

FALL 2017

Liberty Works

The Fight for
Independence
Continues

Proudly Published by Liberty Resources, Inc.

Philadelphia's Center for Independent Living



A Newsletter Advocating and Promoting Independent Living for Persons with Disabilities

Advocacy in Action: a Day of Arrests at McConnell's Office

by Mary Jo Rohrer

On June 22nd, members of Liberty Resources, Philly ADAPT, and Disabled in Action PA, headed to the Nation's Capitol to demand that Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell hear their plea against the repeal of the Affordable Care Act. The GOP came out with a new law called the Better Care Reconciliation Act (BCRA), which would cause major cuts to Medicaid. The Congressional Budget Office estimated that as many as 24 million more people would lose healthcare coverage and that the federal budget deficit might shrink by more than 300 billion dollars over the next decade under the Republican healthcare bill, according to the Business Insider.

Disability Rights activists took to the streets, demanding that their leaders in Congress listen to their constituents. Spitfire, a member of ADAPT, headed down to D.C., and made national news. Tom Earle, LRI's CEO, was pictured being carried by Capitol Police, as he was arrested.

Pictures and videos immediately surfaced of the arrests, with Capitol police forcing people out of their wheelchairs. "No cuts to Medicaid," chanted Cassie James Holdsworth, who was exhausted after a long day of advocacy and detention by the

police in DC. The showdown in Senator McConnell's office ignited a national outcry against the poorly designed and unfair GOP plan. Either way, it seems as though the media definitely sparked anger nationwide as millions watched us advocate to save our healthcare and Medicaid.

The Spring Edition of Liberty Works highlighted a similar scenario, and with that, came similar results. The resistance worked, and the bill's vote was delayed, and eventually defeated on July 27th. However, as always, the fight is never over. The GOP could introduce a bill even worse than the past two, leaving more people without the access to the care they need. LRI, ADAPT, and DIA are very grateful to Senators Murkowski, Collins, and McCain for their ideological independence for voting against the BCRA and saving our Medicaid! If you are a Pennsylvania resident, give Senator Toomey a call: 202-224-4254 or 215-241-1090. ★



Spitfire being carried out of McConnell's office in D.C. for resisting arrest.

(Photo by Mark Wilson/Getty Images)

The Disability Integration Act By The Numbers

The Disability Integration Act (DIA) is a proposed federal law that would protect the rights of disabled people by strengthening the community integration mandate in the Americans with Disability Act (ADA). The DIA was introduced by US Senator Chuck Schumer (D-NY) in December of 2015, and US Representative Chris Gibson (R-NY) in July of 2016, and is proudly co-sponsored by our Senator Bob Casey (D-PA). Let's take a look at some of the numbers behind the DIA:

1,351,616: US Residents living in nursing homes (2015)

\$100,000: Proposed fine for a first violation of the DIA

78,735: Pennsylvania residents living in nursing homes (2015)

1999: Year of the *Olmstead* decision, where the Supreme Court found that unjustified segregation of persons with disabilities in institutions constitutes discrimination under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

1990: Year the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was signed into law

437: The number of National and local organizations signed on as supporters of the DIA

More than 80%: Americans who support legislation like the DIA that would require giving people home and community-based supports and services instead of forcing older and disabled Americans into nursing facilities and other institutions, according to a 2016 AARP Survey

11: Different ways that states currently limit access to home and community based services that would be banned under the DIA

12: Cosponsors of the House version of the bill: Christopher P. Gibson (R-NY), Louise McIntosh Slaughter (D-NY), Jose E. Serrano, (D-NY), Beto O'Rourke (D-TX), Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr. (R-WI), Paul Tonko (D-NY), John Conyers, Jr. (D-MI), Grace Meng (D-NY), Peter J. Visclosky (D-IN), Dwight Evans (D-PA), and Bob Brady (D-PA)

9: Cosponsors of the Senate version of the bill: Charles E. Schumer (D-NY), Kirsten E. Gillibrand (D-NY), Michael F. Bennet (D-CO), Patrick J. Leahy (D-VT), Robert P. Casey, Jr. (D-PA), Bernie Sanders (I-VT), Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), Edward J. Markey (D-MA), and Richard Blumenthal (D-CT)

3: Pennsylvania Congresspersons supporting the DIA: Senator Robert P. Casey, Jr. (D-PA), Rep. Bob Brady (D-PA), and Rep. Dwight Evans (D-PA)

Contact Senator Pat Toomey and your PA Congressional Representatives and ask them to support the DIA! (You can look up your Representative by zip code at www.house.gov/representatives/find/) ★🇺🇸



Managed Care Updates

Liberty Resources has been preparing for the new Managed Care system for provision of home and community based services for several years now which will be effective in the southeast region of the state in July of 2018. Managed Care Long Term Supports and Services (MLTSS) will change the state fee for service system to a capitated system operated by private Managed Care Organizations (MCOs). The state wants to off-load this task, hence the takeover of MCOs.

There are pros and cons to this system, and it is also early in the process throughout the United States to tell whether it is more beneficial than the current system. The pros are that in theory MCOs operate more efficiently than the state since they will be coordinating medical and community based services, providing more effective and informed services to Consumers. The cons include MCOs will be receiving less money from the state to perform each task, and therefore, will find ways to reduce costs and reduce services, which may put our many Consumers at risk.

The program doesn't change, just how it's paid for, so it is imperative for CILs to establish and maintain positive relationships with the MCOs. We are currently working with Amerihealth, Centene, and University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) to strengthen communication and show them that we are committed to our Consumers and are genuinely invested in what's best for them, given that we are a Consumer-controlled CIL.

Consumers are very concerned about how this will affect them and their independence in the community. Latoya Maddox, an Independent Living Specialist, hosts a weekly information session where Consumers can have their questions and concerns answered.

One of their concerns includes who will be managing their healthcare and what their options will be. Another concern is whether the in-home care hours they currently have will be reduced, leading to the question of whether they will be able to keep the same service coordinator. This will be determined based on whether the MCOs want to use their own service coordinator organization or sub-contract with community based organizations. This is another reason why it's important to maintain a solid relationship with the MCOs—we can show that we have an effective system already in place serving our Consumers' best interest. ★

DC and Philadelphia Fun Run

On May 14th, National ADAPT held their annual Fun Run in Washington, D.C. They raised \$135,000! The ADAPT Fun Run in Philadelphia was held at Washington Square Park. Liberty Resource's raised over \$3,500 among about 15 participants! Overall, the event was a huge success, both locally and nationally. LRI is proud of its partnership with ADAPT and looks forward to the continued relationship. ★



The Philly 2017 ADAPT Fun Run participants catching their breath at Washington Square Park.

Disability Pride 2017

By Mary Jo Rohrer

Disability Pride Week began on a hot day in June, with the Disability Pride Flag raising at City Hall. Speeches by many Councilmembers, as well as Mayor Kenney, were made about how Philadelphia wants to continue the fight for accessibility and equality. Philadelphia is the first city in the US to have a Disability Pride flag raising, and is proud of this feat that has a major impact on everyone in the city.

The second day of Disability Pride week, LRI hosted a flag decorating party open to anyone who was planning on marching in the parade. Many people showed up to support the event by showing off their artistic talents for a notable cause.

The third day of Disability Pride week was held at the Prince Theater. Sarah Barton, a Disability Rights activist and filmmaker from Australia, brought her masterpiece to Philadelphia for the first US showing of *Defiant Lives*. This documentary chronicled the disability rights movement in Australia, the US, and the UK, and highlighted activists in each country. It was an amazing depiction of the ongoing fight for equality among people with disabilities.

Finally, on Saturday June 17th, the finale of Disability Pride week was the parade that started at the National Constitution Center. Councilman Taubenberger kicked off the event, and Donna Anderson of Liberty Resources Home Choices once again shared her beautiful voice with everyone by singing the National Anthem. The final destination of the march was City Hall, where vendors had set up their stands to support Disability Pride. Among the vendors were other Home Care agencies, Art Reach, and local hospitals and medical centers. It was a beautiful day to celebrate everyone's differences. ★🇺🇸



May Day Open House was a Huge Success!

On May 1st, 2017, Liberty Resources hosted a May Day celebration, honoring all those who fought for an 8 hour work day in the 1800s. LRI also honored all hardworking employees, especially staff employed by Liberty. Donna Anderson, who is a Scheduler for Liberty Resources Home Choices, shared her beautiful voice at the event, accompanied by a friend of Liberty, Ashley, on the guitar.

A great time was had by all. There were delicious hors d'ouvres and drinks, informative tours of our new state-of-the-art headquarters, which features many photos and artwork from the ongoing Disability Rights Movement. Guests included Councilwoman Cindy Bass (pictured below), and Councilmen Allan Domb and Mark Squilla! ★🇺🇸



Councilwoman Cindy Bass, CEO Thomas Earle, and Lisa Jackson of the ILS Department.



Harry Barnum, Director of LRI's Deaf Outreach program.

Board Member-at-Large Theresa Yates (center), at the Open House enjoying conversation with guests over food and cocktails.



LibertyResources®

Home ChoicesSM

The Power of Choice. Your Home Care, Your Way.

*Now Serving Consumers
with Intellectual Disabilities*

Each Consumer is unique, and we understand individual differences. We tailor care to meet your specific needs.



Call 215-634-2000 ext. 617 or visit our website: www.homechoices.org



Furnishing A Future teaches veterans and returning citizens to become skilled craftsmen who produce sturdy, durable furniture for individuals with disabilities.

If you know or are an individual with disabilities who would benefit from a dining table or dresser that is customized to your needs, contact **Liberty Resources at 215-634-2000** and ask about their partnership with Furnishing A Future.

WWW.FURNISHINGAFUTURE.ORG

■ WWW.LIBERTYRESOURCES.ORG

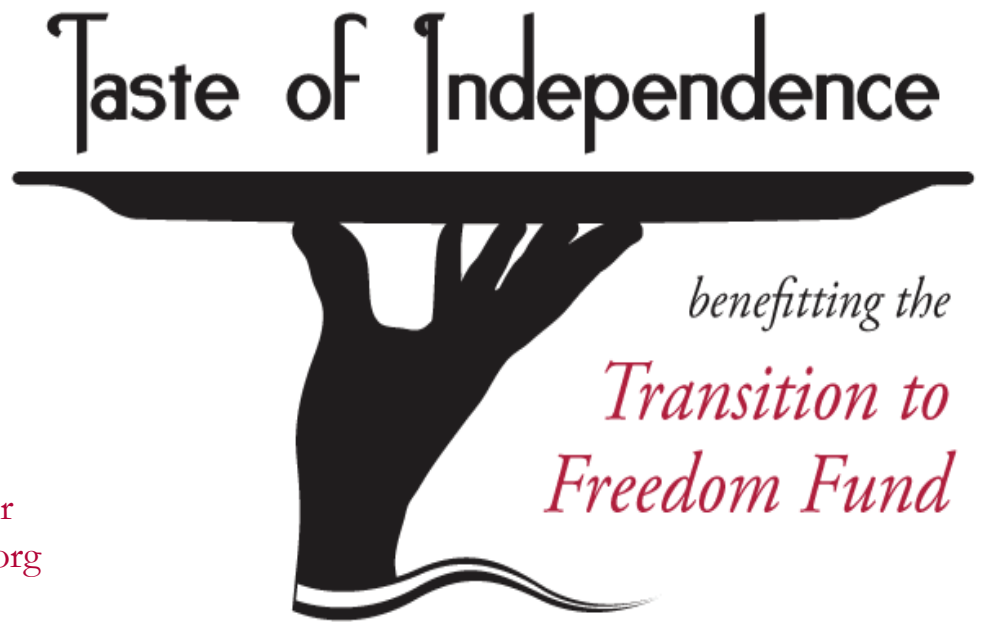
Save the Date for the 7th Annual

October 19th,
6-8:30pm

Sheraton Hotel

Tickets are \$125

Contact Mary Jo Rohrer for
more info and to sponsor the
event: 215-634-2000 ext. 322 or
maryjorohrer@libertyresources.org



Public Figure Honoree

Senator Bob Casey

for his work with the Disability Integration Act



Liberty Works

Published Quarterly by Liberty Resources, Inc.

Philadelphia's Center for Independent Living



Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 514
Philadelphia, PA

112 N. 8th Street, Suite 600
Philadelphia, PA 19107
215-634-2000 (voice)
888-634-2155 (toll free)
www.libertyresources.org

Liberty Resources, Inc. • 112 N 8th Street, Suite 600, Philadelphia, PA 19107

215-634-2000 (voice) • email: LRInc@libertyresources.org • www.libertyresources.org

Michael Bencrowsky, Chair of the Board • Thomas Earle, CEO

All inquiries regarding this newsletter, refer to the editor. To be added to the mailing list, contact the Philadelphia office. Unless indicated, articles do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the organization.

LIBERTY WORKS is published by Liberty Resources Inc. All contents © 2017, LRI
Editors: Mary Jo Rohrer & Thomas Earle

WHAT'S INSIDE...

Page 1: Advocacy in Action: A Day of Arrests at McConnell's Office
Page 2: Disability Integration Act by the Numbers
Page 3: Managed Care Updates
Page 3: DC and Philadelphia Fun Run
Page 4: Disability Pride
Page 5: May Day Open House was a Huge Success!
Page 7: Save the Date: 7th Annual Taste of Independence