



# DAWN AWAKENINGS

## Awaken to Independence

Summer 2007

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

ELECTION TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS ANNOUNCEMENT FOR OCTOBER 2007  
PERSONAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES PROGRAM  
FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESK  
RECREATION SURVEY RESULTS AND RESPONSES TO YOUR SUGGESTIONS  
CHRISTINE CRAWN SCHNORR ADVOCACY AWARD  
"BRAIN INJURY: MISUNDERSTOOD?"  
FREEBIE 411  
S.A.I.L. PROGRAM (SELF-ADVOCACY INSTITUTE FOR LEADERSHIP)  
ADJUSTMENT TO VISION LOSS  
LEGISLATION INTRODUCED TO IMPROVE MEDICAL ACCESS  
INTERESTED IN BECOMING A YOGA AND MEDITATION TEACHER?  
2007 GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE OF EMPLOYMENT FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES  
COMMUNITY HEALTH LAW PROJECT ANNOUNCES FEE FOR SERVICE PROGRAM  
STATE SUPREME COURT OVERTURNS DDD REGULATION  
UP-COMING DAWN EVENTS  
RECYCLED EQUIPMENT  
COMPUTER / WEBSITE INFO

---

### ELECTION TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS ANNOUNCEMENT FOR OCTOBER 2007

DAWN Center for Independent Living empowers people with disabilities to live independently, to strive for equality, and to take control of their lives. Disabled consumers and their families are provided services and participate in programs enabling this empowerment. Dues paid members have a voice in selecting the events, programs, and activities offered the Membership. Members vote and are eligible to hold office. Responsible active members move DAWNcil beyond being a service provider to being a community of people working together to better the lives of those living with disabilities in communities of Morris, Sussex and Warren Counties.

We again enter the annual cycle for selection of members for DAWN Center for Independent Living Board of Directors. If you are interested in serving as a member of our board of directors, please, contact me so we can discuss opportunities for service and leadership within our center for independent living.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Bob Panzer,  
Board Chairperson

Rpanzer@dawncil.org  
Office Phone: 973.625.1940

# **PERSONAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES PROGRAM**

- Division of Disability Services

The Personal Assistance Services Program (PASP) gives adults with physical disabilities opportunities to work, attend school or vocational training and live independently in the community.

The New Jersey Department of Human Services, Division of Disability Services, administers the program through provider agencies in each county of New Jersey. The following are the contact people for each of our three counties: Marcie York, PASP Coordinator for Morris County 973 285-6865; Patricia Kibildis, Disabilities Coordinator for Sussex County 973 948-6000 ext. 223; and Liz Evens, Cerebral Palsy of New Jersey (Hackettstown) for Warren County 908 813-8292.

Personal assistants help individuals with tasks such as light housekeeping, bathing, dressing, meal preparation, shopping, correspondence, mobility, driving and / or use of public transportation.

Although you may be receiving services from other government programs or have insurance coverage, you may still qualify for the PASP.

You may be eligible for the Personal Assistance Services Program if you are:

- A New Jersey resident
- Physically disabled
- Between the ages of 18 and 65—will go up to age 70 in 2008
- Living in private home, apartment, boarding or group home
- Capable of directing and supervising your own services
- Are employed, preparing for employment or attending an educational or training program and / or participating in community based activities such as volunteer service or parenting
- May receive up to 40 hours of services per week, depending on need.

Depending on family income, some individuals pay no fee. Others pay a portion of the cost of the service on a sliding fee scale, based on their family income. The remaining cost is covered by the Dept. of Human Services.

## **FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESK**

- Carmela Slivinski

It was a hot and humid week in Washington D.C. when DAWN staff and many other advocates from around the United States and other countries came together to advance the Independent Living movement for persons with disabilities. The week was jam-packed with training sessions and networking opportunities and most importantly to advocate for programs and services that are vital to the lives of persons with disabilities to ensure their right to live independent and productive lives in the communities of their choice. After all, Independent Living is about choice!

It is a philosophy which states that people with disabilities should have the same civil rights, choices and control as do people without disabilities. It means different things to different people. Independent living is not about doing it yourself, it is about consumer control. Consumer control implies that individuals with disabilities should have control over their own services based on their choices, preferences, and dreams. One of my favorite quotes from one of the founding fathers of the independent living movement, Judith Heumann, is: "Nothing about us without us!"

And so, this year was my 6th trip to Washington D.C to join my fellow advocates around the world at NCIL's (National Council on Independent Living) annual conference to celebrate our accomplishments and to continue to advocate for enhanced supports and services for persons with disabilities. What is so unique about this conference and the Independent Living movement is that it brings together individuals from all walks of life, regardless of their disability. It is the only movement that takes into consideration the needs of all persons with all types of disabilities. It is about the rights of all persons with disabilities regardless of the nature of the disability, it is about having a common voice to raise awareness.

On Tuesday, July 12th, hundreds of people (many from New Jersey) came together in front of the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Washington DC to march towards the capitol building in the blazing heat and humidity to bring our issues to the legislators. I am always taken aback by the magnitude of people and the differing levels of abilities coming together to show a united front. People with cognitive impairments, physical disabilities, visual impairments, hearing impairments to name a few, come together to represent a common voice and a united front. As we gathered on the lawn for the rally, we listened to people who have been a part of this movement for many years discuss our history, our accomplishments and why we need to continue fighting for our freedom. It was and always is truly energizing. For me, it brings me back to why I became involved in the first place. I believe that regardless of who we are, each and every one of us has the right to live our lives as we choose; the right to participate in activities as we choose; and to understand that with those rights come responsibilities.

For too long, persons with disabilities have been kept in a state of dependence. Our society needs to change its views on this issue and it is our responsibility as individuals, as parents, caregivers, anyone interested to share this common voice.

As the end of the rally approached, a torrential downpour came upon us and we all made a mad rush to the congressional and senatorial buildings to keep our appointments. We were completely drenched but that did not stop us. Fortunately, we had about an hour to regain our composure and dry off. We met with our respective legislators and brought our issues to them. I wish I could report that we were successful in getting their support on the pieces of legislation we need them to sponsor but I do believe each and every time we spread the word, we are heard by at least one person and so we will continue to chip away at the physical, social, and attitudinal barriers that exist and some day, we will live in a society that does value all, and that does encourage equal access to all. I for one will not stop until that occurs.

# RECREATION SURVEY RESULTS & RESPONSES TO YOUR SUGGESTIONS

- Marc Moldé, Information & Referral

I would very much like to thank those who took time out to return their completed Recreation & Socialization Surveys, sent out in June. It truly helps us when applying for grants to keep the recreation program going strong.

The majority of consumers who responded were satisfied with the overall Recreation & Socialization Program. Of the consumers surveyed, a remarkable 91% were at least somewhat satisfied. Only 6% were somewhat dissatisfied, and 3% were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied.

In addition, an outstanding 90% were at least somewhat satisfied with the calendar of events, 7% were dissatisfied, and 3% were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied. Among those consumers who were dissatisfied an average of 75.5% of consumers said they had an opportunity to suggest activities planned, 24.5% had not.

As for transportation arrangements (where applicable), 76% of consumers were satisfied, 14% were dissatisfied, 10% were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied. A few consumers also noted their disapproval with the transportation arrangements in writing. DAWNcil contracts out with various transportation agencies. I know many consumers; especially those using wheelchairs have issues with the rides being bumpy, and sometimes dangerous. I truly understand! Being in a wheelchair myself, I can relate. I've ridden on these busses myself, and yes some are worse than others. I've spoken with the various bus agencies about what can be done. Unfortunately, this is due to the structure of the busses and not within our control. If I may make a suggestion, if you use a wheelchair and need to ride the bus; you can do two things that may make your trip a bit more enjoyable.

- Politely, ask the bus driver to drive cautiously. Explain that it is severely bumpy in the back of the bus, and that one can easily be injured.
- If you're able to transfer, please do so, for your own safety.

DAWNcil understands the difficulties with transportation, and if you do not feel safe using the current transportation, you have every right to say something to the transportation agency themselves, or help us identify other means of transportation and perhaps help raise funds to utilize them. That's why it is so important that everyone pay their dues, and perhaps make a donation on top of dues.

Furthermore, with the number of staff and volunteers on hand at an event, 91% were satisfied, 6% were dissatisfied, and 3% were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied. Either way, DAWNcil understands this is sometimes an issue. We are working on making assistance more readily available to all. Hopefully, by next year our satisfaction rating in this category will be 100%.

Also, I'm happy that 92% of those surveyed were satisfied with the accommodations made on their behalf, 4% were dissatisfied, and 4% were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied. At every event DAWNcil holds, consumers always have the right to ask for an accommodation. Whether it be an assistant, an interpreter, transportation, or any other service to help you. We are not able to keep track of everyone's needs.

Lastly, many consumers wrote that they wished we had monthly activities again. Once again, another reason

to pay your dues! Or, make a donation to be used only for DAWNcil recreation.

Again, I want to thank everyone who sent back their completed survey. If you have any other comments, or questions please call Marc, I&R Specialist at 973-625-1940 or e-mail me at [info@dawncil.org](mailto:info@dawncil.org).

## **CHRISTINE CRAWN SCHNORR ADVOCACY AWARD**

Background: Christine Crawn Schnorr was a founding member of DAWN Center for Independent Living. Chris supported the organization through its early days while working tirelessly to increase community awareness of the rights, the needs, and the abilities of persons with disabilities.

A graduate of College of New Jersey with a degree in special education, she worked in that field for several years before losing her sight. Children with special needs always held a special place in her heart. A top priority for Chris was educating families about their responsibilities to be involved in the processes involved in their child's Individual Education Plan.

The Award: In June 2006, Christine was taken from us. To recognize her dedication and commitment working to advance empowerment of those with disabilities, DAWN Center for Independent Living has established the Christine Crawn Schnorr Advocacy Award. A special fund has been set up to accept donations recognizing Christine's efforts and to provide an honorarium to be awarded with recognition of Christine Crawn Schnorr Advocacy Award recipients.

### *Award Program Administration*

Eligibility: Dues paid members of DAWNcil are eligible for recognition as nominees for the Christine Crawn Schnorr Advocacy Award. Eligibility among DAWN's membership is not restricted to those members with a disability. Nominees must demonstrate the intense drive and dedication shown by Christine as she went about her advocacy among the schools, the medical providers, the social service agencies, and political entities. Nominees for the Christine Crawn Schnorr Advocacy Award exemplify the advocacy reflected from Christine's efforts.

Nomination mechanics: Nominations may be submitted at anytime during the year. It is recommended that the nomination be submitted utilizing a form available from DAWNcil's admin office.

Program Administration and Publicity: DAWNcil will publicize the Christine Crawn Schnorr Advocacy Award at least four times per year utilizing print and electronic media (Awakenings newsletter and [www.DAWNcil.org](http://www.DAWNcil.org) ) directed to reach members of DAWN Center for Independent Living.

Christine Crawn Schnorr Advocacy Award, when presented, will be presented at the DAWN Center for Independent Living General Membership Meeting. Nominations in order to be considered for recognition at a General Membership Meeting will be submitted 90 days prior to that scheduled General Membership Meeting thus allowing the Board of Directors adequate time to vet nominations and select the recipient of that years Christine Crawn Schnorr Advocacy Award.

## **“BRAIN INJURY: MISUNDERSTOOD?”**

- Richard DePol

I have to start off with the idea that most of the public is misinformed about Brain Injury. The brain is one of the largest organs in the body. When the brain does get injured, it can have detrimental effects. Some of the effects may be physical, emotional, and the thinking styles may be altered, to name a few.

I have seen, and I would think others have viewed the same coverage, that in the Bob Woodruff special, and the book he has written, “In an Instant”, about the mishap that Bob had with an IED that exploded, and that caused him to acquire a brain injury during the Iraq war news coverage.

Almost 12 percent of the veterans are coming home with non-death injuries from the present war, and a large percentage, are being discharged from the war with Brain Injury.

A doctor once told me that, “imagine that your brain is like a shoebox, with Jell-O in it. The shoebox is thrown against a wall. Now, the box stops, (your skull), but the Jell-O (your brain), keeps going until it stops.” This is called Shearing, which is the tearing of the brain tissue. This is what happens in an MVA or Motor Vehicle Accidents.

The signature injury in the war is Brain Injury. My wish is to have the public more informed of the Brain Injury epidemic and with the returning soldiers from the war, or Brain Injury in general, and some of the misfortunes that may arise from the change in the brains structure.

## **FREEBIE 411**

The days of free directory assistance may be back—as long as you’re willing to listen to ads. For local and national listings, there’s 1-800-FREE-411 (1-800-373-3411) and 1-800-411-SAVE (1-800-411-7283). The tradeoff is that you hear an ad for about 15 seconds before you get the number. And if you’re seeking, say, a particular pizza place, you may be hit with an ad for a rival pizzeria. The 800 numbers are in response to increasing 411 fees, which vary nationwide, partly due to state regulations, and which can be as high as \$3.49 per call. If you prefer using the Internet, try [www.anywho.com](http://www.anywho.com) and [www.411.com](http://www.411.com)

## **S.A.I.L. PROGRAM (SELF-ADVOCACY INSTITUTE FOR LEADERSHIP)**

This transition and self-advocacy program is sponsored by a grant from the United Way of Morris County. It is a nine week program with the upcoming Fall Session starting on September 20th.

SAIL provides an opportunity for students with any disability (ages 13-21) to pursue additional education and personal development concurrent with middle school or high school studies.

Students will be provided with the tools to become empowered to enable them to live more independent lives with the main intent being that of facilitating an optimal transition to adult life. For more information contact Sean Hardy at DAWN 973 625-1940.

## **ADJUSTMENT TO VISION LOSS**

The updated 2007 Adjustment to Vision Loss Peer Support Directory is now available. The AVL network continues to grow, and as a result they now have over fifty groups in AVL's 14 county catchment areas.

Because of the diverse interests of AVL peer support groups, it is important to contact Susan Vanino directly (at 201-996-9100 ext. 26 phone, 201-996-9422 fax or e-mail her at [svanino.ber@hipcil.org](mailto:svanino.ber@hipcil.org). ) so that folks can be referred to peer support groups that will best fit their needs..

## **BILL INTRODUCED TO IMPROVE MEDICAL ACCESS**

Senator Tom Harkins (D-IA) has introduced legislation to establish accessibility standards for medical diagnostic equipment and create wellness grants to fund health programs that focus on the unique challenges faced by individuals with disabilities.

Harkin's "Promoting Wellness for Individuals with Disabilities Act of 2006" also creates a National Advisory Committee on Wellness for Individuals with Disabilities.

The legislation requires medical and dental schools, along with their residency programs, to increase training to improve competency and clinical skills in providing care to patients with disabilities, including those with intellectual disabilities.

The wellness grant program established in the legislation would help fund programs for smoking cessation, weight control, nutrition and fitness that focus on the unique challenges faced by individuals with disabilities; preventative health screening programs; and athletic or sports programs that provide individuals with disabilities and opportunity to increase their physical activity.

Send stories of problems you have faced, such as attempting to access an examination table or mammogram machine, to:

Senator Tom Harkin  
731 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington DC 20510

Polio Network of New Jersey  
Newsletter Spring 2007 /  
Vol. 16 No 3, Page 3

## **SIGNS OF SUCCESS**

Kimberly Mooney of Strength for Change Counseling and Development Center expanded her practice to include conducting comprehensive learning evaluations. Our Director, Kimberly Mooney graduated from Montclair University in 1992 (Montclair, NJ) and earned her PhD in the education of those with disabilities,

with a specialty in the treatment of deaf/HH individuals from Columbia University in 2002 (New York, NY). After two years of Post-Doctoral training and supervision, Dr. Mooney became a Licensed Professional Counselor and a Learning Disability Teacher Consultant.

Signs of Success is a private practice Catering to All of your additional educational needs. We serve children and adults with learning difficulties as well as social-emotional issues. Signs of Success specializes in working with deaf and hard of hearing individuals. Our staff are all skilled in the use of alternative/augmentative modes of communication used by individuals with a hearing impairment, which includes ASL, Signed English, and Oral Communication. Signs of Success Agency offers the following services:

1. Evaluations - Comprehensive learning evaluations that include academic & cognitive tests. Speech & Language testing & Psychological testing are also available.
2. Consultations: School observations and consultations with school staff enable us to gather information about the student's functioning in the classroom.
3. Advocacy: Attending meetings at school with parents enable us to explain the test results and their implications for the student's program.
4. Counseling: provides treatment to clients with emotional, behavioral, relationship and/or substance abuse difficulties...please see our affiliate [strengthforchange.com](http://strengthforchange.com).
5. Tutoring: Staff are all certified teachers of the deaf.

Signs of Success Agency LLC has offices in Fairfield (NJ) and Mt. Arlington (NJ), however, we do travel to other locations at your convenience. Please visit our website for more detailed information: [signsofsuccessagency.com](http://signsofsuccessagency.com).

Signs of Success: 973-882-1725 (Voice & TTY)

E-mail: [Drksmooney71@yahoo.com](mailto:Drksmooney71@yahoo.com)

## **AGENCY HIGHLIGHT**

A new feature to our newsletter will be a section where we can highlight accomplishments, new ventures, or address an issue of importance. I am pleased to pilot this section with a success story from one of our consumers. As you read Scott's story many of you may be able to identify with the many obstacles and changes in his life which he had to learn to cope with and to overcome. We congratulate Scott on his accomplishments and wish him much success in the future. Scott and his wife Jennifer wrote a very impressive thank you to our own Eileen Johnson for her help. Eileen works very closely with individuals who have experienced a traumatic brain injury and Scott's story is one which she can be very proud to have played a part in. Kudos to Eileen! Job Well Done!

## **COACH SCOTT'S STORY**

On September 23, I will be celebrating an anniversary. Some people would assume that my celebration would be a wedding anniversary, but it is not the reason for my joy. Rather this date is the day that my life was altered following a ruptured brain aneurysm. Four years ago while working, I suffered the events of a bleed in

my brain. While I remember little from the days that followed, I believe that my disability has made me stronger and left me with a desire to help others in their recovery process.

I have not always been willing to celebrate this day. Over time I have had to rethink, relearn and deal with many emotions of living a functional life following the onset of a disability. I was often discouraged. Prior to the event of my aneurysm, I was a successful business man who enjoyed going to work each day. More than anything I wanted to be a provider to my family. Since that day, I have had to rebuild my life. Letting go of what was familiar and finding my new role in life has been a challenge. My wife, family, friends, mentors and church family have rallied around me providing me with support, love, friendship and never ending encouragement. These incredible people continue to believe in me daily.

I had reservations about writing a blurb about my disability. I am certain that if you are reading this, you have your own story to share. Let's face it; each of us has a story. What compelled me to write about my experience is knowing that my story could make a difference in the lives of others.

Today I am in a better place both mentally and emotionally. This past summer I signed up to be a volunteer assistant coach for the pee wee football team in town. I had been a coach previously prior to my illness and was excited to start working in kids lives again. I cannot begin to tell you what this experience has done for me. The kids that I coach have given me more than I can express in words. They don't see me as a coach with a disability, but rather someone that they can relate to on the field. Their readiness to listen to advice given both on and off the field has given me purpose. From what I have been told, this team last year as not successful. This year we have started to be a dominant team. The expectations for these young men are endless. Parents often thank me for taking the time to coach their children. In return, I want to thank them for sharing their children with me.

I hope to write an update at the end of the season letting you know how the team does. Even if we were to lose all games, the gift of winning has already been given to me. I encourage each of you that you can make a difference in the lives of others. Always remember to have faith, a positive attitude and the belief that you are capable of great things. I am living proof that these things combined will aid you in the recovery process.

Wishing you all the best today and always,  
Coach Scott

- - - - -

Dear Eileen,

Thank you for all your help and assistance in helping Scott receive services. It is because of you that Scott has been able to find his "passion" and return to his love of being a football coach, You have been Scott's mentor, inspiration and voice of reason. You are indispensable in our lives and we will always be eternally grateful for the programs and services that you continue to seek on his behalf.

With Sincere Thanks,  
Jennifer & Scott

## **NOTARY PUBLIC SERVICES**

Bobbie Humphreys, a DAWN member of long standing, is offering her services as a Notary to our members. If you are unable to leave your house she is willing to go to you. You can contact Bobbie directly at (973) 335-8002.

## **INTERESTED IN BECOMING A YOGA AND MEDITATION TEACHER?**

Here's Your Chance! The Jewish Service for the Developmentally Disabled WAE (Wellness, Arts and Enrichment) Center is has recently received a generous grant from the Kessler Foundation to train individuals with mobility disabilities to become yoga and meditation teachers. This is a free training that will begin in late September and will run for six months. For more information or to apply please contact WAE Center Program Coordinator, Elaine Schenkel or Program Director, Marilyn Schneider at (973) 325 - 1494 or email [eschenkel@comcast.net](mailto:eschenkel@comcast.net) or [ma.schneider@comcast.net](mailto:ma.schneider@comcast.net)

## **2007 GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE OF EMPLOYMENT FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

"DiscoverAbility" the 2007 Governor's Conference of Employment for People with Disabilities will be held on October 11 & 12, 2007 at the Hyatt Regency in New Brunswick..

October 11th 8:30 a.m. -

Workshops ▪ Resources ▪ Networking Opportunities

The goal of this conference is to promote the employability of individuals with disabilities and establish a collaborative setting for the advancement of employment opportunities.

You should attend if you are: an individual with a disability; parents of an adolescent with a disability; disability services provider and educator; are business owners and entrepreneurs; a Human Resource Manager; are diversity trainers and counselors or are an equal employment opportunity / affirmative action officers.

October 12th 8:30 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

- Help build your talent pool and improve employment outcomes for qualified workers with disabilities.
- Hear from employers already making a difference — large and small businesses hiring qualified workers with disabilities who make substantial contributions to their bottom line.
- Learn more about the newly-formed New Jersey Business Leadership Network —an organization dedicated to improving employer access to qualified workers with disabilities.
- See a demonstration of [www.AccessibleEmployment.org](http://www.AccessibleEmployment.org), a new job board web site dedicated to the exchange of information between employers and qualified candidates with disabilities.

The conference is presented by the New Jersey Dept of Human Services Division of Disability Services. For more information call Cynthia Mapp or Sarah Vazquez at: 609 292-7800 or e-mail:

[cynthis.mapp@dhs.state.nj.us](mailto:cynthis.mapp@dhs.state.nj.us)

The following services will be available: large print, Braille, ASL interpretation, assistive listening devices, CART (open captioning).

## **COMMUNITY HEALTH LAW PROJECT ANNOUNCES FEE FOR SERVICE PROGRAM**

Last year, 2006, the Community Health Law Project, (hereafter, CHLP) New Jersey's premier law firm for people with disabilities, established a new Fee for Service Program. This new program is an addition to and does not alter or amend the existing panoply of free legal services and legal assistance which the Community Health Law Project has provided since its inception in 1976.

The Fee for Service program offers legal help to people with legal problems in certain specific areas of the law. These areas are, in the area of financial and estate planning, the CHLP will assist an individual with a disability, or a family of a person with a disability, retain Medicaid eligibility through the protections afforded by a trust instrument, such as, Special Needs Trust; in the area of education, the CHLP will provide legal assistance so that a child, or children, may secure such services that are necessary in order that public education benefits may be obtained; certain Social Security Matters; and to assist people with disabilities secure their rights under the American with Disabilities Act.

If you possess a problem in these areas and wish to obtain legal advice, you may be able to under the Fee for Service Program even though you may not be eligible under the regular or existing programs at the Law Project. For example, under the CHLP existing financial guidelines \$17,150.00 is the maximum income allowed for an individual; under the guidelines for this new program the maximum limit is raised to \$31,850.00, which is quite a bit higher. Similarly, for a family of four, the maximum income for all other CHLP programs is \$35,000.00, however, under the Fee for Service guideline the limit is raised to \$65,000.00.

Once it is determined that your legal problem is one that the Fee for Service Program accepts, and your income is under the higher guidelines, the CHLP will calculate its legal fees on a sliding scale between \$125.00—\$175.00 per hour. In this way, the CHLP seeks to bring important and targeted legal assistance to additional New Jersey residents with disabilities and who possess a limited financial means to secure legal help.

If you wish to learn more about the CHLP Fee for Service Program, how it operates or whether you or your family are eligible, please feel free to call 973-275-1175, Monday to Friday, 9:00 AM—5:00 PM, ask for Richard W. Bennett, Esq., and he will do his best to get you the information you need and require.

## STATE SUPREME COURT OVERTURNS DDD REGULATION

The state Supreme Court recently overturned a Division of Developmental Disabilities regulation that barred people with developmental disabilities from getting state services if they were unable to prove that at least three specific conditions, such as speech problems or an inability to care for themselves, had existed before they turned 22.

The Department of the Public Advocate argued before the Supreme Court that the division's regulations violated state law. The unanimous ruling is particularly important because the medical community now recognized certain developmental disabilities that were unknown as little as ten years ago, for example Asperger's Syndrome.

The high court also ruled the Division's regulation overstepped the provisions of the law governing the delivery of services to people with developmental disabilities by placing more restrictions on the type of conditions that must be documented before age 22 than are required under the law.

Monday Morning  
March 31, 2007  
Vol. 13, No. 4, Pg. 2

## UP-COMING DAWN EVENTS

### General Membership

Transportation Available for the Following:

Thursday, September 6—Members Meeting topic is Street Smarts — 6:30—9:00 at DAWN office

Saturday, September 22—Perkins Restaurant & Bakery—12:30—2:30— Cost of meal

Thursday, October 4—Members Meeting topic is Budgeting Your Money — 6:30—9:00 at DAWN office

Saturday, October 20—Transportation from point of departure only—Broadway Show “Legally Blonde” - 12:00—8:00—Cost \$110.00 without dinner or \$130.00 with dinner.

Saturday, October 27— Papermill Playhouse “Happy Days” - 2:00 p.m.— Cost \$25.00

Sunday, November 18—“Evening of Giving” at Rockaway Townsquare Mall. T6:30—9:30 The mall is closed only ticket holders allowed in and the purchase of ticket prior to date is required—Cost \$10.00

November—date and place to be announced—Annual Meeting and Thanksgiving Dinner 6:30—9:30

Saturday, December 8—Holiday Gala —12:00—4:00 Transportation Not Provided for Those Under 18 Years of Age All are invited—general membership, young adults and deaf seniors groups.

### Young Adult Activities - Transportation Not Provided

Friday, September 14—Dinner Dance at the Skylands at Randolph 6:30—10:00—Cost \$40.00

Friday, October 12—Halloween Dance at Notre Dame of Mount Carmel Church cedar Knolls — 7:00—10:00 - Cost \$10.00

## RECYCLED EQUIPMENT

Recycled quality equipment is being offered by Your ReSource, Inc. located in Ewing through their C.A.R.E. program They have quality used durable medical equipment for people with limited resources. Or you can donate used or new durable medical equipment.

You can view items on their website at [www.yourresourcenj.org](http://www.yourresourcenj.org) or contact them via telephone at 609-530-1513; fax them at 609-530-1514 or e-mail them at [info@yourresourcenj.org](mailto:info@yourresourcenj.org)

Assistive Technology Advocacy Center of NJ Protection & Advocacy, Inc. has an assistive device recycling exchange program called Back-In-Action. Their website provides an opportunity for individuals to list assistive technology devices to sell or to inquire about items they are interested in acquiring. Some items are for free some to purchase.

Contact information: web-site [http:// backinaction.njpanda.org](http://backinaction.njpanda.org) the e-mail address is [backinaction@panda.org](mailto:backinaction@panda.org) or you can call 800-922-7233.

## COMPUTER / WEB-SITE INFORMATION

Computer Tip: If you hold down the Ctrl key on your key board & turn the small wheel in the middle of your mouse (forwards or backwards) it makes reading easier by changing the print size.

[www.SportAid.com](http://www.SportAid.com) SportAid has a selection of everyday, sports and manual wheelchairs and wheelchair accessories and parts as well as ramps, medical supplies and more.

[www.longtermcare.gov](http://www.longtermcare.gov) The National Clearinghouse for Longterm Care Information web-site provides comprehensive information about long-term care planning, services and financing options, along with tools to help people begin the planning process.

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/> The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services lists CMS programs & information, CMS highlights (i.e. press releases such as Part D Plan Premiums for 2008) and [Links](#).

[eGullet.org/index.php?showtopic=43239](http://eGullet.org/index.php?showtopic=43239) Although eGullet.org is an interesting site this particular page containing tips for cooks with a variety of disabilities.

<http://Pfizer.com> Variety of information is available on their programs, medication, and news articles.  
[www.environmentalhealth.org](http://www.environmentalhealth.org) Has compiled a list of resources to assist people who suffer from chemical sensitivities.

Accessible gaming with the X-Arcade. Play games with or against others with disability standard switches. Can be used with PC/Mac & most game consoles. I have it for PS 2. More info about accessible gaming at: <http://www.oneswitch.org.uk/> You can also contact Jeff Gray at (973) 579-7637 or e-mail [jmgray@mac.com](mailto:jmgray@mac.com)



Phone: 973-625-1940  
Fax: 973-625-1942  
TTY: 973-625-1932  
Email: [info@dawncil.org](mailto:info@dawncil.org)

**We are on the web!**  
[www.dawncil.org](http://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