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Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY

April 2017

Protecting Our Rights—Defeating the Repeal of the ACA (Obamacare)

Many of you helped us make a difference! At the end of March we sent out an alert for people to call their representatives in Congress asking them to reject the repeal and replace bill the Republicans were trying to pass in the House. Thanks to the great advocacy by CIDNY, its consumers and other groups, this bill that would have slashed many of the benefits we rely on was defeated for now.

We must stay vigilant, however because we believe there will be efforts to weaken coverage and services provided by the ACA, otherwise known as Obamacare. Stay tuned to our Facebook page and our alerts for updates. If you would like to become more involved, think about joining our Consumer Action Network (CAN) and help us protect our rights and our health. Contact Monica Bartley at mbartley@cidny.org for information about CAN and how to get involved.

Peer Advocates Speak

The Fight to Maintain our Health Care and Coverage

Pictured at right: Senator Liz Krueger and Peer Advocate Liliete Lopez.



On March 4 2017, CIDNY's Peer Advocate Liliete Lopez, who organizes people with disabilities to speak out, attended a Health Care Town Hall hosted by Senator Liz Krueger and Assemblyman Richard Gottfried.

Issues discussed at the event included radical changes to Medicare, Medicaid, the Affordable Care Act, reproductive care, and other programs—all of which could mean disaster for our health care and cost New York State billions of dollars a year in federal funds.

Liliete, who is covered under a New York Medicaid Managed Care Plan called Health First, shared her story, telling how she could be affected if the Affordable Care Act was repealed. She told the legislators and the participants:

"A large percentage of the Medicaid budget goes to people with complex health conditions like me, so we think that New York might target us for cuts. Like many people, I have multiple conditions that require treatment including a liver transplant, kidney problems caused by the anti-rejection drugs I have to take, and osteoarthritis of the spine, back and knees.

"In my own experience I have been harmed by cost cutting decisions made by the Medicaid Redesign Team. (Because of the limits they made in 2011) when they decided to establish 20 visits per year for Physical, Occupational and Speech Therapy, coverage for my physical therapy...is often over in March or April of the year.

"If Congress block grants Medicaid, what more cuts will New York make? Services and treatments that are so important to my quality of life?

"People with disabilities are more likely to use Medicaid for their health coverage. So we are particularly concerned about Congressional proposals to Block Grant or cap Medicaid payment to the states based on population. We are worried about who or what New York would cut in its Medicaid program."

If you'd like to get involved in CIDNY's advocacy program, contact Monica Bartley at mbartley@cidny.org or call 212/ 674-2300 and ask to speak with Monica.

Fair Housing Act Project

CIDNY wants to know if you have been discriminated against in housing because of your disability. For example, did a realtor or landlord say they didn't have an apartment when you knew they did; did a landlord tell you that you couldn't have an accommodation, like grab bars in the bathroom or a ramp to the building?



CIDNY staff members are ready to take your information and to help. They are conducting rights training, assisting with filing complaints about your housing discrimination experience, and are conducting surveys to find out about people's experiences with housing discrimination.

If you'd like to find out more or report a problem, please call 212-674-2300 and ask to speak to a Fair Housing Counselor.

CIDNY CONSUMER ACTION NETWORK MEETING Wednesday, April 19—Queens Office

Come join us to hear about: our trip to Albany; the legislators we met; and their responses to our issues. We'll also be talking about next steps and how we'll prepare to meet with State legislators at their district offices. Please RSVP to Eva Eason at (646) 442-4156. If you need an accommodation, such as large print or interpretation services, please let us know by Wednesday, April 12 2017. Refreshments will be served.

REUNIÓN DE LA RED DE ACCIÓN DEL CONSUMIDOR DE CIDNY Queens, Miércoles 19 de Abril

Ven y únete a nosotros para aprender sobre: - nuestro viaje a Albany; los legisladores que conocimos; y sus respuestas a nuestras preguntas. También hablaremos sobre los pasos a seguir y cómo prepararnos para reunirnos con los legisladores del estado en sus oficinas del distrito. Nuestros nuevos compañeros defensores nos ayudarán a organizarnos para diferentes actos legislativos, también se unirán a nosotros.

Por favor llamen a Eva Burgess para confirmar su asistencia al número: (646) 442-4156. Déjele saber a Eva si usted necesita acomodamientos como letras de tamaño grande o servicios de interpretación antes del miércoles, 12 de abril del 2017. Refrescos serán servidos.

Workforce1 Discrimination

Workforce1 sites are state-funded employment sites that help people who want to go back to work.

They do that by helping participants:

- Develop job search skills through resume and interviewing workshops;
- Acquire new skills that help them be eligible for jobs in growing fields;
- Connecting jobseekers to employers with open positions.

Both CIDNY and the Public Advocate's office have heard that there is discrimination against people with disabilities at some of the 17 New York City Workforce1 sites. As a result, CIDNY and the Public Advocate's office are investigating the accessibility in Workforce1 sites.

The concern that first brought Workforce1 to our attention was that people with disabilities were being referred to ACCES-VR and denied services at Workforce1. Workforce1 is a program that is supposed to offer the same services to everyone – those with and without disabilities.

Our initial investigation found that some Workforce1 sites have discriminated against people with disabilities by not offering alternative formats for blind or low vision individuals--reasonable accommodations that the law requires. We are continuing to survey the Workforce1 sites. If you are interested in working on this issue, we will train you to do the survey. Please contact: Lourdes I. Rosa-Carrasquillo, Esq., Director of Advocacy at 646-4153 or Irosacarrasquillo@cidny.org.



Access-A-Ride (AAR) Service is "abysmal," says one rider

Mr. F has been a special education teacher in New York's City's public school system for thirteen years and teaches in Queens. An Access- A-Ride (AAR) user for the past seven



years, he says AAR service is "abysmal" and seems to have no accountability. "Drivers blame the dispatchers, dispatchers blame central dispatch and no one is actively looking for real ways to improve. No one is stepping up to say 'this is what we are doing and this is how we plan to fix it.'" In 2014, he was forced to wait outside for his AAR trip for two and a half hours. Mr. Friedman used crutches at the time and, since there was no place for him to sit, he collapsed from exhaustion and was injured.

Since 2016, he has avoided using AAR whenever possible, although it is challenging for him. AAR is "always late," he says. He says a typical AAR trip takes much longer than it should, "you may only have to go five miles, but [Access-A-Ride] may schedule 5 or 6 pickups, so a trip that should take fifteen to twenty minutes turns into two and a half hours."

Tell Us Your Story

Mr. F was willing to share his story with our staff and we can use this to help advocate for improvements. If you have a story and would be willing to share it, contact Shain Anderson at sanderson@cidny.org or 646-368-8031. Shain can also tell you about resources available to you through our AAR project.

April 2017 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sat 1/ Sun 2	3	4	5	6 Walk-in Day 10:00 am to 3:00 pm Writer's Workshop 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm	7	8
9	10  Walk-in Day 10:00 am to 1:30 pm Queens Walk-in Day 10:00 am to 3:00 pm	11 Walk-in Day 10:00 am to 1:30 pm	12	13 Walk-in Day 10:00 am to 3:00 pm Writer's Workshop 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm	14	15
16 	17 Walk-in Day 10:00 am to 1:30 pm Queens Walk-in Day 10:00 am to 3:00 pm	18 Passover Ends Walk-in Day 10:00 am to 1:30 pm	19 CAN Meeting –Queens 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm	20 Walk-in Day 10:00 am to 3:00 pm Writer's Workshop 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm	21 Movie Night: Mr. Holmes 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm	22
23	24 Walk-in Day 10:00 am to 1:30 pm Queens Walk-in Day 10:00 am to 3:00 pm Access-A-Ride Advocacy 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm	25 Walk-in Day 10:00 am to 1:30 pm	26 Greenmarket Presenta- tion 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm Housing Workshop - Queens 10:00 am to 12:00 pm	27 Walk-in Day 10:00 am to 3:00 pm Writer's Workshop 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm	28	29
30						

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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.
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

April 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

Passover Begins—Monday April 10

Happy Easter—Sunday April 16

Consumer Action Network (CAN) Wednesday, April 19, Queens Office 1:00-3:00

Come join us to hear about: our trip to Albany; the legislators we met; and their responses to our issues. We'll also be talking about next steps and how we'll prepare to meet with State legislators at their district offices. Our new peer-advocates, who will be helping us organize for different legislative events, will also join us. Please RSVP 646-442-1520. If you need an accommodation, such as large print or interpretation services, please let us know by Wednesday, April 12, 2017. Refreshments will be served.

REUNIÓN DE LA RED DE ACCIÓN DEL CONSUMIDOR DE CIDNY—QUEENS Miércoles 19 de Abril 1:00-3:00

Ven y únete a nosotros para aprender sobre: nuestro viaje a Albany; los legisladores que conocimos; y sus respuestas a nuestras preguntas. También hablaremos sobre los pasos a seguir y cómo prepararnos para reunirnos con los legisladores del estado en sus oficinas del distrito. Nuestros nuevos compañeros defensores nos ayudarán a organizarnos para diferentes actos legislativos, también se unirán a nosotros. Por favor llámen a 646-442-1520. Déjele saber si usted necesita acomodamientos como letras de tamaño grande o servicios de interpretación antes del miércoles, 12 de abril del 2017.

Housing Workshop - Queens Wednesday, April 26th, 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.

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

Every Thursday from 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm.

Access-A-Ride: Telling Our Stories, Building Our Advocacy

Monday, April 24th from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Join us to learn more about our Access-A-Ride (AAR) project, share your story and find out how we can work together to improve AAR service.

Greenmarket Presentation

Wednesday, April 26th from 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

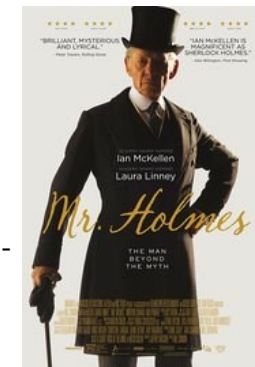
Learn about Healthy Bucks and how to use vouchers or EBT at the Greenmarket. We'll try a sample, learn about recipes and take some recipes home.

Movie Night Friday, April 21, 3:00 - 5:00 pm

Mr. Holmes

Ian McKellen, Laura Linney, Hiroyuki Sanada

An aged, retired Sherlock Holmes deals with early dementia as he tries to remember both his final case and a mysterious woman whose memory haunts him. He also befriends a fan, the young son of his housekeeper, who wants him to work again.



Refreshments will be served. Also vote for next month's movie!

RSVP by Monday April 17. Call Eva at 646-442-4156. Let her know if you need an accommodation, like Hearing Loop, or captioning. Please remember that CIDNY is a scent free office—no perfume or scented lotions as an accommodation to our consumers and staff. Thank you.

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