

DISABILITY RIGHTS IN ACTION

A Newsletter of the Center for Disability Rights, Inc. / Summer 2017

Fighting for Medicaid during the “Summer of ADAPT”

The Advocacy Team can’t stop, won’t stop! What has been touted as the “Summer of ADAPT” is absolutely true to name. CDR’s Advocacy Team has been going non-stop to offices all over the country to help #SaveMedicaid!

In May, CDR staff joined ADAPT for the Spring ADAPT Action in Washington, DC. There, a smaller group of women with ADAPT went to Ivanka Trump’s house to implore her that when she speaks of protecting the rights of women, to include disabled women. The group camped out in front of her house all night and were surprised to find supporters had sent them food! Before and after this trip to D.C., the Advocacy Team and consumers also went to Albany four times to advocate on many Disability Rights issues!

In June, the Advocacy Team split up their efforts to assist advocates in other states! While one member attended the ILRU Transportation Conference in Texas, others joined ADAPT in D.C. to put pressure on senators to save Medicaid! The next week, a member of the Advocacy Team then flew to Orlando, Florida to assist in protesting Marco Rubio’s office. Another member of the team went to Milwaukee to join ADAPT members in protesting Senator Johnson’s office.

While members of advocacy were away in other states, CDR staff joined other members of Rochester ADAPT at the Monroe County Republican Committee office on State St. About 25 people held the office down for five hours demanding that Monroe County Republicans openly oppose Federal Medicaid cuts that will threaten the lives and liberty of disabled people in our area and across the nation. Unfortunately, the Monroe County Republicans refused to support the lives and liberty of disabled Rochesterians and, instead, had us arrested.

On July 6th, over 20 advocates got on a bus in the middle of the night to head to Columbus, Ohio to



Rochester ADAPT members taking over an elevator at Senator Portman’s office in OH.

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Roberta Wallach
Board Chair

Bruce E. Darling
President/CEO

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Center for Disability Rights works to ensure the full integration, independence and civil rights of people with disabilities and seniors in the community.

Dear Friends,

Every summer, we celebrate the anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). This summer, we again made history through what has been coined the “Summer of ADAPT.” Our direct action throughout the last several months prevented Medicaid cuts that would have greatly reversed the progress made with the ADA and endangered the lives of Americans with disabilities. Additionally, our advocacy work greatly increased our exposure in the national news and assisted us in our efforts to make disability rights a part of civil rights.

Many other things have also been going here at CDR. I invite you to check out some of our upcoming events on page 3, and catch up on many of our programs and services on pages 4-6.

Please contact us to learn more about CDR and how you can get more involved with us. Stay tuned for more fun events and exciting news for this year!

Bruce E. Darling

CDR's Staff Highlight: Miko Arayata

Miko Arayata joined the CDR Development team as a Multimedia Design Intern this summer! Miko is studying Design and Imaging Technology with a focus on Graphic Design and Production at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf, a college of the Rochester Institute of Technology (NTID/RIT).

He has been a great asset to the CDR team this summer with creating flyers and banners for our ADA events. As the Multimedia Designer, he creates videos in American Sign Language, for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community to be well informed of the many services provided by CDR and RCIL!

In his spare time, Miko is an active Vice President of NTID's Asian Deaf Club. After he earns an Associate's degree in 2018, he plans to aim for a Bachelor's degree in Visual Media, and to also move back to his hometown in the Philippines to improve education for their Deaf community.

We wish him all the success in his future endeavors!



"I have been enjoying my summer internship with CDR. It helps me to be creative and also improve my teamwork skills. I enjoy working with a wide variety of people with disabilities and will always cherish this great opportunity at CDR. My goal is to never quit graphic design and production."

Recognizing Wegmans for their Sponsorship

Big thanks to Wegmans for their generous sponsorship for the ADA Benefit in celebration of the 27th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act! Your support means a great deal to the Disability Community and our advocacy for disability rights!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

August 22, 2017

Legislative Breakfast: Geneva, 10:00am-Noon

34 Castle Street, Geneva, NY

Contact Ericka Jones at ejones@cdrnys.org or 585.546.7510

September 8, 2017

Carnival Day Camp, 11am-3pm, Lunch served at noon

The Harborview Shelter, Ontario Beach Park

For details, contact sads@cdrnys.org or 585.546.7055

October 26, 2017

Halloween Accessible Trick-or-Treat, 5pm-8pm

497 State Street, Rochester, NY

Updates From Advocacy Team

It has been an eventful past few months for the Advocacy Team! Between lobby days and preparing for the upcoming ADAPT trip in September, we have held two events and pushed forward a bill in the Senate and the House.

BOTTOM DOLLARS

Bottom Dollars is a documentary created by the organization Rooted in Rights that dives into the topic of subminimum wages. It shows real people who have received less than minimum wage and makes the viewer wonder why this practice is still allowed today. In June, CDR held a screening of this documentary at The Little Theatre as well as a Q&A session with a panel after the film. In July, CDR held a Legislative Breakfast

at the Rochester office with representatives from all over Monroe County. Representatives spanned from County Clerk to City Council. Consumers and staff had the opportunity to hear from representatives and then after a chance to speak one-on-one with them!

In May and June, all the hard work that we did in meeting with legislators and calling offices about the Pooled Trust bill has paid off! Yes, we are happy to announce that as of June 12th the Pooled Trust Notification Bill, which would require the Department of Health to put in their notices that are sent out to consumers with disabilities that they have the option to enroll into a Pooled Trust to qualify for Medicaid, was passed in both the Assembly and the Senate!

Want to join us on our Advocacy Trips? Call us at (585) 546-7510 or email us at advocacy@cdrnys.org to join our Advocacy Group!

Fighting for Medicaid: Continued From Page 1

Senator Portman's office. Once there, advocates joined Ohioans to help demonstrate at Senator Portman's office to demand that he vote no to any healthcare bill that included cuts or caps to Medicaid. Portman's staff refused to come down to talk with us and instead had us arrested.

On July 25th, CDR advocates and members of ADAPT joined others at the Hart Senate building in Washington, D.C. to protest once more to save Medicaid. Voices echoed throughout the hall as advocates chanted "No Cuts to Medicaid! Save our Liberty!"

As a direct result of our advocacy, the vote to repeal the Affordable Healthcare Act which included billions of dollars in Medicaid cuts failed! We will continue to fight as Medicaid cuts continue to be threatened, but we're happy to say that Medicaid is safe for now!

What's New In Albany

The newly forming ADAPT Capitol Region Chapter recently had a great training with Bruce Darling with 22 participants present. We had our second meeting with Troy Mayor Patrick Madden to address accessibility issues faced by the disability community in Troy.

The legislative session ended with no movement on Physician Assisted Suicide legislation. Legislation supporting the Pooled Trust, Visitability, and Complex Rehab Technology all passed, and are awaiting action by the Governor.

Local & National Updates

The Advocacy Team is preparing for a week long Advocacy Trip to D.C. with National ADAPT: Sept. 23rd—Sept. 28th.

Contact us for details!

Contact Advocacy



(585) 546-7510
Ask for Advocacy!



advocacy@cdrnys.org
Email Our Team!

Get Involved With Us Today!

LEARN ABOUT OUR PROGRAMS

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Social Adult Day Services

On July 1st, the Canandaigua Social Adult Day Program relocated to Suite 160 at the 195 Parrish Street address.

The Canandaigua Social Adult Day Program is hosting a Canandaigua high school student and her aide for a summer work study program from July 10th to August 18th. She attends every weekday for two hours in the morning, helping the recreation staff with all of our activities. She enjoys talking to and getting to know all of our consumers, especially with the elderly population.



Our Recreation Specialists, Curt and Courtney, in the new space in Canandaigua.

Community Habilitation

Our Community Habilitation staff is supporting a young man who is deaf. In the short period of time that Community Habilitation has been providing him with support, he has learned to be an effective advocate for himself. He now advocates for himself, especially when it comes to the adaptive equipment he needs. He recently advocated for a strobe light smoke alarm and a flashing doorbell. Both of these items allow him to remain independent in the community. With support from his Community Habilitation staff, he is learning and utilizing effective social skills. His mom is very proud of what he has accomplished, and is pleased with the support Community Habilitation provides.

Service Coordination

The need for Service Coordination in the southern portion of the state remains high. We are adding a new Service Coordinator position to our Corning office to meet this need. Service Coordination is now able to accept referrals for Spanish speaking Waiver participants in the Geneva area. Service Coordinators have many responsibilities and provide consumers with a variety of services and supports. The life of a Service Coordinator is never boring. Recently we supported a consumer in Tompkins County through the Fair Hearing process that resulted in a restoration of the consumer's Personal Care Aide service hours. In Yates County, a CDR Service Coordinator worked with a local loan closet to obtain a very difficult to find mattress for a consumer. A Service Coordinator assisted a consumer in successfully implementing her Community Habilitation plan. With the support of her Service Coordinator, the consumer was able to make significant changes in her ability to keep her home clean and safe, and parent her child, who also has a disability.

CDR Awarded Age-Friendly Title

Center for Disability Rights received an award from the Chemung County Age-Friendly Coalition this year. CDR strives to provide positive and effective services to the community and we also advocate for accessible, affordable, and socially engaging environments for people of all ages. We are proud to be considered a Chemung County Age-Friendly Organization Designation Winner!



Tammy Papperman and Leah Torello accepted award



Christopher Harper's Story: Part 2

After a man survives a horrific Motor Vehicle accident many years ago, He struggles to find his "Identity" realizing he is different from others. "Abandon Town" is a story of courage, determination, loss of self, and learning the difference between reality and non-reality. This individual continually relives a place in his mind that no longer exists. He searches for the truth becoming frustrated, angry, and bitter in a world he no longer understands. He feels isolated. He finds himself symbolically deceased and not knowing who he is. The days repeat seamlessly; making no differentiation of days. He remains "stuck" in the confines of "yesterdays" in a town that no longer exists.

His plight is to find his forever self. Unable to recapture a life that was irrevocably lost, he focuses on what is left. He lives in emptiness where he no longer has wholeness in his mind.

His journey looks for answers to Self. It comes with the price of a complicated sense of self misunderstanding others while working through deep emotional frustration. Nothing makes sense in his entrenched world. Time flies past while searching for a new normal. He searches tools needed to thrive in a confusing world while he "re-invents" himself.

On the 10th anniversary of his accident he encounters a friend recently deceased in Abandon Town. The friend tells him that it is not his time to die. He has not come to terms with his friend's death. The friend encourages him to keep creating music. The friend tells the man that his music will make others thrive in this world of uncertainty.

Editor's Note: This brief account introduces us to the TBI community, from an excerpt of a novel being written by Christopher Harper entitled "Abandon Town."



Photo Credit: Rachel Polter

Upcoming Board Meeting

August 31, 2017
11:00am-1:00pm
497 State Street
Rochester, NY 14608

For dates of upcoming board meetings, please contact Linda Taylor:
Ltaylor@cdrnys.org

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WAYS TO SUPPORT & JOIN US

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DONATE TO CDR: SUPPORT OUR PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

CDR is always in need of donated items from the community to support individuals with disabilities living independently in the community!

Please contact CDR's Development Department, at Ltaylor@cdrnys.org, to donate an item or gift to CDR, or inquire about specific items needed at this time.

All donations are truly appreciated! CDR is a 501(c)(3) organization. All gifts are tax deductible. Thank you for your generosity and support!

LEARN HOW TO GET INVOLVED WITH OUR COMMITTEES!

CDR has a variety of committees that support the organization. We are in need of enthusiastic and knowledgeable community members to join our various committees and support the overall mission of the organization.

Interested? Contact Linda Taylor at Ltaylor@cdrnys.org for more information about all of the different opportunities we have for you!

Get Involved with CDR Today!

START YOUR CAREER WITH CDR TODAY! JOIN OUR TEAM

Interested in starting your career with Center for Disability Rights?

Visit our website at www.cdrnys.org for a complete list of our current job postings! Apply online, or stop into our State Street office in any of our four office locations and join the CDR family!

All About You Homecare, AAY, are looking for talented individuals to join the AAY team! They also provides PCA trainings! Contact us to learn more about both opportunities! Job postings for AAY can be found on CDR's website.

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING WITH CDR? LET US KNOW!

CDR has a variety of events and other volunteer opportunities throughout the year. Whether you are interested in a one time volunteer experience or an ongoing weekly/monthly opportunity; please contact us today and see what we have available!

CDR collaborates with the Regional Center for Independent Living, so there is always a need for volunteers on a variety of projects!



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PROTECT YOUR FREEDOM!

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Membership year 9/1 - 8/31. Minimum contribution \$5 per year.

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