



INDEPENDENTLY YOURS

Summer 2006

Join DCIL For Its First Annual ROLL and STROLL

As part of our annual picnic on August 26, 2006, DCIL will be sponsoring the 1st Annual ROLL and STROLL. Picnickers can either Walk or Roll around Herrick Lake at the Herrick Lake Forest Preserve in Wheaton. The distance around Herrick Lake is 1 mile and is wheelchair accessible.



We are planning this event as a fundraiser and ask you to get pledges for the event. You can get pledges for the ROLL and STROLL around the lake, pledges for

the number of laps you take or just a flat pledge in support of the Center.

Enclosed in this newsletter is a flyer for the event and a pledge sheet. Please begin to get pledges and collecting money. Remember this is to support the Center which has been serving people with disabilities throughout DuPage County.

While we hope that this will raise some much needed support for DCIL, we also hope that it will be FUN!

As always thank you for your support. We look forward to seeing you at the picnic on August 26th. If you have any questions feel free to call Jane Moore or email jane_dupagecil@sbcglobal.net. See you in August!

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Coming Soon

August

Annual DCIL Picnic

August 26, 2006

New Social Support Group at DCIL

by Kim Liddell

On January 12th, the DCIL Social Group met for its first meeting. Here is what you've missed!

In January, Ardelle Kraus from the Glen Ellyn Public Library provided wonderful information about their services. To start with, the Homebound Program provides reading materials for those who are unable to get to the library. The books are dropped off and picked up at the residents of Glen Ellyn. Another wonderful service is the CCTV Circulation Program. If you are having visual difficulties, you can get a CCTV by loan from the library. The loan period lasts 2 to 3 weeks. This can give you the opportunity to try it out and to be more independent. Another great service is movies on Friday nights at the Glen Ellyn Library. There are lots of other great services, to find out more about the spring program, please call the Glen Ellyn Public Library at 630 469-0879. For those who do not live in Glen Ellyn, call your local library to see what services it offers. The libraries offer similar programs with some variations.

If you are interested in joining our group, just give a call. I am open to suggestions that anyone may have for the Social Support Group. My name is Kim S. Liddell and I can be reached at 630 469 2300 or Kim_dupagecil@sbcglobal.net



Social Support Group Announcements

Note: All meetings meet the 2nd Thursday of each month from 2:00PM to 3:30 PM at the DuPage CIL at 739 Roosevelt Rd, Bldg 8, Ste 109, Glen Ellyn, IL 60137. Call Kim at 630-469-2300, if you have any questions.

Thursday, July 13th, 2006

Presentation on the Americans With Disabilities Act. This presentation will be made by Jane Moore, Attorney and Associate Director of DCIL.

Thursday, August 10th, 2006

Find a new friend. This is a great opportunity to network, mingle and make new friends.

Thursday, September 14th, 2006

A presentation on the benefits available to residents of DuPage County. This talk will be given by the DuPage County Dept of Human Services.

Thursday, October 12th, 2006

Implementation of the Olmstead Act. This is an Act that we are working on to get passed through legislation that will help get more individuals out of institutions who want to get out.

How does this affect those who are in the Home Service Program?

How does it help individuals that are in nursing homes and want to get out?

Learn how you can support the cause. This will be presented by Kim S Liddell, DuPage Center for Independent Living staff member.

How Is Medicare Part D Doing So Far

by Don Davia

It has now been several months since implementation of Medicare prescription drug coverage. After reviewing the numbers and experiences to date, I can report that we are seeing solid progress. But we are not done. We continue to work aggressively to solve the problems that inevitably occur in transitions this size. Enrollment is going up; costs are going down. More than 25 million enrollees are now receiving prescription drug benefits and we are adding on average of 250,000/week.

The marketplace is working. Competition among drug plan choices is slowing down spending growth. This means that the costs of drug coverage are less than expected. States, taxpayers and, most important, seniors are saving. States are completing their transition to the new Medicare prescription drug program.

Forty-four states and the District of Columbia are participating in a program that will limit their costs and ease the transition to Medicare drug coverage for certain people who are also on Medicaid. We are paying for the administrative costs of states that work with Medicare and for pharmacists who use Medicare's billing systems. This is paying off in lower state billing and greater use of Medicare coverage. Most states do not need to use their billing systems at all or are using them for only a small share of prescription drug claims for people with both Medicare and Medicaid.

Systems are improving and where we find problems, we are fixing them. We are working to ensure that Medicare beneficiaries and health care professionals who participate are receiving the best service that Part D organizations can deliver. We have taken steps to make the "data handoffs" between Medicare, drug plans, states, and pharmacies work better together.

The drug benefit program is a good deal for all of us, and especially for the tens of millions of seniors and persons with disabilities who have new or better coverage. Seniors, taxpayers, and states are saving because of strong competition among the drug plan choices and other recent steps to slow down drug spending growth, the costs of Medicare drug coverage are much less than had been expected. Seniors and persons with disabilities are seeing premiums one third lower on average, reduced about \$12 per month or nearly smoothly and quickly. This has been a difficult transition but the efforts of pharmacists particularly stand out as heroic. The majority of retail pharmacies are able to perform real-time eligibility determinations.

There is also a steady decline in the number of Helpline and client eligibility calls by pharmacists. We are conducting frequent checks with the e-mail sent 2/8 to HHS from \$150 per year less than expected. As a result of the Part D benefit, in Alabama, seniors are saving \$1,100 on average. Medicare now has over 750 enrolled. Taxpayers are saving billions. Since the latest patients entered into the system July, the projected cost of the benefit has come down by \$7.6 billion in 2006,



A program has been instituted of performance measurement and evaluation to ensure that organizations are delivering the service that beneficiaries deserve. They are not yet satisfied with the

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DCIL Kicks-Off Membership Drive

by Mary Kozy, Board Member

Are you a current member of the DuPage Center for Independent Living? Sixty-six of you are and we very much appreciate you. Membership is one very important way that you can participate in the Center. As a member, you can vote at our annual meeting for the officers who set policy and direction for the Center. Being a member means that you support our mission. It empowers you with "ownership" of what happens here.

Our current membership year runs from October 1 2005 through September 30, 2006. At this time, membership categories are: \$5 for basic \$10 for supporting membership \$25 for organizational \$50 for sustaining \$100 for patron \$250 for corporate \$500 for benefactor It is not too late to join for this year. We will be changing these categories for the upcoming membership year and adding a new lifetime membership category. This will give those who wish an opportunity to show their ongoing commitment to the Center and not have to renew membership each year. Stay tuned for further information.

We hope you can join us by becoming a member now and considering annual or lifetime membership in the future. You do not have to be a member of the Center to participate in our programs or receive services. Our services are provided at no cost to consumers. Membership money is one way that we can continue to provide quality services to our consumers.

For any questions about membership, to join, or if you would like to work on our membership drive, call the Center at 630-469-2300.

Oops! We Forgot

We want to thank the owners of Corky's Catering and the Krispy Kreme Company for all their support over the past year: our ADA celebration in July, our picnic in August, the Freedom Ride in October and our Christmas Open House in December.

Security Procedures for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Air Travelers

The Consumer Action Network (CAN) reminds deaf and hard of hearing travelers planning airline flights during the holiday season that new air travel rules may have a significant effect. The United States Department of Transportation has released a fact sheet regarding security procedures for travelers with disabilities which contains several items which impact deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind and late-deafened travelers.

For example, airlines must continue to provide meet and assist service (e.g., assistance to gate or aircraft) at drop-off points for deaf-blind travelers. The lack of curbside check-in, for certain airlines at some airports, has not changed the requirement for meet and assist service at drop-off points.

The limit of one carry-on bag and one personal bag (e.g., purse or briefcase) for each traveler does not apply to medical supplies and/or assistive devices. Passengers with disabilities generally may carry medical equipment, medications, and assistive devices on board the aircraft. Such assistive devices may include TTY bags, laptops that are configured to provide CART or other services.

Service animals, once inspected to ensure prohibited items are not concealed, are permitted on board an aircraft. Any backpack or sidepack that is carried on the animal will be manually inspected or put through the X-ray machines. The service animal's halter may also be removed for inspection.

Assistive devices such as TTYs and hearing aids, once inspected to ensure prohibited items are not concealed, are permitted on board an aircraft. Air carriers must ensure that qualified individuals with a disability, including those with who are deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind, have timely access to information, such as new security measures, the carriers provide to other passengers. There are over 28 million deaf and hard of hearing people in the United States.

The Re-Integration Program

by Sheila O'Neil

Many of you may know me as the Personal Assistant Coordinator here at the Center. Last October I also became the coordinator of the Reintegration program and I wanted to tell you a little bit about the program and what I've been doing with it. For those of you who use personal assistants to help you in your home you know how important those "PA's" can be to help you stay at home and not have to move into a nursing home. Well the reintegration program is for people with disabilities who want to move **out** of a nursing home and into their own homes. I currently am working with 3 individuals who have been living in a nursing home from 6 months to 20 years and want to move out. With the financial assistance of this program I hope to be able to assist these 3 consumers to move into their own apartment by helping with the 1st month's rent, security deposit, furniture and some start up grocery's and cleaning supplies. I am currently working with 3 of the 54 nursing homes in Dupage County. There are so many more people who need to be aware of this program, because there are too many people with disabilities in nursing homes that should be living in their own homes.



PA Connection!

We've had a successful PA Connection this past April. It provided a networking opportunity for our consumers and personal assistants. This gave our consumers a chance to mingle, interview and hire a personal assistant. Due to the great success we have had with the PA Connection, we will be hosting another PA Connection on Thursday, July 20th, 2006 from 2 to 3:30 pm here at the DuPage CIL. Feel free to bring goodies, beverages will be provided. Any questions, please contact Kim Liddell at 630 469 2300.

Accessible Voting Machine Displayed at DCIL

by Pat Byrne

On March 8, 2006 the Visually Impaired Program committee sponsored a demonstration of the new, accessible voting machine. Mr. Bob Saar of the DuPage County Board of Election Commissioners brought and installed two machines and everyone who wished to try his or her turn at voting was given the opportunity. We voted a "Pretend Ballot", but we learned how the machine functioned and are prepared to vote on upcoming Election Days.

Federal law states that by January 2006, all voting places **MUST** have an accessible voting machine, presenting information accessible to the visually impaired. A number of machines are certified – and operate with either visually displayed information or with speech output, or both. The output mode is chosen by the voter at the time of voting. Votes are cast using a telephone style keypad, even to the point of casting a write in vote, using the letters of the alphabet on the keypad. The machine is programmed to instruct the voter all the way through the process, allowing opportunity to make changes all the way up until your ballot is finally counted.

The committee was impressed with the equipment and the presentation. Our thanks to the DuPage County Office of Election Commissioners. It is important to vote and now it is easier for those of us who have visual impairments.

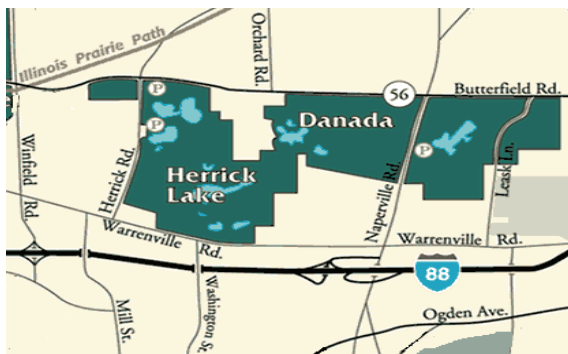


Pat Byrne and Georgia Cawley testing the new voting machines

Make Your Plans Now The Annual DCIL Picnic

On Saturday, August 26th, DCIL will have their annual picnic at Herrick Lake Forest Preserve in Wheaton. The picnic will go from 11:00 AM until 3:00 PM. Everything will be provided. Call 630-469-2300 to let us know that you are planning to attend.

Map and Directions



From the North

Rt 355 South to Butterfield Rd (Rt 56). Rt 56 West to Herrick Lake Forest Preserve. This is on the south side of Rt 56. Turn into Herrick Lake and turn left (East) and go to the parking lot. DCIL is at the East Shelter.

From the South

Rt 355 North to Butterfield Rd (Rt 56). Rt 56 West to Herrick Lake Forest Preserve. This is on the south side of Rt 56. Turn into Herrick Lake and turn left (East) and go to the parking lot. DCIL is at the East Shelter.

From the East

Rt 290 West to Rt 355. Rt 355 South to Rt 56. Rt 56 West to Herrick Lake Forest Preserve. This is on the south side of Rt 56. Turn into Herrick Lake and turn left (East) and go to the parking lot. DCIL is at the East Shelter.

From the West

Rt 88 East to Rt 59. Rt 59 North to Rt 56 (Butterfield Rd). Rt 56 East to to Herrick Lake Forest Preserve. This is on the south side of Rt 56. Turn into Herrick Lake and turn left (East) and go to the parking lot. DCIL is at the East Shelter.



How is Medicare Part D Doing So Far?

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response time achieved on drug plan 1-800 lines. and states will spend \$37 billion less than projected over the next ten years.

We will use this ongoing monitoring program to provide feedback to Part D organizations. We will work with the programs to improve overall customer service, and we will impose sanctions as the results warrant. The drug benefit program is a good deal for all of us, and especially for the tens of millions of seniors and persons with disabilities who have new or better coverage.

Medicare continues its commitment to constant problem solving and improvement so that all can fully enjoy these benefits. As we move forward seniors, taxpayers, and states are saving because of strong competition among the drug plan choices and other recent steps to slow down drug spending growth. The costs of Medicare drug coverage are much less than had been expected. Seniors and persons with disabilities are seeing premiums one third lower on average, reduced nearly \$12 per month smoothly and quickly.

(Part 2 in our next issue)

Summer

2006

Roommate



Connection

One way to beat the high cost of housing is to have a roommate. Here are the names and phone numbers of persons interested in finding a roommate. As you contact people on the list, remember that it is your responsibility to check references and determine if the person you contact will make a good roommate.

Mary Weyer is looking to become someone's roommate and share an apartment in Southeast DuPage County. If you are interested in sharing your apartment with her, you can reach her at 630-971-2271.

Angela Olsen is looking for someone to room with by late February. If you think that you are interested, call 630-620-9596 & leave a message.

Kim Jacobs is seeking a roommate in the Glen

Ellyn area. If you are interested, give her a call at 630-858-0653.

Melissa Mehan is looking to be a roommate with someone in DuPage County. If you are interested, please give her a call at 630-953-8035.

Tony Mottl is seeking to share someone's apartment or house in DuPage County. He can pay his own way. If you are interested, give him a call at 630-752-0638 or e-mail at mottlal@juno.com.

Richard Lawless is looking to find a roommate who already has an apartment to share in DuPage County. If you are interested, you can contact him at 312-977-4534.

Laura Jardine is seeking to become someone's roommate. She is looking in DuPage County. If you have room for a roommate, give her a call at 630-715-0570

This is an ad for a live-in PA

A mature, responsible live in is needed to be a companion to an elderly lady. Light duties and cooking. Free room & board, small salary, Located near College of DuPage. English speaking female, please. When leaving a message, please state your name & phone number clearly. 630 665 0207. Thank you.

DCIL STAFF

Leigh Ann Heenan—Executive Director

Jane Moore—Associate Director

Lenore Varey — Business Manager

Pat Byrne — Independent Skills Coordinator / Visual Services

Mike Reidy — Housing Advocate

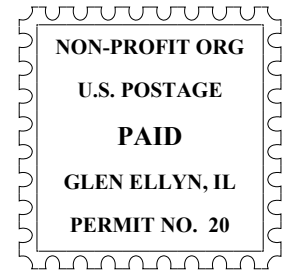
Sheila O'Neil — Community Reintegration

Kim Liddell — Personal Assistant Coordinator

Don Davia — Medicare/Medicaid Specialist



Return Service Requested



THE DUPAGE CENTER FOR
INDEPENDENT LIVING

739 Roosevelt Rd, Building 8, Suite
109
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137-5820

Phone: 630-469-2300 (V/TTY)
TTY 630-960-9687
Fax: 630-469-2606
Email: dupagecil@sbcglobal.net



Roommate Connection Request

The newsletter is published four times a year. Do you want your ad printed for 1,2,3 or 4 (throughout the year) issues? The next _____ issues.

I would like my name and phone number listed in the Roommate Connection portion of the DuPage Center's newsletter.

I understand that it is my responsibility to determine whether a person I contact or a person who contacts me is a suitable roommate. Furthermore, I understand that the DuPage Center assumes no responsibility for my roommate selection.

SIGNATURE:

DATE : _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE NO./ TTY _____

The area in DuPage where I would like to share an apartment or a house is (circle one or more)

Northwest

Southwest

Northeast

Southeast

