

WASILC REPORT . Volume 2, Number 5, December 2010

Happy Holidays from Rob Honan, Executive Director SILC

I hope that all are enjoying the last month of 2010 and looking forward to 2011. Happy Holidays!

2010 has been a difficult year for many people receiving state services as a result of severe budget cuts, and the future is fraught with uncertainty. In this issue, I will highlight some of the potential cuts and give information on what advocates are planning around the state.

I want to welcome the newest SILC member, Charity Drummond of Seattle. Her bio is found on page 2.

Our January meeting is fast approaching and we'll have Sue Bush, director of the Office of Emergency Management within DSHS speak on emergency preparation and response at the meeting. She has graciously offered to write a short article on what her agency has been doing.

I also like to include news from the CILs, and I have received valuable information from them to share. There are some program alerts from all five WA CILs. I also include some recollections from the recent APRIL conference.

Because civil rights is such a big part of the IL movement, I have included information on how the federal Hate Crimes bill works to prosecute individuals who commit crimes against individuals with disabilities.

CWDR reports that they are partnering with the Area Agency on Aging in Yakima to provide services in Yakima county. How exciting! See page 7.

Since the last issue, the State Plan for Independent Living has been approved by RSA. [Click](#) to read.

I hope you enjoy this issue and learn more about what is going on in the IL world of Washington. As always, I welcome your suggestions.

Declining Revenues, Program Cuts, and Advocacy

The state of Washington has released two revenue forecasts in the last two months and neither painted a pretty picture.

The September forecast led to a 7% reduction of many state programs. This translated into direct services being slashed and state departments reduced and reconfigured.

The November forecast was even more severe in many ways because many thought that things

could not get even worse, but they did. Additional programmatic cuts have to be made and for many individuals who rely on state services, this is devastating.

Advocates are not taking this sitting down, however. There have been many activities to remind citizens of the value of the programs. On November 17th, about 75 advocates held a candle light vigil on the capitol campus to remind the governor that that most vulnerable citizens still need critical services, such as pharmaceutical services (for those on Medicaid), disability life line (GAU), Basic Health, and others resources. that allow people to live independently.

As I stated, advocates have begun to make their voices heard. Here are some activities that will be held around the state to protest the cuts and to remind its citizens why the programs are necessary.

- December 7th “People’s Hearing.” This event took place in the Cherberg Building on the capitol campus, and was attended by approximately 60 individuals. It was a chance for individuals to voice their concerns on the cuts.
- December 9th March on DSHS. Advocates are planning to march to the DSHS headquarters in Olympia to hand deliver notes and documents protesting the cuts.
- December 26– January 3rd. Advocates will write letters to the editor of their local newspapers explaining how devastating the cuts are. Many of the letter writers plan to tell their own stories. Many of these stories will no doubt emphasize that services allow people to live in the community with their families.
- January 3. There will be vigils in many local communities in the state. Some of the discussed locations are: Seattle, Olympia, Tacoma, Tri-Cities area, Bellingham, Vancouver, and Spokane.

Please contact Donna Patrick at donna.patrick@ddc.wa.gov for more information on the local vigils.

- January 10. The legislative session begins in Olympia.

For more information on any of these activities, please contact Misha Werschkul at (email):

misha.werschkul@seui775.org or by phone at: 206-601-2531

New SILC member: Charity Drummond

Governor Gregoire appointed our newest member, **Charity Drummond**, on October 4, 2010. She is from Seattle and works at Alliance for People with disabilities (Seattle office).

She brings a wealth of experience to the SILC. In 2000 she received her BS in Psychology and in 2009 received her

Masters in Christian Counseling. Hailing from Mississippi, she was active in the disability community there, and provided a great deal of training in the non-profit and private sectors.

She was also involved with Home of Your Own (HOYO), PATH Board, Health Features Board, Mayor's Advisory Board, and many other groups and organizations

In Seattle, she is a member of the Transit Advisory Committee and SOAR School-Age Implementation and Action Teams. Welcome, Charity!

Photo of Charity: Description: Wearing Blue Outfit

Sue Bush: Emergency Preparation

My name is Sue Bush and I am the Director of the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) Office of Emergency Management. Under the Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP), DSHS is the lead state agency for Emergency Support Function 6 – Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing, and Human Services (ESF 6). This is a relatively new role for my office that DSHS accepted from the Military Department, Emergency Management Division.

DSHS recognizes the importance of disaster planning for functional needs support services, including integrating the needs of people with disabilities. As such, I will continue to make sure that as we are represented in the planning process for ESF 6. I am excited about the prospect of working with the Centers for Independent Living around the state and fostering collaborative conversations with local emergency managers, local chapters of the American Red Cross, voluntary organizations active in disasters, and our federal friends and I recently completed an initial state-level

“ESF 6 Annex.” This is a plan that is incorporated under the state CEMP. The plan describes the state's overall role in coordinating a supporting response to one or more jurisdictions when their resources are overwhelmed by a disaster. It also describes the roles of individual state agencies and the American Red Cross, our most essential non-governmental partner in a mass care response. Some of the other state agencies that have been involved in planning, include:

the Military Department, Emergency Management Division; the Department of General Administration; the Department of Commerce; and, the Department of Health. Our critical federal partners are the Department of Homeland Security-Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Department of Health and Human Services-Administration for Children and Families. The plan is a reflection of the collaborative planning efforts of these and other partners. We have developed strong working relationships over the past year. The plan is now undergoing final review by EMD prior to its release.

I have read the emergency preparedness related goals in the “State Plan for Independent Living” and was pleased to see how our aims align with one another – we must be doing something right! Your plan sets forth activities related to preparedness education, training, working with government and the American Red Cross, providing input to EMD, and responding to After-Action Reports. I am sure that my office can be instrumental in supporting you to achieve your objectives and would welcome a dialogue with you.

Our ESF 6-related goals for the coming year include planning for: supported transportation; disaster case management; the special needs of children; and sheltering operations. We also intend to provide disaster mental health training to Seattle area voluntary organizations active in disasters and provide four trainings to jurisdictions around the state related to functional needs support services integration.

Our planning efforts are ongoing and the ESF 6 Annex will be revised as significant milestones are achieved.

I look forward to partnering with your in the coming year. I can be reached at:
susan.bush@dshs.wa.gov

Hate Crimes and Disability

In 2009, President Obama signed into law the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Hate Crimes Prevention Act. This law expands the 1969 federal hate crime to include disability, sexual orientation, gender, and gender identity.

The applicability of this law was in the news recently as three men were charged in New Mexico with assault of an individual (Navajo Indian) with an intellectual disability. By reading the details of the case, it appears obvious that the individual was targeted because of both his disability and ethnicity.

In a news release from November 12th, The Justice Department stated that the three men will be prosecuted under the Shepard/Byrd Hate Crimes Act.

For more information: <http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2010/November/10-crt-1291.html>

Calendar of Events: Dec. 2010 and Jan. 2011

- **December 14th**, (1-5 PM) dARSW Holiday Party, at the Marshall House, 1301 Officer's Row (in historic Vancouver). Contact Elton Busby for more information, 360-694-6790 (v)
- **December 14th**, CFI will be holding its third annual Holiday Crafts People who participate in the CFI Out & About Group, a monthly support group for people with disabilities, will gather to make gifts for family and friends while enjoying music, food, and each other's company. Members from the CFI Youth Transition Group will volunteer their time to help wrap presents and make the event a success.
- **January 3rd** dARSW will be teaming up w/ the Clark County Disability Coalition, and other community partners, to hold a candle light vigil for awareness of all the cuts in services and funding. Call Elton Bussby at 360-694-6790 (v) for more information.
- **January 14th**, SILC quarterly meeting. (9 AM– 3PM) . Click link for additional information or contact Rob Honan (360-725-3695 V) for more information.
- **January 26th** Voting/ Elections forum. (6-8 PM) Tom Allman (Secretary of State/ Elections Division) and David Lord (Disability Resources Washington). Site to be determined in Vancouver. Contact Elton Busby for more information, 360-694-6790 (v).
- **Youth Care Gift Drive. Now through Dec. 17th.** Alliance of People with disabilities. "Make the Holidays Brighter for Homeless Youth."
Alliance is accepting gifts for youth. Please bring unwrapped gift to the Alliance office in Seattle (1120 E. Terrace, Suite 100). Call Charity Drummond for more information.
Gift ideas: **Gift Cards**, (Fred Meyer, Target, Barhell's, Best Buy, Barnes and Noble, etc.)
Wishes: Backpacks. Earbuds, Flash Drives, Alarm Clocks, MP3 Players, etc.

Some More News from the CILs

- FROM CFI: Donations of gift cards, new clothing, toys, and household items will be collected until December 13th to provide gifts for the participants and their families are needed. Please call CFI at 253-582-1253 and arrange for someone to pick up your donations or send checks or gift cards to CFI, 10828 Gravelly Lake Drive SW, Lakewood, WA 98499. Every contribution makes a difference!
- FROM Alliance of People with disAbilities: Bowling is a great indoor activity that can be done when the weather is not so agreeable. Most bowling allies are air conditioned and

comfortable in any weather. In a rainstorm a bowling alley is dry and a happy atmosphere. So it is a great place to be to have fun when the weather is bad not so pleasant. On November 28th, the Alliance of People with disAbilities held our annual Bowling Extravaganza at Kenmore Lanes. Youth from both offices came together to mix, mingle, and bowl! There was a great turn out with over twenty youth, and we met up with old friends and made some new. There was great food and the youth, some who had never bowled before, got some awesome scores! It was one of our best events yet!. (Photo provided of Alliance staff and participants at bowling alley).

CILs attend the APRIL Conference in Overland Park, KS

This year, CORD was fortunate enough to be able to send two staff members and six youth to the APRIL (Association of Programs of Rural Independent Living) Conference in Overland Park, Kansas (just outside of Kansas City). This is the first year that we have been able to send youth to the conference so it was very exciting. There were several sessions of interest including; Transportation Strategies for change, Sexual Minorities within the Disability Community, Youth Peer Mentoring, TEENS and others. The conference had a variety of content giving our group a wonderful opportunity to not only learn new information, but to also hear challenges and solutions from other CIL's around the country. Each of the youth expressed their gratitude toward CORD for giving them the opportunity to take part in the APRIL Conference and would like to attend again. **(by Leah Scott, IL Advocate, CORD).**

From Center for Independence (CFI): Ryan Smith and Leah Thomas, Youth Transition Program Manager, attended the APRIL conference in Overland Park, Kansas in October. This conference was focused on youth with disabilities. This was Ryan's first experience traveling on a plane and going out of the state. During the conference Ryan had the opportunity to gather and socialize with the young people from other IL Centers in Washington.

During the conference Ryan did everything he could to make the most of this experience. Though his disability brings challenges to social interaction for Ryan, he contributed to group discussions whenever he had the chance and he greeted some of the speakers after each workshop.

Ryan said this experience has motivated him to do something with his life. After the first day of the conference Ryan said, "I am interested in doing something in politics and advocacy." Leah

encouraged him to work in the disability rights movement and to advocate for changes in policy impacting people with disabilities.

By Leah Thomas, Youth Coordinator at CFI

A Success Story: Ryan Smith

By Leah Thomas, Youth Coordinator, CFI

During the summer of 2009, Ryan attended the 4-day Youth Transition Workshop. The first day he came dressed in a winter coat and the weather was 90 degrees. He sat most of the time with his back faced to the classroom and stared at the wall. He could barely make eye contact with anyone as if his eyes were laser beams. During the whole workshop he had extreme social anxiety and was not able to make it to the whole workshop due to his anxiety. After the workshop he continued to keep in contact with CFI and would call frequently about having feelings of fear, paranoia, and uncertainty. He gave the impression that he did not know the difference between reality and his thoughts. Ryan is Autistic and has also been diagnosed with OCD.

After a year of working with the CFI staff, Ryan's social skills have improved tremendously. He does not call as often as before about his uncertainties and anxiety. When he contacts CFI it is because he wants to get involved in something that will help him move towards living independently. He attended CFI's second year of the Youth Transition Summer Workshop in 2010 and attended all five days without any problems. He interacted with the other students and participated fully. He has made an effort to keep in touch with some of the young people he met during the workshop. Because of Ryan's dedication to working with CFI and his huge improvement, he was chosen to attend the APRIL conference in Kansas along with the Youth Transition Program Manager. This was a huge experience for Ryan especially because he had never been on a plane or gone out of the State. During the conference Ryan expressed that this experience has motivated him to do more things in his life. After the first day of the conference Ryan said, "I am interested in doing something in politics and advocacy." When the Program Manager suggested he would be great in working in the disability rights movement and advocating for changes in policy to help people with disabilities, Ryan's face lit up.

Currently, Ryan is interning at a green house as part of the Community Based Transition Program and he will be graduating from high school this school year. He continues to participate in almost all of the Youth Transition events and takes advantage of every

opportunity he gets that will help him become more independent.

(photo of Ryan Smith and Leah Thomas in front of JC Nichols Fountain in Kansas City)

Alliance of People with disAbilities attendees Charity Marie Drummond, Youth Specialist, Charmaine Dancy, Independent Living and Transition Coordinator and Rashauna Saunders, Volunteer attend the APRIL Conference in Overland Park, KS At the conference they learned about many aspects of youth programming. (Photo of the three at banquet hall of conference)

Transitions at Alliance of People with disAbilities

As Fall turns to Winter, Alliance of People with disAbilities would like to let you know about recent organizational transitions.

Dr. Robert Blumenthal, Board Member and Past Board Vice President

Dr. Robert Blumenthal, long-time Board Member and Past President of the Alliance of People with disAbilities passed away October 23, 2010 in Seattle with his family. A loving husband, father and mentor to many, he had an insatiable hunger for life. He loved photography, was a dedicated outdoorsman who enjoyed hiking and sailing into his late-sixties, and was a lifetime student who read widely on history, music, art and business. He is survived by his wife Patty, and children: Marti, Tom and Jim, along with their families.

Dr. Blumenthal worked with the Alliance Board and Staff to gain insight into how they worked together using the Meyers Briggs Type Indicator. As a member of the Finance Committee, he helped strengthen the Alliance's Accounting Policies and Practices. The memory of Dr. Blumenthal and his legacy will not be forgotten at Alliance. At this year's King County ADA Celebration, he presented the first year of a memorial scholarship bearing his name.

A gathering to celebrate Bob's life will be held on April 2, 2011, the location and time are to be determined. The family requests that any memorial donations may be made to the Nephrology Research Fund/Diabetic Kidney Disease in memory of Professor Robert A. Blumenthal at the University of Washington, UW Medicine Advancement Office, Campus Box 358045, Seattle, WA 98195.

(photo of Dr. Blumenthal giving "certificate of scholarship" to Helen Thomas)

Gladys Springborn Brannigan, Assistant Director

Gladys Springborn Brannigan, tireless disability rights advocate, and long-time employee of the Alliance has decided to transition from the organization. After almost 9 years with Alliance, she held the position of Assistant Director, based from Alliance's newly acquired offices in Seattle's Capitol Hill neighborhood. Gladys was instrumental with facilitating many aspects of the organization—taking on a co-interim director role almost two years ago when called upon by Alliance's Board. She will be greatly missed by those she came into contact with during her tenure. Alliance Board and Staff wish Gladys well on her new journey and endeavors she takes.

For matters requiring attention please contact Executive Director Lucille Walls (lucille@disabilitypride.org) or Eastside Manager, Robert Blumenfeld, robert@disabilitypride.org.

CWDR teams with ALTC in Yakima to further ADRC process

Central WA Disability Resources (CWDR) is excited to announced that they have enhanced their services in Yakima

through a partnership with the Yakima area agency on aging, ALTC (Aging and Long Term Care) of SE WA. This is part of the Aging and Disability Resource Center process in the state. There are two other new projects to be developed, Bellingham and Spokane, to go along with the existing project in Pierce County.

Through the mutual support of both organizations, CWDR providing staff support, and the ALTC providing office and operational support, our goal is to set a model in which we can begin to broaden awareness and education of Independent Living across Central WA.

As we have begun these initial steps, the community response in Yakima has been extremely positive and welcoming. The CWDR staff have worked closely with ALTC to share their knowledge and understanding of Independent Living Philosophy and the mission of CILs.

Through this service, we hope to reach out to a larger population, of people with disabilities, and hopefully we will be able to achieve those goals.

Council Members

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Jana Finkbonner, Vice– Chair

Sandra Carr, Member at Large

Linda McClain, ACIL-WA Representative

Andres Aguirre (ex-officio)

Devin Beach

Debbie Cook (ex-officio)

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