

Striking the "R" word from Michigan Laws

New legislation just introduced into the House and Senate has advocates jumping for joy as a 15 bill legislative package would remove the words "mentally retarded" and "mental retardation" from all Michigan laws and replace them with People First language.

Peer Mentor and Advocate Ray Schuholz, who has attended numerous conferences across the country promoting "People First" language, is quite pleased. "This is a wonderful day for people with disabilities who have been fighting for the removal of these hurtful labels," said Peer Mentor and advocate Ray Schuholz. "We want society to look at our "ability" rather than our "disability". I am pleased that Michigan is moving forward in this very positive direction."

Michigan will now join all but six states who have removed the words from their law books.



Healthy Michigan Plan Coming Soon

Quality health care will soon be affordable and accessible to thousands of Michigan residents who are living below the federal poverty level and are not eligible for Medicaid. The Healthy Michigan Plan, which was approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, is being offered through the Michigan Department of Community Health. This health care program extends health care benefits to approximately 322,000 low income residents.

The eligibility for the program requires that you are:

- Between 19 to 64 years old
- Not currently eligible for Medicaid
- Not in or qualified for Medicare
- Not pregnant when applying for the Michigan Healthy Plan
- Have income up to 133% of the Federal Poverty level
- A Michigan resident

The program is expected to kick off in early April. For more information visit:

www.michigan.gov/healthymichiganplan

or call the Beneficiary Help Line at 1-800-642-3195.

Community Forums Planned to Improve the System



The Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority will soon begin its System of Care's re-bidding process as mandated by the Michigan Department of Community Health. These "Community Forums" are being offered so those who receive services from the Mental Health system can provide feedback on how well it is working and/or where they believe improvements in the system need to be made. All forums will be held on Thursdays.

March 6th 5p-8p

Soul Harvest Ministries
16300 Woodward
Highland Park, MI 48203

March 20th 5p-8p

WCCC—Taylor Campus
21000 Northline Rd
Taylor, MI 48180

April 3rd 5p-8p

Redford Community Center
12121 Hemingway
Redford, MI 48239

March 13th 5p-8p

Westland Public Library
6123 Central City Parkway
Westland, MI 48185

March 27th 5p-8p

Northwest Activity Center
18100 Myers Rd.
Detroit, MI 48235

April 10th 5p-8p

WCCC-Conner Campus
5901 Conner
Detroit, MI 48213

CLS is a private, non-profit organization that provides supports and services to over 4,000 children and adults with physical, 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/State

Budget Recommendations Released as Governor Snyder “Fuels Michigan’s Future”

In February, Governor Rick Snyder presented the state’s FY 2014-2105 Executive Budget recommendations. Some of the highlights include a plan to expand the Homestead Property Tax credit to provide \$103 million in tax relief for low and middle income taxpayers. This infusion of cash into the program is expected to impact 1.3 million Michigan residents. A few other recommendations related to behavioral health and developmental disability services include:

- \$72 million to implement the Healthy Michigan Plan (Medicaid expansion)
- \$15 million to support the just released Mental Health Commission’s recommendations
- \$122 million to the Michigan Health Savings Fund (used to offset future Medicaid expenditures)



The next step is the Appropriations Subcommittees will begin reviewing the recommendations. To read the Governor’s full report, visit:

http://michigan.gov/documents/budget/Budget_Presentation_2.5.14_446654_7.pdf?20140206092601

ABLE Act Petition Gains Speed as Advocates are Confident the Bill Will be Passed in 2014

The momentum continues as the Achieving a Better Life Experience or ABLE Act gains votes in the House and Senate. Right now, a petition launched by National Down Syndrome Society Board member and Pennsylvania advocate Sara Wolff, has over 230,000 signatures. In order to be valid, the petition must have a total of 67,646 signatures. As of last count, the bill had 326 co-sponsors in the House and 62 in the Senate. Many advocates are confident this bill will be passed this year.

The ABLE Act will 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.

If you would like to sign onto the petition, see the link:

<http://www.change.org/petitions/u-s-house-of-representatives-pass-the-able-act>

Bill Introduced in Senate on Seclusion and Restraint Prevention

National legislation has been introduced that will provide federal protections for students by prohibiting abusive seclusion and restraint use in schools. The Keeping All Students Safe Act was introduced by Senators Tom Harkin (D-Iowa) and Chris Murphy (D-Conn) a few weeks ago.

The legislation was introduced after a report was released by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) indicating that parents were not notified that their children were restrained or secluded by the school and when they *did* find out, it was very difficult for them to put an end to the techniques implemented by the school. The GAO report reviewed 10 states.

Currently in Michigan as of January 2014, the Michigan School Discipline Task Force is revising the state’s Department of Education Model Code of Student Conduct. Task Force members will publish a report in April based on their findings. The group’s consensus so far is “to encourage school districts to reserve suspensions and expulsions only for those infractions required by law and to recommend proactive steps of positive behavior supports before articulating the school community’s consequences for disruptive behavior.” The revised version of the MDE Model Code of Student Conduct can be found at: <http://everyvoicecountsmi.org/>

Wayne County



Value of a Job Coach is Priceless

We all have our fears in life; spiders, heights or perhaps public speaking. Michael Pilotto, who has been working at Chuck E. Cheese in Canton for five years, had a fear of Chuck E. Cheese, the dancing mouse! But he has overcome that fear and improved in other areas of his job thanks to the efforts of his Job Coach.

“He used to hide when he saw the mouse costume come out while he was at work,” said Supports Coordinator Pam Bourdganis. “With the assistance of his Job Coach, he *now puts* on the costume and becomes Chuck E. Cheese! It’s part of his work responsibilities!”

About a year ago, Michael was getting distracted while on the job. “I believe there was a breakdown in communication between Michael and some of the employees,” said Beth Ann Pilotto, Michael’s mother. “We had a meeting with his Supports Coordinator and she suggested a Job Coach who worked closely with the restaurant manager to ensure Michael had what he needed to be successful on the job.”

Sarah Lentine, Chuck E. Cheese manager said she is pleased with the results. “Now that communication has improved, Michael understands what is expected of him and he goes above and beyond what we ask.” Job duties for Michael include maintaining the game room and eating area and performing as Chuck E. Cheese. He has been voted “Co-worker of the Year,” three out of the five years he has been employed!

Michael also volunteers at the Heartland Rehab Facility in Canton. “It’s so important to us and to him that he is out in the community, volunteering and meeting new people. He feels like he’s achieving something and giving back to the community and that’s what makes him happy.”

Tigers Open Season in Wake of Transition

By Scott Decker



The sun is shining, the birds are chirping, the skies are blue and the voice of the turtle can be heard again. That can only mean one thing: baseball season is back!!

After falling short of their ultimate goal of a World Series championship, the Detroit Tigers are back. It was an offseason of transition as manager Jim Leyland resigned and turned over the duties to Brad Ausmus who begins his first ever season as a major league manager. As for the player personnel, lots of changes were made. Gone via free agency are Jhonny Peralta, Joaquin Benoit, Ramon Santiago, Omar Infante, and Brayan Pena. Also, among the subtractions from last year’s roster, which came as a surprise to some fans are Doug Fister and Prince Fielder. Fister was traded to the Washington Nationals in exchange for SS Steve Lombardozzi, and Fielder was traded to the Texas Rangers in exchange for 2B Ian Kinsler.



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Community Participation Event

Opportunity is Knocking...

**Make money *Give back *Get involved*

Tuesday, April 8, 2014

12 pm—4 pm

**Doubletree by Hilton Hotel
Detroit/Dearborn**

5801 Southfield Expressway
(on the border of Detroit and Dearborn)

Detroit, MI

***employment *volunteer**
***community connections**

Contact Tiffany Devon at tdevon@comlivserv.com or 734-722-7185 for more information.

To register online— www.comlivserv.com/cpe2014.html

COMMUNITY
Living
SERVICES
Your Life, Your Way

**Open the door to new possibilities for
employment and community connections!**

Oakland County

Oakland County Resident Celebrates Silver Anniversary!



"Jimmy is solid. He is just one of the guys and we appreciate his commitment to our restaurant," said Manager Renato Sarti, talking about James Shaw, Oakland County resident, who has been employed at the Sign of the Beefcarver restaurant in Royal Oak for 25 years.

"I like my job and my co-workers," said James. "Working makes me happy, I get a paycheck and I pay my bills."



"Jimmy does a good job for us. He's helpful, extremely dependable and resourceful, even when the weather is bad he finds a way to make it to work. He takes the bus, walks or rides his bike. I don't have to worry about him not showing up for his shift," said Renato.

James enjoys working in the kitchen, preparing food and making sure it is clean and organized and that the servers have what they need to service their customers. "I have a lot of friends here at my job."

When he's not working six days a week, James enjoys living on his own in an apartment which, of course, is close to work. He also volunteers in the Butterfly House at the Detroit Zoo. One of the most memorable times in his life was when he got to go on a cruise with friends. He said he had a wonderful time and is now saving his money so he can

TIGERS cont. from page 3

Kinsler is expected to bring more speed and add a new element to the Tigers' running game as far as stealing bases are concerned, but don't expect him to hit a lot of home runs because he's not built as a power hitter. The Tigers also added free agent pitchers Joba Chamberlain and closer Joe Nathan, as well as a utility outfielder in Rajai Davis. Nathan and Chamberlain will try and shore up a depleted bullpen, as well as give the Tigers some confidence in their pitching staff in the late innings. Davis was added to give the Tigers another speedy player on the base-paths as well as a good hitter in their batting order.

Expectations are still relatively high for the Tigers this season. They still seem to be the team to beat in the American League Central division, and still have a huge core of their team remaining in such players like Max Scherzer, Justin Verlander, Miguel Cabrera, Tori Hunter, and Victor Martinez. Players such as Alex Avila, Andy Dirks, and Austin Jackson are looking to bounce back from rough years respectively. All in all, we can only hope for a productive year, and a return to prominence for the Detroit Tigers. Opening Day is March 31 against the Kansas City Royals. First pitch is slated for 1:05PM.

Applauding Ability, Advancement, and Advocacy

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 21, 2014
 1-3 PM
 Troy Community Center
 3179 Livernois, Troy, MI 48083**

WITH HOST: CHARLIE LANGTON
 FROM FOX 2 NEWS AND WWJ

Event Sponsors:

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. 18, 2014**. We would like to start getting nominations for the video awards ceremony **MUCH** earlier this year. 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 for the nomination form. You can certainly nominate someone **NOW!** Instead of waiting until July!



Long Term Care/Friends of CLS



Friends Money Helps Entrepreneurs

Richard and Jamie are brothers and have been living together for a few years.

They are leasing their home and use the tools of self-determination to make decisions in their lives. They have individual budgets and both are employed and have their own small businesses. Recently, they were assisted by Friends of CLS to purchase laptops to help them with paying their bills and running their own small businesses.

Jamie has a janitorial business and is always looking for more clients and Richard has a small business painting birdhouses and decorative items for the home. They both say they are very grateful to Friends of CLS for helping them with these purchases.



Food Assistance Program

If you or a loved one are 60 years or older or receive federal disability benefits and are having a hard time paying for food and medical expenses, help is on the way. According to the Center for Civil Justice, you may qualify for a medical expense deduction.

The Food Assistance Program (Bridge Card) allows people to report their medical expenses to the Department of Human Services in order to get more help buying food.

For more information:

- Call the Food and Nutrition Program Helpline at (800) 481-4989
- Visit foodstamphelp.org
- Visit www.Michigan.gov/dhs and click on Eligibility and Services and Food Assistance

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.



SAVE THE DATE!

The Walk a Mile in My Shoes Rally

10th Anniversary

Wednesday, May 14, 2014

1-3pm

Lansing State Capitol

*Always do your best. What you plant now,
you will harvest later.*

~ Og Mandino



Social Workers Matter!

March is Professional Social Worker Awareness Month and the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) has declared the 2014 theme, "All People Matter."

The Social Work profession has been in existence for 117 years with the first college course offered in 1898 at Columbia University in New York. Since then, the field has grown to more than 650,000 professionals in the U.S. and is projected to increase 25% by the year 2020, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Social workers around the world share the belief that all people deserve to live a life of dignity and respect. It is a profession of hope, compassion and advocacy. Thank you, to all of our Supports Coordinators at CLS who put in 110% every day to help people with disabilities achieve their dreams and live a life of independence and self-determination. All people matter! For more information on social work, visit www.socialworkers.org.