RCIL is Excited To Announce A New Addition to the Benefits Team!

We have added a new Health Care Advocate to the RCIL Team, Shelby Bour. Recognizing the impact of The Affordable Care Act and the expansion of Medicaid Managed Care, Shelby joined RCIL this past fall to focus solely on consumers affected by these changes.

So what does managed care mean for consumers? In Monroe County it means that most people enrolled in Medicaid, including long-term care recipients, are required to select and enroll into a managed care plan if they haven’t already done so.

With five different Medicaid Managed Care options and three different categories of Medicaid Managed Long-Term care (each composed of different plans), consumers in Monroe County often find it difficult to compare plans and select the one that’s best for them. Once consumers are enrolled they have to navigate a new set of policies and procedures including the plan’s appeals process.

RCIL’s Health Care Advocate can assist individuals with the following:
- Assist with Medicaid, Medicaid Long-Term Care, and Medicare processes
- Explain the differences between managed care plans
- Assist with health plan selection and enrollment into managed care
- Appeal healthcare denials (such as reductions, changes, or initial denials) and serve as advocate throughout the appeal process

Shelby Bour, Health Care Advocate.

Mark Your Calendar! What’s Coming Up:
1. **Thanksgiving Dinner** on November 20th from 5-8pm (Free event)
2. **Holiday Party** on December 18th from 4-8pm (Donation for dinner)

*Both will take place at the Stardust Ballroom, 41 Backus Street*
Dear Friends:

Independent Times provides our readers valuable information about RCIL programs and ongoing advocacy efforts – ensuring that people with disabilities can be independent and integrated in the community.

Our feature story this issue highlights a new addition to the RCIL Benefits team, to ensure that the move to Medicaid Managed Care is a smooth transition for everyone. We are excited to welcome our Health Care Advocate to RCIL! We are also excited to share with readers, all of RCIL’s new trainings to enhance quality of services and opportunities for people with disabilities in leadership and empowerment.

RCIL assists people of all ages and disabilities. Please contact us to learn how you can get involved!

Sincerely,

Bruce E. Darling
President/CEO

Developing Training Tools has been a Focus at RCIL Recently

RCIL has been busy creating different training tools to improve RCIL services, and encourage leadership and empowerment amongst individuals with disabilities in the community. The development of the Peer Mentor Training was a major focus for IL this year. The training has two purposes, first to equip individuals with disabilities with the skills needed to self-advocate and second, to equip participants with the skills needed to mentor others. This training was piloted this past fall, and will now be offered four times annually to interested individuals in the community.

Another exciting curriculum currently under development at RCIL is our own Leadership Academy. The Academy is being created to provide training in four key components: Advocacy, Public Speaking, Media, and Service on a Board or Committee. As with the Peer Mentor Training, this program is being developed to focus on community organization. Our plan is to have the program ready for piloting in the coming months.

Thanks to the ACCES-VR state funds, RCIL was able to complete a major component in creating a Cultural Competence Training Program for staff in collaboration with the National Coalition Building Institute (NCBI). This program will allow RCIL to continue its efforts to strengthen the organization and better serve its consumers. The program is designed to train staff on what it means to be culturally competent at RCIL. The training will be piloted within the organization in the near future. Stay tuned for more information and insight about all the exciting new training tools at RCIL!

RCIL has a youth leadership group for teens and young adults with disabilities!

YO! - Youth Own - RCIL’s youth leadership group for teens and young adults with disabilities is growing, and always looking for new members! From community activities, discussion groups, to mentoring and support from someone just like you...YO! - Youth Own has so much to offer! Contact us at (585) 442-6470 to learn more and find out how you can join.

Check out YO!’s NEW website at www.rcilyo.org or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/youthown for info!
ROC the Day on December 2nd with RCIL!

RCIL is joining the United Way for the ROC the Day event on December 2, 2014 - an entire day of online giving to local not-for-profits in the Greater Rochester area. This is a 24 hour online event that begins at 12:01 am on December 2nd and goes until 11:59 pm! During this time anyone can log onto the site at www.roctheday.org to donate! We hope that you can support RCIL in some way on December 2nd!

RCIL Needs Your Help!
You can get involved and help by:
1. Help Us Spread the Word!
2. Share on Facebook and Twitter
3. Tell your friends and family how important RCIL is to you!
4. Giving a gift on 12.2.14 by logging onto www.roctheday.org/regionalcenterforindependentliving

Addition to Benefits Team Continued Page 1

- Obtain home services to ensure independence
- Represent consumers at fair hearings and advocate for the full integration, independence, and civil rights of people with disabilities

To date, the Health Care Advocate has helped 4 consumers appeal proposed reductions in their Personal Assistance services and as a result managed care plans have reinstated their in-home services to the original amounts. For example, one consumer originally received 88 hours per week of in-home personal care assistance. The managed care plan was going to reduce that consumer’s services to 70 hours per week. This reduction would’ve threatened the consumer’s health, safety, and ability to remain independent in the community. Our new Health Care Advocate assisted the consumer with appealing the reduction of the hours by submitting the appropriate documents to the managed care plans Medical Director. Because of this Assistance, the consumer’s CDPAS hours were restored to the original amount, and the consumer continues to remain independent in the community.

Important News and Info:

Upcoming RCIL Board Meeting: Thursday, December 18th, 2-4 pm, 497 State Street
Members are encouraged to attend! Not a member? Wish to speak with the board?
Contact Linda Taylor at (585) 442 - 6470 for assistance.

Problems with this newsletter? Receiving too many copies? Have you changed your address? Contact Kristin Salter at (585) 442– 6470 for assistance.

See what’s happening online!

Visit us at www.rcil.org for more information on our services, and keep up-to-date on our advocacy efforts!

http://www.facebook.com/rcilnys
http://www.twitter.com/rcilny
http://www.youtube.com/rcilvideo
Minimum contribution $10 per year.
Membership year is November 1 – October 31.

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Enclosed is my contribution of $________ .

Make your check payable to Regional Center for Independent Living and mail it, along with the completed membership form, to:

Regional Center for Independent Living
497 State Street
Rochester, New York 14608

_all donations are tax deductible._