

KEYS TO INDEPENDENCE



VOLUME 9 ISSUE 2 JUNE, 2007



GET INVOLVED IN YOUR CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING!

The Coalition For Independence (CFI) is a center for independent living. The main thrust of a center for independent living is mandated under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. CFI offers a variety of services to people with disabilities in the Kansas City Metro Region. What makes CFI different from other organizations is that we are consumer-controlled, community-based, cross-disability and nonresidential. Sure we offer other services of great value to the community, but independent living philosophy is the foundation of who we are as an organization.

The definition of a Center for Independent Living from Section 702 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended says: Center For Independent Living – The term “center for independent living” means a consumer-controlled, community-based, cross-disability, nonresidential private nonprofit agency that is designed and operated within a local community by individuals with disabilities and provides an array of independent living services.

The Rehabilitation Act Section 725(b)(1) convey the elements of the independent living Philosophy: (A) Consumer control of

the center regarding decision-making, service delivery, management, and establishment of the policy and direction of the center; (B) Self-help and self advocacy; (C) Development of peer relationships and peer role models; and (D) Equal access of individuals with significant disabilities to society and to all services, programs, activities, resources, and facilities whether public or private and regardless of the funding source.

As mandated by the Rehabilitation Act, 51% of our board and staff are made up for people with disabilities. Not a lot of other organizations can boost that kind of dedication and commitment to the community. This is what makes CFI unique.

Get involved in your center for independent living! At CFI, participate in activities that the center has to offer. You can come to our office or we can come to you.

The staff of CFI have skills and talents to help empower you to live independently. Ask the staff to help set goals. Staff can work with you on your goals and celebrate your achievements.

CFI does information & referral, hooking you up

with the resources in the community.

Having someone to talk to or use as a sounding board is always healthy. Dealing with a newly acquired disability or existing one can be stressful. Talk to someone with a disability! Through peer support, one-on-one or through our peer support groups, learn how to empower yourself!

Want to learn a new skill or maybe relearn a new skill so that you can remain independent? CFI does independent living skills training. Cooking, organizational skills, budgeting, the list goes on!

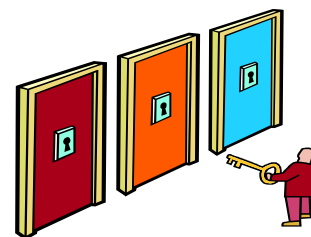
Sticking up for yourself and obtaining the services that you need can be overwhelming at best. CFI teaches you how to advocate for yourself or provide assistance with advocating. Watch and learn. CFI also advocates with elected officials to make sure that people with disabilities have equal access to programs and services in their own communities. CFI can give you the tools that you need to voice your concerns with your elected officials.

We believe that people have a right to choose where they want to live

and how they want to live. We work with individuals who are in state institutions or nursing homes to return to the community. Using community resources to achieve this goal, we believe that people are happier and healthier living in their own home.

CFI helps provide access to services and programs needed in the community through Medicaid Home and Community Based Waiver Services, Assistive Technology, Durable Medical Equipment loan program and Universal Design in Housing.

Come on, get involved!



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Welcome New Staff	2
Cooper's Corner	2
2009 TV Sets	3
Let States Do It	3
Disability Caucus	3



Dee Culbertson



John Pyle



Leigh Liggett



Dan Germain



Corinne Holtz



Jan Meek

NEW FACES AT COALITION FOR INDEPENDENCE

Dan Germain joins CFI as Clark Byron's new Executive Assistant. He recently concluded a 24-year career with the California Highway Patrol (CHP). In his early career, Dan served as a research analyst in the CHP's Operational Planning Section and later managed the Patrol's centralized Business Services Section. Dan's educational accomplishments include a Bachelor of Arts in Government-Journalism and a Masters of Public Administration, both from California State University, Sacramento.

Corinne Holtz joins CFI as our new Assistive Technology Specialist. Connie comes to CFI after budget cuts at Iowa State University eliminated her program. Here at CFI she will be evaluating consumer's computer accessibility needs, including both adaptive hardware and software solutions. She will also evaluate communication devices and environmental control solutions providing consumers independent control of the

lights, doors, and appliances in their environment.

Leigh Liggett will be replacing Elaine Houtman as Director of Assistive Technology this month. Until recently, Leigh was the Executive Director of the Brain Injury Association of Kansas and Greater Kansas City. Leigh brings experience in program development, grant writing and service coordination to our organization. She doesn't think that the fact she has a cat named Benny is newsworthy, however we think differently!

John Pyle joins CFI as a new Independent Living Specialist. John comes to CFI after working as the Specialty Sales Manager for The Home Depot. Previously, he was an advocate for disability rights at The Whole Person. John graduated from Rockhurst College in 1992 with in degree in business. John was in an auto accident that left him a T-10-11 Paraplegic.

Dee Culbertson has been hired as Director of Finances and Human Re-

sources. Dee comes to CFI with extensive experience working in the non-profit sector after working at Community Resource Network as Administrative Services Manager. Part of Dee's responsibilities will be proving payroll services to consumers that request CFI as their payroll agent.

Jan Meek has become part of the CFI team as Financial Assistant to Dee Culbertson, Director of Finances & Human Resources. Jan comes to CFI from Children's TLC Wyandotte Infant Toddler Program. Jan will also answering the phone and filling in for our own Randy Murty, as needed.



Special thanks to Melvin Brown for taking pictures for The Keys For Independence Newsletter!

COOPER'S CORNER BY KATHY COOPER, DIRECTOR OF HCBS

Wow! It's that time again! Another newsletter, another article from me. I think that the really big thing that CFI has happening right now is our program development. We have a team of staff members working on new programs to offer to CFI consumers. CFI is developing a Living Well with a Disability program

that will help people with all kinds of disabilities learn how to stay fit. We are also looking at putting together some resources for emergency preparedness for people with disabilities and of course some more social events. The last one leads me in to making sure everyone stops by CFI on June 8th for the first ever Spring Fling (yes, technically June 8th is still

considered spring!). We are going to have a lot of great booths, entertainment and food. This is an excellent opportunity for the community to come and learn more about what CFI has to offer, because believe me it's a lot!



DISABILITY IN THE NEWS FROM JUSTICE FOR ALL

Will TV Sets Become Paper Weights for Disabled People in February 2009?

After February 17, 2009 your rabbit ear antenna's TV set will need a special set-top box to convert digital TV back to analog so you can view TV programs on that old TV set. On that date, there will be no more analog TV broadcasts. While cable and satellite and other pay-for-TV subscribers should have no problem, people still have no assurances from manufacturers and the government that mandated closed captioning and available video description will be passed through the set-top box for people who watch free TV using an over-the-air antenna. Low income people and others who rely on free analog TV will be the most affected.

If you're concerned, don't hesitate to contact the federal government agencies involved: National Telecom Admin (NTIA) at website: <http://www.ntia.doc.gov/otiahome/dtv/index.html>. Tel (202) 482-5802; Fax (202) 501-8009; Email bmcguire-rivera@ntia.doc.gov or awilhelm@ntia.doc.gov. Federal Communications Commission at <http://www.dtv.gov>. Tel 1-888-CALL-FCC (1-888-225-5322) or TTY 1-888-TELL-FCC (1-888-835-5322) or Fax 1-866-418-0232 or Email FCCINFO@fcc.gov.

Leavitt: Let States Find Ways to Expand Health Insurance By Fawn Johnson

HHS Secretary, Leavitt said today Congress should give states the tools to expand health insurance access to Americans, rather than trying to develop universal health insurance at the federal level.

"The place to solve it is where the innovation is taking place, and that's in the states," he said in a speech at the American Enterprise Institute. He likened the situation in health care to the debates over welfare reform in the mid-1990s. "The states came forward in a bipartisan way," he said. "They said, 'Here are the problems we have to have solved. If you want us to take care of it, give us the choice, get out of our way, give us the tools, and we'll get it done.'" Leavitt said government should heavily subsidize health care for elderly and poor citizens who cannot afford a basic plan. "Every other American deserves to have a choice of basic plans," he said.

Leavitt said Congress should eliminate the "blatant discrimination" between those who have employer-provided health insurance and those who buy health insurance in the private market. To correct that imbalance, President Bush has proposed making employer-provided health benefits part of taxable income and providing tax benefits for individually purchased health care.

The proposal has made little headway on Capitol Hill. Leavitt also said the federal government should create a network in which states can "wrestle" with the problems of how to balance the costs of providing health insurance with the size of the benefits.

Leavitt said government should be the "organizer" and not the "proprietor" of health care. But, he noted, many lawmakers disagree, wanting to expand the entitlement aspects of government-run health care, citing proposals to expand the State Children's Health Insurance Program. "The solution isn't to incrementally hook one more car to the train of government-run health care," he said. He called on advocates for a market-based healthcare system to come up with a plan. "Those who understand the dangers of the trend need to engage," he said. "You can't beat the candidate with no candidate. You can't beat a plan with no plan." Leavitt's outline of healthcare policy included "electronically connected medical records," medical standards, and incentives for providing low-cost quality care.

SOURCE: Congress Daily PM



Working Towards Our Future
10th Kansas Disability Caucus
August 8,9, & 10, 2007

Assistance is available through the Caucus for people with disabilities who require financial aid in order to attend. Partial and full scholarships are available. A \$30 registration fee is required so as many participants as possible may attend. Participants will be required to share a room.

Location: Capital Plaza Hotel Topeka, KS

Registration is due before July 2, 2007!

For registration information contact

Jay at Coalition For Independence

913-321-5140 or TTY 913-321-5216

People with all types of disabilities, of any age, representing every county of the state are invited to attend. The purpose of the Caucus is to develop new disability leadership in Kansas, to educate Kansans with disabilities about the mechanics of the policy making process and encourage their participation in it, to determine major issues facing Kansans with disabilities and to elicit solutions for issues identified.



COALITION FOR INDEPENDENCE

4911 State avenue
Kansas City, KS 66102-1749
Phone: 913-321-5140
Fax: 913-321-5182

6724 Troost Avenue, Suite 408
Kansas City, MO 64131
Phone: 816-231-7166
Fax: 913-231-7899



KEYS FOR INDEPENDENCE

A Publication of
Coalition For Independence, Inc.
Clark Byron, Executive Director
Jay Arnold, Editor

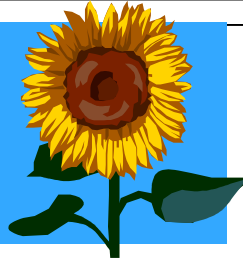
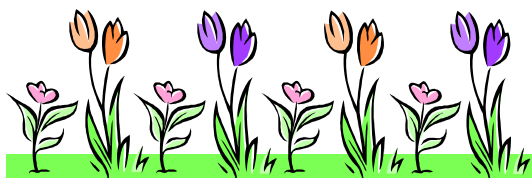
CFI's 1st Annual Spring Fling!!

June 8th from 10am -2pm

CFI parking lot



FREE LUNCH TO THE 1ST 250 PEOPLE
COMMUNITY RESOURCE VENDORS
LIVE DJ AND OTHER ENTERTAINMENT!



Sunflower

Adult Day & Recreation Center

(913) 299-0800

Call Today Come Join Our Family

- **Bowling**
- **Art and Crafts**
- **Theater Outings**
- **Exercise Group**
- **Bingo**
- **Entertainers**
- **Restaurant Outing**
- **Picnics**

Breakfast and Lunch Served Daily

Transportation Provided

Kansas HCBS Medicaid Provider

