



DAWN AWAKENINGS

Awaken to Independence

Summer 2011

DAWN RECEIVES NEW ASSISTIVE EQUIPMENT FROM THE NEW JERSEY COMMISSION OF THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED

Through a grant received by the New Jersey Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired, DAWNcil has just received 5 pieces of equipment in both their Denville and Hackettstown offices for it's consumers to use. They are the following machines:

- **JAWS Software (Screen Reader)** – A software program whose purpose is to make personal computers using Microsoft Windows accessible to blind and visually impaired users. It accomplishes this by providing the user with access to the information displayed on the screen via text-to-speech or by means of Braille display and allows for comprehensive keyboard interaction with the computer. It also allows users to create custom scripts using the JAWS Scripting Language, which can alter the amount of and type of information which is presented by applications, and ultimately makes programs that were not designed for accessibility (such as programs that do not use standard Windows controls) usable through JAWS.
- **Zoom Text** – A screen magnifier for Microsoft Windows. The software can help individuals with 'early vision loss, computer vision syndrome, and visual impairments such as macular degeneration and glaucoma'. Zoom Text has dual monitor support and is capable of magnifying the screen up to 36 times; it also allows you to choose which part of the screen is magnified. Text definition is maintained to preserve legibility. Color controls help improve the clarity of the screen and mouse pointers can be resized. It also provides enhanced navigation capabilities to help the user launch programs and find documents on the desktop and finds the hypertext links and controls on web pages, find words or phrases.
- **Closed Circuit Television (CCTV)** – A CCTV is an electronic magnification reading system that enables visually impaired users to continue reading a variety of materials and writing. A CCTV uses a stand – mounted or hand-held video camera to project a magnified image of any printed material (including books, newspapers, magazines, etc.) a video monitor or a television screen. It can also be used to write letters and checks, and do different types of crafts such as needlepoint.
- **Kurzweil Reading Machine** – A piece of assistive technology that allows people, who are blind and visually impaired, to access printed materials. It scans text, converts the image into text by means of optical character recognition and uses a speech synthesizer to read out what it has found.
- **Scanner** - A device used in conjunction with Optical Character Recognition (OCR) software. The printed document is scanned and converted into electronic text, which can then be displayed on screen as recognizable text.

All DAWNcil consumers who are Blind and/or Visually Impaired are invited and encouraged to use the equipment located in both of our offices. For more information, or to arrange to utilize this equipment, please call the Denville office at (973) 625 - 6195 (Voice), (888) 383 - DAWN (Toll Free) or (973) 625 - 1932.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Lucky Strike Night Bowlathon

A fundraiser for DAWNcil to be held on Friday August 12, 2011 – Rockaway Lanes, Route 46, Rockaway, NJ. - 7:00 – 10:00 pm. – Minimum Donation, \$ 20.00 (Includes 3 games and rental shoes). Organize a Team. Have Fun. Walk ins welcome! Proceeds will benefit recreation and socialization programs.

PERSONAL ATTENDANT SERVICES PROGRAM

The Personal Attendant Services Program (P.A.S.P.) is a program for people with disabilities to live independently. Eligibility requirements for the program are as follows:

- You must be permanently physically disabled.
- Between the ages of 18 – 65
- Living within the community
- Capable of directing and supervising your own attendant or services (in other words, **you** are capable of being the employer of the attendant)
- Working, attending school or volunteering in the community

Services provided include:

- Non-medical personal care
- Meal preparation and cleanup
- Light housekeeping
- Shopping and errands
- Driving in your own vehicle
- You must be able to participate in all activities listed.

PASP is a **consumer directed program** and not a medical – model entitlement. Eligibility is **not** based on income or assets.

To find out more about the PASP program in your county call:

Morris County – (973) 285 - 6865

Sussex County – (973) 704 - 6350

Warren County – (973) 625 – 1940 or toll free at (888) 383 – DAWN.

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO) REPORT ON DISABILITY

The first ever *World report on disability*, produced jointly by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Bank, suggests that more than a billion people in the world today experience disability.

People with disabilities have generally poorer health, lower education achievements, fewer economic opportunities and higher rates of poverty than people without disabilities. This is largely due to the lack of services available to them and the many obstacles they face in their everyday lives. The report provides the best available evidence about what works to overcome barriers to health care, rehabilitation, education, employment, and support services, and to create the environments, which will enable people with disabilities to flourish. The report ends with a concrete set of recommended actions for governments and their partners.

This pioneering *World report on disability* will make a significant contribution to implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. At the intersection of public health, human rights and development, the report is set to become a "must have" resource for policy-makers, service providers, professionals, and advocates for people with disabilities and their families.

About 15% of the world's population lives with some form of disability, of whom 2-4% experience significant difficulties in functioning. The global disability prevalence is higher than previous WHO estimates, which date from the 1970s and suggested a figure of around 10%. This global estimate for disability is on the rise due to population ageing and the rapid spread of chronic diseases, as well as improvements in the methodologies used to measure disability.

The first ever WHO/World Bank World report on disability reviews evidence about the situation of people with disabilities around the world. Following chapters on understanding disability and measuring disability, the report contains topic-specific chapters on health; rehabilitation; assistance and support; enabling environments; education; and employment. Within each chapter, there is a discussion of the barriers confronted, and case studies showing how countries have succeeded in addressing these by promoting good practice. In its final chapter, the report offers nine concrete recommendations for policy and practice which if put in place could lead to real improvements in the lives of people with disability.

The report is divided into the following chapters”

- Chapter 1 -Understanding disability**
- Chapter 2 -Disability - a global picture**
- Chapter 3 -General health care**
- Chapter 4 - Rehabilitation**
- Chapter 5 - Assistance and support**
- Chapter 6 - Enabling environments**
- Chapter 7 - Education**
- Chapter 8 - Work and employment**
- Chapter 9 - The way forward: recommendations**

The report is available in 6 different languages including English, Spanish and Chinese. To read the full report or get a copy visit the WHO website: http://www.who.int/disabilities/world_report/2011/en/index.html.

**ADVISORY COUNCILS TOGETHER (ACT) FOR NEW JERSEY
NEW JERSEY AREA AGENCIES ON AGING – ADRC STATEWIDE ADVISORY COUNCIL
CONSORTIUM**

The New Jersey Global Options “Medicaid Waiver Program” is a successful Medicaid rebalancing initiative currently being implemented at the local level by **NJ Area Agencies on Aging and their Aging and Disability Resource Connections (ADRC)**. Our concern lies with the proposal of the New Jersey Medicaid Comprehensive Waiver that outline a “one size fits all – medical model” of existing long term care services and directs how and by whom Medicaid recipients will be managed. This new model will take the responsibility of care management away from the Area Agencies on Aging and Disabilities and place it in the hands of very impersonal Health Maintenance Organizations (specifically four chosen in New Jersey). What will come of the years of relationships that the care managers have built with those who are Medicaid recipients through the existing structure? As an already vulnerable group of citizens, those on Medicaid will have to adjust to a change that will cause considerable personal worry.

ACT urges those on Medicaid and those impacted by these changes to sign a petition form asking the State Assembly to reconsider these changes. For more information on this project, contact the NJ Area Agencies and their Disability Resource Connections (ADRC) at Department of Health and Senior Services, P O Box 360, Trenton, NJ 08625-0360, Phone: (609) 292-7837, Toll-free in NJ: 1-800-367-6543, or visit their website at <http://web.doh.state.us/ArdcNJ/about.aspx>.

You many also get more information by calling the DAWN office at (973) 625 – 1940 or toll free at (888) 383 – DAWN or by TTY at (973) 625 -1932.

All DAWN consumers are encouraged to participate in this project to make their voices heard on this important issue.

**DAWN CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING OFFERS HOME MODIFICATION PROGRAM FOR
INDIVIDUALS WITH SPINAL CORD INJURIES LIVING IN MORRIS, SUSSEX AND WARREN
COUNTIES**

DAWN Center for Independent Living is pleased to announce the availability of funds made possible through a grant from the Craig H. Neilsen Foundation. The grant will provide home modifications to people with spinal cord injuries living in Morris, Sussex and Warren Counties. Priority will be given to persons at risk of institutionalization, if modifications are not made to their home. Medical and financial need must be demonstrated. Types of modifications may include but not limited to ramps, widening of doorways, raising countertops, grab bars, floor level showers and stair glides. Applicants must provide two cost estimates of the work to be done as well as before and after photos. The amount available per recipient will average \$2,000 - \$4,000 on a first come, first serve basis.

Established in 2002, the Craig H. Neilsen Foundation is a private foundation dedicated to supporting cutting-edge research to find a cure for paralysis due to spinal cord injury (SCI) and innovative rehabilitation programs to improve the quality of life for those living with SCI. Mr. Nielsen, himself a quadriplegic for 21 years until his death in 2006, recruited experts in the SCI community to peer review all grant requests for

scientific and clinical research, post-doctoral fellowships, and quality of life program grants.

If someone you know is interested in the Home Modification Program or other DAWN services contact Marc Moldé at (973) 625-1940 or e-mail him at info@dawncil.org. Funds are limited and may expire soon.

CAPE MAY AND MONMOUTH COUNTY BEACH GUIDES

The Monmouth and Cape May County Offices for the Disabled announce that they have completed and made available to the public guides to accessible beaches in each of their areas. Each guide gives the reader where they can find accessible areas and equipment at beaches along the Jersey Shore such as curb cuts, mobile beach mats and surf chairs.

To acquire a copy of each guide consumers should contact the following people:

- Monmouth County Area:** Sue Moleon, MA, Director of the Monmouth County Office on Disabilities (732) 308-3770, ext. 3599.
- Cape May County Area:** Paulann T. Pierson, Coordinator, Cape May County Office of Disability Services (609)465-4117.

ELECTION DAY LEGAL SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Disability Rights New Jersey (DRNJ) is New Jersey's designated protection and advocacy system for people with disabilities pursuant to federal statutes intended to protect the legal, civil, and human rights of people with disabilities. On Primary Election Day, DRNJ attorneys will be available by telephone to answer questions concerning problems that may arise for individuals with disabilities while voting.

Any person needing assistance can contact DRNJ at 800 922-7233 or 609-633-7106 (TTY) from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

If you have any questions please contact Mary Ciccone, Managing Attorney at 609-299-9742.

ASSISTIVE COMMUNICATION DEVICE DEMONSTRATION CENTERS

The New Jersey Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DDHH) operates a number of "Assistive Communications Device Demonstration Centers" throughout New Jersey. These centers display assistive communication devices for people with hearing loss. The devices on display include those in the Equipment Distribution Program as well as other practical devices for home and office such as door bells, alarm clocks, video phones, amplified sound systems and more. The centers offer hands-on demonstrations so that consumers can make informed decisions prior to purchasing such devices.

Current locations for the centers are:

- John Kohn Rehabilitation Center, 130 Livingston Ave, New Brunswick, NJ 08901
- The Brian C. Shomao Assistive Device Center, located at the Marie Katzenbach School for the Deaf, 320

Sullivan Way, West Trenton, NJ 08628

- Bridges for Employment, 600 First Ave., Raritan, NJ 08869
- Goodwill Industries of New York and Northern New Jersey, Inc., 40 Supor Blvd., Harrison, NJ 07029
- Burlington County College, Mt. Holly Center, 1 High Street, Mt. Holly, NJ 088060

To schedule an appointment at any of the above centers contact DDHH at (609) 984 – 7281 V/TTY or (609) 498 – 7006 VP or e-mail Jason.weiland@dhs.state.nj.us or traci.burton@dhs.state.nj.us.

WE CONNECT NOW

We Connect Now is an organization dedicated to uniting people interested in the rights and issues affecting people with disabilities, with particular emphasis on college students and access to higher education and employment issues.

One of the goals of We Connect Now is to help college students with disabilities to succeed in their studies by getting the information and support they need, both through resources, links, blogs, latest news, studying existing laws and regulations and through personal contacts. The organization's website can be found at <http://weconnectnow.wordpress.com/posts/we-connect-now/>.

Through the website people can share and read other people's stories as a source of support and comfort. People using the website can take action by writing their own blogs, hosting an event or becoming involved in politics by knowing about upcoming legislation involving people with disabilities. Every month the webpage will focus on a particular disability to bring our visitors more information and support related to our focus of the month. Through their jobs section, they hope to empower people with disabilities find employment through job postings and job searching tips and if people have any questions We Connect Now encourages them to contact them.

We Connect Now is an independent non-profit organization. The We Connect Now website was created by a college student and is completely run by college students and other volunteers. While We Connect Now has received some small grants from other non-profit organizations for operating costs and for the creation of We Connect Now campus chapters, it has never received any funding from any for profit corporation or government entity. The organization was founded in 2008.

If you have any questions regarding We Connect Now contact them at weconnectnow2008@gmail.com.

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION REQUESTS WAIVER

New Jersey is among six states asking the U.S. Department of Education for a waiver allowing them to reduce the amount of state financial support provided to local districts for special education for the current fiscal year. Under federal special education law, states must maintain the same level of state support for special education from one year to the next unless they are granted a waiver to reduce that amount.

In a letter sent to Education Secretary Arne Duncan in late September. New Jersey reports that it had "precipitous and unforeseen decline in financial resources" causing the State to have to have a \$2 billion deficit in Fiscal Year 2010, and forcing a reduction in funding for special education. According to the request, the

special education reduction is less than the reduction in overall state aid to school districts (6.2%).

If a state receives a waiver, the state must return the prior year's level of state support the following year or face reductions in federal funds (unless a new waiver is requested and granted). To date, only Iowa and West Virginia have been granted a full waiver.

For more information, go to <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/guid/idea/monitor/smfs-waivers.html>.

WEB SITES, ETC.

- www.aapd.com – American Association of People with Disabilities.
- www.hhs.gov – U.S. Department of Health and Human Services – Office of Civil Rights.
- www.ncil.org – National Council on Independent Living
- www.nationalmssociety.org – National Multiple Sclerosis Society
- www.projectaction.org – Accessible Transportation Resource
- www.morrishumanservices.org/dvs/maps.asp - Morris Area Paratransit System (MAPS)
- www.drnj.org – Disability Rights New Jersey



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Fax: 973-625-1942
TTY: 973-625-1932
Email: info@dawncil.org

We are on the web!

www.dawncil.org

Follow us on

Twitter@DAWNcil

DAWN MISSION STATEMENT

DAWN Center for Independent Living empowers people with disabilities to strive for equality and to take control of their own lives by:

- Providing the tools that encourage independence and self-advocacy.
- Promoting public awareness of the needs, desires and rights of individuals living with disabilities.
- Offering community activities that create new experiences and opportunities.
- Creating informed communities that advance the Independent Living Philosophy.

DAWN PROVIDES THE FOLLOWING SERVICES:

- Information and Referral
- Living Well with a Disability
- Next Chapter Book Club
- Aktion Club (Morris County only)
- Nursing Facility Transition
- Independent Living Skills Training
- School to Adult Life (*STEP-UP* Program)
- Advocacy
- Peer Support
- Recreation
- SAIL
- Care Management