

# “IN THE KNOW”

## Happy New Year!!!

**“It was the *worst of times*” but... “the *best is yet to come!*”**

You have not heard from CSO, Inc. in a while. Since September 2008, we have busied ourselves with relocation to 6845 S Western. We held an Open House and also hosted the 14th annual “Conquering Life’s Challenges” Gala. Then as we watched history unfold during the election, an economic crisis hit the State, the nation and us—hard! Along with most charitable human service organizations,

CSO, Inc. struggled to survive and to avoid closure.

But with every challenge, comes opportunity! It forced CSO, Inc. to look at operational systems closely, to reassign staff and to retool programs, all to serve you better!

This issue of “In The Know” features our yearly plan for events and programs. Also there is general information

on the current programs that serve individuals with developmental disabilities in

Illinois. **This would be a good issue to post on your refrigerator!**

For example, now, in our new “home”, we can host **“Boogie Nights** in the Emil Jones, Jr. Conference Centre and the Senator Jacqueline Collins’ Courtyard. We plan to host 4 events throughout 2009! **A Parent Group** meeting, planned for Sat., March 28, will provide information about DD services, transition or help with formulating IEPS. “Home Options”, no longer funded by Chicago’s Dept of Housing, has opportunities to expand its service area and to develop housing in rental markets.

*Community Service Options*  
6845 S. Western  
Chicago, Il 60636

Winter 2009



## DHS “SELECTION” for services

In January 2008, DHS revamped the process for DD service application. People “registered” on the PUNS (priority and urgency of need for services) database and projected their service needs over the next 5 years. By November 2008, based on a “fair”

geographic distribution across the State, service need and length of time on the PUNS, DHS “selected” people to apply for service. 34 names were selected for CSO, Inc.’s service area. Now, CSO is in the process of deter-

mining eligibility, for the 34, with a comprehensive functional evaluation.

“Eligible” people will be able to apply for in-home supports, vocational and residential services. Their DD services will start as funding becomes available.

### Inside this issue:

“State” of Illinois’ DD	2
2008 DD Laws & Program Changes	2
Ligas Lawsuit Settlement	2
CSO, Inc. Year at a Glance	3
Photos of 2008 Gala	3
Needs Survey	3
About CSO, Inc.	4

# CSO, INC. "Year at a Glance"

<b><u>FEB</u></b>	<b><u>MAR</u></b>	<b><u>APR</u></b>
20 Home Options roundtable	27 Boogie dance 28 DD Service (parent support)	
<b><u>MAY</u></b>	<b><u>JUN</u></b>	<b><u>JUL</u></b>
21 Springfield Rally Day 29 Boogie Dance	26 Steppin' Party (fundraiser)	24 Boogie barbecue
<b><u>AUG</u></b>	<b><u>SEPT</u></b>	<b><u>OCT</u></b>
24 ends advance Galadisc ticket sale	25 Boogie dance	23 20th Anniversary GALA

## Accessible Computer Options

Tuesday, January 13, classes began for people with special needs due to cognitive, learning, memory, mobility and sensory disabilities. CSO has special equipment, materials, curriculum and skilled instruction in "special" education to address every functional need.

The hours are 9am-noon on Wednesday and 2-5 pm on Tuesdays. The cost is \$10 per 4 week course. Call Renee to register at (773) 471-4730 or call (773) 471-4701.



**We had a BLAST!!!!**

## At CSO, Inc.'s 2008 "Conquering Life's Challenges" GALA



Jeanette Kadel accepting award from Alana Wallace, founder Dance>Detour, with CSO's Exec. Director, Renee Lumpkin



After the award ceremony we danced the night away!



State Senator (D-16), Jacqueline Collins was honored. CSO's Courtyard bears her name.



Louise Patterson, mother of honoree and Steven Hamilton are pictured with Exec. Director, Renee Lumpkin

## Are you interested?????

This is a survey that we hope you will complete, tear off and return to Community Service Options, Inc. 6845 South Western Ave, Chicago 60636 If you'd rather speak, call Renee Lumpkin at (773) 471-4730 or email [rlumpkin@CSO1.org](mailto:rlumpkin@CSO1.org). Basically we wanted to know what support services you need and your willingness to volunteer.

1. Will you participate in a Parent Support Group? Y\_\_ N\_\_
2. If Yes, why? If No, why not? Respond on separate sheet.
3. What community support services do you think are missing from our current social service system?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Are you able to commit time, energy or resources as a volunteer to create or manage support services? Y\_\_ N\_\_  
Explain\_\_\_\_\_

### Current "state" of Illinois' DD Services commentary by Renee Lumpkin

I held off publishing this newsletter for a while, assuming Illinois would come to a soft landing on this "rollercoaster" budget, legislative and political year. But there was no landing! Illinois continues on a bumpy and unpredictable ride!.

Growing political animosities since the 2007 legislative session, meant no firm annual budgets and financial instability for social service and health providers. Then, Illinois' deficit deepened, exceeded \$2 billion and it could not recover because the nation, also, was in recession. Illinois' tax revenues further eroded. Now,

with our Governor facing corruption charges and impeachment, Illinois' credit rating has tanked. The State is having difficulty borrowing money to pay its bills. The latest economic forecasts indicate that if Illinois does not come up with new revenue sources, it will be broke by April 2009.

These problems trickle down to you and me. If Illinois cannot pay its bills, it cannot pay service provider agencies and service providers cannot pay direct care workers. You may not be able to go to work because your family member with a disability has no service to go to and requires your

supervision. You may be a direct care worker, yourself, and be threatened with lay off. (Direct care agencies are a large segment of employers in Chicago's communities.)

Revenue generation proposals, like gambling casinos and race tracks, have not worked. Borrowing has just been a short term fix (On \$2B, interests payments are \$20m!) **Illinois, seriously, needs to consider tax reform and a progressive individual tax increase.** It may not be politically popular, but it is the long-term (and long overdue) solution used by most other states.

## 2008 DD Laws & Program Changes

**HOME BASED / FAMILY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS GET STIPEND INCREASE** - As of January 1, 2009, Children's Home Based Stipends went from \$1,274 to \$1,348, a 5.8% monthly raise. The amount for Adult Home Based service rose from \$1,911 to \$2,022. Family Assistance (FAP) for children with severe mental disabilities increased to \$674/month

**Insurance for children with Autism**— The Illinois Legislature passed and the Governor approved new law PA 95-1005, mandating insurance companies to provide "individuals under 21 years of age coverage for autism spectrum disorders to the extent that the diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorders are not already covered by the policy or plan."

This law provides coverage of a maximum of \$36,000 a year.

**Kids Health Insurance— Alert to "laid-off" employees!** Consider All Kids Health Insurance to cover your children under age 18 rather than your COBRA coverage. In Illinois your children are eligible if they lose insurance coverage from a parent's job.

\*\*\*\*\*

IDHS' Division of Developmental Disabilities has resolved to settle the Ligas Lawsuit, against the State of Illinois, on behalf of residents in intermediate care facilities for the developmentally disabled (ICF/DDs). The settlement ushers in a new era of positive change and access to community

### LIGAS Lawsuit Settlement

services and resources. Each individual will be evaluated for need and will be informed of opportunities in alternative community-based services. No one will be forced to move but all will be able to make informed choices. Concomitantly, DHS is drafting a new adult waiver that will expand

services. Over the next 6 years, 3000 individuals will be able to move, one-third of the target population, every two years. To implement this change a "single point of entry" system will be responsible for conducting evaluations and arranging appropriate community services.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Community Service Options, Inc.

6845 South Western Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60636

Phone: 773-471-4700/ TDD 4772  
Fax: 773-471-4770

*We're on the Web*

[www.csol.org](http://www.csol.org)

### Coming Events.....

- Accessible Computer Options classes begin January 13
- Recovery Support (life skills, GED and counseling starts February 4
- Access DD Services March 28 (parent support meeting)
- "Boogie Nights" March 27, May 29, July 24, Sept 25
- CSO's 20th Anniversary GALA—October 23



*GIVING A VOICE &  
PROVIDING A CHOICE*

## ABOUT CSO, INC

Community Service Options, Inc. (CSO, Inc.) promotes access, "choice of service," options and independence of people with disabilities, who reside in the City of Chicago, through the provision of information, education, advocacy, and planning/service coordination.

**Information/Education** CSO Inc. serves as a "clearinghouse" for persons (consumers) with disabilities, and/or their family/guardian, who are seeking services. It compiles and disseminates information pertaining to disability issues, resources, services, and events; and assertively educates federal, state and local policy-makers about disability issues.

**Advocacy** CSO, Inc. works with consumers, service providers, and policy makers, throughout the State, to reform the human service system. CSO Inc.'s website, publications, and newsletters provide awareness and inspire action on issues affecting persons with disabilities.

**Planning & Service Coordination** The skilled advocates at CSO, Inc. assist in the development of individual, "person-centered" plans for community-based human services and supports. Working with each individual and/or their family/guardian to identify goals and strategies that address unique needs and maximize their potential, CSO Inc. plans and arranges services, such as medical care options, employment, housing programs (including home ownership), accessible transportation, and recreational activities.

A private non-profit 501©3 organization, founded in 1989, CSO Inc. contracts with the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) to provide preadmission screening, eligibility determination and service coordination for people with developmental disabilities, in Chicago. CSO, Inc. is part of a national system, federally mandated to be completely independent and free-standing of local direct service provision. This "independent" function enables CSO, Inc. to safeguard the rights of people with disabilities, even though it receives funding from federal and state grants, contracts and private donations.