

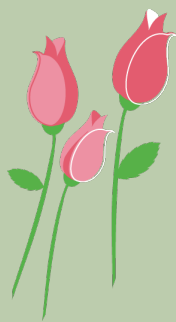


The DD Community Update

April 2010

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The Michigan
Developmental Disabilities
Council

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Health Care Reform

From the Capitol Insider, www.lifewithoutlimits.org:

President Obama signed the Patient Protection and Affordability Act (P.L. 111-148) into law on March 23, 2010. This health reform legislation is a historic step in the right direction to making health care affordable and accessible to all US citizens.

On March 25, the Senate passed the Health Care and Education Affordability Reconciliation Act (HR 4872). This legislation makes several changes to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, which include:

- Increasing Medicaid reimbursement for primary care physicians and pediatricians to Medicare rates for 2013 and 2014.
- Providing increased federal support to states for Medicaid eligibility expansion, and increasing affordability subsidies for the insurance exchange.
- Changing the effective date of the Community First Choice Medicaid Option to October 1, 2011.

The Senate also made minor amendments to the education (student loan) part of the legislation. The bill was adopted by the House and then sent to President Obama, who signed the amended bill into law on March 30, 2010, in a ceremony at Northern Virginia Community College.

Health Care Reform Continued

Although health reform legislation has been signed into law, you won't see some changes for a few years. For information on how and when it will affect you, visit www.michigan.gov/healthcarereform and click on "Health Care Reform Facts."

How Health Care Reform Benefits People with Disabilities:

Coverage

- Prohibits health insurance exclusions for pre-existing conditions.
- Eliminates annual and lifetime caps in private insurance policies.
- Restricts the consideration of health status in setting premiums.
- Expands Medicaid to cover individuals with incomes up to 133 percent of the federal poverty line (about \$29,000 per year for a family of four).

Benefits

- Ensures that minimum covered benefits include products and services that enable people with disabilities to maintain and improve function, such as rehabilitation and habilitation services and devices.

Access to Quality Health Care

- Improves training of physicians, dentists, and health professionals on how to treat persons with disabilities.

Long Term Services and Supports

- The Community Living Assistance Services and Supports (CLASS) Act will create a national long-term services insurance program that will assist individuals and their families to meet long term needs without forcing them into poverty to receive Medicaid benefits.
 - Improves the Medicaid program to encourage states to cover personal attendant services under the state's optional service plan instead of through the waiver system.
 - The Community First Choice Medicaid Option will give states increased incentives to provide comprehensive home and community services.
- (From the Capitol Insider, www.lifewithoutlimits.org)

DNRE Accessibility Demo Days

From a Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE) press release: The Michigan DNRE is holding a series of Accessibility Demo Days in 2010. These events provide individuals with disabilities, state and local recreation departments, legislators, and other guests the opportunity to experience the latest advancements in adaptive equipment for recreation.

Manufacturers will have their latest equipment available for participants to view live demonstrations and experience first hand where possible. Types of adaptive equipment include: mobility assistive devices, biking, shooting technology, modified bows, adaptive fishing equipment, kayaks/canoes, accessible hunting blinds, RV and pop-up demonstrations, and others.

2010 Demo Day Dates—Rain or Shine

May 24— 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Manistee, MI. Tight Lines for Troops Fishing Tournament/Demo Days. This event will focus on water related recreation and mobility devices. Contact Rick Briggs at 810-229-5880 or rbriggs@biami.org for specifics.

June 12— 10 a.m. - noon. Brighton, MI. Tips-up for the Troops at Kensington Metropark at the DNRE Island Lake Recreation Area Shooting Range MI. This event will focus on all areas of recreation and accessible equipment. Contact Rick Briggs at 810-229-5880 or rbriggs@biami.org for specifics.

September 15— Time is to be determined. Grand Rapids, MI. Fishing Derby at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans. This event will focus on water related recreation and mobility devices for land and water. For more information, contact Vicki Brown at 517-373-1234 or brownv@michigan.gov.

October 21— 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. East Lansing, MI. DNRE Demo Day at the Demmer Center. This event will focus on all areas of recreation and accessible equipment.

For specific questions, please contact the Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Vicki Brown, at 517-373-1234 or brownv@michigan.gov.



(www.michigan.gov/dnre)

Recreation Passport Benefits State Parks, Motorists

A four-bill package for Michigan state park funding, known as the “Recreation Passport” legislation, was signed into law by Governor Jennifer Granholm on Wednesday, March 31. The new law takes effect October 1, 2010, which means that citizens who want to visit state parks this calendar year will still need a 2010 Motor Vehicle Permit. Michigan’s 98 state parks attract about 22 million visitors each year, including out of state visitors. This system will hopefully encourage more people to buy park passes and raise needed funding for Michigan’s parks system, which has declined due to budget cuts in recent years.

A DNRE press release states that the passport will create a new funding source for Michigan’s state parks, state recreation areas, state forest campgrounds, non-motorized trails and pathways, and local parks. By paying an optional \$10 fee when renewing vehicle license plates each year, residents save 60% over the current \$24 annual Motor Vehicle Permit fee. Out-of-state residents will still be required to purchase a \$29 annual Motor Vehicle Permit, or \$8 daily permit. The passport will be good for the one-year period of the motor registration and includes entry to state boat launches.

The press release states that the signing of this legislation came at a crucial time, because in 2011 all fund balances for state park operation will be exhausted. The DNRE’s Recreation Division lost all taxpayer support for its programs in 2004. Since then, state parks and recreation areas have operated mostly on user fees.

According to the Citizens Committee for Michigan State Parks, approximately \$341 million is needed to address existing infrastructure needs. This new legislation will prevent further decline of Michigan state parks. The legislation was modeled after a similar system in Montana, where 75 percent of residents choose to pay the voluntary fee when registering their vehicles. For more information, visit www.michigan.gov/recreationpassport or call 517-373-9900.

Information from: www.senate.michigan.gov, www.michigan.gov,
<http://detnews.com/article/20100325/POLITICS02/3250401/>
[Michigan-parks--passport--bills-likely-to-pass](#)



Children's Special Health Care Services Hearing

A hearing on Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS) was held before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Community Health at the Capitol Building in Lansing, MI on March 24.

The hearing was also part of United Cerebral Palsy of Michigan's Legislative Day at the Capitol, and was well attended with many family members, professionals, and advocacy organizations present. Personal testimony by several attendants made the hearing very powerful.

The hearing focused on the harmful cuts to the current year's budget that resulted in the elimination of travel reimbursement and incontinence supplies coverage to CSHCS/non-Medicaid families. For families who are not Medicaid-eligible, these cuts have had drastic consequences. Incontinence supplies can cost families hundreds of dollars a month, and without travel reimbursement, many families are missing important medical appointments. These benefits of CSHCS were an important lifeline for families whose incomes are too high to qualify for Medicaid. Without them, families are forced to make tough decisions and possibly compromise their children's health because of financial strain.

Kristen Columbus, Michigan DD Council member, submitted written testimony to the committee members about how the cuts to CSHCS have affected her family.

Participating in committee hearings is an opportunity to have your voice heard. If you would like to receive email alerts for House committee meetings and hearings, please visit http://www.house.mi.gov/committee_subscribe.asp to subscribe. For Senate committees, visit <http://senate.michigan.gov/committees/standing.htm>.

Did You Know?

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the national unemployment rate for people with disabilities has dropped from 16.2 percent in September 2009 to 13.9 percent in March 2010 for people with disabilities age 16 years and older. Monthly statistics can be found at <http://www.bls.gov/cps/cpsdisability.htm>. You can also find disability employment information at the Office of Disability Employment Policy's website, <http://www.dol.gov/odep/index.htm>.

Free Social Security Workshops

United Cerebral Palsy of Detroit is holding 3 free workshops on maintaining social security benefits while working.

April 15 - the workshop will be held at the Macomb-Oakland Regional Center at 1270 Doris Rd., Auburn Hills, MI, 48326.

April 22 - the workshop will be held at the Macomb-Oakland Regional Center at 16200 19 Mile Rd, Clinton Township, MI.

April 29 - the workshop will be held at the Lapeer County Community Mental Health, 1570 Suncrest Dr., Lapeer, MI.

All workshops are held from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

For more information, please contact Paul Landry at 248-557-5070, ext. 113 or 800-827-4843, or email plandry@ucpdetroit.org.

Arts for All Disabilities Event

Disability Network of Mid-Michigan was awarded a grant from the Midland Area Community Foundation to fund the Arts for All Disabilities Awareness project on May 8, 2010. The project focuses on disability awareness and community collaboration.

Arts for All is a one-day art event hosted by Disability Network and Creative 360. It will take place at Creative 360, located at 1517 Bayliss Street in Midland, MI. Dwayne Szot from Zot Artz—Arts for All is featured and will be facilitating a community art project that is accessible to people of all ages and abilities. The project will end with an exhibit in the Creative 360 gallery. For more information, please contact the Disability Network of Mid-Michigan at (989) 835-4041 or email info@dnmm.org. Their website is www.dnmm.org.

(From the Saginaw News, www.mlive.com/saginawnews)

Zot Artz website: <http://www.zotartz.com/>



MIChild Eligibility Requirements

MIChild is enforcing a new eligibility requirement for its health coverage. Effective April 1, 2010, applicants for the Children's Health Insurance Program/MIChild must provide U.S. citizenship verification in order to be eligible. This is done by obtaining a confirmation of citizenship through the Social Security Administration (SSA).

If the applicant meets all other elements of eligibility, the application can be processed and open before receiving citizenship verification from SSA. However, it is required that citizenship documentation is submitted within 90 days of applying for MIChild, or coverage will be terminated. This is a change from the previous eligibility requirements, where statement of citizenship by the applicant or responsible relative was considered verification. This change in policy was made to comply with federal law.

There are some exceptions. Citizenship verification is not required for newborns that are born to a Medicaid recipient, Safe Delivery babies, children receiving Title IV-B services or IV-E adoption assistance, foster care, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Retirement Disability Income (RSDI).

For more information on MIChild and its eligibility requirements, please visit www.michigan.gov/mdch. MIChild information is located under "Health Care Coverage," then "Children and Teens" on the left navigation menu.

Seclusion and Restraint Update

The United States House of Representatives passed HR 4247, The Keeping All Students Safe Act (formerly the Preventing Harmful Restraint and Seclusion in Schools Act) on March 3, 2010. The bill, which would set the first federal safety standards on restraint and seclusion in schools, was referred to the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee. (www.lifewithoutlimits.org)

The Michigan seclusion and restraint legislation, HB 5639, was introduced by Representative Deb Kennedy and referred to the House Education Committee on December 2, 2009. If federal seclusion and restraint standards are created, they will be an important guideline for states to follow.

Upcoming Events

April 4

Happy Easter!



April 15, 22, & 29

Free Social Security Workshops

Contact Paul Landry at
plandry@ucpdetroit.org or
800-827-4843 for more information.

([See page 6](#))

May 10—11

**Council Meeting/ Member
Retreat**

Lexington Hotel, Lansing, MI

May 24

DNRE Demo Day

10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Manistee, MI. Contact Rick Briggs at
810-229-5880 or rbriggs@biami.org
for more information. ([See page 3](#))

May 2010 Council Meeting Schedule

Council Meeting/Retreat: May 10 & 11

Public Policy Committee: May 18, 10 a.m.—12 p.m.

Education Workgroup: May 18, 3:30 p.m.—5 p.m.

RICC Teleconference: May 27, 1 p.m.—3 p.m.

Health Issues Work Group: May 18, 1 p.m.—3 p.m.

Family Support Work Group: May 19, 10 a.m.—12 p.m.

Housing Work Group: May 13, 1 p.m.—3 p.m.

Transportation Work Group: May 13, 10 a.m.—12 p.m.

For Council Work group and Committee meeting minutes please visit the Council's webpage at www.michigan.gov/ddcouncil. If you have ideas, topics, or suggestions for the DD Community Update please call Laura Robertson at 517-334-7288 or email roberstonl@michigan.gov.

