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Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY

September 2016

Olmstead Housing Subsidy Program to Start at CIDNY

We're glad to make an announcement about a new transitional housing support program. The Olmstead Housing Subsidy (OHS) program provides rental subsidy and transitional housing support and is designed to help integrate people with disabilities into community life. Eligible individuals for OHS are Medicaid beneficiaries, those who are homeless, and those who have spent at least 120 days in a nursing home.

CIDNY's Money Follows the Person/Open Doors (MFP/OD) program will be outreaching and assisting eligible individuals with OHS program enrollment. The MFP/OD Program works for the effective and safe transition of eligible participants to a safe life in the community.

The OHS program is anticipated to start on October 1, 2016. For more information, contact Nelina Bowen, Transition Specialist Coordinator, at 646-442-8034.

CIDNY's Greenmarket Tours in September

Join our greenmarket tours this month in Union Square (Manhattan) and Poe Park (Bronx)!



We're partnering with ICS (Independent Care System) for our popular and free greenmarket tours, where you're invited to come and travel the market with a knowledgeable GrowNYC staffer. Learn about what's in season, recipes, and how to get the most bang out of your buck.

Union Square—Wednesday, September 7, from 10:30-12:00. Meet at the GrowNYC information booth, which is usually around 16th Street and Union Square West. Look for their booth and sign!

How to get there: Subways 4, 5, 6, L, Q, N, or R to 14th Street – Union Square

AAR drop-off: 29 Union Square West, cross street 16th Street

Poe Park—Tuesday, September 13, from 11:00-12:30, 2640 Grand Concourse, Bronx. Meet at the GrowNYC information booth – look for their booth and sign!

How to get there: Subway (B or D) to Kingsbridge Road **AAR drop-off:** 2580 Grand Concourse, between East 192 St and E Fordham Rd

Participants will receive MetroCards OR Access-a-Ride vouchers, but you MUST let us know you're coming. Space is limited. Please call Eva Eason at (646) 442-4156 to let us know which greenmarket you're coming

Department of Financial Services to Hold Hearings on health Insurance Company Merger

In early March, Anthem and Cigna health insurance companies proposed to merge. Anthem's subsidiary in New York is Empire Blue Cross Blue Shield. If this merger goes through, it would become the largest private health insurer of people in the country with 53 million customers. It would become one of the top 30 U.S. companies with \$115 b. in revenue.

Consumer groups sent a letter to the Department of Financial Services (DFS) encouraging the Department to carefully review this merger and hold a public hearing on how it affects competition in the state Marketplace, which ultimately impacts health care costs and quality for consumers.

DFS has scheduled a public hearing for Thursday, September 8, at 10:00 a.m. at 1 State Street, 6th floor hearing room. This is our opportunity to tell the DFS how the Anthem-Cigna merger would reduce competition and would lead to higher premiums.

The United States Department of Justice has sued to block the proposed merger because of how it would affect competition in the health insurance market. The Anthem-Cigna anti-trust trial is set to commence at the end of November.

Quick Takes

CIDNY CONSUMER ACTION NETWORK MEETING

Wednesday, September 21 — 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

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.

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

What is important to you about the quality of health care services that you receive? How would you make a system that makes sure your doctors and health care professionals do the best job for you?

The way we receive our health care in New York is changing. In addition to Medicaid becoming a Managed Care program, there are new programs that would pay providers based on the “value” of your care, rather than on the numbers of people the doctor treats. There are new models of care that would give you care that is coordinated among all your providers, and there is the Delivery System Reform Incentive Program that intends to reduce avoidable hospitalizations by 25% over five years.

All of these changes are meant to improve quality of care while reducing cost. But it is important that the way quality of care is measured is the way that it improves our health. For example, is the provider treating you in the way that is recommended for your condition? Does the provider show good outcomes for the patient? Are the facilities clean and accessible? How well the provider does communicates with you?

At this month's Consumer Action Network meeting, CIDNY's Health Policy Director, Heidi Siegfried, will tell you about some of the quality measures that are used to evaluate health service providers and we will discuss what we think of them.

Please RSVP to Eva Eason at (646) 442-4156. If you need an accommodation, such as large print or interpretation services (ASL), please let us know by Wednesday, September 14.

Deadline for the November 8, 2016 General Election

Are you registered to vote in this year's election on November 8? In this election, you will be voting for the next president of the United States, as well as for members of the U.S. Congress, House, and Senate. So—it is a big one!

If you want to register by mail, there are two options. You can download and print the New York state voter registration form (<http://www.elections.ny.gov/NYSBOE/download/voting/voteform.pdf>) or

you can call 1800-FOR-VOTE to have a form mailed to you. The application must be post-marked no later than October 14 and received by a board of elections no later than October 19 for you to be eligible to vote in the election on November 8.

You can also register at your local board of elections or any state agency participating in the National Voter Registration Act. Here's the catch: Your application must be received no



later than October 14, so you will have to plan for the deadline if you register in person.

In New York, you can register to vote online through the DMV (Department of Motor Vehicles) here: <https://voterreg.dmv.ny.gov/MotorVoter/>. The deadline is also October 14.

If you are voting, please complete CIDNY's survey about your voting site's accessibility here: www.surveymonkey.com/r/conssurv2016. If you do not have internet access, you can contact Monica Bartley at 646-442-4152. Along with our volunteer day-of election poll site surveys, we use the information you provide to us to continue to advocate for the rights of people with disabilities.

Housing Workshop—Queens

Wednesday, September 28, starts at 10 a.m.

Got questions about housing subsidies or how to get your credit report for your housing application? Learn about NYC's housing options and programs, how to qualify, and get help to apply! More details on calendar.

Space is limited! Please RSVP at 646-442-1520 to reserve your spot.