



Monday Update

MDDC Newsletter

September 2007

Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council/ (517) 334-6769

The State Children's Health Insurance Program

Health care is essential for a healthy society. As states across the nation are considering plans to increase access to health insurance for their citizens in 2007. Legislators at the Federal and State levels have the unpopular task of balancing appropriate health care for at risk citizens while keeping a check on the money appropriated to do so. After all we do have a finite amount of resources to pay for health care.

The State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), created by the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, enacted Title XXI of the Social Security Act and allocated about \$20 billion over five years to help states insure more children. That legislation is scheduled to expire September 30, 2007.

Special Interest Articles:

- SCHIP
- Election 2008
- 2007 Consumer Satisfaction Survey

Currently, the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) administered by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services makes funds available to states that have in place federally approved programs providing health insurance coverage to uninsured children. This program gives each state permission to offer health insurance for children, up to age 19, who are not already insured. Michigan's SCHIP is called MiChild. In 2006 about 56,000 Michigan children were insured through MiChild.

On August 1, the U.S. House of Representatives voted to pass an expansion of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (S-CHIP), despite objections from Republicans and a veto threat from President Bush. The expansion would provide an extra \$47 billion to the program during the next five years. The funding would come from a cigarette tax, among other things – the federal cigarette tax would be raised 45 cents a pack, for a total of 84 cents. And the bill would provide coverage for more than four million uninsured children in low-income families.

On August 2, the Senate passed its own version of the bill's expansion, which adds 61 cents to the federal tax for a pack of cigarettes. This version, unlike the House version, would not make Medicare cuts to pay for the



Continued.... SCHIP

expanded coverage. The Senate's version would add \$35 billion during the next five years – it's considered to be a more modest proposal than the House's bill, and has drawn broad, bipartisan support.

The White House has indicated that both measures are far too expansive. The President has indicated he will veto the legislation.

Advocates know this is a critical time to have our voice heard on this issue, as it will affect the lives of millions of children across the country. We know that all children should have access to comprehensive, age-appropriate, quality health care.



Election 2008



Now is not too soon to begin thinking about the 2008 presidential election. Which candidate is best prepared to address the issues and concerns of persons with disabilities? Which candidate appears to best represents your issues?

The Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council hosted a legislative reception in February 2006 with the theme "Keep the Pressure On", that's what we want to do in the upcoming presidential election.

Be sure to make your vote count. Be knowledgeable of where the candidates stand on issues that are important to you.

The American Association of People With Disabilities (AAPD) has a website that provides information about the presidential candidates and their position on disability issues. Go to www.aapd.com/News/election/070429aapd.htm to learn more about the perspectives of the candidates.

The AAPD, is a national organization that works to increase the political and economic power of the more than 50 million children and adults living with disabilities in the United States. The categories of questions to the candidates include political leadership, employment for people with disabilities, healthcare, long-term services, housing, transportation, education, technology and telecommunications, voting, civil rights and international human rights.

2007 Consumer Satisfaction Survey

The DD Act of 2000 requires that the DD Council undergo a process of reporting on progress achieved through its advocacy, capacity building, and systemic changes activities. At the end of each grant year, state councils are required to examine their goals and "determine customer satisfaction with Council supported or conducted activities." The DD Council will be holding a Stakeholders Meeting for partner agencies in October to explore the effectiveness of these activities. Likewise, All RICCS and grantees are being sent consumer satisfaction surveys, which should be completed by persons with a disability, family members, or others who participated in activities or received services



October 1, 2006 through September 30, 2007. Each participant shall only complete

Michigan Disability Housing Work Group Minutes

July 12, 2007

1. Participating in the meeting were Sue Hart, Cheryl Trommeter, Jacqui Day, Vera Graham, Cyndy Viers, Linda Gray, Sandy Kiernan, Terry Cady, Chris Hodgson, Eric Rowland, Christen Hessell, Carl Fenner, and Zakiyyah Muhammad.
2. We spent time reviewing the results of the HAT Retreat held the last week of June. (See item pasted below). It consisted of representatives of the CIL network from various parts of the state. Housing issues discussed in that meeting included advocacy for:
 - a. The full funding of the Michigan Housing and Community Development Fund, the Michigan Housing Trust Fund, and a commitment by the trust fund to build everything according to universal design principles.
 - b. Effective implementation and enforcement of the Michigan Inclusive Home Design Act (PA 182).
 - c. Persons with disabilities transitioning out of institutions are given the same preference/priority for housing vouchers and other assistance as those persons who are homeless. We noted the goals of MFP (Money follows the Person) and the new letter from Secretary Jackson of HUD. In this regard, there is a desire for additional CILS to join HAT. There is an additional urgency to work more closely with the LTC groups regarding MFP. (Note the July 26 meeting at the Capital View). There is a plan for Sue and Cyndy to go together to meet with Gary Heidel of MSDHA to promote this item. See email content from Steve Gold and the link to the 7/9/07 Jackson letter at bottom of these minutes.
3. PA182 – there is a need to improve the enforcement of this law. Sue Hart and Paul Ecklund will continue to work on this effort.
4. Sue noted that planning for the Affordable Housing Conference for next year is underway. Sue is on the Community Economic Development Subcommittee. Results of this year’s conference rated Sue’s workshop as follows: 11 rated it as excellent, 10 as good, 2 as average. Please email Sue regarding any ideas you have for next year’s conference.
5. Nelson reports that he will meet with Lansing area advocates to develop a strategy to approach East Lansing regarding the “Virginia” project. This is a whole city block that is being razed and rebuilt, and we’d like to have them think affordability and accessibility.
6. Informed Communities and SW Michigan advocates are planning a workshop on home ownership this coming Friday, July 20 in Kalamazoo. Anyone interested in registering late should contact Melinda Haus-Johnson at 517-333-2477x316 or Nelson Grit, 616-855-4475.
7. DDC Work Group Plan. This is a compliance document. Comments can be made to Cheryl Trommeter between now and Friday, July 20. A copy of her work plan is attached to these minutes. (Sue may include a copy separately).
8. Our next meeting is scheduled for 1:00 PM on August 9.

Respectfully submitted: Nelson Grit



Continued.... MI Disability Housing Minutes**Steve Gold Communication, Link to Jackson Letter**

HUD and MFP, Another Handle - Information Bulletin #217 (7/07)

On July 9, 2007, Secretary Alphonso Jackson, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, wrote a "Dear Executive Director" letter to each public housing authority. In this letter, he traced the Money Follows the Person legislation, together with the New Freedom Initiative and Deficit Reduction Act of 2005. This letter follows, in part, his meeting in March 2007 with ADAPT members in Washington, D.C.

The Secretary has asked each Executive Director to submit to HUD by August 31, 2007 "details about how your agency [i.e., Public Housing Authorities] is implementing strategies to carry out the MFP Rebalancing Initiative."

You might remember that Secretary Jackson in October 2006 wrote another "Dear Executive Director" letter in which he "encouraged" them "to set local preferences for the use of Public Housing units, Housing Choice Vouchers, and Mainstream Vouchers to promote the MFP Rebalancing Initiative."

In the July 9, 2007 letter, he goes further. He recommends they "engage" those agencies that "play a critical role by advocating for integrated housing opportunities for seniors and people with disabilities," specifically mentioning P&A agencies and Independent Living Centers.

He asks each Public Housing Authority to determine how it can "accommodate people who may benefit from the MFP Rebalancing Initiative," including "establishing local preferences [for people coming out of institutions], ensuring access to waitlists [which could be opened for persons being deinstitutionalized], and modifying your application process."

Advocates should use the July 9, 2007 HUD letter to meet with your Executive Director (and Board of Directors) as soon as possible to review how both the July 9, 2007 and October 2006 suggestions have been implemented, if at all. Specifically:

1. Are the Mainstream Vouchers and Housing Choice Vouchers directed to persons with disabilities who are part of the MFP program?
2. Is there a local preference for both vouchers and for public housing units for persons leaving nursing homes and other institutions?
3. Can people in the MFP gain immediate access to waiting lists for vouchers and public housing units?



Monday Update

Continued.... MI Disability Housing Minutes

Given the July 9, 2007 letter, there should not be excuses that a Housing Authority cannot do, at least, these three. The Secretary stated that he and his Department "strongly supports greater housing choice for seniors and people with disabilities. By expanding the availability of accessible, affordable, integrated housing options, we can, collectively, make this endeavor successful."

The HUD July 9, 2007 letter can be found at <http://www.hud.gov/offices/fheo/disabilities/MFP-RebalancingMemo.PDF>

At that website, there is a name and address of a Deputy Assistant Secretary to whom the Executive Directors are to forward their submissions.

We hope and assume HUD would like to hear directly from you regarding both your successes and difficulties with your local Housing Authorities. So would we.

Steve Gold, The Disability Odyssey continues

Back issues of other Information Bulletins are available online at <http://www.stevegoldada.com> with a searchable Archive at this site divided into different subjects. To contact Steve Gold directly, write to stevegoldada@cs.com or call 215-627-7100.

HAT Retreat Results:

HOUSING

The top three, state-level housing issues that we will address and win:

1. The full funding of the Michigan Housing & Community Development Trust Fund and the commitment by the trust fund to build everything according to universal design principles.
2. Effective implementation and enforcement of the Michigan Inclusive Home Design Act (PA 182).
3. Persons with disabilities transitioning out of institutions are given the same preference/priority for housing vouchers and other assistance as those persons who are homeless.

Accessibility

The top three, state-level accessibility issues that we will address and win:

1. The spaces between buildings are given as much scrutiny for accessibility as the space going into and within buildings.



Continued.... MI Disability Housing Minutes

2. Write and get adopted a chapter on accessibility for the Common Disability Agenda (this would include a review of the sub issues and prioritization as was done for other CDA chapters).
3. The Michigan Civil Rights Commission will undertake a review of state level enforcement of and compliance with the Michigan persons with Disabilities Civil Rights Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Transit/Transportation

The top three, state-level transit/transportation issues that we will

address and win:

1. The Michigan gas tax will be raised at least \$0.09 over the next three years (this will include a full 10% of gas tax revenues going into the Comprehensive Transportation Fund and efficiency and effectiveness monitoring practices that will guide transit expenditures).
2. At least one regular transit user with a disability shall be a member of each state and local transit board.
3. Michigan is committed to building an effective, state-wide network of transportation options in addition to the state highway system for vehicles.

MI Housing Disability Workgroup Conference Call Notes

8/9/07

ATTENDEES: Jill Gerrie DN-M, Nelson Grit MDRC, Aimee Sterk MDRC, Sue Eby DCH, Cyndy Veers DAKC, Frank Lynn DAKC, Marjorie Sandoval CACIL, Linda Gray Detroit AAA, Sandy Kiernun DN ?, Gabrielle Frampton MPAS, Paul Ecklund DRC, Tracy Vincent DD Council, Cheryl Trommater DDC, Vera Graham DDC, Paul Palmer DDC, Sue Hart TDN, Carl Fenner TDN, Chris Hodgson TDN,

1. MEETING WITH MSHDA

REGARDING MFP ON 8/14/07:

MSDHA meeting with Gary Heidel and Sally Harrison is scheduled for Tues, August 14 at 1 pm. A pre-meeting conference call is scheduled for our representatives that will be meeting with MSHDA on Monday August 13 at 9am (if this time works well with Roanne). Our representatives will meet in Lansing before the meeting to finalize our plan and support each other. Our single issue is: Persons (with Disabilities?) transitioning from

nursing facilities are to be given equal preference/priority (as persons who are homeless.) What is MSHDA's strategic plan to accomplish this end? We are meeting to discuss HUD's letters from Alphonso Jackson and we will work to keep MSHDA on this topic only. Ideas/comments addressed at this meeting:

- How can we help MSHDA save face statistically on the campaign to end homelessness and help those in transition also?
- How can we help their statistics
- Should those in transition be counted separately?
- Would targeted funding groups be helpful? (CMH funded consumers and LTC funded consumers?)
- Nursing facilities are expensive, the State is trying to rebalance by the NFT initiative, Single Point of Entry pilot sites



Monday Update

Continued.... Conference Call Notes

- (two in the most populated areas of MI -- Detroit Area and Grand Rapids). In order for these systems to work effectively, housing placement is crucial.
- Suggest that MSHDA be flexible on its definition of homelessness. (Do we even want to go there concerning homelessness definition?)
- What is MSHDA's definition of homelessness?
- What is MSDHA's priority in homelessness placement?
- How many people were transitioned 06-07?
- How many people are waiting to be transitioned due to lack of or inadequate housing?
- What is the projected number of transitioned state wide for 2008?
- Are people getting on list for vouchers for equal preference?(Will MSHDA give preferences for those using MFP?) Sue will send the link to SAMSA to the group to read consumer perspectives on homelessness:

http://www.samhsa.gov/Matrix/matrix_homelessness.aspx

2. **The Committee narrowed down our representatives** to 6-7 that may include:

- RoAnne Cheney or Amy Sterk from Michigan Disability Rights Coalition
- Scott Heinzman from Michigan ADAPT
- Margery Sandoval from CACIL
- Linda Gray, SE Michigan Long Term

Care Connections

- Sue Hart from Disability Network Flint, Housing
- Cyndy Viars from Disability Advocates of Kent County, LTC
- Jacqui Day from DD/Council and CACIL
- Possibly one representative from Michigan Protection and Advocacy.

3. **We will discuss this at the conference call on Monday, 8/13/07.**

So, we will wait to see if 9:00 am on Monday 8/13/07 for the conference call will work with Roanne. The phone number for the conference call will be the same: 1-866-316-1519 and the moderator code # is 74271568.

Roanne will decide who she thinks will best represent our mission and priorities and who should attend. We need to keep the number of people down so as not to overwhelm them. I know that we are all very passionate about this issue. Let's keep our eyes on the prize: MORE HOUSING FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES TRANSITIONING OUT OF NURSING HOMES!!! That is the ultimate goal here. Thanks to everybody for their participation, Thanks to Cyndy for typing these up for me!! I will e-mail out the notes from the other part of the meeting soon. Just wanted to get this out before Monday.

Sue Hart, Co-Chair Michigan Housing Disability Workgroup Leaders For Action Housing Advocacy Group The Disability Network 3600 S. Dort Hwy. Suite 54 Flint, Mi 48507 810-742-1800 work 810-742-7647 TTY 810-742-2400 fax 810-287-6029 cell 810-732-6619 home



Michigan
Developmental
Disabilities
Council

Everyone Together Presentations September 24-28, 2007

Various presentations across the state sponsored by the Everyone Together Project. Please contact the individual listed for each event for additional details regarding exact times and locations.

September 24, Monday—Midland County

"Disability is Natural and Other Revolutionary Common Sense"
Morning presentation for parents, teachers, others.

Contact: Laurel Bucci at
labucci@chartermi.net

September 24, Monday—Central Michigan University

"Disability is Natural and Other Revolutionary Common Sense" and other topics.

Afternoon and evening presentations for CMU students, as well as for parents, educators, community members, others.

Contact: Nancy Hartshorne at
nancy.hartshorne@cmich.edu

September 25, Tuesday—Lansing

"Disability is Natural and Other Revolutionary Common Sense"
Morning presentation for parents, educators, others.

Contact: Lori Swan at aficlorigmail.com

September 25, Tuesday—Kalamazoo

"Disability is Natural and Other Revolutionary Common Sense"
Afternoon/evening presentation for parents, educators, others.

Contact: Michelle@p2pswmi.org

September 26, Wednesday—Grand Rapids

"Disability is Natural and Other Revolutionary Common Sense" and

"Cooperative Advocacy and Dynamic IEP Meetings"
All day presentations for parents, educators, others.

Contact: Stacey Diekevers at
info@wmin.org

September 27, Thursday—Monroe

"Disability is Natural and Other Revolutionary Common Sense" and

"Cooperative Advocacy and Dynamic IEP Meetings"
All day presentations for parents, educators, others.

"Inclusive Education"

Afternoon presentation for educators.

Contact: Beth Kohler at
beth@mbkohler.com

September 28, Friday—Macomb County

"Disability is Natural and Other Revolutionary Common Sense" and

"Cooperative Advocacy and Dynamic IEP Meetings"
All day presentations for parents, educators, others.

Contact: Carolyn Gammicca at
gammicca@comcast.net

1033 South
Washington
Lansing, MI
48913

Phone:

(517) 334-6769

Fax:

(517) 334-7353

TDD:

(517) 334-7354

E-Mail:

collinsve@michigan.gov

Continued.... 2007 Consumer Satisfaction Survey

one survey. All surveys should be returned by October 15, 2007 to:

Dee Florence

Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council

1033 S. Washington Avenue

Lansing, MI 48910

Please contact Yasmina Bouraoui should you have questions or comments about this process