

UCPeople

The e-Newsletter for UCP Affiliates

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United Cerebral Palsy to Complete e-Transfer to GetActive

Next week, United Cerebral Palsy will complete the transfer to GetActive, our new e-advocacy software.

Although we don't expect any problems with the transfer of our e-advocate lists, if you do not receive your copy of UCPeople on January 25, please e-mail Jim Baker at jbaker@ucp.org.

Thank you for your patience as UCP upgrades to this new system that will greatly enhance our ability to communicate with United Cerebral Palsy affiliates and supporters.

United Cerebral Palsy Calls on Affiliates to Attend AFP Summit in Sept. 2005

2005 Summit Will Bring Together 11 National Disability Organizations

By Jim Baker
January 18, 2005

Eleven national disability organizations, including United Cerebral Palsy, will host a national summit September 23-24, 2005, at the Washington Hilton in Washington, DC.

With the theme *Many Voices, One Vision*, over 1,200 self-advocates, family members, service providers, researchers, and public policy leaders are expected to attend to map out a dynamic strategic policy and social agenda in support of full participation.

"The Alliance for Full Participation (AFP) summit is a unique opportunity for UCP affiliates to collaborate with advocates throughout the disability community," said Stephen Bennett, President and CEO of United Cerebral Palsy. "I hope that our network of consumers, activists, and advocates will attend in force."

To generate grassroots support for the summit, the Alliance has built 50 state-wide coalitions to mirror the



work of the national summit. UCP affiliate executives Connie Cochran and Linda Potter are leading teams, in North Carolina and Michigan respectively.

"The organizations planning the 2005 summit recognize that far more than a two day meeting will be required to hammer out achievable strategies for helping persons with developmental disabilities become valued, contributing members of their communities. To succeed, a long-range social reform agenda must be rooted in the realities of the state and local policy environment," said Robert M. Gettings, executive director of the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services.

The program for the national event, while still in development, will focus on: Leadership, Community Membership and Self-Determination, and Enhancing the Quality of Supports and Services.

AFP is soliciting applications for presenters and posters for the summit until March 3, 2005. Applications can be found on the Alliance Web site at <http://www.allianceforfullparticipation.org/main>.

For more information on how to join a state team or to attend the summit, contact Carol Walsh at walshworks@mindspring.com, or visit the Alliance for Full Participation Web site.

Download the Alliance for Full Participation 2005 Summit flier now at <http://capwiz.com/ucp/utr/1/KLPWEDXUBE/KIBAEDXTUT>.

News and Notes...



HomeAbility Application Deadline is January 21!

The United Cerebral Palsy & Fannie Mae HomeAbility application deadline for UCP affiliates is **Friday, January 21**. Affiliates with questions about the program or application materials can contact:

Julie Jernigan, Senior Development Manager, at (202) 973-7100 or jjernigan@ucp.org

The program materials are also posted on the UCP intranet at <http://www.ucp.org/document.cfm/5955>.

Disability Policy Collaboration

Register for the Disability Policy Seminar Today!

People with disabilities, families, and advocates are facing some of the greatest public policy challenges ever. To help meet these challenges, five organizations -- The Arc, United Cerebral Palsy (UCP), AAMR, the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD), and the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD) -- are uniting to sponsor *Partnership for Empowerment*, the 2005 Disability Policy Seminar from February 28 - March 2, 2005 in Washington, D.C.

Learn more and register today at

<mhtml:http://capwiz.com/ucp/utr/1/KLPWEDXUBE/EWFLEDXTUV>

This week in Capitol Insider...

<http://www.ucp.org/uploads/CapitolInsiderVol10Iss3.doc>

The Disability Policy Collaboration staff, along with over two hundred representatives of human services national organizations, participated in a briefing on the pending Bush Administration Fiscal Year 2006

budget proposal. The next Disability Policy Collaboration conference call will be on January 25 at 2:00pm EST.

Recommended Articles

Social Security Changes Effects' on Disabled Are Up in the Air

<http://www.dailystar.com/dailystar/dailystar/57363.php>

By Leigh Strope

The Associated Press

January, 18, 2005

Big questions remain about how private social security investment accounts would be structured for people with disabilities, especially if they get injured at a young age or are dependent on a parent. Marty Ford, Director of Legal Advocacy for the Disability Policy Collaboration, is quoted.

Design Concepts Make Living More Accessible for Disabled

<http://www.ctnow.com/news/local/statewire/hc-13131414.apds.m0300.bc-ct-fea--jan13,0,2922413.story>

By Hilary Waldman

The Hartford Courant

January 12, 2005

An increasingly popular concept known as Universal Design is based on the notion that any building should be attractive and usable by all people, regardless of age or physical ability.

News Round-Up

Federal News

Federal Judge Rejects ADA Claim Against Utah Cab Companies

U.S. District Court Judge Dale Kimball rejected a lawsuit last week that claimed three Salt Lake City cab companies were violating the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) for failing to provide vans that are accessible to people with disabilities. The judge said the regulations implementing the ADA require only new vehicles to accommodate people in wheelchairs. Kimball found that "new" meant any van that was purchased after the ADA was implemented in 1992.

State News

Acting NJ Governor Addresses Mental Health Issues in State of State Address

Acting New Jersey Governor Richard J. Codey (D) proposed borrowing \$200 million to create housing for people with mental and physical disabilities in his State of the State address last week. The move could add 10,000 affordable housing units over the next decade. Gov. Codey said he hopes to attract more workers to mental health causes by forgiving student loans of up to \$20,000 for those who opt to work in public or non-profit mental health agencies. He also laid out plans for New Jersey to be the first state to offer free mental health screenings for uninsured new mothers.

New Mexico Gov. Seeks to Limit Medicaid Growth, Proposes New Plans

New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson (D) has proposed plans to expand Medicaid coverage, though his proposed budget for fiscal year 2006 doesn't include enough money to fully fund the program.

Richardson has laid out plans to spend more on investigating potential abuse and neglect in state nursing homes and expanding health insurance coverage to 41,000 uninsured New Mexicans, targeting low-income people and employees of nonprofits and small companies. However, Richardson indicated that he expects the state Human Services Department to look for more ways to control costs, including restricting some benefits, to meet the expected shortfall.

Indiana Gov. Says His Administration will Rein In Medicaid Spending

Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels (R) indicated last week his administration will seek to trim the state's Medicaid budget. Daniels' top human services aide, Mitch Roob, told the *The Indianapolis Star*, "The current system doesn't work. It hasn't worked for sometime. The program is out of control because we have not married Hoosiers' compassion to the state's financial reality." Cuts could narrow eligibility for some services, and cut altogether other services the state offers but is not legally required to provide, such as in-home programs for people with developmental disabilities.

Minnesota State Senator Claims 300 Adults Have Died Due to Cuts in Medicaid Funding

More than 300 childless adults covered by MinnesotaCare, Minnesota's Medicaid health program, have died since the state capped their outpatient care costs at \$5,000 two years ago, stated Senator Linda Berglin (DFL) said last week. The state Senate Health and Family Security Committee voted 9-0 for Berglin's bill to repeal the MinnesotaCare cap, after hearing stories from patients whose health problems have mushroomed into emergencies because they didn't get necessary medical care. Berglin did not provide details on the deaths of the 300 adults, or how many were related to a lack of medical care.

Sheriff Says TennCare Cuts Will Impact Public Safety

Robertson County Sheriff Gene Bollinger told *The Tennessean* last week, the end of TennCare benefits to 30,000 citizens with severe mental illnesses will have a significant impact on public safety. TennCare is Tennessee's expanded Medicaid healthcare program. "Practical common sense tells you that if TennCare isn't covering these folks, we'll be seeing more 603's (mental health crisis)." Last week, Gov. Phil Bredesen (D) announced that nearly half of all adults in TennCare will lose their health coverage.

Maryland Section 8 Housing Residents with Disabilities File Complaint

The Associated Press has reported eight residents with disabilities will file a complaint against the Louis W. Foxwell Sr. Memorial Apartments with the Maryland Human Relations Commission on Wednesday. The residents are claiming that employees at the federally-funded Baltimore apartment building have engaged in widespread discrimination. The residents' complaint will allege that employees threw one woman's wheelchair in the trash and refused to use Braille on written notices.

2005 United Cerebral Palsy Annual Conference Update



The preliminary conference schedule is now available online:

http://www.ucp.org/ucp_generalsub.cfm/1/12438/12515

Hotel reservations can be made online today, by visiting the Arizona Biltmore Web site at

<http://www.arizonabiltmore.com>. Use the code "UNITEDDC" to receive the UCP group rate.

Stay tuned for updates each week in UCPeople.

For more information about news clippings, please contact Jim Baker at jbaker@ucp.org.