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Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY

July 2017

### Speaking Out to Protect Medicaid

The Senate health care bill, the Better Care Reconciliation Act (or BCRA) threatens to defund Medicaid and end insurance coverage for millions of Americans. We have been speaking out, telling our stories, attending rallies, and participated in a public hearing held by the NYC Public Advocate, Letitia James.

Susan Dooha, our Executive Director, gave the following remarks at a rally held on June 27th at Bellevue Hospital by Senator Chuck Schumer.



[Image description: Health Care is a Human Right with raised fists in various colors and tones.]

"Thank you, Senator Schumer and thank you to all our allies who are here today. In 1990, Medicaid saved my husband's life. Literally. Without it, he would not be a father to our daughter. He would not be my treasured husband. As the Director of the Center for Independence of the Disabled, New York (CIDNY) and a person with a disability myself, I work every day with people who have life, love, and can work because of the Medicaid program. They cannot breathe without breathing machines that Medicaid pays for. They cannot get out of bed, move, dress, eat, learn or work without it. Many of us need mental health support, medication, equipment, support for learning, rehabilitative therapies that Medicaid provides. Many of us are alive because of the Medicaid program. We live in the community instead of being warehoused in institutions and snake pits because of the Medicaid program.

We will not go back. We will not see the clock turned back to a time when we were confined and left to die. There are millions like us.

People think that this will not affect them. They think they couldn't come to need Medicaid and what it has to offer. They are wrong. If people live long enough, the majority of us will have a disability. The cuts proposed will affect every health care provider that we work with.

I am stunned that some in the Senate would seek to gut this life-giving program that has had bipartisan support for over 50 years in order to give tax cuts to the rich. Lastly, I speak in solidarity with our brothers and sisters who were arrested carrying this message to Senator Mitch McConnell. We expect our Senators to stop at nothing to save the Medicaid program and our lives. Thank you."

The bill currently has a 12% approval rating. Please call your Senators at [202/224-2131](tel:2022242131) and ask them to fight against this bill.

### Urging our Elected Officials to Vote Against Cuts to Medicaid

CIDNY's Health Policy Director traveled to D.C. on June 27th to join a group representing hospitals, health care worker unions, home care agencies, the Cerebral Palsy Association, and other consumer groups for visits with six of New York's nine Republican House members and Senator Gillibrand's office. We discussed with them the ways in which the Senate Better Care Reconciliation Act (BCRA) was actually worse for New York than the bill the House had passed in May.

We are pleased that Representatives King, Katko, Donovan, and Senator Gillibrand share our opposition to proposals which would hurt New Yorkers, especially vulnerable seniors and people with disabilities, and jeopardize the viability of the healthcare providers that serve our communities. We were especially pleased that Rep. King, who had voted for House bill in May, with the hope that the Senate would improve it, told us that he had decided that he could not vote for the Senate bill should it come back to the House in its current form.

We met with Congressmember Claudia Tenney and staff in the offices of Rep. Elise Stefanik and Rep. John Faso and we hope they will continue to listen to people in the communities they represent who will be negatively impacted by the proposals being discussed. They need to continue to hear from us as do Reps. Tom Reed, Chris Collins, and Lee Zeldin who the group did not get meetings with. Rep. John Faso's office, in particular, said that he would not vote for a bill that would hurt his constituents, so we need to let him know how deep cuts to Medicaid would hurt people with disabilities. At the end of our day we learned that the Senate would not be voting on the BCRA until after Independence Day recess week, so we have a bit more time to influence them.

**CIDNY'S ACTION NETWORK MEETING: Right to Counsel**

**Join us for a presentation on Right to Counsel, NYC's bill to help protect low income people who have to go to housing court. You will hear about:**

- the issue of the Right to Counsel that NYC is addressing ; and
- the status of the Right to Counsel bill in the New York City Council.

Lourdes Rosa-Carrasquillo, Director of Advocacy, will explain the issues and how they may affect you. She will also answer questions about the bill and how you can help with our advocacy efforts.

The July 12th CAN Meeting will be held at the LGBT Center, 208 W. 13<sup>th</sup> Street, between 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Greenwich. Please RSVP to Eva Eason at (646) 442-4156. If you need an accommodation, such as large print, or ASL and languages other than English interpretation services, please let us know by Wednesday, July 5, 2017. Refreshments will be served.



[Advocates from various organizations with Rep. Pete King, who says the current health care bill is "too extreme."]

**Organizing for a Better Access-A-Ride**

We continue to help Access-A-Ride users who have applied for the program or have a history of using it. Many users and their families have shared their experiences with us and we have helped them develop their stories for MTA board meetings and other public forums. We are grateful to everyone who spoke out at the MTA hearing on June 21st and in the media about problems with this system. It is your stories that demonstrate the problems with Access-A-Ride and make policy makers and MTA board members act to correct those problems.

This summer, CIDNY will provide trainings for Access-A-Ride users on your rights. The trainings will cover your rights as a rider, how to file a complaint, how to file an appeal, and how to advocate for yourself with Access-A-Ride. If you are interested in attending these trainings, please contact Shain Anderson, Access-A-Ride Community Organizer, at 646-368-8031 for more information. Join us to make Access-A-Ride work better for everyone. **This project** is funded by The New York Community Trust.

**The Right to Counsel During Eviction**

CIDNY is member of the Right to Counsel, NYC coalition. The coalition is working to urge the city council to pass a bill that will allow people below 200%

of the Federal poverty level (less than \$23,760 annual income for one person) to have a right to free counsel when facing eviction. The bill is in draft form and the coalition has made various comments to ensure that as many people as possible will be eligible. CIDNY, however, is concerned that the bill does not include people with disabilities in the initial stage of the roll out. CIDNY has submitted a one-page proposal to the coalition to insist that people with disabilities are included at the start of the program. You can support our proposal by calling your city council member to request that people with disabilities be included from the beginning of the program. To find your city council member go to [council.nyc.gov/districts/](http://council.nyc.gov/districts/), type in your address, and you will get your city council member and their contact information. You can also call CIDNY and ask for help finding your city council member if you don't have access to a computer.

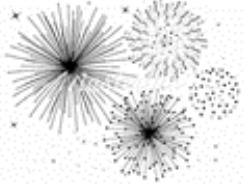
**Legislation of Interest to People with Disabilities Passes the Legislature**

Bills of interest to people with disabilities passed both houses of the state legislature before they adjourned on June 21st and now await the Governor's action.

- Assembly Bill 5175-A/Senate Bill 1241-A would amend the law to require that people who appear to be eligible for Medicaid with a "spenddown" get a written notice explaining how they could qualify for Medicaid by participating in a pooled trust. By placing their excess income into a pooled trust, Medicaid recipients can use what little excess income they have to pay for living expenses, instead of surrendering the funds every month to Medicaid.
- Assembly Bill 6120A/Senate Bill 4557A is a first step in improving access to quality complex rehabilitation equipment for patients with specific diagnoses and physical conditions who require individually configured equipment and technology.

CIDNY supports both bills, which will help people with disabilities to sustain independence and avoid institutionalization.

# July 2017 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	<b>3 Walk-in Day</b> 10:00 am to 1:30 pm  <b>Queens Walk-in Day</b> 10:00 am to 3:00 pm	 <b>CIDNY CLOSED</b>  <b>Happy July 4<sup>th</sup>!</b>	5	<b>6 Walk-in Day</b> 10:00 am to 3:00 pm  <b>NO Writer's Workshop</b>	7	8
9	<b>10 Walk-in Day</b> 10:00 am to 1:30 pm  <b>Queens Walk-in Day</b> 10:00 am to 3:00 pm	<b>11 Walk-in Day</b> 10:00 am to 1:30 pm  <b>A Taste of the Farmers' Markets—Queens</b> 1:00-2:00pm	<b>12 CAN Meeting— Manhattan</b> 1:00-3:00 LGBT Center	<b>13 Walk-in Day</b> 10:00 am to 3:00 pm  <b>Writer's Workshop</b> 3:30-5:30 LGBT Center	14	15
16	<b>17 Walk-in Day</b> 10:00 am to 1:30 pm  <b>Queens Walk-in Day</b> 10:00 am to 3:00 pm	<b>18 Walk-in Day</b> 10:00 am to 1:30 pm	19	<b>20 Walk-in Day</b> 10:00 am to 3:00 pm  <b>Writer's Workshop</b> 3:30-5:30 LGBT Center	21	22
23	<b>24 Walk-in Day</b> 10:00 am to 1:30 pm  <b>Queens Walk-in Day</b> 10:00 am to 3:00 pm	<b>25 Walk-in Day</b> 10:00 am to 1:30 pm	<b>26 Housing Workshop—Queens</b> 10am-12noon	<b>27 Walk-in Day</b> 10:00 am to 3:00 pm  <b>Writer's Workshop</b> 3:30-5:30 LGBT Center	28	29

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All events are at CIDNY, 841 Broadway, Suite 301, New York, NY 10003 unless otherwise stated. To RSVP for events, contact Eva Burgess at 646-442-4156 or [eeason@cidny.org](mailto:eeason@cidny.org). If you need an accommodation, please let Eva know. For ASL interpreters, let us know one week in advance. We cannot guarantee accommodations like ASL interpreters if we do not have advanced notice.



**CID-NY**

# July 2017 Events



Join CIDNY for Education and Fun

**Need help?** Walk in to get the help you need. Staff will be available during these times for housing and benefits-related help.

## **Walk-In Days—Manhattan**

Every Monday and Tuesday, 10:00 am to 1:30 pm  
Every Thursday from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

## **Walk-In Day—Queens**

Every Monday  
10:00 am to 3:00 pm

## **CIDNY offices in Manhattan and Queens are closed for the July 4th Holiday**

## **CAN Meeting—Manhattan**

Wednesday, July 12th, 1:00-3:00 LGBT Center

The July 12th CAN Meeting will be held at the LGBT Center, 208 W. 13<sup>th</sup> Street, between 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Greenwich. The LGBT Center has hosted CIDNY events in the past and the site is accessible and welcoming. If you have questions or would like more information for directions, contact Eva at 212-674-2300. Please watch this space for the August schedule.

## **Join us for a presentation on the Right to Counsel, NYC's bill to help protect low income people who have to go to housing court.**

You will hear about the issue the Right to Counsel, NYC is addressing and the status of the Right to Counsel bill in the New York City Council.

Lourdes Rosa-Carrasquillo, Director of Advocacy, will explain the issues and how they may affect you. She will also answer questions about the bill and how you can help with our advocacy efforts.

If you need an accommodation, such as large print or ASL or language interpretation services, please let us know by Wednesday, July 5, 2016. Refreshments will be served.

## **Housing Workshop - Queens**

Wednesday, July 26, 10:00 am to noon

CIDNY's 2-hour housing workshop covers: housing options: NYCHA, HPD, HUD listings; NYC Housing Connect and other programs; what you qualify for; income and family size; and how to get and go over your credit report.

Please be on time so that everyone can get the information and help that they need within the 2-hour workshop.

Space is limited: 646-442-1520 to reserve your spot. Also, let us know if you need an accommodation like American Sign Language or large print.

## **Our Popular Writer's Workshop—Manhattan SUMMER SITE AND HOURS**

Starting on Thursday July 13th, the CIDNY Writers Workshop will meet from 3:30-5:30 pm at the LGBT Center, 208 W. 13<sup>th</sup> Street, between 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Greenwich. The LGBT Center has hosted CIDNY events in the past and the site is accessible and welcoming. If you have questions or would like more information for directions, contact Eva at 212-674-2300. Please watch this space for the August schedule.

## **A Taste of the Farmers' Markets!**

Tuesday, July 11 1:00- 2:00 pm

Learn about Health Bucks and how to use vouchers or EBT at the Green markets. We'll try a sample of seasonal foods, learn about recipes and take some recipes home.



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