

# DISABILITY RIGHTS **IN ACTION**

A Newsletter of the Center for Disability Rights, Inc. / Summer 2021

## CDR's Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Services Will Expand to Serve 52 NY Counties

On February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021, the Center for Disability Rights (CDR) was notified that we were approved as a lead Fiscal Intermediary for the Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Services (CDPAS) program in 52 counties across New York State. This announcement was the culmination of a process that began fifteen months earlier. In December of 2019, the New York Department of Health (DOH) announced that all Fiscal Intermediaries in the state of New York would have to apply to continue offering their CDPAS programs. Additionally, the DOH said that only a small number of Fiscal Intermediaries would be granted contracts.

In March of 2020, just before the pandemic took hold of the world, we applied to the DOH to be a lead Fiscal Intermediary. The application, totaling over 100 pages, chronicled our 21-year history as a Fiscal Intermediary, in addition to CDR's 30-year history of advocacy. As an all-volunteer organization, in 1993 CDR published a policy report titled Early to Bed/Late to Rise. This report went on to serve as the centerpiece of a successful



*Ann Kaplow, Susan Stahl, and Bruce Darling hold copies of the Early to Bed/Late to Rise policy report.*

*Continued on Page 5*

### WHAT'S INSIDE

INTEGRATION  
INDEPENDENCE  
CIVIL RIGHTS

- 2 Meet Our Staff  
*CDR Highlights*
- 3 Upcoming Events  
*Mark Your Calendar*
- 4 Learn About Our Programs  
*Catch Up with CDR*
- 5 Features  
*Updates of Interest*

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

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Rochester  
(585) 546-7510



## Dear Friends,

In February, we were approved as a lead Fiscal Intermediary for the CDPAS program. CDR is pleased to be given the opportunity to contract with the state and continue providing services. I would like to thank everyone that will be carrying over three decades of our work forward.

Many other things have been going on here at CDR. I invite you to catch up on our programs and services, and read about our featured staff member.

Please contact us to learn more about CDR and how you can get involved. Stay tuned for additional information and updates on our work.

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

*Bruce E. Darling*

## CDR's Staff Highlight: Juan Andino

Personal care attendant services have been a literal lifeline during the coronavirus pandemic, despite the current attendant shortage. This makes the work of the Supervisor Support Specialists for the Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Services (CDPAS) program even more essential. Our newly promoted Team Leader in the Rochester office, Juan Andino, is the essence of what it takes to fulfill this role.

Juan has been at CDR for the past four years, serving as a Bilingual Supervisor Support Specialist. In the CDPAS program, Support Specialists work directly with all of the consumers. This goes beyond payroll processing and addressing other mandated documentation. Whether guiding consumers with new requirements or encouraging consumers to self-advocate, their jobs are an important program component.

Even before his new role, Juan was the go-to-person for CDPAS at the Rochester office. Whether addressing a consumer's additional needs for independent living, or providing assistance at our series of COVID-19 vaccination clinics, he has always worked cooperatively to serve the disability community. His friendly and personable nature is especially valuable, given the demands of the job.

As the new Team Leader, Juan assists the Rochester Supervisor Support Specialists. He worked at the Hillside Family of Agencies for fifteen years prior to coming to CDR. He personifies the importance of leading by example in the human services field. We are fortunate to have him, and greatly value his willingness to go above and beyond to meet the needs of our consumers.



*Juan Andino poses for the camera.*

## Support the Center for Disability Rights! Give the Gift of Freedom.

Your tax deductible donation ensures that our programs and services continue to be available to those we serve, every day.

You can fill out the Annual Giving card below and return by mail to the Center for Disability Rights, Inc. 497 State Street, Rochester, NY 14608.

Or go to our website at [www.cdrnys.org](http://www.cdrnys.org).

Payment options include links to Paypal and Network for Good.

UPCOMING  
EVENTS

Stay tuned for upcoming events. They will be announced on our webpage and on social media.



*This year, give a gift  
that lives on year-round.*

### Annual Giving

- YES! I want to support the independence of people with disabilities with my donation of:
- \$500    \$250    \$100    \$50    \$25
- Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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Address \_\_\_\_\_  
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- I am enclosing a check payable to CDR.
- Pay by credit card
- Master Card    Visa    Amex    Discover
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Signature \_\_\_\_\_
- Donate online at [www.cdrnys.org](http://www.cdrnys.org)

Center for Disability Rights is a  
registered not for profit Corporation.  
Donations are tax deductible.

## Highlight: COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics

The Center for Disability Rights is proud to have hosted twelve pop-up Moderna vaccination clinics this spring and vaccinated 180 people. The elderly, people with disabilities, and people in congregate settings are the most at risk of catching the virus. When the Monroe County Health Department reached out regarding a possible collaboration, we immediately started making plans to help get the vaccine out to our community.

In order to offer vaccinations to as many people as possible, CDR opened a phone campaign. By instituting phone calls to our consumers and making them aware of CDR's vaccine clinic, they did not have to try to navigate the state's online computer sites and/or complex phone systems. Additionally, we provided accessible transportation, an accessible site, and the comfort of being with people they knew.

We could not have done this without the nursing staff at AcuteKids Pediatric Urgent Care and the Office of Mental Health. This partnership continues to benefit our community. The nurses have gone above and beyond, by making a trip to vaccinate an elderly couple who missed the second dose through no fault of their own, as well as making a home visit to ensure that someone received a second shot after being in the hospital.

If you have not yet been vaccinated, please call us at (585) 697-1660, or you can email [vax@cdrnys.org](mailto:vax@cdrnys.org) so we can help you get vaccinated. #VaccinationsSaveLives!



### Advocacy Update

While the Center for Disability Rights continues to focus on responding to the coronavirus pandemic, our advocacy and public policy work has not stopped. Examples of our hard work include:

Distributed our budget response and budget priorities to more than sixty State Senate and State Assembly offices.

Supported the #FairPay4HomeCare campaign that would raise the pay of CDPAS and home care workers to 150% of the minimum wage.

Joined NYAIL's coalition "Living At Home, Not In A Home" that seeks to reduce the state's reliance on nursing facilities.

Hired a new Manager of Government Affairs. Zachary Garafalo comes to us from NYAIL and has an extensive background of volunteer work in public service.

### Contact Advocacy



**(585) 546-7510**

Ask for Advocacy!



**[advocacy@cdrnys.org](mailto:advocacy@cdrnys.org)**

Email Our Team!

**Get Involved  
With Us Today!**

## Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Services

*Continued From Page 1*

campaign to expand the CDPAS program statewide. The application outlined the many advances we implemented from consumer input and explained our plans to expand services in the future. These were based on our long-standing commitment to disability-led advocacy and innovation.

As a lead Fiscal Intermediary, CDR will expand our CDPAS program to include 52 counties across the state. We do not yet know the start date of the new contract, but we began to prepare for the dramatic growth. Because of the disability representation at every level of CDR, we know that we provide the CDPAS program that consumers need to stay independent in the community. This stems from our hard work to ensure that the CDPAS program is rooted in supporting individuals with disabilities to live independently in the community and take charge of their own lives.

CDR is grateful to everyone whose hard work and strong advocacy built the CDPAS program into what it is today. We look forward to continuing to amplify consumer voices as we move into this next, exciting, phase of our growth.



### Are you interested in getting involved with us?

**You can help by:**

- **Donating**
- **Volunteering at Events**

**You can join our:**

- **Advocacy Efforts**
- **Committees**

**Don't forget to like, follow, and share us on social media!**  
**Ask us how you can get involved!**

**We are not-for profit organizations working to keep people with disabilities living independently in the community, with help from services and support they may need.**

### Newsletter Accessibility:

If you would prefer to receive this newsletter in an alternate format, including:

- Braille
- Large print

**Contact Linda Taylor:**  
[Ltaylor@cdrnys.org](mailto:Ltaylor@cdrnys.org)

### Upcoming Board Meeting

August 19, 2021  
1:00pm-3:00pm  
497 State Street  
Rochester, NY 14608

**All board meetings will be conducted on Zoom, until further notice.**

497 State Street  
Rochester, NY 14608  
(585) 546-7510



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## ***PROTECT YOUR FREEDOM!***

CDR works for the full integration, independence, and civil rights of people with disabilities.

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### **Become a Member of CDR today!**

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

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CITY

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***\*All Donations are tax deductible.***