because I was offered to start the position May 5th after I just got done with the interview yesterday at Soul Center Mini. Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of this week will be my last days of Project SEARCH to prepare myself with the transition from public education into the real community. I'll be making mezuzahs and other things at Soul Center for people to buy as a gift. I'm feeling a lot more happy everyday now filled with extra hugs to provide a blanket of warm hearts wrapped around my soul spirit. That is a picture of me in my interview clothes yesterday. It's official now! Love you all!"



Sam has been working now at the Soul Center for over three months. When asked about his work there, Sam indicated how important it is to him to be working in the community. At the Soul Center, Sam does fine arts and upkeep of the studio. He also indicates that he helps sell things made there, and will be on the computer processing orders as their volume of sales increases. Sam indicates he is excited to be learning more customer service skills, and he states, "Being with the customers is one of my favorite parts!" Sam indicates that he feels comfortable that he has found a warm and friendly place to work and "being in the community is so wonderful!"

Congratulations Sam on your new job and adventure! Thank you for sharing your story.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

As is your desire, so is your will.

As is your will, so is your deed.

*As is your deed,
so is your destiny.*

—The Upanishads

COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES IN THE MAJORITY FOR LONG-TERM MEDICAID EXPENDITURES



On June 30, 2015 the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid released a report titled “*Medicaid Expenditures for Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) in FY 2013: Home and Community Based Services were a Majority of LTSS Spending*”. Medicaid is the largest payer of long-term services and supports (LTSS), which includes home and community-based services (HCBS), such as personal care, Section 1915(c) waiver services, and rehabilitative services, as well as institutional services such as nursing homes, intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities (ICF/IID) and mental health facilities.

The total federal and state Medicaid LTSS spending in FY 2013 was \$146 billion (which represents 34 percent of all Medicaid spending), including \$75 billion for HCBS and \$71 billion for institutional LTSS. The percentage of total LTSS spent on home and community-based services (HCBS) increased from 49.3 percent in FY 2012 to 51.3 percent in FY 2013. For the first time in FY 2013 more than half of the long-term services and supports expenditures were spent on home and community-based services (HCBS). HCBS spending increased 7.6 percent and institutional services decreased 0.7 percent. FY 2013 was the third consecutive year in which HCBS spending increased and institutional spending decreased.

The percentage of LTSS expenditures for HCBS varies across population groups. HCBS accounted for 72 percent of spending in programs targeting people with developmental disabilities, 40 percent of spending in programs targeting older people or people with physical disabilities, and 36 percent of spending in programs targeting people with serious mental illness or serious emotional disturbance. HCBS spending for all three populations increased relative to institutional services in FY 2013, but the historical differences in HCBS spending across the groups remained constant.

If you are interested in reading the report in its entirety the report includes/summarizes LTSS expenditure data and describes national trends regarding: HCBS portion of Medicaid LTSS expenditures; the rate of increase in Medicaid LTSS expenditures; the percentage of total Medicaid spending used for LTSS; variation by state; variation by targeted population group; the use of managed care for LTSS; and changes in federal authorities used to deliver LTSS over time. You will find the report at: <http://www.medicare.gov/medicaid-chip-program-information/by-topics/long-term-services-and-supports/downloads/ltss-expenditures-fy2013.pdf>.

TRANSPORTATION UPDATE: WHERE WE’VE GONE AND WHAT WE’VE LEARNED.

On May 4, 2015 the National Council on Disability, an independent federal agency that advises the President, Congress and other federal agencies on disability policy, released a report titled “Transportation Update: where We’ve Gone and What We’ve Learned.” The report outlines the progress made in the last decade and details the persistent barriers that still remain.



The report specifically addresses surface transportation for people with disabilities in the last ten years. The findings address accessibility-related progress as well as problems associated with fixed route and deviation bus and rail transit; paratransit; public right of way; enforcement of existing laws; and other issues for all modes of public transit. The report also addresses concerns with rural, coordinated, and privately funded transportation, and commercial driver license rules. Plus, the report makes recommendations to Congress and the Executive Branch designed to improve federal collaborative efforts and to close gaps in transportation access in ways which benefit people with disabilities and families.

If you are interested in checking out this report go to: <http://www.ncd.gov/publications/2015/05042015/>

STATEWIDE INPUT NEEDED BEFORE REFORMING MICHIGAN'S SPECIAL EDUCATION SYSTEM



On June 10, 2015 a press release was issued indicating that Lt. Gov. Brian Calley is seeking statewide input from parents on their experiences within Michigan's special education system.

The release went on to say that in December Calley testified in opposition to proposed special education changes, saying there needs to be more statewide community input. Since then, Calley has been visiting communities across the state to listen to parents and teachers in town hall meetings discuss their experiences and the obstacles within the system, in hopes of building proposals to improve special education.

Now, to reach more parents, Calley has launched an online survey to ensure that all families can share their experiences within the state's special education system. The eight-question survey, gives respondents the opportunity to comment on the special education system including their experiences related to Individualized Education Plans and communication with schools and the state. The survey also seeks to gain a better understanding of the prevalence of the use of restraint and seclusion practices in schools.

Calley intends to leave the survey open through the end of August. The results from the survey will be shared with school districts and the Michigan Department of Education and will also be used to develop proposals to improve outcomes for some of Michigan's most vulnerable residents. If you are interested in completing the survey go to: <https://sombgovweb.state.mi.us/GovRelations/MichiganEducation.aspx>

11TH ANNUAL WALK-A-MILE IN MY SHOES RALLY

The 11th Annual Walk a Mile in My Shoes Rally on May 6th was a success with approximately 3,000 people in attendance that made the trip to Lansing to raise awareness of mental health issues. People from the counties throughout the state carried their flag and delivered their inspirational message to the lawmakers. Lavita Law gave Oakland County's inspiration message this year and Cole Gluklick carried Oakland County's flag.



Lavita Law at the Capitol stairs



Elizabeth Martin from Michigan Partners for Freedom and Lorrain Johnson from CLS/OC were part of the walk-a-mile crowd to raise awareness.

REFERENCES TO "CRIPPLED CHILDREN" REMOVED FROM MICHIGAN LAW



On June 25, 2015, Lt. Governor Brian Calley signed bills removing all references to "crippled children" from state law. House Bills 4203-4205 and Senate Bills 112-114 were all amended to remove the term, which has been replaced with the phrase "children or youth with special health care needs." The bills are now Public Acts 89-94 of 2015. The bills passed unanimously and were signed by Calley due to Governor Snyder being out of state.

Calley said that state residents with special needs "deserve to be treated with respect and dignity everywhere, including within state law." "This is another step toward making sure individuals with mental health or disabilities have opportunities to succeed."

APSE'S INAUGURAL REGIONAL INSTITUTE: FROM WORKSHOPS TO WORKPLACES-ACHIEVING THE GOAL OF EMPLOYMENT FIRST



APSE, the Association of People Supporting Employment First is a national non-profit organization with the exclusive focus on integrated employment and career advancement opportunities for individuals with disabilities. Founded in 1988, they are a growing membership organization with chapters in 39 states and the District of Columbia with members from all 50 states, Puerto Rico and several foreign countries.

APSE's goals are to promote employment opportunities for all people, through local, regional, and national networks; Help establish and expand equitable employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities; Advocate with federal, state, and local legislators for legislation promoting integrated employment; Work with federal, state, and local policy makers to increase funding for integrated employment; Raise awareness within the business community as to the benefits of hiring individuals with disabilities; Advocate for social change to help those with severe disabilities achieve a lifestyle that approximates that of individuals without disabilities.



On November 16th-18th 2015 the APSE Regional Institute will be holding a two-day program at the MGM Grand Detroit. The two-day program is designed to help disability services providers transition to a supported employment business model with the goal of serving people in competitive, integrated jobs in their communities. The Institute will address such topics as funding and supported employment, communicating change with people served and their families, business strategic planning, staff development, legacy real estate planning, employer outreach and job development, informed choice and employment, and wrap-around services.

Sessions and information provided will be geared towards all of those who are a part of organization transformation. The targeted audience includes: People with disabilities who receive services and their family members, Direct service workers, mid to Upper level Management, CEO's & CFO's, and Board Members.

For more information and to register for the two-day program follow the link: <http://www.apse.org/conferences-training/2015conference/regionalinstitute/>.

CONGRATULATIONS YASH!



Yash (right) with his support staff and friend, Kush Dawar

Congratulation goes out to Yash Mittal for being selected to participate in the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council's Disability Employment Awareness Campaign: Take Your Legislator to Work! During the campaign, employees with disabilities invite their legislator to job shadow them at work so the legislator gets to see first-hand the value of community-integrated employment for people with disabilities. During the visit Yash can have his legislator job shadow him and tour his workplace, introduce the legislator to his employer and co-workers, and discuss why his community-integrated job is important to him.

In 2013 Yash obtained paid employment at Baptist Manor, a Retirement Community in Farmington Hills. He started out working 10-15 hours a week and worked his way up to 35 hours a week. Yash works Monday through Friday as an Assistant to the Activities Director. His job duties include planning activities for residents such as trivia, bingo calling, faith based groups, and reading. He also provides assistance with food service in the kitchen. The staff at Baptist Manor report being very impressed with Yash's enthusiasm, skills and reliability.

ADA ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION AT EASTERN MARKET IN DETROIT

July 21, 2015 was a day of celebration at Eastern Market in Detroit, a day to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act. There was a visit from the ADA Legacy Tour bus, the Justin Dart puppet, plus there were workshops, entertainment, and resources from disability advocacy groups. One of the activities was a beautiful floor mural painting created by folks who utilize wheelchairs.



OAKLAND
UNIVERSITY

Center for Autism

Outreach Services

OUCARES Evening Enrichment Series

Planning a More Secure Future

Presented by Thomas Kendziorski, Esq.
Executive Director
at the Arc of Oakland County



Thursday, September 17, 2015
6:00-8:00pm

Lake Michigan room at the Oakland Center
Oakland University

During this presentation we will discuss:

- Issues related to aging parents
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Medicare and Medicaid benefits
- Guardianship and power of attorney
- The mental health system
- Financial and estate planning

This event is designed to inform parents, caregivers & individuals who have autism about the options involved in planning for a loved one's futures. Oakland University invites anyone interested to attend this event.

Space is limited so please RSVP by emailing
oucares@oakland.edu or call 248-370-2424

JOIN THE CELEBRATION ADA 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION IN LANSING.



AMERICANS 25 YEARS • 1990-2015
WITH DISABILITIES ACT
celebrate • educate • advocate

Disability Network/Michigan, the Statewide Independent Living Council, Michigan Disability Rights Coalition, and the Office of State ADA Compliance will host a Statewide ADA Celebration.

This event will take place on *September 17, 2015 on the Capitol lawn in Lansing from 11am- 2pm*. The celebration will feature vendors, speakers, performances and a diverse group of participants. They are anticipating over 500 supporters to join from across Michigan's 83 counties.

For more information about this event go to
<http://www.dnmichigan.org/ada-25/>

BEST TRAINING FOR CHAMPION VIP'S

Thursday, September 3, 2015
1:30 - 3:30 p.m.
Easter Seals Collaborative Solutions
1685 Baldwin Rd. Ste. A
Pontiac, MI 48340

BEST Champions who represent OCCMHA and its service provider agencies are recruiting VIP's to partner with them to end stigma toward and promote respect for persons who have a mental illness, developmental disability, or substance use disorder.

Register today for this important training opportunity and become a valuable **BEST** team member.

RSVP to gerbis@occmha.org
For questions or more information call Sherry at (248) 858-9160.

AS A CHAMPION VIP
YOU'LL BE ASKED TO:

Help create a
stigma-free
culture

Be a role
model

Heighten
awareness
about
stigma

Communicate
with network
BEST
Champions

Begin **E**nding **S**tigma **T**oday
Creating a stigma-free culture.



SPEECHCRAFT CLASS

Sign up for this great eight week class and increase your confidence speaking in front of a group or in public. Learn in a small group setting how to effectively "tell your story" and "wow" the audience with your speeches while having fun! The classes take place every Tuesday 1:30-3:30 pm at the Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority office at 2111 Executive Hills Blvd. in Auburn Hills.



Upcoming Sessions:

- September 15, 2015 – November 3, 2015.

This class is open to persons receiving services, family members, CMH Staff, and provider staff. To register for a class please go to www.occmha.org or contact Beth Jacobs at 248-858-1795.

"Moving Forward" Peer Support Specialist/ Peer Mentor Training

Training is now available for persons who are interested in learning more about the peer support specialist/peer mentor role. The "Moving Forward" Peer Support Specialist/Peer Mentor Training is a 17 hour educational program for individuals who are receiving services and want to support others in achieving their personal goals. It's open to people with developmental disabilities and mental illness. Training topics include Role of a Peer Support Specialist, Using Your Story as a Tool, Listening and Communication, Gentle Teaching and others. The training is one day a week for five weeks. You must attend all five training days. The training will be held at MORC, 1270 Doris Road in Auburn Hills.

Upcoming Sessions:

Fall Session: September 14, 21, 28, October 5, 12.
9am-12:30pm.

This training opportunity is sponsored by Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority. To register for the training go to www.occmha.org or contact Beth Jacobs at 248-858-1795

THE NEXT CAC MEETING Monday, October 26, 2015

2:00-4:00pm
at the CLS/OC office
642 E. Nine Mile
in Ferndale
Everyone is Welcome!



COMMUNITY
Living SERVICES

Oakland County Division

642 E. Nine Mile Road
Ferndale, MI 48220
Phone: 248-547-2668
Fax: 248-547-3052

DOWN WITH THE ARTS

Art Show & Entrepreneur Expo

Artwork
will be
available for
purchase!

August **23** 2015

6:00-9:00PM

North Oakland YMCA

3378 E. Walton Blvd. in Auburn Hills

Free Refreshments & Entertainment!

FEATURED ARTISTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Noofi is a barrier breaking, Iraqi-American artist with a unique, abstract, bold and colorful style. Noofi will be sending 10% of his art earnings to a special school for children with Down Syndrome in Iraq.



Emily has both an event and infant/child photography business, as well as a baking business. She is additionally an advocate and speaker for self-determination and disability rights.



David is the proud owner of Dazzle Do Time Music and Karaoke. He is also a host on both Oakland University's radio and ONTV's Community Corner, as well as a disability rights advocate/speaker.