

“IN THE KNOW”



SURVEY

Did you receive a survey from the Division of Developmental Disabilities? A survey is being mailed to 8000 families in Illinois, seeking to determine satisfaction with services and to identify where improvements may be needed for persons with developmental disabilities in our State.

This is part of a **National Core Indicator** project and it is important for you to give feedback, as it will benefit services in Illinois.

The survey is completely voluntary and confidential. No services or benefits will be negatively impacted by the family's choice to participate or not. The reports will not include the family's name or identifying information. Direct any questions to Michael Hurt at DHS 271-782-9460.

Community Service Options
6845 S. Western
Chicago, IL 60636

WE HONOR

.....the men and women who have served and sacrificed their bodies, minds and hearts for the benefit of others. CSO, Inc. hopes to serve returning veterans with physical, mental and functional challenges by facilitating accessible housing, computer-based literacy, recovery support and service coordination.

Illinois Tax Reform

We have been saying for years... There has got to be a change in Illinois' tax structure and an increase in the state income tax!

Recent increases in county and municipal taxes address local needs but do nothing to help the State of Illinois pay for the services that citizens need. There has been no State income tax increase in 25 years! Yet the cost of everything (utilities, health care, salaries, etc) has steadily increased! The reason there are not more group homes, supported employment programs and community services for people with developmental disabilities is: **there is not enough State money to pay for them.** Certainly, Illinois must crack down on patronage, corruption and waste, but it must, also, implement a rational taxation system that allows everyone to pay their proportionate share in support of State government.

Illinois' problem is: politics always trumps common sense! Although the need for reform is clear, this issue, still, will be hotly debated. As legislators, face re-election in 2010, they fear support of a tax increase will be fodder for challengers who run against them. You need to call, write your legislators and say, "tax reform that is fair, based on income and generates more revenue is good. It will improve human services and education in Illinois"

May 2009

Sterilization of adults w/Disabilities Under Guardianship—Ill House Bill 2290

Equip for Equality (EFE) is an independent, nonprofit that serves as the federally mandated protection and advocacy agency for people with disabilities in Illinois. Its mission is to advance the human and civil rights of people with disabilities and it does this through self-advocacy technical assistance, training, legal services and public policy initiatives. It recently issued information regarding HB 2290 that is now being considered in Illinois General Assembly.

In Illinois, the Probate Act of 1975 governs guardianship of the person of an adult adjudicated as having a disability (ward). Currently, the Act does not address the situation in which a guardian seeks to have a ward sterilized. There is no requirement that a guardian must petition the court for authority to consent to the ward’s sterilization; however a majority of U.S. states provide “due process” protections for wards (because of the history of abuse due to involuntary sterilization of people with disabilities.). Illinois lacks legislation protecting wards from involuntary sterilization.

HB2290 amends the Probate Act, requiring: 1) guardian request the court’s authority to consent to such procedure (except when there is a life-threatening issue or need to prevent serious health impairment;)2) appointment of a guardian ad litem (GAL); 3) appointment of independent counsel for the ward, if requested or the ward objects to sterilization; 4) a medical and psychological evaluation of the ward;5) determination by the court of the ward’s capacity to consent or withhold consent; 6) an order in accordance with the ward’s decision; 7) determination of the ward’s desire for sterilization; 8) if the ward lacks capacity, the court’s decision based on standards set forth in Sec 11a-17e of the Act; 9) clear and convincing evidence of the need for sterilization; 10) the ward’s best interest; and 11) a court order that includes written findings and conclusions of law.

EFE recounts examples of persons facing involuntary sterilization who were not informed of their guardian’s intent or the petition. In some cases the guardian had not informed the court and in other cases, parents who had not become legal guardians were attempting to perform sterilization without realizing that they had no authority or legal right to do so.

“Involuntary sterilization of a person is an extreme, irreversible measure. It impinges on an individual’s constitutional right to procreate, privacy and bodily integrity. Consequently, only the court should make such decisions regarding adult wards with disabilities, following a hearing on the merits in which the ward is afforded full due process protection. HB2290 is designed to safeguard the rights of adults with disabilities, under guardianship, facing sterilization.”

CSO, INC. “Year at a Glance”

<p>MAY</p> <p>21 Legislative Rally Day in Springfield</p> <p>29 Boogie Night Dance @ CSO, Inc.</p> <p>6-9pm \$5</p>	<p>JUNE</p> <p>19 Steppin’ Party Fundraiser CSO, Inc. 6p-12am Donation \$10 Adults only/BYOB</p>	<p>JULY</p> <p>24 Boogie Barbeque CSO, Inc. 6-9pm \$5</p>
<p>AUGUST</p>	<p>SEPT.</p> <p>25 Boogie Night Dance CSO, Inc. 6-9pm \$5</p>	<p>OCT</p> <p>23 CSO, Inc.’s 20th Anniversary GALA Fundraiser Martinique 6:30-10:30pm \$100</p>



If you missed CSO, Inc.’s workshop on IEP/transition here’s Maureen Lowry-Fritz’s website for links and info on special education, IEPs, IDEA, accommodations, etc. Check out: www.onthesameteam.org

Universal Arts Forums:

Careers in the Arts for People w/Disabilities

The Illinois Arts Council, in partnership w/ Illinois Department of Human Services and Access Living of Metro Chicago are planning 2 forums. One will be **Monday, May 18 @ Access Living** To register: <http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=43370> Or call Encarnacion Teruel (312) 814-6753 or TTY (888) 261-7957

These forums will: bring together state resources for disabilities and the arts; provide insight into careers in the arts for all levels of artists with disabilities; and provide an opportunity to meet and network with arts presenters and educators.



Maureen Lowry– Fritz at the PASG IEP/Transition Workshop with a group of Parents and Guardians.



Boogie Night March 27, 2009



Community Service Options, Inc.

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We're on the Web

www.CSO1.org

Coming Events.....

- Legislative Rally Day May 21
- "Boogie Nights" May 29,
July 24, Sept 25
- Stepping Party fundraiser
June 19
- 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.