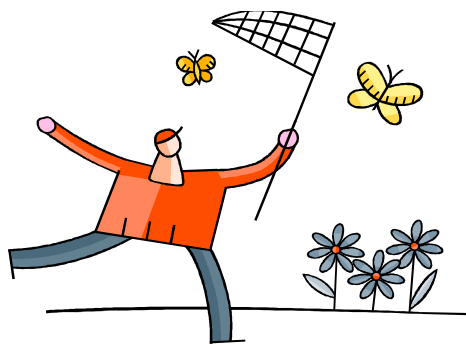


COMMUNITY SERVICE OPTIONS, INC.

SPRING!!!
HAS SPRUNG



Spring is always a busy time in the State Capitol. This year the proposed budget is bittersweet. Although there is additional funding for: 100 new community integrated living arrangements (CILAs); 705 individuals for home-based services and two statewide mobile crisis teams; the wage and “cost of doing business” increases, we hoped for, are not included. Most of this budget’s \$4 billion increase will be spent on keeping institutional services in compliance with the Medicaid program. Gov. Blagojevich’s stated priorities are: education, health care, state pensions and tax fairness. Consequently, little remains to address the needs expressed by advocates for DD community services.

If the proposed budget is adopted, community services will not have had an increase in three years! (State employees’ wages will have increased by 10% in the same time period.) Poor wages make it difficult to retain good workers for human services (average starting salary is \$9/hour) and reduces

resources in the community.

Spring into action! Call/write your State Senator and Representative about the budget and other legislative issues.

Join us for “Day at the Capitol”

May 16, 2007, Springfield

Contact: Renee (773) 838-4630

CHICAGO LEGISLATORS

Senate President—Emil Jones

Human Services - Chair, Sen. Meeks

Members - Delgado & Ronen

Appropriations I—Chair, Senator Trotter

Members—Collins, Degado,

Meeks and Maloney

Education—Chair, Senator Lightford

Speaker of the House of Representatives—Michael Madigan

Disability Services Committee— Vice Chair, Ester Golar

Appropriations for Human Services—Chair, Rep. Feigenholtz

Members—Patterson and Graham

Human Service Committee—Vice Chair, Rep. Howard

Members—Collins and Flowers

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WATCH!!!

These bills in the State Legislature may impact you and your family. Call your legislator to support.

HB220, 229 & 300 (Rep. Lindner) \$ for children with autism, emergency CILAs and new CILAs; HB383 (Flowers) \$ for autism services

HB558 (Rita) Community First Act—\$ for individual in institutions transferred to community setting

HB817 (Coulson) allows special ed services through age 21

HB878 (Dugan) provides 6% increase to community services for cost of doing business and/or HB1715 (Ryg) 3% “codb” for DD services and \$10 m for MI

HB1730 (Joyce)

HB3380 (Dugan) pays \$ for newly mandated services

S51 (Garrett) IEP for ASD
S90 (Radogno) Assessment freeze

S105 (Garrett) \$1m from State’s General Revenue Fund for day programs, ACT, ELA and Next

Generation

S381 (Garrett) places limits on number of CILA residents per home.

S397 (Demuzio) same as HB 817, services thru age 21

S581 (Wilhelmi) Community Residential Choices Act

Visit State legislators April 17-27; or

May, all days (except Fri., Sat., and Sun) until May 21, then every day until adjournment, May 31.

Property Tax Relief

Here are the issues: Property taxes fund schools—the poorer the neighborhoods and communities have more poorly funded schools. (Other states use progressive, personal income taxes to fund schools. All funds go into the state’s education pot and are distributed more evenly to all children.) But Illinois has not increased personal income tax in thirty years. Now the State suffers from a revenue deficit.

Solutions being discussed:

- ◆ Tax business (Businesses may leave Illinois to go to “cheaper” states)

- ◆ Property tax cut with additional relief to districts with low property values but high tax rates.

Which solution do you support? Contact President Jones, Senator Meeks or your legislator!!

State Institutions

Both State Institutions (Howe for DD and Tinley Park Mental Health facility, close to Chicago), have lost federal funding and have been “decertified” due to patient care issues. Tinley Park Mental Health Center has been shut off from Medicare and Medicaid funding although it remains “open” with 60 (non-Medicaid) patients. Low income patients are being referred to two other state hospitals:

Madden and Chicago-Read. Illinois’ HOWE Developmental Center fell under scrutiny following 8 deaths and repeated instances of poor patient treatment.

DHS is appealing the decertifications but reinstatements could take months. Meanwhile, the lost of federal funding will have a substantial negative impact on Illinois’ system of care for people with disabilities.

REFRIGERATOR

NOTICE

SAVE THESE IMPORTANT DATES!

(TEAR PAGE OFF and PLACE ON YOUR REFRIGERATOR)

SWIGGY'S JUICE BAR (MOPD) 2102 W. Ogden
Fri. 7-10pm Apr 20, May 18, Sept 21, Oct 19 and Nov 16

"Boogie Nights" (CSO, Inc) 5445 S. Harlem
Fri. 6-9pm May 4 and June 22 Dance/food \$5
Thurs 6-9pm May 24 skate/food/games \$15
Fri or Sat June 15 & 16 picnic free
Tues July 17-Aug 18 movie in park free
Call (773) 884-1000 ext 4601 for reservations by April 27th

Accessible Computer Options 7575 S. Kostner (north ent.)
Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays 9am-7pm
Wed & Fri Special needs & assistive technology class
Call (773) 838-4630 to register for classes

Spring Fling for Autism Awareness
King College Prep—4445 S. Drexel Blvd. **FREE!**
Saturday, April 28, 2007 9am-2:15pm
Call (773) 726-2550 or e-mail www.chicagoautism.org

Day at the Capitol in Springfield - Wednesday, May 16, 2007
Hitch a ride with CSO, Inc.! Call (773) 884-1000 ext 4601

Arc of Illinois and Autism Program Convention (also serves people with developmental disabilities)
Wed April 25 and Thurs. April 26 Call (708) 206-1171 for info

Parent and Advocate Support Group—All Day Workshop
CSO, Inc 7575 South Kostner (north entrance across from Ford City Shopping Mall) Call (773) 884-1000 ext 4601
Saturday August 25, 2007 9am-3pm **FREE!**

Accessible Computer Options

CSO, Inc. recently received a grant to equip **ACCESSIBLE COMPUTER OPTIONS (ACO)** with computers, software and assistive devices that will address a wide array of disability issues. People with vision impairments, mobility limitations, learning memory and cognitive impairments will find learning tools and equipment that will help them use technology for better access to work and community services, the same as anyone else. ACO offers "special needs" classes for individuals and small group instruction, as well as training to family members and human service professionals who also need to know how to use assistive technology. ACO is available, as well on Tuesdays and Fridays for Open Access to the community. Call (773) 838-4630 for info on classes.

Hurry and register for the 07 Season of Boogie Nights! This year, we're expanding to include different types of experiences such as skating parties, picnics, concerts, and personal shopping.

But there **still** will be "Boogie Night" dances at the European Chalet, 5445 S. Harlem on Fridays May 4 and June 22, 6-9 pm for \$5/person (hot dogs, pop, chips included). Call (773) 884-1000 ext 4601 to reserve your ticket.

Summer events planned are: a skating party in May, Chicago community picnics and festivals in June, and movies in Grant Park in July.

We can arrange "special outings" for individuals.

Let us know things YOU LIKE TO DO IN THE COMMUNITY! Call (773) 838-4602

VOLUNTEERS & DONORS

We need YOUR help to "buddy" with people with disabilities at "Boogie Nights" dances, events and experiences. This is an opportunity to share your abilities, build your community and ... have fun at the same time! OR, SPONSOR somebody to enjoy social life in the community, this year!

Community
Service
Options, Inc.

7575 South Kostner Ave.
Chicago, IL 60652-1151



Giving a voice
&
Providing a choice