



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT FOR AGING  
AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES



DIVISION FOR THE AGING

James A. Rothrock, Commissioner

## VDA WEEKLY E-MAILING

April 5, 2016

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### ACL News & Information

Here is a link to news & information from the Administration for Community Living (ACL):

<http://www.acl.gov/NewsRoom/NewsInfo/Index.aspx>

### NASUAD Weekly Update

Here is a link to the weekly update from NASUAD:

<http://www.nasuad.org/newsroom/friday-update>

Note: The web links in this document may change over time. DARS-VDA does not attempt to refresh the links once the week has passed. However, this document is maintained on the web for a period of time as a reference. Some links may require registration.

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## UPDATES

**March 30, 2016**

### [The Power of "Side by Side"](#)

Every March we celebrate Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month and the many contributions people with developmental disabilities (DD) make to our society. This year, the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities, Association of University Centers on Disabilities, and National Disability Rights Network chose the theme "Side by Side" to highlight the principle that everyone benefits when people with and without disabilities live, learn, and earn "side by side" in the community. This idea of true inclusion and integration is the backbone of our work at ACL, and we are proud to work with our DD network partners to make it a reality for all people. However, it is not only people with and without disabilities who are stronger working side by side. This simple, yet powerful idea also applies to all of us working *within* the disability community.



[Read Commissioner Bishop's blog about the power of working across silos, cultures, disabilities, generations, and movements.](#)



## UPDATES

**March 30, 2016**

### **Department of Justice Launches 10 Regional Elder Justice Task Forces**

Today, the Department of Justice announced the launch of 10 regional Elder Justice Task Forces. These teams will bring together federal, state and local prosecutors, law enforcement, and agencies that provide services to the elderly, to coordinate and enhance efforts to pursue nursing homes that provide grossly substandard care to their residents.

“Millions of seniors count on nursing homes to provide them with quality care and to treat them with dignity and respect when they are most vulnerable,” said Acting Associate Attorney General Stuart F. Delery. “Yet, all too often we have found nursing home owners or operators who put their own economic gain before the needs of their residents. These task forces will help ensure that we are working closely with all relevant parties to protect the elderly.”

The Elder Justice Task Forces will include representatives from the U.S. Attorneys’ Offices, state Medicaid Fraud Control Units, state and local prosecutors’ offices, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), state Adult Protective Services agencies, Long-Term Care Ombudsman programs and law enforcement.

“The Administration for Community Living was created to help ensure that older adults and people with disabilities are able to live the lives they want, with the people they choose, fully participating in their communities,” said Becky Kurtz, Director of the Office of Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs at the Administration for Community Living. “Our mission includes supporting their basic right to live with dignity, free from abuse. We appreciate the Department of Justice’s leadership on this important initiative and applaud its long-standing



commitment to elder justice efforts.”

[Read the full press release from the Department of Justice.](#)

Learn more:

[Office of Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs](#)

[Department of Justice Elder Initiative](#)



**March 31, 2016**

### **[The Paralysis Resource Center Awards 107 Grants to Support Quality of Life Initiatives](#)**

The Paralysis Resource Center (PRC), administered by the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation, an ACL grantee and national nonprofit dedicated to improving quality of life for individuals living with paralysis awarded Quality of Life grants to 107 nonprofit organizations nationwide totaling \$735,482. These grants provide financial support to fellow nonprofits that mirror the PRC’s mission to foster community engagement, enhance independence and promote self-determination and empowerment. Pioneered by the late Dana Reeve, the program has awarded more than 2,600 grants, totaling over \$19 million since its inception in 1999.

Awarded twice yearly, grant requests were evaluated and scored based on a rigorous review process to determine funding for organizations that promote the health and well-being for those living with paralysis, as well as their families and caregivers.

#### **Awardee Spotlights:**

**The Foundation of the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center, New Orleans, LA , \$12,000** - Grant funds will support a Post-Stroke Clinic at LSU Health New Orleans School



of Allied Health Professions. The Clinic will provide free occupational, physical, and speech therapies to those in need who are living with chronic stroke in the New Orleans community.

**The Looking Glass (TLG), Berkeley, CA, \$25,000** – Grant funds will train parents (or parenting grandparents) with disabilities on adaptive baby care techniques. TLG occupational therapists will provide 15 families of infants and toddlers, from birth to 3-years-old, with adaptive baby care equipment, and teach modified childcare techniques during home visits.

**The Chickasaw Nation, Ada, OK, \$24,715**- Grant funds will enable the Chickasaw Nation Medical Center to provide a state-of-the-art portable assisted gait device to patients as part of their acute inpatient rehabilitation. This equipment will help maximize each patient's potential to regain their highest level of function and independence.

[Click here](#) to learn more about the Paralysis Resource Center.



**March 31, 2016**

### **[New CDC Autism Data Highlights Importance of Long-term Services and Supports, Cultural Competency](#)**

Today [the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) released data](#) from its Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Network indicating that 1 in 68 school-aged children are on the autism spectrum. In announcing the rate, which is unchanged from 2014, the CDC called attention to the critical role services and supports play in helping people with autism reach their full potential.

Autistic children, like people with all types of disabilities, need more avenues to gain independence. From an early age, they need to learn life skills that will enable them to fully participate



in the community and to be actively and meaningfully involved in planning for their own transition to adulthood.

We need to have higher expectations for people with disabilities, in everything including academic achievement. We must empower them to do more than stay at home or work in non-integrated settings, like sheltered workshops. We also must take action to structure our communities and workplaces to embrace neurodiversity and benefit from these individuals' strengths.

To achieve this, we must ensure services are available to support children with autism through all stages of life – from early childhood and the school years, as they look toward college and employment, and ultimately as they live independently as adults.

To that end, the nation's 67 federally-funded University Centers for Developmental Disabilities (UCEDDs) are playing a leading role in conducting research, developing and testing cutting edge practices, and connecting families with services and supports.

For example, the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Waisman Center demonstrates the effectiveness of starting early and establishing high expectations for all children. Its supportive learning environment for a developmentally diverse group of children between the ages of 1 and 5 offers a model of promising practices for other schools and organizations.

UCEDDs also have been [key partners](#) in the CDC's [Learn the Signs. Act Early.](#) campaign, which aims to improve early identification of children with autism and other developmental disabilities so children and families can get the services and support they need.

State Councils on Developmental Disabilities also are playing a role. Many participate in Project SEARCH, a program which uses real-life work experience to help youth with disabilities make successful transitions from school to adult life with jobs in integrated settings with good wages. State Protection and Advocacy systems often work with children with autism and their families on the development of – and adherence to -- appropriate Individual Education Plans.

The CDC report also notes that black and Hispanic children are



less likely to be identified as being on the autism spectrum, and they receive developmental evaluations at a later age than white children. This is a serious problem because a late or missed diagnosis can cause children and their families to miss out on services and supports that can help them thrive.

Although there is no single definitive explanation for the disparity in diagnoses, there are a number of factors that research suggests might play a role.

- Black and Latino children on the autism spectrum are more likely to receive incorrect diagnoses such as ADHD or conduct disorders. Signs that black and Latino children may be on the autism spectrum are often dismissed and attributed to other social or cultural factors or other disabilities.
- Black and Latino families may not have the same level of access to health care services, particularly specialized services.
- Linguistic barriers can impact families for whom English is not a first language. For example, [a study in California](#) found that only 10% of surveyed primary care pediatricians could provide Spanish-language Autism screenings.
- Particularly in black communities, a lack of trust in the medical profession because of historic abuses like the Tuskegee experiments, may cause parents to avoid seeking a diagnosis or treatment.
- Greater stigma associated with developmental disabilities in black and Hispanic communities also may play a role in preventing parents from seeking assessments for their children.

And there may be other factors at play. Consequently, there is no single answer to the problem. However, there are efforts underway to help. For example, [Birth to 5: Watch Me Thrive!](#), a coordinated federal effort to encourage universal developmental and behavioral screening for children, includes a number of Spanish-language screening tools.

Additionally, 43 Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND) programs operate across the country, often working alongside a UCEDD. These programs,



funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration, train professionals from diverse disciplines to diagnose autism and other developmental disabilities and use evidence-based interventions. Many of these programs have focused specifically on outreach to underserved communities.

Multiple projects at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) also are focusing on outreach, working with the Hispanic community. The UIC UCEDD runs a clinic offering comprehensive interdisciplinary assessments in Spanish and/or English for individuals of all ages who believe they may have a developmental disability. One of the program's specialties is autism. In addition, through a grant from the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research at ACL, UIC is evaluating a training program for Latino parents of children with autism delivered by health educators, or promotoras, who themselves are parents of children with autism.

Such programs are necessary because research suggests that racial disparities impact families' experiences long after a diagnosis is made. For example, [a national study](#) found that black and Latino parents of children with developmental disabilities such as autism "were significantly less likely than white parents to report that their health care provider spent enough time with their child, or was sensitive to the family's values and customs." For families for whom English is not a first language, language barriers can result in inaccessible services and make it even harder to navigate a system of services and supports that can be overwhelming for any family.

Given the many challenges, it is critical that cultural and linguistic competency be a part of every program and system that supports people on the autism spectrum and their families.

Recent efforts to address this challenge include the [Diversity and Inclusion Toolkit](#) developed by the [Association of University Centers on Disability](#) with guidance and funding from AIDD, to highlight specific strategies and resources that UCEDDs, national organizations and federal agencies can use to promote diversity and inclusion. In addition, with National Training Initiative grants from ACL/AIDD, 14 UCEDDs are developing [diversity fellowship programs](#) to support recruitment and retention of diverse trainees and build cultural



and linguistic competence within their centers.

Tomorrow marks the start of Autism Awareness Month. This year – and going forward even after the month ends -- let's focus on more than awareness. Let's work toward true acceptance. Let's raise expectations, both for people with autism and for the world we live in.

We all benefit when everyone has the opportunity to contribute and participate – let's commit to working even harder to ensure that opportunity fully includes people with autism.



**March 31, 2016**

**Webinar: Mobile Apps for Vulnerable Adults**

**Thursday, April 14**

3:00-4:00 p.m. ET

Join the National Alzheimer's and Dementia Resource Center for a webinar on mobile applications to assist vulnerable adults who live independently, including people with dementia.

You will learn about two mobile applications designed for people who live alone, including a project developed by Georgia's Department of Aging.

Register and learn about the presenters here:

<https://rti.connectsolutions.com/e79abuko6vo/event/registration.html>



## **Governor's Conference on Aging: Sponsorship and Registration Info**

*Martina James, Special Assistant to the Commissioner*



Gov. Terry McAuliffe has called for the first Virginia Governor's Conference on Aging since 2003. The day and a half conference will be held May 2-3, 2016 at the Richmond Hotel and Spa, Short Pump.

Right now the conference is listed as **SOLD OUT** and people can "join" the waitlist. Please register at <http://vgcoa.com/conference-registration-form/>

**We are thrilled to announce that Matt Paxton of Clutter Cleaner and the show HOARDERS will be joining us as the guest presenter during our Lunch plenary session.** Matt Paxton is the premier Hoarding Clean-Up expert in America. Paxton is the author of *The Secret Lives of Hoarders* and has appeared on over 65 episodes of the television show HOARDERS. He's cleaned thousands of hoarded homes for the last 10 years and will share his insights and effective techniques to understand, motivate and successfully communicate with hoarders and their family members. Matt uses his unique and vast experiences to create a results focused program that focuses on compassion, understanding and trust to help hoarders nationwide.

## **Home Care Guide for Consumers and Families**

*Kathy Miller, Director of Aging Programs*

Since publication of the Home Care Final Rule, the Department of Labor has led an unprecedented implementation program to engage stakeholders and to help employers prepare for compliance. In this process, stakeholder questions indicated a need for additional guidance to help consumers and families who use home care services determine their responsibilities under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), the federal minimum wage and overtime law that applies to most home care workers.

DOL is issuing *Paying Minimum Wage and Overtime to Home Care Workers: A Guide for Consumers and their Families to the Fair Labor Standards Act*. This user-friendly guide, developed with stakeholder input, explains who needs to follow the FLSA rules and how to follow them. The guide provides examples of situations involving hiring a home care worker directly, using a home care agency, and arranging care through a self-directed program. It discusses paid providers who are family members of the consumer and who are live-in workers.

The guide is now available on our website at [http://www.dol.gov/whd/homecare/homecare\\_guide.htm](http://www.dol.gov/whd/homecare/homecare_guide.htm).



## **FRAUD ADVISORY: SSA OIG Warns Public About "Disability Services" Phone Calls**

*Kathy Miller, Director of Aging Programs*

Social Security Inspector General Patrick P. O'Carroll is warning citizens to be aware of phone calls from unknown people who claim to have information about a citizen's application for disability benefits and offer assistance with the citizen's claim. The Office of the Inspector General received a report from a Maryland citizen who recently received several of these phone calls, even though the citizen had not applied for disability benefits.

The callers appear to be "phishing" for personal information – such as Social Security numbers or personal financial information – from unknowing citizens, who possibly have applied for disability benefits and thus might be inclined to provide information to the caller in furtherance of his or her claim.

[See the full advisory at the OIG website.](#)



## **Federal Transit Administration Funding Announcement**

*Tim Catherman, Director of Aging Operations*

The [Federal Transit Administration \(FTA\) announced the availability of approximately \\$5.3 million of funding from two programs to support the Rides to Wellness Demonstration and Innovative Coordinated Access and Mobility Grants \(R2W Demonstration Grants\).](#)

The Rides to Wellness Demonstration Grants **Webinar will be held on Wednesday, April 20th 2016 from 3:30-4:30 p.m. EST**, click here to register:

[https://connectdot.connectsolutions.com/fta-wellness/event/event\\_info.html](https://connectdot.connectsolutions.com/fta-wellness/event/event_info.html).

Applications are due by **5:00 p.m. ET on Tuesday, May 31, 2016.**



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## INDEPENDENT LIVING Weekly Newsletter

COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES DIVISION

James A. Rothrock, Commissioner

ISSUE 146

March 29, 2016

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**Governor McAuliffe, First Lady Hold Ribbon Cutting for Executive Mansion Accessibility Ramp**



**Commonwealth of Virginia  
Office of Governor Terry McAuliffe**

**~Addition balances preservation and enhanced access for all guests~**





**RICHMOND** – Governor Terry McAuliffe and First Lady Dorothy McAuliffe today were joined by veterans and Virginians with disabilities for a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of an accessibility ramp at the Executive Mansion that will enhance access and safety for all guests. Speaking about today’s announcement, **Governor McAuliffe said**, “The Executive Mansion is the people’s house, and this ramp will ensure the most accessible and dignified welcome for all Virginians, from our wounded warriors to our disabled citizens.”

“We want everyone who visits the Executive Mansion to feel welcome, and to achieve that goal, every visitor must be able to enter on the main floor,” **said First Lady Dorothy McAuliffe**. “Through thoughtful collaboration with architectural and preservation experts, we were able to provide enhanced access that complements the historic character of the home.” The ramp is connected to an existing breezeway leading to the southern entrance on the first floor of the Mansion. The first floor is the formal reception area used to welcome visitors and guests. Prior to the ramp’s construction, those who could not climb the steep steps to the historic portico had to use an elevator located at the basement level on the back of the home to access the first floor.

**Jim Rothrock, Commissioner of the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services, said:** “It is exciting to see one of the final barriers removed in our Capitol Square, and this addition extends our Commonwealth’s traditional hospitality now to all Virginians.”

“As other important historic sites have proven, we can preserve and honor our past while making subtle changes that provide a more dignified and welcoming experience for all citizens,” **Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs John Harvey said**. “The Governor and First Lady should be applauded for their commitment to our veterans and other citizens with mobility impairments.” The project was evaluated and unanimously approved by the Art and Architectural Review Board, and the work complied with the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. The Department of General Services worked closely with the Department of Historic Resources and the Capitol Square Preservation Council on the project, with careful consideration given to everything from the materials and colors used to the structure’s handrails and landscaping, which will be completed this spring.



**Chris Beschler, Director of the Department of General Services, said, “Our agency worked collaboratively with our preservation partners at each turn, ensuring any enhancement at the mansion pays respect to its significant standing in Virginia’s history.” “The consultation process resulted in a design solution that DHR was able to fully support,” said Julie Langan, Director of the Department of Historic Resources. “The result is a ramp that in no way impacts the original residence and is sensitively inserted into the landscape.”**

**Kathleen Kilpatrick, Executive Director of the Capitol Square Preservation Council, added: “Very close and careful collaboration with the project team has given us a well-designed and discreet feature that fully respects the landmark and serves citizens.”** Other Virginia historic sites have taken similar measures. At Monticello, a National Historic Landmark and the only house in the United States that is designated as a UNESCO World Heritage site, access to the main floor is provided via a ramp on the north side of the house. The Executive Mansion, designed by Alexander Parris and completed in 1813, is a National Historic Landmark and is recognized on the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places. It is the country’s oldest purpose-built executive residence still in use today.

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## Secretary Hazel Visits the Appalachian Independence Center



Virginia’s Health and Human Resources Secretary, Dr. Bill Hazel, and DARS staff recently visited the Appalachian Independence Center in Abington. Dr. Hazel (second row, third from left) learned more about how CILs provide services and advocacy to promote the leadership, independence, and productivity of people with disabilities. #PhotoFriday





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### **ILRU Webinar Series for Women with Mobility Impairments**

Join the Webinar Series for Women with Mobility Impairments April 6, April 20, May 4 and May 18, 2016 at 1:00 - 2:00PM Central.

Join the webinar series to hear from specialists in the field and ask your questions involving issues affecting women with mobility impairments. This four-part webinar series will include:

- Pelvic Health for Women with Mobility Impairments presented by Sophie Fletcher, M.D. and Margaret Nosek, PhD., April 6, 2016
- Pelvic Health Transitions for Girls with Mobility Impairments presented by Ellen Fremion, M.D., April 20, 2016
- Bladder and Bowel Issues that Affect Sexuality presented by Leanne Beers, PhD., May 4, 2016
- Access to Quality Pelvic Health Care for Women with Mobility Impairments presented by Wendy Wilkinson, J.D., May 18, 2016

For more information and registration, visit the website [here](#).

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**Registration Now Open for NCIL's 2016 Annual Conference!**





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VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT FOR AGING  
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July 25-28, 2016; Grand Hyatt, Washington

### Registration Now Open for NCIL's 2016 Annual Conference!

Later this week, NCIL will publish our *Annual Conference Guide* with complete details on this year's Conference, but you can also find the information you need to plan your trip right now at [ncil.org](http://ncil.org).

Visit our 2016 NCIL Conference webpage [here](#) for complete registration details, Hotel and reservation links, and basic conference Agenda.

All registrations received and paid before April 29, 2016 are eligible for the Early Bird registration rates.

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## Housing Virginia Announces "Overcoming NIMBY" Workshops



*Have you ever faced a roomful of confused or angry opponents to your housing proposal?*

*Have you needed to convince skeptical planning commission members about the value of your project?*

*Are you looking for tools to help you win the hearts and minds of community members to support your work?*

*NIMBY (Not In My Backyard) is still very much alive and well in Virginia and many good housing projects and programs never make it out of the starting gate due to opposition from neighbors and others. To help you be better prepared to successfully address NIMBY*



*concerns, Housing Virginia is offering a half day training opportunity that aims to assist affordable housing providers, local government, and advocates with their efforts in overcoming opposition to their projects and policies. Nimbyism (Not in My Backyard) is a frequently encountered negative reaction to change by community residents and businesses.*

*In the case of affordable housing, it is often caused by misperception, fear and mistrust. The tools for overcoming NIMBYism include transparent communication, dispelling myths with facts, and finding community supporters who understand the benefits that quality housing can bring to their neighborhood.*

#### *What Can You Expect from the Training?*

- *Stakeholder identification & analysis*
- *Using data: where to find it and how to present it*
- *Incorporating compelling materials for success*
- *Incorporating the right media outreach*
- *Developing an action plan*
- *Communication strategies*
- *Ensuring transparency through good neighbor relations*
- *Interactive mapping exercise*
- *Take-home workbook to implement new skills*

*From 8-9AM, participants can enjoy coffee and light breakfast while they network. The training itself will take place from 9AM - 12PM.*

*Each session is \$35 per person - space is limited, so reserve your spot today!*

*If you have any questions about the training, contact [Jonathan Brown](#).*

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#### **Accessibility Summit 2016**





A conference for the special needs community, connecting families, churches, teachers, and professionals. Workshops are filling up fast. Click [here](#) for information and registration.

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### Information Alert: REV UP Toolkit Available to Organize the Disability Vote!



The American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) and the Texas Disability Project have created the REV UP (Register, Educate, Vote, Use, (your) Power) Toolkit to help organize the disability vote. This tool can be customized to assist with state organizing to make the disability vote count!

Voting is a fundamental right, but too many of the voices in our community have been silenced. Of the 37 million eligible voters with disabilities, the participation has been as low as 40%! We urge NCIL members to register to vote, and to help others get registered, too! And we urge Centers for Independent Living to make voting a priority. The REV UP Toolkit can help with those efforts.

Check out the REV UP Toolkit and the additional resources [here](#) . Also, make sure to look back at NCIL's Voting Rights Subcommittee's Get-Out-The-Vote Manual. If you're on Twitter, you can also join the voting conversation using #REVUP, #VoteDisability, and #CripTheVote.

We have a major election coming up in 2016, and if people with disabilities don't vote, our community's interests won't be accurately represented. Let's make sure the disability vote counts and our voices are heard!

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## Advocacy Strategies-Promising Practices



ILRU is supporting Alice Zhang and Glen White of the Research and Training Center on Independent Living at the University of Kansas by distributing this announcement about a survey to learn promising practices from CILs concerning their advocacy strategies. We are conducting this survey to learn more about advocacy approaches you or your Center have used in working with individuals with disabilities or with systems change. We plan to use the information you provide in this short, 18 question survey to help update the Action Letter Portfolio, which is a training tool to help CIL staff and disability advocates write effective advocacy letters. We value your participation and information, and would like to provide you the access to the updated advocacy letter writing product once the research project is completed. We greatly appreciate it if you can take some time to complete the survey, and would appreciate it if you would share this survey invitation with your co-workers.

Please click [here](#) to access the National Advocacy Survey of Centers for Independent Living. This study has been approved by the Kansas University Lawrence IRB (#STUDY00002960).

Sincerely,

Alice Zhang and Glen White  
Research and Training Center on Independent Living at the University of Kansas

Richard Petty  
Director, National Center for Aging and Disability at TIRR  
Co-Director, ILRU - Independent Living Research Utilization  
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## Pacific Rim International Conference on Disability and Diversity



April 25 & 26, 2016

Honolulu, HI: Hawai'i Convention Center

PACRIM sizzles with activity and energy, and that being a part conference which offers such diverse topic areas... well... ideas percolate and synergy happens Big Time. Where else will you find a celebrity actress and activist, a hip hop leader, a music composer, and one of the nation's top Indigenous leaders all in one setting? OH! and films right out of Tribeca and Sundance? With over 200 presentations, 15 Keynotes, and 20 workshops at PACRIM 2016, you will be inspired for a lifetime! Did we tell you? We are having a Groove Dance at our annual Poster Reception and Party! Get those dancing shoes out!

We cannot tell you how exciting it is to organize these brilliant sessions including special events such as the 2016 Brain Injury Forum, our popular self-advocacy Forum and so much more. We have our highly popular International Forum on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and some very interesting post conference Institutes!

It is not too late to be an exhibitor or advertiser. The deadline is March 30, 2016. For more information, click [here](#).

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## CIL-NET Webinar-Financial Management Workshop for CILs: Regulations and Beyond

# IL-NET

CIL-NET · SILC-NET

May 25-27, 2016; Baltimore, Maryland

Registration Fee: \$150.00

Are you trying to keep up with all of the new guidance and regulations for CILs? We can help!

The CIL-NET is offering an updated version of our popular financial management workshop to give your CIL the latest information on compliance and financial management practices. Whether you are new to nonprofit accounting or are looking to bolster your Center's financial policies and procedures, you will learn exactly what you need to do to strengthen your Center, effectively manage finances, and ensure compliance with federal regulations. Led by John Heveron, a certified CPA with over 40 years working with non-profits – including Centers for Independent Living – this workshop will give you the skills and resources that are essential to sound financial management in a thriving Center for Independent Living. This event may sell out. Sign-up today! For more information, click [here](#).

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### **Urgent Memo on Jobs for People with Disabilities**

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), which was overwhelmingly passed by Congress and signed into law by the President, holds huge promise for our nation's workforce system, employers and people with barriers to work. This law provides states with the opportunity to dramatically reduce poverty and economic injustice. However, we are deeply concerned that too many of the state plans required by WIOA are missing key factors needed to empower people to overcome barriers to employment such as a disability.



Click [here](#) to read this memo on the “*Respectability*” website (second article on the page), which outlines urgent problems in WIOA implementation that must be fixed if America is to see the promise of WIOA realized.

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### **The Weekly Advocacy Monitor**

Please click [here](#) to view articles from the Weekly Advocacy Monitor, Volume 14, Issue 9, March 17, 2016. Highlights of this issue include the following:

- Support 2016 NCIL Youth Scholarship Fund
- NCIL Youth Caucus Statement on Sentencing Reform & Corrections Act of 2015
- Webinar: Being Non-Partisan/501 ©3 Guidelines
- Action Alert: contact your members of Congress Re: FAA Reauthorization

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### **ADA Weekly E-Mailing**

Click [here](#) for the latest issues of the VDA Weekly E-mailing.

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## INDEPENDENT LIVING Weekly Newsletter

COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES DIVISION

James A. Rothrock, Commissioner

ISSUE 147

April 5, 2016

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disAbility Law Center of Virginia



Greetings! Ask the Expert!!

What an exciting election year it is! Except maybe not so much, if you are a person with a disability. The dLCV surveyed hundreds of polling places earlier this month, and found that 20% of them posed barriers to access.

What rights do you have if you are a person with a disability and want to be able to vote? Now is the time to Ask the Expert!

Click on [this link](#) to watch a video regarding the legal voting rights for people with disabilities.

Colleen Miller, Executive Director  
disAbility Law Center of Virginia 800-552-3962

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## Webinar: Creating Cognitive Access and Inclusion in the Independent Living Movement

# IL-NET

CIL-NET · SILC-NET

April 14, 2016; 3:00 – 4:30 p.m. Eastern

Click [here](#) to register online or [here](#) to print the registration form (PDF). Doing cross-disability work requires hard work and intentional outreach. As Independent Living advocates, we must constantly ask ourselves who is not at the table and take steps to include them.

Of course, sometimes we need help to know exactly how we can best accommodate and include people with all types of disabilities. Join us on April 14 to learn how you can best reach and include people with cognitive disabilities – including autistic people and people with intellectual disabilities. Our presenter will share some of the most common barriers to participation for people with a variety of different cognitive disabilities and what you can do to address them.

Registration Fee: \$75.00. Fee is per site (connection) and does not apply per participant; registrants are encouraged to gather as many individuals as desired to participate by telephone.

Target Audience: CIL and SILC board members, program managers, and staff interested in outreach to marginalized populations.

### Learning Objectives

After completing this webinar, you will have tools and resources that will enable you to:

- Identify common access barriers for people with cognitive disabilities
- Explore common areas of overlap between the access needs of people with cognitive disabilities and other disability populations
- Expand access for people with cognitive disabilities, identifying specific ways CILs & SILCs can become more inclusive of this population
- Identify strategies that create cognitive accessibility that can improve communication and participation
- Identify opportunities for outreach to people with cognitive disabilities



Presenter: Julia Bascom

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## Virginia Board for People with Disabilities Vacancies



Virginia Board for  
People with Disabilities

**The VBPD Wants You! Board slots open as of July 1**

**The Virginia Board for People with Disabilities has one upcoming vacancy for each of the categories below. If you are:**

- **The parent/guardian of minor child with DD,**
- **A local government agency representative,**
- **A person with a developmental disability,**
- **A non-governmental Service Provider,**
- **or a person with a disability other than developmental,**

**and are interested in serving on the Virginia Board, please complete and submit the required online application. You can find the required online application [here](#). The Board is located in the Health and Human Resources (HHR) Secretariat. Click on this [link](#) for more information about serving on the Board and scroll down to "Appointment information."**

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## Mental Health Survey Needs Your Input



Two James Madison University Communication & Advocacy MA students, Cori Howard and Erin Casey, would like your participation in the following survey. Both students are focusing their MAs in health communication and have done multiple studies surrounding mental health issues in both college and high school students.

To continue their research in mental health communication, the students are now taking a class to understand cultural competence in mental health care.

The purpose of the study is to examine Virginia's mental health clinician's self-perception of personal and workplace cultural competency. This study will contribute to the researchers' completion of their master's level intercultural health communication and advocacy course.



To participate in their brief survey and contribute your thoughts, click [here](#).

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## Disability Providers Warn Overtime Rule May Impact Services

*by Michelle Diamant | March 29, 2016*

*A federal proposal to require overtime pay for many professionals who support people with disabilities living in the community could force service cuts, providers say.*

*The U.S. Department of Labor is weighing whether to move forward with finalizing a proposed rule that would dramatically increase the number of American workers eligible for overtime pay.*

*Currently, salaried employees earning more than \$23,660 annually don't have to be paid extra for working more than 40 hours per week. Meanwhile, 21 percent of providers said they might have to reduce services in order to meet their new payroll requirements.*

Read the story [here](#) which includes the full federal proposal.

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## HUD Announces Landmark Settlement to Expand Affordable Housing and Opportunity in Baltimore County

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) today announced a settlement agreement with Baltimore County, Maryland to expand affordable housing in higher opportunity areas throughout the County. The settlement will serve as a catalyst to promote housing mobility and to assist the County and its surrounding areas in developing comprehensive affordable housing planning and strategies that address residential segregation.

The groundbreaking agreement commits \$30 million over 10 years to develop at least 1,000 affordable housing units for low- and very low-income residents.

Read entire Press Release [here](#).

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## 2016 Youth Transitions Fellowship (YTF)

The HSC Foundation, in partnership with the National Council on Independent Living (NCIL), is now accepting applications for a paid fellowship position with the organizations' disability youth transition and collaboration work. This fellowship is ideal for a person with a disability who has an interest in youth career transitions and employment solutions. The fellowship starts in June 2016, and continues for 15 months. Under the supervision of NCIL's Executive Director, the Youth Transitions Fellow (YTF) will gain exposure to youth programs serving people with disabilities and will have the opportunity to facilitate collaboration among internship, fellowship, and apprenticeship programs based in the Greater Washington, DC area.

### Preferred Skills and Qualifications:

- Ability to facilitate collaboration among large groups
- Ability to work with people in all levels of an organization, including young people with a variety of disabilities
- Strong communication skills and strong organizational skills
- Creative and innovative personality
- Familiarity with technology and social networking tools
- Strong interest in youth transition for people with disabilities and organizing.

### Eligibility:

College graduate 26-or-younger who self-identifies as an individual with any type of disability is invited to apply. You will not be required to disclose your specific disability; however, your application for this program will signify that you consider yourself a person with a disability. Please Note: This fellowship is specifically for people with disabilities.

### Please Provide the Following to apply:

- Attach your resume in Microsoft Word format.
- Provide the contact information for four (4) references who are familiar with your qualifications relevant to this fellowship and your personal character.
- Attach in Microsoft Word format two (2) letters of recommendation from two (2) of the above-mentioned references.

### What Happens Next:



- Completed applications received by NCIL before 5:00 PM EDT, Tuesday, April 26, 2016 will be collected and reviewed by our team.
- Semi-Finalists will be contacted for short, preliminary telephone interviews.
- Finalists will be contacted for formal telephone interviews.
- The fellow will be selected and notified by May 20, 2016.
- The fellow must be able to begin work by June 15, 2016.

TO APPLY:

Applications must be received by 5:00 PM (Eastern Daylight Time) on or before Tuesday, April 26, 2016. Apply via Email at this address:

[tim@ncil.org](mailto:tim@ncil.org)

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### **30 Minute Webinars on Housing Virginia's Database Tools**

Housing Virginia is excited to announce that we will hold a series of webinars focused on how to best utilize our web tools: Sourcebook, Playbook, the Research Library, and the Economic Impact Calculators for New Construction and Acquisition/Rehab.

These 30-minute free webinars will acquaint participants with the new website layout and suggest the best ways to get the most out of each tool. If you are interested in learning how to best utilize our web tools, be sure to sign up for one of the sessions!

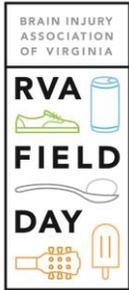
Click [here](#) for the schedule of webinars and registration.

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## Save the Date! 4/23 is RVA Field Day



Join the Brain Injury Association of Virginia for RVA FIELD DAY, on Saturday, April 23, 2016 at the Richmond Volleyball Club for a fun-filled day of friendly competition, good food and beverages.

Teams must raise a minimum of \$100.00 to participate in the games, but are encouraged to raise more. The team who raises the most money before the day of the event will gain additional points for their team to start the competition! Team members will be provided with lunch from Carytown Burger and Fries and fun swag!

Up to 20 teams of 4 people will be registered for this event; there will be 4 games going on throughout the day, and the 5th and final game will be an all-team relay race. All ages and abilities will be able to participate, and anyone under 12 years old will need to be accompanied by an adult. Points will be awarded to the winning teams of each game, and the grand prizes will be given out for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place teams.

If competition isn't your thing, there are plenty of activities going on to keep you busy! Enjoy popsicles from Richmond's own King of Pops, a live band, helmet give away, and additional outdoor games. Rain or shine, this will be an occasion you won't want to miss!

Can't make it to the event but still want to participate? You can still register your fundraising page and help people with brain injury! Simply click register now and when prompted indicate you will not be attending the event.

Proceeds from the event will benefit the Brain Injury Association of Virginia, so we can provide help, hope and healing to Virginians affected by brain injury.

For more information and registration, click [here](#).

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### ADA Weekly E-Mailing

Click [here](#) for the latest issues of the VDA Weekly E-mailing.

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*Note:* The web links in this document may change over time. DARS does not attempt to refresh the links once the week has passed.

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VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT FOR AGING  
AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

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