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Welcome to the August 2010 issue of the Real Choice Newsletter

In this Issue

- ▶ [Howe Developmental Center is Closed!](#)
- ▶ [Life My Way Legislative Forums Push for Change in Illinois](#)
- ▶ [Join Advocates Taking to the Streets to Oppose Medicaid Managed Care Pilot](#)
- ▶ [It's My Life Rally for Self-Directed Supports in Illinois](#)

Upcoming Events

Life My Way Legislative Forums

- Rockford - 8/10
- Urbana - 8/11
- Springfield - TBA
- Quad Cities - TBA

Rally to Oppose Medicaid Managed Care Pilot Program

Howe Developmental Center is Closed!

The notorious Howe Developmental Center in Tinley Park has officially closed its doors as of June 30, 2010. All of the remaining residents have been transferred out, many transitioning to other State Operated Developmental Centers around the state, but at least 70 have moved into a more independent setting in the community. For a look back at the fight to close Howe, click [here](#).

Congratulations to all the advocates who have fought so hard for the freedom of Howe residents!

Life My Way Legislative Forums Push for Change in Illinois

A statewide group of disability advocates and organizations, including the Campaign for Real Choice, and lead by the Family Support Network, have organized a series of Disability Legislative Forums under the theme of "Life My Way". These forums will be held in various locations around the state, and will demand that legislators and candidates publicly respond to questions from advocates relating to the budget cuts to disability services and reforming the system of services and supports for people with disabilities in Illinois.



Don't miss an opportunity near you to make your voice heard in the upcoming election! For more information, including dates and locations for forums being held in Champaign-Urbana, Rockford, Springfield, the Quad Cities, and other sites, go to www.familysupportnetwork.org

- Thurs, Aug 12
- Downtown Chicago & Springfield

It's My Life Rally for Self-Directed Supports in Illinois

- Tues, Aug 31
- Bloomington, IL

About REAL CHOICE

The Campaign for Real Choice in Illinois is people with disabilities organizing for freedom and choice. We are a grassroots, citizen action organization consisting of people with disabilities and their supporters. For more on the Campaign, go to realchoiceinillinois.org

Pass it on

Know anyone who might be interested in our newsletter? [Click here](#) to forward this email to up to 5 friends at once.

Join Advocates Taking to the Streets to Oppose Medicaid Managed Care Pilot

The Community for All Coalition, a group of disability rights advocates from across Illinois, representing state and local organizations, stands firmly opposed to the State of Illinois' Medicaid Managed Care pilot program. It is likely to affect nearly 40,000 people with disabilities in Du Page, Kane, Kankakee, Lake, Will, and suburban Cook counties in the next six months. The state claims this program could save \$200 million in Medicaid costs incurred by Illinois and help reduce the deficit. We see these cuts as detrimental to the health of people with disabilities. We see the corporate control of health care as a retreat from the goal of guaranteed health care for all as a human right. Medicaid Managed Care is another form of budget cuts.



COME PROTEST MEDICAID MANAGED CARE !

WE WANT CONSUMER CONTROL TO PICK OUR OWN DOCTORS!

Chicago Rally

Date: Thursday August 12th - 11:00am to 1:00pm

Location: Daley Plaza (Washington and Clark), Chicago loop

We will march to protest at other sites

For more information, contact: Tom Wilson

Phone: 312-640-2125

E-mail: tomas@accessliving.org

Springfield Rally

Date: Thursday August 12th, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Location: Bloom Building (2nd and South Grand) We will protest outside the offices of the Department of Healthcare and Family Services.

For more information contact: Tyler McHaley

Phone: 217-899-5015

E-mail: tyler.mchaley@gmail.com

If you cannot attend either rally in person, you can still participate by contacting Governor Quinn during a statewide action call-in day on Thursday, August 12 and Friday, August 13. You can use this suggested script when you make your phone call:

Hello, my name is _____, and I live in _____ County. I'm calling to let the Governor know that I'm firmly against the Medicaid Managed Care Pilot Program the Department of Healthcare and Family Services is planning to run in six counties in northern Illinois. Managed Care takes away choice and consumer control from people with disabilities, which means they can't pick their own doctors and specialists to give them the medical and long-term care they need. I call on Governor Quinn to stop Medicaid Managed Care and take responsibility for providing

health care to thousands of people with disabilities in Illinois because health insurance companies care more about their profits than the people they cover.

It's My Life Rally for Self-Directed Supports in Illinois

Join the Alliance and the Campaign for Real Choice on Tuesday, August 31 for a rally in Bloomington pushing for Self-Directed Supports for people with disabilities in Illinois.



Self-directed Supports means that people with disabilities have control over their services. A person would have an individual budget, and be able to use that budget to get the services he/she wants. Each person would also have a "support broker" who would help him/her make plans and receive the desired services and supports. The "support broker" would make sure that everything is within the budget.

About the Rally:

Date: Tuesday, August 31, 10:00 a.m. — 2:30 p.m.

Location: DoubleTree Hotel, 10 Brickyard Drive, Bloomington, IL

Agenda: Morning:

- Game and Skit about Self-Direction
- Sharing Stories
- Talent Show — Part 1
- LUNCH (included)

Afternoon:

- Talent Show — Part 2
- Rally with Lilia Teninty, Director of the Division on Developmental Disabilities

For more information, including registration, how to participate in the rally talent show and to help distribute lapel pins to raise awareness and funds for the cause, visit the [Alliance](#) website.

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Campaign For Real Choice In Illinois

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