

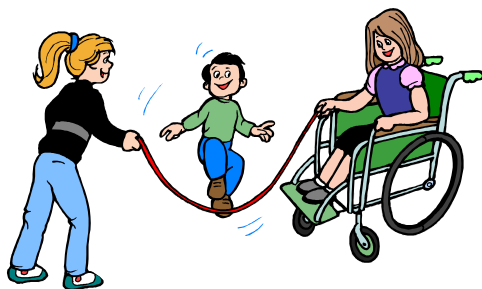


# INDEPENDENTLY YOURS

Independently Yours

Fall 2010

## Youth Services Program Coming to DCIL



After many months of anticipation, DuPage CIL has received funding under President Obama's American Recovery Reinvestment Act (ARRA) through the Department of Education for a Youth Services Coordinator. Throughout the process, we had an end goal in sight. That goal is to provide core services to children with disabilities in DuPage County and to ensure their independence in community living.

The project is designed to increase independent living skills and options for young persons with significant disabilities through provision of core and specialized independent living services. A strong advocacy component will press for increased transition and employment options. Education about civil rights, skill

development in leadership and self-advocacy, and raising community awareness of disability issues will also be priorities.

The creation of the Youth Services Coordinator has been repeatedly requested by area parents of and by transition aged youth with significant disabilities. It will be guided by input from youth populations with disabilities and targeted parent groups of children with significant disabilities in DuPage County. The Center will also obtain input from community forums, satisfaction surveys, and individual consumer input.

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### Coming Soon

- **DCIL Holiday Party on Thursday, December 9, 2010**
- **Holiday Craft & Rummage Sale, see Flyer Insert**
- **Holiday Closures**



## MEDICARE NOTES

### Changing your coverage

We are currently in to that magical period when all seniors and many disabled people can change their medical providers. You are allowed to change your coverage from November 15 – December 31. If you are on both Medicare/Medicaid you are allowed to change coverage any time you need.

### Fraud Training

The DuPage Center is now offering Medicare Fraud alert training. If you or any family member feel you are not getting accurate information or you are questioning whether Medicare is really contacting you, please call Don Davia. He is kept abreast of the latest scams. Medicare takes seriously any fraud or scams.

### Good Samaritan Hospital News

The DCIL has been working with Good Samaritan Hospital on a monthly basis in helping people having a mental illness become aware of what each person might qualify for under Social Security. If any person wants to know how Social Security can help them please call Don Davia at our office. 630-469-2300 V/TTY

## **Holiday Closures**

### Thanksgiving

**The Center will be closed for Thanksgiving on November 24, 2010 at 1:30 pm. We will re-open on Monday, November 29, 2010 at 8:30 am**

### Christmas & New Year's

**The Center will be closed from Friday, December 24, 2010 through Friday, December 31, 2010. We will re-open on Monday January 2, 2011 at 8:30 am**

**For emergencies, please contact  
Du Page County at 630-407-6500 or  
[www.dupagecris.org](http://www.dupagecris.org)**

## **Changes within DRS Home Service Program**

**By  
Kim Liddell**

Some of you may be aware of the changeover of contractual home service counselors to union employees as a result of the Fletcher Arbitration ruling. Contractual home Service Counselors were terminated by June 30<sup>th</sup> of 2010. The Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) is still in the process of replacing all of the home service counselors with new employees. I find it disappointing to find out recently that the agency still hasn't replaced all of the counselors to meet the demanding needs within the home service program. I have many calls from individuals whom I have referred to DRS to apply for home services regarding the waiting process. They are being told that it could be as long as four or five months before being processed.

The DRS Agency was well aware of this changeover in advance. Why isn't there adequate counselors implemented? I was alarmed to hear that a consumer who met the criteria's of an emergency need was told they had to wait. I promptly informed this consumer to call DRS in Springfield and also referred them to CAP (Client Assistant Program) for advocacy. Needless to say, I was relieved to hear within a week that a home service counselor had been out to the home to speed up the home services process.

I understand that two or three new home service counselors cannot bear the case loads of seven or eight home service counselors who are experienced in this field. But, DRS saw this coming and is coming up short on the stick which affects real people with real needs. If you would like further information or are in need of assistance, please call Kim Liddell at 630-469-2300 V/TTY

I have met two new home service counselors and was informed that another counselor will be joining the team. I believe that it went well in promoting DCIL as the next step for home service consumers to further meet their needs in inde-

# DCIL Housing News

## Amplified Phone Program Provided by Illinois Telecommunication Access Cooperation (ITAC)

### Who and What is ITAC?



ITAC's purpose is to provide telecommunications access to people who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Late Deafened, Speech-Disabled and Deaf-Blind. They accomplish this by providing the Illinois Relay Service and issuing equipment that ranges from amplified telephones to Braille phones. ITAC has been issuing equipment since 1988. ITAC programs are funded by a charge on all local phone lines in Illinois. They are governed by the [Illinois Commerce Commission, a Board of Directors](#) and an [Advisory Council](#).

### What are the Eligibility Requirements?

- You must be a legal resident of the State of Illinois.
- You must have a working land line telephone service at the address you show on your application form.
- You must be certified as Deaf, Hard-of-Hearing, Speech-Disabled or Deaf-Blind by: Licensed Physician, Speech-Language Pathologist, Audiologist or designated DHS/DRS Counselor.
- There are no age or income restrictions to qualify for the programs.

Please contact us at the DuPage Center for Independent (630-469-2300) for information on how to pick up an application or if you need one sent to your place of residence.

This past September the DuPage Center for Independent Living had the opportunity to work with the DuPage Housing Authority in conjunction with their Section 8 Housing vouchers waiting list program. The center assisted individuals that did not have internet access or could not use the computer themselves. We were able to assist close to fifty people with the application process. The pre-application period for the General Waiting List was suspended as of September 30, 2010 at 5:00pm. The DuPage Housing Authority received 39,739 applications. After October 4, 2010, applicants can check their status to see if they have been one of 2500 people selected to be on the General Waiting List. "Active" will indicate the applicant HAS been selected. "Inactive" will indicate the applicant HAS NOT been selected.

You are able to check your status by going to DuPage Housing Authority's website at:

[www.dupagehousing.org](http://www.dupagehousing.org) or call the DHA Status HOT-LINE at 1-888-442-0384. Or contact us at the Center at 630-469-2300.

For any further assistance regarding your Voucher "status" be sure to contact DuPage Housing Authority by phone at 630-690-3555 or online at [www.dupagehousing.org](http://www.dupagehousing.org).

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