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Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY

April 2016

CIDNY Supports the Taxis For All Campaign

In March, CIDNY and advocates from the NYC Taxis for All campaign joined other advocates from upstate New York to meet with legislators in Albany. The purpose was to tell lawmakers about our opposition to Bills S.4280A/A.6090A, which would give Uber and other for-hire

transportation companies a statewide license to discriminate against people with disabilities and hurt future

efforts to increase accessibility across New York State.

Our arguments were:

- The bills include no requirements for wheelchair-accessible vehicles;
- They would require Uber only to take wheelchair users whose chair folds and can be stored in the trunk. This excludes thousands of potential riders;
- They would prevent local cities or counties from regulating for-hire vehicles, making it impossible for them to require accessibility without changing the law;
- It would mean that hard-won benefits for taxi drivers would disappear.

CIDNY's Community Outreach Organizer Monica Bartley attended meetings with staff members of the following legislators: Majority Leader John Flanagan; Assembly Members Gary Pretlow and Philip Goldfeder, and Senator Martin Golden.

New Program at CIDNY: ICAN FIDA-IDD

CIDNY has been selected by the Independent Consumer Advocacy Network (ICAN) to provide Participant Ombudsman services for a new FIDA-IDD Medicaid and Medicare Managed Care Plan. These services are geared towards people with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities (IDD) who are both Medicaid and Medicare eligible. In addition to being eligible for both



Picture: Assembly Member Jo Anne Simon speaks in support of accessible taxis at the press conference in Albany

Medicaid and Medicare, the FIDA-IDD is for people who: are 21 years old or older; reside in New York City or Nassau, Suffolk, Westchester, and Rockland counties; and are enrolled in the Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waiver with the New York State Office for Persons with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD).

New York Medicaid Choice will begin mailings to eligible people notifying them of this voluntary enrollment opportunity beginning in late March and continuing throughout 2016. Partners Health Plan will be the only FIDA-IDD plan operator. Under this, medical, home care services, and OPWDD waiver services are combined under one payment and care coordination framework.

Enrollment in the FIDA-IDD through Partners Health Plan will be voluntary. Plan members will be able to return to their previous Medicaid Service Coordination service and other programs at any time during the demonstration period.



As the Participant Ombudsman for Partners Health Plan, CIDNY staff will assist prospective and enrolled plan members with questions about FIDA-IDD and Partners Health Plan. As well, we will serve on Partners Health Plan's Participant Advisory Council.

CIDNY is proud to have been selected as the lead agency within ICAN to provide care advocacy. If you have any questions, you can contact the Ombudsman through 1-844-614-8800 or TTY 711.

More information is available online at www.icannys.org.

Make Polling Sites Accessible For All New Yorkers

CIDNY has over 35 years of advocating for people with disabilities. Our efforts have brought about important changes, but there is more work to be done. This April, we need your help!

We need volunteers in every borough who will help us survey polling sites for accessibility. You will receive training on surveying polling sites. The training will take

Quick Takes

CIDNY CONSUMER ACTION NETWORK MEETING—Wednesday, April 20 — 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM
CIDNY-Queens, 80-02 Kew Gardens Road, Suite 107, Kew Gardens, Queens

By Subway: Take the E or the F train to Union Turnpike/Kew Gardens – this station has an elevator.

Bus: Take the Q10, Q37, Q46, Q60, Q74, x63, x68 and exit at Union Turnpike – Kew Gardens Station.

Come join us to hear about: A special presentation by the Hofstra Law School Health Law & Policy Clinic on Health Care Proxies and Living Wills. They will provide information and advice.

Ven y Únete a nosotros escuchar acerca de: Una presentación especial de la Ley y la Política de Salud Clínica de la Facultad de Derecho de Hofstra en proxies de Cuidado de la Salud y testamentos vitales. Ello permitiría disponer de información y asesoramiento.

Please RSVP by Wednesday, April 13 to Eva Eason at 212-674-2300 and let her know if you need an accommodation like large print, Braille, or an interpreter, including ASL. Please be considerate to people dealing with chemical sensitivity disorders and refrain from wearing cologne or perfume at our meetings and events.

place at our Manhattan offices (841 Broadway, Suite 301) on April 12 or April 16, from 10:00-12:00 p.m. (You must attend ONE of these two trainings.) The election is April 19th.

You will be teamed up with another volunteer to complete the survey forms. This involves measuring ramps, doorways, and entrance lips. Each team is assigned approximately 5 sites in close proximity.

Please contact Monica Bartley, Community Outreach Specialist, at 646-442-4152 or mbartley@cidny.org if you are interested.

Help Us Find If NYS Employment Services are Accessible!

CIDNY is looking for volunteers with physical, sensory, or cognitive disabilities who would like to be part of our project to see if employment centers are accessible. We need people with disabilities who can visit “Workforce One” (One-Stop) centers. We want to know if their sites are physically accessible and whether their response to people with disabilities is to refer them to ACCES-VR rather than working with them directly.

There are 16 “Workforce One” centers throughout New York City. We will ask you to visit at least three sites to measure physical accessibility as well as access to services. You would be asking about finding employment and about accommodations, like alternate formats, ASL translation, or extra help filling out forms, etc., depending on your disability. We also want to know if they refer you to ACCES-VR immediately rather than working with you directly. We will train you on how to present yourself during the investigation and about the questions to ask the staff.

For more information and to join us in this project, please contact Lourdes I. Rosa-Carrasquillo, Director of Advocacy, at 646-442-4153.

Making the City More Accessible to People With Disabilities

CIDNY joined Council Member Helen Rosenthal and advocates as Mayor Bill de Blasio signed two bills that would help people with disabilities access City services. The bills require every City agency to have a Disability Service Facilitator on staff to ensure compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and to have all publicity materials for public events hosted by City agencies to have accessibility and contact information.

Participating in public meetings and events is an important part of a productive civic life. These bills will improve how people with disabilities can engage with and access all that New York City has to offer.



Picture:
Mayor de
Blasio signs
the two bills
at City Hall

Housing Workshops at CIDNY-Queens

Affordable housing is a priority for many New Yorkers. In response, CIDNY Queens will host a 2-hour housing workshop in April at our Queens offices (80-02 Kew Gardens Road, Suite 107).

The presentation will cover: the housing options out there; NYCHA, HPD, HUD listings; NYC Housing Connect and different housing programs; what you qualify for; income and family size; and how to get and go over your credit report.

Please call 646-442-1520 for the April date. Space is limited so you must RSVP, and please let us know if you need an accommodation.

CIDNY Quick Take