Welcome!

Taking ACTION for Independence: Confrontation and Controversy

NEW YORK ASSOCIATION ON Independent Living INC.

2008 CONFERENCE
CONFERENCE AND EXPO PROGRAM

September 8-10, 2008
The Desmond Hotel and Conference Center, Albany, NY

CO-SPONSORED BY:
New York State Independent Living Council, Inc.
CONFERENCE AT-A-GLANCE

Monday, September 8
10:30-11:30am Opening Plenary: Keynote Speaker, Governor David A. Paterson, [KING STREET BALLROOM]
12:00-1:30pm General Session and Working Lunch: Preliminary results of NYAIL Statewide Needs Assessment, Center for Governmental Research, [KING STREET BALLROOM]
1:45-3:00pm Concurrent Workshops:
- Confrontation vs. Collaboration: Getting the Greatest Advocacy Bang for Your Buck, [2 KING ST]
- Voice and Choice: Uniting National and State Youth Movements, [4 KING ST]
- What Warriors on Poverty Need to Learn About Disability, [6 KING ST]
- NYAPRS: We Can Work Campaign, [8 KING ST]
- Needs Assessment Feedback: NYAIL Board Members Only, [9 FORT ORANGE SQUARE]
3:00–3:30pm Exhibitor Break
3:30-4:45pm Concurrent Workshops:
- Strategic Partnerships and Positioning Your Organization, [4 KING ST]
- Making Change: From Sheltered Workshops to Integrated Employment, [2 KING ST]
- Nursing Facility Residents’ Rights, [9 FORT ORANGE SQ]
- OMRDD’s Self-Directed Service Options, [6 KING ST]
- Health Care Reform, [8 KING ST]
6:00-7:30pm Dinner Buffet [KING ST BALLROOM]
7:30-10:00pm Evening Entertainment: Mikhail Horowitz & Gilles Malkine, [KING ST BALLROOM]

Tuesday, September 9
8:30-10:00am General Session: Community Organizing for Disability Rights, Richard Male and Bruce Darling, [KING ST BALLROOM]
10:00-10:30am Exhibitor Break
10:30-11:45am Concurrent Workshops:
- Deaf Advocacy in an Independent Living Center? It Can Be Done!, [6 KING ST]
New York’s Human Rights Law Protections for People with Disabilities, [2 KING ST]

Poverty—the Real Barrier to Independence, [8 KING ST]

Through Children’s Eyes: School Based Community Collaboration, [9 FORT ORANGE SQ]

Nursing Home Transition and Diversion Waiver Program Update, [4 KING ST]

12:30-1:45pm Luncheon: [KING ST BALLROOM]

2:00-3:15pm Concurrent Workshops:

- New York’s Literacy Zones: Working Collaboratively in Distressed Communities, [2 KING ST]
- Long Term Care Reform: Update and Discussion, [4 KING ST]
- Defying Discrimination: the HAVA Administrative Complaint Procedure as a Tool & Target, [6 KING ST]
- Healthy Transitions, [8 KING ST]
- Rural Health Network of South Central New York’s Broome-Tioga Transportation Database, [9 FORT ORANGE SQ]

3:15–3:45pm Exhibitor Break

3:45-5:00pm Concurrent Workshops:

- Advocacy to Improve ADA Compliance by Local Departments of Social Services, [2 KING ST]
- Innovative Practices and Collaboration Toward Real Systems Change, [4 KING ST]
- Money Follows the Person (MFP) Demonstration Project, [6 KING ST]
- Funding Diversification: Now is the Time! [8 KING ST]

**Wednesday, September 10**

9:00-10:15am Concurrent Workshops:

- Leadership in Times of Change, [2 KING ST]
- Supportive Housing Models, [6 KING ST]
- Speak Up For Yourself: Self-Advocacy for Youth, [8 KING ST]

10:15-11:00am Exhibitor Break

11:00-1:00pm General Session and Box Lunch: New Strategies for Systems Change Advocacy, [KING ST BALLROOM]
About NYAIL
The New York Association on Independent Living (NYAIL) is a membership organization representing Independent Living Centers throughout the State. NYAIL works to:

- Improve the quality of life and safeguard the rights of people with disabilities;
- Promote the philosophy and vision of Independent Living both within the disability community and among the general public;
- Advocate for the resources necessary to support Independent Living Centers and to enable people with disabilities of all ages to live independent lives in their communities; and
- Strengthen Independent Living Centers through the provision of technical assistance, training, and other services to member centers.

What is Independent Living?
Independent Living means being in control of your own life, taking responsibility for your actions, taking risks, and either failing or succeeding on your own terms. It means participating in community life and pursuing activities based entirely upon self-determined interests and preferences. To support these goals, Independent Living Centers help individuals of all ages with all types of disability to obtain whatever services they need to preserve their right to choose and to fully and equally participate in society.

What Are Independent Living Centers?
Independent Living Centers (ILCs) are run by people with disabilities, for people with disabilities. Core programs include information and referral services, peer counseling, individual and systems advocacy, and independent living skills training. Other services vary from center to center but generally include: assistance with housing, education, employment, medical needs, and personal assistance services.
SPECIAL THANKS

Conference Co-Sponsor

New York State Independent Living Council

State Agency Sponsors

- New York State Education Department, Office of Vocational and Educational Services for Individuals with Disabilities (VESID)
- New York State Office of Children and Family Services, Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped
- New York State Developmental Disabilities Planning Council
- New York State Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities
The New York Association on Independent Living (NYAIL) proudly presents the 2008 Conference and Expo. Every day, people with disabilities are confronted with barriers to accessing the community-based services and supports they choose. Barriers in housing, long term and acute health care, employment, education, transportation, voting and other civil rights impede full participation in community life and equal opportunities for people with disabilities. Removing these barriers presents an extraordinary challenge to individuals and systems. The solutions, involving disability policy, programs, and practice, are often controversial, both across service and other systems and within the disability community itself. The conference presents an opportunity for discussion, debate, education, and collaboration on these critical issues.

Monday, September 8, 2008

6:00–9:00am   Exhibitor Setup: Fort Orange and King Street Courtyards
9:00am–5:00pm  Registration Table Open
9:00–10:30am  Expo Grand Opening and Continental Breakfast
10:30–11:30am  Opening General Session [King Street Ballroom]
Keynote Speaker: Governor David A. Paterson (invited)
Chairperson’s Welcome: Maria Dibble

David A. Paterson became New York’s 55th Governor on March 17, 2008. Governor Paterson is the first legally blind Governor of New York. He is nationally recognized as a leading active advocate for people with visual impairments and other disabilities. In his 23 years serving the people of New York, Governor Paterson has worked towards change by reaching across party lines and bringing people together. His thoughtful, inclusive approach to governing has won him the respect of colleagues and a reputation for uniting disparate forces towards consensus that benefits all New Yorkers. At the age of 31 in 1985, Governor Paterson was elected to represent Harlem in the New York State Senate, becoming the youngest Senator in
Albany. In 2003, he became the minority leader of the New York State Senate, the first non-white legislative leader in New York’s history. He made history again in 2004 when he became the first visually impaired person to address the Democratic National Convention. He became New York’s first African American Lieutenant Governor in 2007 and is now New York’s first African American Governor.

12:00–1:30pm

**General Session and Working Lunch**

**Preliminary Results of the NYAIL Statewide Needs Assessment** [King Street Ballroom]

*Center for Governmental Research, Rochester, NY*

In February 2008, NYAIL asked the Center for Governmental Research to conduct a needs assessment to determine how Independent Living Centers can best meet the needs of people with disabilities throughout the state, what service gaps and barriers interfere with the provision of services, and to help identify strategies to bridge funding gaps and build the future capacity of ILCs to serve people with disabilities. CGR will present the preliminary results of the statewide needs assessment.

- **Donald E. Pryor, Ph.D.**
  
  During his distinguished career Dr. Pryor has directed, consulted on, and critiqued a wide variety of research projects in the public, nonprofit and private sectors at local, state and national levels. His work has led to improved services and millions of dollars in direct savings to taxpayers. Dr. Pryor’s expertise encompasses human service delivery, assessments of community needs and resources, criminal justice practices, educational reform, program evaluations, policy analysis, social indicators, and governmental management and organization.

- **Bethany J. Welch, Ph.D.**
  
  Dr. Welch has experience in organizational development, nonprofit governance and board support, facilitating community coalitions, and
strategic planning. Prior to joining CGR in 2008, she explored issues of neighborhood change in inner cities, coordinated regional research on hunger and food security, and participated in a range of public policy research projects for human service organizations. Her research studies have sought to improve the quality of life for vulnerable populations in communities in New York, Delaware and Pennsylvania.

**Maria Ayoob, M.P.H.**

Ms. Ayoob’s primary research focus is on health, human services and government management. She has played a key role in numerous projects, including a study on the status of county nursing homes in New York State, an evaluation of a county’s senior transportation needs and services, analysis of shared service opportunities for municipalities, and an assessment of the readiness of schools in a county to implement obesity prevention programs. In addition, she assisted with a recent report on health care costs and cost-containment strategies in New York State, and is currently involved in an assessment of a county’s mental hygiene service delivery system.

**The Center for Governmental Research**

The Center for Governmental Research (CGR) works with government, business and nonprofit leaders who drive public policy action and organizational change. They seek to incorporate local knowledge with the expertise they bring to the project. Their clients value the quality of their work, their pragmatic approach, and their commitment to remaining independent and nonpartisan.

1:45–3:00pm

**Concurrent Workshop Sessions**

**Confrontation vs. Collaboration: Getting the Greatest Advocacy Bang for Your Buck** [2 KING ST]

*Lead Presenter:* Simeon Goldman, Senior Staff Attorney, Disability Advocates, Inc.—Simeon Goldman has successfully enforced the employment,
housing, community integration and other civil rights of people with disabilities since 1991. Previously, Mr. Goldman was Director of Advocacy at the Capital District Center for Independence.

**Workshop Description:** This session will explore the complex strategic decisions we must make as advocates, and how to formulate the most persuasive approach to governmental and private service providers. Be prepared for lively discussion and to work on a hypothetical case. Suitable for both new and experienced advocates.

- **Voice and Choice: Uniting National and State Youth Movements** [4 KING ST]
  
  **Lead Presenter:** Stephanie Orlando, Director, YOUTH POWER! of Families Together in New York State—Stephanie is a state and national leader of the Cross-Disabilities Youth Movement. As an advocate she serves on several committees and as a mentor she supports young emerging leaders.

  **Co-Presenters:** Rachel Flores, YOUTH POWER! Advisory Board Chairperson; John Donnelley, YOUTH POWER! Secretary; Ryan Pinion, The North Carolina Leadership Network

  **Workshop Description:** This workshop will introduce you to the work, activities and social priorities of both state and national youth led groups that have come together in their efforts to exemplify full-inclusion.

- **What Warriors on Poverty Need to Learn About Disability** [6 KING ST]
  
  **Lead Presenter:** Linda Ostreicher, Director of Public Policy, Center for Independence of the Disabled NY—Since 1999, Linda Ostreicher, MCP has done policy analysis, writing, research, and fundraising for ILCs. She wrote an online social services column for four years and has a Masters from MIT.

  **Workshop Description:** Efforts to fight poverty traditionally overlook how common disability is in low-income communities. This workshop will explore
ways to educate other groups facing discrimination about their stake in disability rights.

**NYAPRS: We Can Work Campaign** [8 King St]

*Lead Presenter:* Mathew Mathai, CPRP, Deputy Director, New York Association of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services

*Co-Presenters:* Oscar Jiminez, Program Development and Evaluation Specialist, New York Association of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services

*Workshop Description:* This session will present the primary aims of the Campaign and organize a panel for discussion.

**NYAIL Statewide Needs Assessment – NYAIL Board Feedback** [9 Fort Orange Square]

*Lead Presenter:* Don Pryor, Ph.D.

*Co-Presenters:* Bethany Welch, Ph.D., Maria Ayoob, M.P.H.

*Workshop Description:* The Center for Governmental Research will seek NYAIL board member feedback regarding the preliminary results of the needs assessment as presented during Monday’s plenary session. Participation in this session is limited to NYAIL Board members.

3:00–3:30pm  **Exhibitor Break**

3:30–4:45pm  **Concurrent Workshop Sessions**

**Strategic Partnerships and Positioning Your Organization** [4 King St]

*Lead Presenter:* Richard Male, Richard Male & Associates

*Workshop Description:* Every organization needs more money, a stronger board of directors, visibility in the legislature, etc., but not every organization is “positioned” right to raise dollars and gather support from corporations, foundations, the legislature, state agencies, wealthy individuals, and other groups in your community. This workshop will help you design a strategy to build community collaborations.
and partnerships, recruit new board members, get in front of the key people who can help you raise more dollars, and widen the base of support in your community.

**Making Change: From Sheltered Workshops to Integrated Employment**

[2 King St]

*Lead Presenter:* Frank Pennisi, Program Services Coordinator, Southern Tier Independence Center

*Co-Presenter:* Patrick Muller, Program Director, Taconic Resources for Independence, Inc.—Both presenters are co-chairs of the NYAIL Employment Subcommittee

*Workshop Description:* This session will discuss why the conversion from sheltered employment to integrated employment options has stalled in New York State and what needs to happen to get it moving again.

**Nursing Facility Residents’ Rights**

[9 Fort Orange Sq]

*Lead Presenter:* Melvyn Tanzman, Westchester Disabled On the Move, Inc.—Mel Tanzman has worked with people with disabilities for over 20 years as the Director of Social Services for the Eastern Paralyzed Veterans Association and as Executive Director of Westchester Disabled On the Move Inc.

*Co-Presenters:* Valerie A. Deetz, BPS, RN, LNHA, Deputy Director, Division of Residential Services, NYS Department of Health Office of Long Term Care; Margaret G. Hadad, LMSW, Program Director, NYS Long Term Care Ombudsman Program at MHA of Westchester

*Workshop description:* Many advocates are visiting nursing homes to assist residents with their goal to return to community settings. This panel will explore the rights of people while they are residing in nursing homes. Real life scenarios will be addressed by the panel with a focus on how facility policies may interfere with the residents efforts to retain their independence and to be discharged from the facility.
OMRDD’s Self-Directed Service Options [6 KING ST]

Lead Presenter: Michael Orzel, Policy Operations Specialist, Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities—Michael Orzel has been employed by OMRDD since 1993. He is a strong advocate of self-determination.

Co-Presenters: Doris Moore, Coordinator of Statewide Consolidated Services and Supports and Individualized Services and Supports, OMRDD

Workshop Description: This session will explain to individuals with developmental disabilities how they can have more control over deciding what services and supports will best serve them to achieve their chosen lives.

Health Care Reform [8 KING ST]

Lead Presenter: Susan M. Dooha, JD, Center for Independence of the Disabled, New York—Susan Dooha is Executive Director of the Center for Independence of the Disabled, New York (CIDNY). CIDNY’s goal is to ensure full integration, independence and equal opportunity for all people with disabilities by removing barriers to the social, economic, cultural and civic life of the community. Susan has been a nonprofit management consultant, nonprofit executive, public health policy expert, and community advocate for more than 25 years.

Workshop Description: The Health Care for All New York (HCFANY) Campaign believes that every resident of New York State and the nation must have access to affordable and comprehensive health care. Our current health care system is too often unworkable and unaffordable for our families, businesses or government. All of us have a shared responsibility to reform our health care system. We believe that the government has a unique obligation to guarantee affordable comprehensive health care for its people and that it must play a central role in reforming, regulating, financing, and providing health coverage for all residents of our State and country.
We anticipate that proposed reform measures may include: a public health coverage plan, publicly-sponsored insurance plans, and private insurance. Find out what ideas are proposed for health care reform in New York and have an opportunity to share your perspective and get involved.

6:00–7:30pm  Dinner Buffet  [KING ST BALLROOM]
7:30–10:00pm  Evening Program:  *Entertainment by Mikhail Horowitz & Gilles Malkine*  [KING ST BALLROOM]
Stand-up poet Mikhail Horowitz and unapologetically French guitarist Gilles Malkine have been performing together in the Hudson Valley and beyond since 1989. They perpetrate hilarious and increasingly unlawful acts of political satire and recycle literary classics, adapting them to rap, blues, bop, and hip-hop, and also spoof or pay dubious homage to various subgenres of American roots music.

**Tuesday, September 9, 2008**

7:30am–5:00pm  Registration Table Open
7:30–8:30am  Continental Breakfast
8:30–10:00am  **General Session: Community Organizing for Disability Rights**  [KING ST BALLROOM]
*Richard Male, Richard Male & Associates*
*Bruce Darling, Center for Disability Rights and ADAPT*

Independent Living Centers are unique in many ways, including their essential role in advocacy for systemic change. Successful systems advocacy by ILCs and other disability organizations requires building active community involvement. ILC and other organizations’ staff can’t do it all! This presentation will offer basics on developing community groups committed to the hard work of constructive social change.

Richard Male is a recognized leader, both regionally and nationally, in the fields of leadership development, fundraising, community organizing and public policy for non-profit organizations, faith-based
entities, private foundations, local municipalities and schools. For 30+ years he has conducted training sessions, provided consultation, and been a keynote speaker, teacher and facilitator to literally thousands of organizations. These include faith-based and grassroots community organizations and people working at the neighborhood, statewide and national levels. Richard and the staff of Richard Male & Associates all have extensive experience working with a wide variety of disability organizations throughout the country. RMA has worked closely with New York State’s Independent Living Centers since 2004.

Bruce Darling is the Executive Director of the Center for Disability Rights and the Regional Center for Independent Living in Rochester. Bruce has been a disability rights advocate for over 20 years. He is probably best known for his work as a community organizer with ADAPT and the group’s efforts to eliminate the institutional bias. He has helped build one of the strongest ADAPT chapters in the country, trained hundreds of people in nursing facility transition and community organizing, lobbied countless legislators, negotiated with state and federal officials, participated in direct action and been arrested for civil disobedience supporting disability rights.

10:00–10:30am Exhibitor Break

10:30–11:45am Concurrent Workshop Sessions

Deaf Advocacy in an Independent Living Center?
It can be done![6 King St]

Lead Presenter: Dean DeRusso, Deaf Systems Advocate, Regional Center for Independent Living (RCIL). Focusing on improving integration, inclusion, and civil rights, Dean has successfully built a network of people to focus on improving many systemic issues in the Deaf, Deaf-Blind and Hard of Hearing community.
Workshop Description: Has your Independent Living Center had difficulties trying to serve people who are Deaf? Do you wonder how ILCs can better connect with and serve people who are Deaf, Deaf-blind, or Hard of Hearing? Are Deaf people disabled? Does it matter? Are you looking for solutions to your challenges with the local Deaf community? Come see us.

**New York’s Human Rights Law Protections for Persons with Disabilities** [2 King St]

*Lead Presenter:* John P. Herrion, Director of Disability Rights, NYS Division of Human Rights

*Workshop Description:* This session will focus on the rights of persons with disabilities under the New York State Human Rights Law. It will cover the new amendments to the State’s Human Rights law as well as its existing requirements for employers and housing providers to refrain from discriminating against persons with disabilities.

**Poverty—the Real Barrier to Independence** [8 King St]

*Lead Presenter:* Burt Danovitz, Ph. D, Resource Center for Independent Living— Burt Danovitz is the Executive Director of RCIL which also operates the Disability Institute, the public policy, research and education arm of the Center.

*Co-Presenters:* Joann Marshall, Chief Operating Officer, Resource Center for Independent Living

*Workshop Description:* This session will focus on the high incidence of poverty amongst people with disabilities and how Centers need to develop strategies to assist people in moving toward greater self-sufficiency.

**Through Children’s Eyes: School-Based Community Collaboration** [9 Fort Orange Sq]

*Lead Presenter:* Kenneth Sider, Oneonta City School District— Kenneth Sider has been an elementary school teacher for over 20 years. He is an adjunct
instructor at SUNY Oneonta, and a doctoral student at SUNY Albany.

Co-Presenters: Donald Wyckoff, Architectural Barrier Consultant, Catskill Center for Independence

Workshop Description: This session will highlight an innovative disability awareness program in which third graders spend one day in a wheelchair and participate in an interdisciplinary learning experience designed to promote understanding of accommodation, accessibility, and independence.

- **Nursing Home Transition and Diversion Waiver Program Update** [4 KING ST]

  Lead Presenter: Bruce Rosen, NYS Department of Health

  Co-Presenter: Cheryl Udell, NYS DOH

  Workshop Description: This session will focus on the latest developments of the Nursing Home Transition and Diversion (NHTD) Medicaid Waiver. Session participants will be provided with a general overview of the NHTD waiver, information about becoming a provider and information on the NHTD waiver Housing Subsidy Program.

12:30–1:45pm **Luncheon** [KING ST BALLROOM]

2:00–3:15pm **Concurrent Workshop Sessions**

- **New York’s Literacy Zones: Working Collaboratively in Distressed Communities** [2 KING ST]

  Lead Presenter: Robert Purga, New York State Education Department, Adult Education and Workforce Development—Robert Purga has been involved in the field of adult education and workforce development for over 26 years. He has statewide program responsibilities including supervision of nine professional staff involved in program and professional development in conjunction with seven Regional Adult Education Networks (REAN).
Co-Presenters: Robert Gumson, Manager of Independent Living Services, NYSED/VESID; Susan Dooha, JD, Executive Director, Center for Independence of the Disabled in New York; Burt Danovitz, Ph. D, Executive Director, Resource Center for Independent Living

Workshop Description: This session will discuss the intention of New York’s Literacy Zones to harness and leverage the resources of the State Education Department’s Adult Education and Workforce Development system, in collaboration with eight key partnerships, to build physical portholes that support families combating poverty. Successful projects need the involvement of ILCs as key partners.

Long Term Care Reform – Update and Discussion

Lead Presenter: Bruce Darling

Workshop Description: What’s happening in long term care reform in NY? How are stakeholders involved? What are our advocacy priorities going forward? This workshop will provide an update on current long term care reform initiatives and issues, and offer an opportunity for participants to help set the direction for long term care advocacy.

Defying Discrimination: The HAVA Administrative Complaint Procedure as a Tool & Target

Lead Presenter: Helen Benlisa, Project HAVA Coordinator, Catskill Center for Independence—Helen Benlisa provides training on HAVA and polling site accessibility, edits the HAVA quarterly, chairs the NYAIL Election Reform Subcommittee and follows HAVA implementation in New York State.

Workshop Description: This session will focus on using the Administrative Complaint Procedure: discrimination under Title III of HAVA, the complaint form, how the State BOE will process complaints, and outcomes desired.
Healthy Transitions

Lead Presenter: Jeffrey Tamburo joined the NYS Institute for Health Transition Training as Project Administrator when it was created in 2006. He has worked in the disability field since 1992, including 14 years working in supported employment. Jeffrey serves as the NYS Coordinator for Disability Mentoring Day and the Greater Syracuse DMD Local Coordinator, President of the Empire State APSE: The Network on Employment, and Commissioner for the Syracuse/Onondaga County Commission on Human Rights.

Co-Presenter: Nicole Hastings, is a 24-year-old with a developmental disability who is very active as a presenter and in her community, serving on many boards. She lives in her own home and is part of the self-determination program which allows her to manage her staff.

Workshop Description: The mission of the NYS Institute for Health Transition Training is to promote self-determination, to optimize health and well-being, and to improve access to health care and the quality of health care that is delivered to young people with developmental disabilities aged 14-25 years. The primary goal is to provide information and education to youths, families, service providers and health care practitioners that will facilitate a successful transition from pediatric to adult health care. The Institute has a curriculum and toolkit that youth with developmental disabilities can use to develop the skills needed to transition successfully from pediatric care to the adult health care system. This presentation will include a live demonstration of the Healthy Transitions website, a skills-based, interactive site utilizing the Learn (by watching a presentation)—See (by watching a video clip)—Do (practice by using one of our tools) approach, and will seek input and feedback from the participants.
Rural Health Network of South Central New York’s Broome-Tioga Transportation Database

[9 FORT ORANGE SQ]

Lead Presenter: Delana Spaulding, Health Care Access Associate (AmeriCorps), Rural Health Network of South Central New York, Inc.

Workshop Description: The Broome-Tioga Transportation Database is a directory of ground transportation services available in Broome and Tioga Counties of South Central New York. This program is the first online, interactive directory to provide information on oxygen tank permissibility, a description of Medicaid transportation services, and comprehensive information for transportation services in the Southern Tier. This presentation will cover how to navigate and utilize the service and offers a model for other communities.

3:15–3:45pm   Exhibitor Break

3:45–5:00pm   Concurrent Workshop Sessions

Advocacy to Improve ADA Compliance by Local Departments of Social Services [2 KING ST]

Lead Presenter: Cary LaCheen, Senior Staff Attorney, National Center on Law and Economic Justice

Cary LaCheen has a national project at the Center that uses disability rights laws to improve public benefits programs.

Workshop Description: This session will discuss how the Americans with Disabilities Act applies to local Departments of Social Services, the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance’s recently issued ADA policy, and local DSS compliance with this policy. It will also cover how to obtain reasonable accommodations from DSS and how to engage in policy advocacy to obtain better ADA policies and/or compliance from DSS.
Innovative Practices and Collaboration Toward Real Systems Change [4 KING ST]

Lead Presenter: Donna Gillette, Legislative Advocate, Regional Center for Independent Living

Co-Presenters: Ron Deutsch, Executive Director, New Yorkers for Fiscal Fairness with the Fiscal Policy Institute; Mike Romano, Acting Commissioner, Oneida County Office of Long Term Care/Office of Continuing Care

Workshop Description: This session will highlight new and innovative ways of thinking about disability rights and change tactics through unlikely partnerships. Highly reproducible ideas, projects, and networking to facilitate participants’ dialogue for real change in their communities will be discussed.

The Money Follows the Person (MFP) Demonstration Project [6 KING ST]

Lead presenter: Tracie Crandell, NYS Department of Health

Co-Presenter: Melanie Shaw, Executive Director, NYAIL

Workshop description: This session will focus on the latest developments of the state’s Money Follows the Person (MFP) Demonstration. Session participants will learn about the status of the MFP Demonstration and be provided with information about the MFP Demonstration rebalancing activities, including the Housing Education Initiative to be implemented by NYAIL.

Funding Diversification: Now is the Time! [8 KING ST]

Lead Presenter: Richard Male, Richard Male & Associates

Workshop Description: Whether you like it or not, diversification of your organization’s funding sources will be essential in this time of state budget cutbacks. Whether it is from private foundations, government contracts, earned income or other sources, building a strong, diversified fund raising plan is critical to meeting the growing need for services for people
with disabilities in fiscally challenging times. This workshop will discuss the basic steps for developing your organization’s fund raising plan.

5:00pm Dinner on your own

**Wednesday, September 10, 2008**

7:30am–1:00pm Registration Table Open
7:30–8:30am Continental Breakfast
9:00–10:15am **Concurrent Workshop Sessions**

- **Leadership in Times of Change [2 King St]**
  
  **Lead Presenter:** Richard Male
  
  **Workshop Description:** The “times they are changing,” with great uncertainty with the economy and the New York State budget, etc. Leaders are judged in times of adversity and change. This workshop, designed for executive directors, program managers and board members, will be looking at the different roles that are necessary when leading and managing other people and an organization. It will discuss the difference between leadership and management and look at strategies to motivate board members, engage and excite staff, and become a leader in the community.

- **Supportive Housing Models [6 King St]**
  
  **Lead Presenter:** Melvyn Tanzman, Westchester Disabled On the Move, Inc.—Mel Tanzman has worked with people with disabilities for over 20 years as the Director of Social Services for the Eastern Paralyzed Veterans Association and as Executive Director of Westchester Disabled On the Move Inc.
  
  **Co-Presenters:** Doug Hovey, Executive Director, Independent Living, Inc.; Tricia Haggerty-Wenz, Executive Director, Safe Harbors of the Hudson; Mathew Mathai, Deputy Director, NYAPRS
  
  **Workshop Description:** Are supportive housing and the independent living philosophy mutually exclusive? This debate has raged for years in the
advocacy community. A panel of advocates and supportive housing providers will discuss these issues as they relate to varying disabilities, including physical and psychiatric disabilities.

**Speak Up For Yourself: Self-Advocacy for Youth**

[8 King St]

*Lead Presenter:* Stephanie Orlando, Director, YOUTH POWER! of Families Together in New York State—Stephanie is a state and national leader of the Cross-Disabilities Youth Movement. As an advocate she serves on several committees and as a mentor she supports young emerging leaders.

*Co-Presenters:* Shavonne Jackson, YOUTH POWER!, Advisory Board Member; Joseph Munisteri, YOUTH POWER! Advisory Board Member; John Donnelley, YOUTH POWER! Advisory Board Secretary

*Workshop Description:* This presentation will give young people some helpful tips on how to ensure their voice and choices are being heard and valued in their own personal affairs.

10:15–11:00am **Exhibitor Break**

11:00am–1:00pm **General Session and Box Lunch: New Strategies for Systems Change Advocacy**

[King St Ballroom]

Participants will help identify advocacy priorities for the coming year, bringing together themes from presentations, discussions and debates throughout the conference, and will assist in developing new strategies for budget and systems change advocacy in this critical year.

Discussion panel will include NYAIL Chair, Maria Dibble, Southern Tier Independence Center; Public Policy Committee Chair, Andrew Pulrang, North Country Center for Independence; and Kevin Cleary, Kevin Cleary Government Relations.
CONFERENCE ACCESSIBILITY

Interpreting Services:
Interpreting services will be provided for conference sessions as requested in advance. If you requested interpreting services, please stop by the registration desk to finalize details. Interpreters will be assigned only to those workshop sessions for which a request has been made.

Environmental/Chemical Sensitivities:
For the safety and comfort of those with chemical and environmental sensitivities, please refrain from using any perfumed grooming products such as scented soaps, deodorants, perfumes, colognes, and heavily scented fabric softeners.

EXHIBIT SHOW

Throughout the course of the conference, time has been reserved for visiting exhibitors, including several conference breaks. The exhibits will be located in the Fort Orange and King Street Courtyards.

Be sure to stop by and learn about the programs and information offered by our exhibitors!

2008 Exhibitors
Belvedere Brain Injury Program
Center for Disability Rights
Engineering Data Corporation
New York State Developmental Disabilities Planning Council
New York State Education Department, Vocational and Educational Services for Individuals with Disabilities
New York State Independent Living Council
YOUTH POWER!

TAKING ACTION FOR INDEPENDENCE: Confrontation and Controversy
DESMOND HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER
We are proud to support the 2008 NYAIL Conference
“Taking ACTION for Independence: Confrontation and Controversy”

Serving persons with disabilities and the Mid Hudson Community since 1987

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The New York State Developmental Disabilities Planning Council (DDPC) is a federally funded state agency working under the direction of Governor David A. Paterson.

The DDPC is responsible for developing new ways to improve the delivery of supports and services to New Yorkers with developmental disabilities and their families. The DDPC focuses on increasing the opportunities for consumers to become more involved in the community, secure education, employment and housing.

The DDPC affects positive change through grant programs that fund such activities as:

- Demonstration Projects
- Training for families and staff
- Outreach to underserved populations
- Support to communities
- Interagency collaboration and coordination
- Systems design and redesign

To a large extent, DDPC projects are developed in direct response to the concerns and ideas voiced by consumers, families, services providers, policymakers and other professionals.

Recent DDPC accomplishments that directly relate to persons with developmental disabilities and their families…

- 4,837 individuals/families were served
- 223 programs/policies were created
- 11,722 people involved in DDPC funded training
- 1,419,939 members of the general public were reached

If you would like more information on the DDPC or are interested in becoming a Council Member, please contact:

New York State Developmental Disabilities Planning Council
155 Washington Avenue
Second Floor
Albany, NY 12210

Telephone: 800-395-3372
Fax: 518-402-3505
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THE OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES (VESID) WITHIN THE NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IS CHARGED WITH PROVIDING AND COORDINATING EMPLOYMENT OUTCOME PROGRAMS FOR PERSONS WITH PHYSICAL AND MENTAL DISABILITIES.

VESID ASSISTS INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES WHO ARE PURSUING MEANINGFUL CAREERS. BY CONTACTING YOUR LOCAL VESID OFFICE, YOU WILL TAP INTO A WEALTH OF RESOURCES RELATED TO EMPLOYMENT OPTIONS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES. VESID ASSISTS ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS TO SECURE GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT COMMENSURATE WITH THEIR ABILITIES AND CAPABILITIES.

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Welcome to all conference participants who are taking action for independence!

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