



CID-NY

841 Broadway #301
New York, NY 10003

CIDNY-Queens
137-02A Northern Blvd.
Flushing, NY 11354

212/674-2300 Tel
212/674-5619 TTY

646/442-1520 Tel
718/886-0427 TTY

212/254-5953 Fax
www.CIDNY.org

718/886-0428 Fax
www.CIDNY.org

Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY

Changes to Medicaid Managed Care

This year's state budget made many changes to Medicaid. Beginning August 1, 2011, personal care services will now be included in the Medicaid managed care benefit package. This means that people in Medicaid Managed Care Plans will have their Personal Care Services (or home attendants) authorized by their Plan rather than be

approved by their local Medicaid office (HRA's CASA). This change will affect about 3,000 people in New York City, mostly SSI recipients. It does not apply to people who receive both Medicare and Medicaid (dual eligibles) and people with a spend-down. People enrolled in Consumer Directed Personal Care will not be affected by these changes until July 1, 2012. As proposed, the plan must continue the same amount of services previously authorized, but only for a transition period while the plan re-assesses your need for services.

In October, prescription drugs will be included in managed care. While managed care plans will be required to provide coverage for those categories of drugs currently included in the fee for service program, they do not have to cover a specific drug and can include restrictions such as "prior approval" and quantity limits for covered drugs. Medicaid Managed Care recipients will receive a letter from Medicaid this month followed by letters from their Plan explaining the change. Watch your mail and be sure to open these letters and find out if your pharmacies and drugs are covered by your plan.



You may need to switch plans and there will be a way to appeal if a drug is not covered. If you have questions or need further information, contact Community Health Advocate Greg Otten at gotten@cidny.org or 646.442.4145 for advice and help.

CIDNY's Website Gets a Facelift

CIDNY's website has been upgraded; it has a new look and feel. It has also been reorganized to better serve your needs. We encourage you to visit the new website at www.cidny.org and give us feedback.

Access Project Gets a Big Boost from Ernst & Young Volunteers

On Saturday June 23rd in the midst of a heat wave, twenty- six brave volunteers from Ernst & Young joined the ranks of The Access Project, a program at CIDNY that collects information on the accessibility of local bars, restaurants, and coffee shops. These volunteers surveyed over 100 sites and gathered information about their accessibility, including restrooms, often overlooked by conventional websites such as Yelp.

The information they gathered is valuable and we look forward to being able to share it with you online and in print in the very near future. Please visit www.cidny.org and click on The Access Project to read more and to sign up to volunteer for our next survey.

Many thanks to our Ernst & Young Volunteers.



CID-NY

841 Broadway #301
New York, NY 10003

CIDNY-Queens
137-02A Northern Blvd.
Flushing, NY 11354

212/674-2300 Tel
212/674-5619 TTY

646/442-1520 Tel
718/886-0427 TTY

212/254-5953 Fax
www.CIDNY.org

718/886-0428 Fax
www.CIDNY.org

Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY

CIDNY testifies before the New York State Department of Education

On June 28th the New York State Department of Education held hearings regarding the proposals presented by the Mandate Relief Team. CIDNY testified at the hearing and CIDNY told the Department that the proposal to remove psychologists and parents from the Committee on Special Education was not appropriate.

We feel that the role of the psychologist is crucial. A psychologist drafts, conducts, and reviews evaluations crucial for determining the needs of students with disabilities. Without a psychologist, other professionals in the school system who lack this expertise are not able to make adequate decisions about placing a child or help parents understand their child's evaluation documents and diagnosis.

Removing the parent representative from the Committee on Special Education is also not well thought out. The parent representatives support parents who have difficulties understanding the procedures and needs of their children by helping to explain the procedures of the committee and their child's evaluations.

DISABILITY MATTERS

21 Years after the ADA, data show major disparities in education, employment and poverty are still obstacles for New Yorkers with disabilities.

A new CIDNY report on disability, released on the 21st anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, confirms major disparities for people with disabilities in New York compared with their non-disabled peers. *Disability Matters* is the first report to provide specific breakdown on data regarding prevalence of disability for New York City and State combined with an analysis of disparities they reveal.

Individuals with disabilities in New York City face similar challenges to individuals in New York State and the United States—low educational attainment, low employment rates, low household incomes, lack of private health insurance and heavy reliance on public coverage, dependence on the Food Stamps program, as well as high poverty rates.



Particularly striking is the comparison of poverty rates. When looking at the difference in poverty rates between people with and without disabilities, "the poverty gap" is considerably wider in NYC than the rest of the state and in the U.S. Thirty-two percent of New Yorkers with disabilities are living in poverty. The gap between people with disabilities and those without disabilities who are living in poverty is 18 percentage points.

The employment gap between people with and without disabilities of working age is 41 percent and median yearly earnings lag more than \$25,000 behind.

To see the full study, go to www.cidny.org and click on *Disability Matters* on the home page.