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Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY

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Governor Cuomo Has Signed Sanction Reform into Law

Governor Cuomo has signed into law a bill that CIDNY supported. The law will revamp the "Sanctions Process" for public assistance recipients in New York City.

Many people whose disabilities have not been proven to meet the Social Security Disability standard rely on public assistance benefits for their income. Under the current law, New Yorkers who are on public assistance and who miss a single appointment can face an automatic suspension of benefits for six months due to the existing "sanctions process."

A key provision of the new legislation requires HRA to check that appropriate childcare, transportation, and accommodations for disability were in place at the time of an alleged failure or refusal to follow a work requirement. It seeks positive engagement of public assistance recipients rather than punitive sanctioning.

CIDNY's Executive Director Susan Dooha was quoted in the Governor's press release. She said, "We thank Governor Cuomo for signing S.3596/A.4250. The bill recognizes the rights of people with disabilities. It lets those who can work access help without delay. It ensures that people with disabilities who are unable to work are not mistakenly sanctioned with the loss of their benefits."

NY State Agrees to Release Funds for Home Care Workers' Overtime

A reader responded to our November article about the consequences of the new federal rule that requires home care workers to receive overtime pay after 40 hours, of time and a half of their base pay.

She reported that agencies have cut workers' hours and that some have left the field or are working for two home care agencies in order to have enough income to pay their bills. Our reader's aide, who had cared for her daughter for over 25 years, got another job at a Veterans Hospital, but continues to care for her daughter because she is devoted. The "fill-ins" who cover the hours beyond the 40 hours do not have the same level of interest in their patient, and the agency has difficulty in finding people to "fill-in". Clearly, the situation is very stressful for both her and her daughter.

The Governor did agree to increase agency's rates by 34 cents an hour, assuming that 10% of all hours paid are overtime, but a permanent solution needs to be found that is tied to actual overtime hours paid.

CIDNY will continue to advocate, and your experiences will help us do that. If you would like to share your stories, contact Heidi Siegfried at 646-442-4147. Stay tuned.

Advocates Protest Against Uber

On Thursday, December 10, 2015, wheelchair users, along with other members from the disability community, protested at Uber's Manhattan office, calling for all of its black cars to be accessible to wheelchair users.



Picture: Advocates, including CIDNY's Monica Bartley (far right), protest in front of Uber's Manhattan offices

Dustin Jones, a member of United Spinal and a CIDNY Board member, called on Uber to make the service accessible to wheelchair users who would like to have the same options available to them as other commuters.

The protest was organized by the United Spinal Association.

Save the Date! NYAIL Lobby Day

NYAIL Lobby Day is Monday, February 8, 2016.

This is when CIDNY CAN consumers and advocates travel together to Albany to talk to policymakers about issues most important to us. It's a chance to get your voices heard!

If you're interested in finding out how to join us, contact Monica Bartley at 646-442-4152.



Quick Takes

CIDNY CONSUMER ACTION NETWORK MEETING—Wednesday, January 20 — 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

841 Broadway, Suite 301, between 13th and 14th Streets

Subways: 4, 5, 6, L, N, Q, R to **14th Street Union Square**. Station is accessible for the L, N, Q and R lines.

Join us to hear a presentation on changes in New York State's Human Rights Law. John Herrion from the New York State Division of Human Rights will tell us how new changes will affect people with disabilities.

Únase con nosotros para escuchar una presentación sobre los cambios bajo la Ley de Derechos Humanos del Estado de Nueva York. John Herrion de la División de Derechos Humanos del Estado de Nueva York, nos dira como estos nuevos cambios afectarán a las personas con discapacidades.

Please RSVP by Wednesday, January 13 to Eva Burgess 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.

Holiday Cheer at CIDNY!

Our annual holiday party was a hit with everyone. We started with a classic film (Miracle on 34th Street), snacks, and carols. Then it was time for Lady Luck: we had six winners during our BINGO tournament. Thank you all for coming, and see you next year! (As a reminder, CIDNY is closed on January 1.)



Hearing Loops Installed at CIDNY-Manhattan!

We're proud to announce that we are now hearing loop accessible at CIDNY's offices in Manhattan. We work to demand and improve equality and accessibility for all people with disabilities, and that includes our own services and programs for consumers and advocates.



A Note on January's Workshop

The Human Rights Law protects people against discrimination. As people with disabilities, we often are discriminated against. It is important to know your rights and how to protect them.

John Herrion, Director of Disability Rights for the New York State Division of Human Rights, will come to speak about changes made to the law. It's really exciting because one of the changes made was one CIDNY fought for: incorporation of Title II of the Americans with Disability Act.

Title II provides protection against discrimination on the basis of disability in services provided by public entities, including state and local government. CIDNY believes that by incorporating Title II into New York State law, people with disabilities would gain critical access to the administrative enforcement mechanisms through the State Division of Human Rights. This will provide people with disabilities with another avenue besides the court to ensure their rights.

Come to CIDNY's CAN meeting on January 20 from 1PM to 3 PM, 841 Broadway, Suite 301. Learn about how your Title II and other rights can be protected and how to file complaints.

Una nota sobre la presentación en enero

La Ley de Derechos Humanos protege a las personas contra la discriminación. Como las personas con discapacidades, que a menudo son objeto de discriminación. Es importante conocer sus derechos y como protegerlos.

John Herrion, Director de Derechos de los Discapacitados de la División de Derechos Humanos del Estado de Nueva York, vendrá a hablar de los cambios realizados en la ley. Es muy emocionante porque uno de los cambios realizados fue uno CIDNY luchado por - la incorporación del Título II de la Ley de Estadounidenses con Discapacidades.

Título II proporciona protección contra la discriminación por motivos de discapacidad en los servicios prestados por entidades públicas, incluyendo gobiernos estatales y locales. CIDNY cree que al incorporar el Título II a la legislación del Estado de Nueva York, las personas con discapacidad tendrían acceso fundamental para los mecanismos de aplicación administrativas a través de la División Estatal de Derechos Humanos. Esto proporcionará a las personas con discapacidad con otra vía, además de la corte para garantizar sus derechos.

Ven a reunirse con CAN de CIDNY el 20 de enero a las 1PM hasta las 3PM, en la oficina de Manhattan, 841 Broadway, Suite 301, y aprender como su Título II y otros derechos pueden protegerse y como presentar quejas.

CIDNY Quick Take