

“IN THE KNOW”

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



A LEGISLATIVE AGENDA for

disability services in Illinois

Now that Illinois has a new Governor (Quinn) and all state Senators and Representatives are in place, Illinois may move forward crafting progressive income tax reform and figuring out how to use both existing and “stimulus” revenues efficiently and effectively. It has been commonly known, over the last several years, that Illinois has not had sufficient new sources of funds to cover escalating costs of operations and services. However, now, disability services advocates can reassert support for an increase in the income tax and the closure of some cash-guzzling state operated facilities. With recent revelations of corruption, bureaucratic inefficiencies and decertification of state facilities, advocates say: it is time to shift funding away from institutional care and to community-based services.

The challenge is to make Governor Quinn aware of the disparity in funding between state operated facilities and services for the community. We’ve heard he plans to cut 1% of

funding, across the board, to ease Illinois’ fiscal crisis, but that will devastate an already crumbling community care system. The Governor needs to **hear from you! Share your stories and input at: Illinois DHS; recovery.illinois.gov or President Obama’s “Organizing for America”**

Below is a listing of bills that have been introduced for this year’s legislative session. **Make your state legislators aware of your support and concerns. Help make a service system that will meet *your* needs.**

- **HB 749—Ryg** Creates Purchase of Care and Grant Adjustment—requires annual adjustments in accord with the non-seasonally adjusted Employment Cost Index.
- **HB 751—Ryg** Provides for the net proceeds from the sale of the real estate of a closed state mental facility to be deposited into the Community Mental Health Medicaid Trust Fund as well as proceeds from the sale of a closed state developmental facility to be deposited into the Community Developmental Disability Services Medicaid Trust Fund. These moneys shall be made available to ensure appropriate level of staffing and care in remaining State-operated facilities. Also DHS is required to discuss plans for use of these moneys with advocates and state-appointed advisory committees.
- **HB 754—Feigenholtz** Establishes a comprehensive state mental health plan to coordinate all policy making in mental health. An established Work Group will design a mental health system that reduces redundancies in the delivery of mental health services.
- **HB 660 & 661—Froelich** Appropriates \$45K and \$22,500 (respectively) from the General Revenue Fund to DHS to fund a \$.50 per hour increase and associated costs for nonexecutive staff in private-sector agencies serving individuals with developmental disabilities.

MARCH 2009

Illinois Insurance Facts—Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation

For children diagnosed with autism, early intervention and continued treatment is critical.

Beginning December 12, 2008, all individual and group health insurance policies and HMO contracts must abide by the provisions of Public Act 95-1005 (215 ILCS 356z.14). This new Illinois law provides coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorders for children under 21, establishing an annual benefit of \$36,000 for services provided pursuant to this Act. Here are the basic facts about the new law.

Any policy issued, delivered, amended or renewed after December 12, 2008 must include autism coverage required by the law.

- If you are covered by a group health insurance policy (i.e., through your employer) issued before December 12, 2008, you may have to wait until the date that the policy is amended or renewed before your child is eligible for autism coverage under this law. Check with your group or your insurer to find your policy's renewal date.
- If you are covered by an individual health insurance policy issued before December 12, 2008, you may have to wait until the policy's renewal date before your child is eligible for autism coverage under this law. Check with your insurer to find your policy's renewal or anniversary date.

All individual and group health insurance policies and HMO contracts (and voluntary health service organization contracts) must abide by the new law. Health coverage provided to state, county, and municipal employees (and employees subject to the Schools Code (105 ILCS 5/1-1 et seq.)) must also provide the autism benefits.

The Autism Law Does Not Apply to:

- o Self-insured, non-public employers.
- o Self-insured health and welfare plans, such as union plans.
- o Insurance policies or trusts issued in other states.

Note: For HMOs, the law does apply to contracts written outside of Illinois if the HMO member is a resident of Illinois and the HMO has an Illinois provider network.

The law does not change the autism coverage provided by public health care programs such as All Kids and FamilyCare.

The new law requires coverage for diagnosis and treatment:

- *Psychiatric care
- * Psychological care
- * habilitative or rehabilitative care
- * therapeutic care, including speech, occupational, and physical therapies addressing areas:
 - * self care and feeding
 - * pragmatic, receptive and expressive language
 - * cognitive functioning
 - * motor planning
 - * sensory processing
 - * applied behavioral analysis, intervention and modification

Insurance companies may not impose dollar limits, deductibles or copayments for the diagnosis

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CSO, INC. "Year at a Glance"

<u>FEB</u>	<u>MAR</u>	<u>APR</u>
27 Home Options roundtable	21 9:30-12noon PARENT meeting IEP/transition 27 Boogie dance	18 SPRING FLING for Autism Awareness @ King HS 10am-2pm, call info 773-239-0906
<u>MAY</u>	<u>JUN</u>	<u>JUL</u>
21 Springfield Rally Day 29 Boogie Dance	19 Steppin' Party (fundraiser)	24 Boogie barbecue
<u>AUG</u>	<u>SEPT</u>	<u>OCT</u>
24 ends advance Gala disc 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 on Tuesdays. The cost is \$10 per 4 week course. Call Renee to register at (773) 471-4730 or call (773) 471-4701.



INSURANCE FOR AUTISM

or treatment of autism which differ from the dollar amounts, deductibles or copayments established for physical illness. All services covered by this law must be prescribed by a physician but some services may be delivered by certified or licensed professionals (e.g. speech or behavioral therapists). Insurance companies are prohibited from limiting the number of visits to a physician or other service provider. An insurance company may provide coverage beyond the required annual limit of \$36,000 but is not required to do so by this law.

Group health insurance policies are not allowed to refuse enrollment based on health status. Individual policies, in Illinois, allow companies to reject an application on the basis of health status. However, beginning June 1, 2009, a new law (PA 95-0958) will allow individuals with policies that provide dependent coverage, to elect coverage for dependents up to age 26, regardless of a dependent's health status. **(More about insurance in May newsletter)**

"Transition/IEP" Answer Workshop SCHEDULED

CSO, Inc. is convening the Parent, Advocate Support Group, once again, this year to discuss: **"TRANSITION" to adult services and the "IEP" (Individual Education Plan)**

Saturday, March 21, 2009 9:30am-12noon

Community Service Options, Inc.

6845 South Western Avenue, Chicago

FREE!!

To RSVP call Shirley at (773) 471-4704 or Renee at (773) 471-4730

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.CSO1.org

Coming Events.....

- Accessible Computer Options classes April 7
- Literacy, life skills &, GED classes start April 8
- Transition/IEP Workshop Saturday, March 21 (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 5012©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.