BACK TO THE FUTURE
Commemorating the 25th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act

CONFERENCE & EXPO • SEPTEMBER 16-17, 2015
HILTON GARDEN INN • TROY, NEW YORK
Conference Overview

Welcome to NYAIL’s 2015 Conference! The New York Association on Independent Living (NYAIL) is a membership organization representing Independent Living Centers throughout the state. We have more than 250 people with disabilities, older New Yorkers, and supporters of the disability community gathering to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) at this year’s Back to the Future conference. The ADA transformed our schools, communities and the workforce and ensured equality of opportunity for our nation’s largest minority group. Despite the great gains in accessibility made since its passage, there is still much work to be done. ILCs are committed to a future in which all doors grant access to opportunity, full participation, independent living, integration and economic self-sufficiency. Independent Living advocates will convene at this year's conference in celebration of the ADA to reflect on the past while organizing for the future.

Registration Desk

Conference, Association and related materials can be found at our registration desk. Have a question or a special need? Just ask! We are happy to help in any way.

Interpreting Services

Interpreting services will be provided for conference workshop sessions as requested in advance. If you requested interpreting services, please stop by the registration desk to finalize details.

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.

Session Room Locations

**Ballroom Level (BL)--Hotel Entrance**
- Ferris A
- Ferris B
- Ferris Foyer

**Meeting Level (ML)--Downstairs**
- Osborne Amphitheatre
- Roebling Library

**Lobby Level (L)--Upstairs**
- Sage I
- Sage II
CONFERENCE SCHEDULE OVERVIEW

WED
SEPT 16

6:00-9:00AM
Exhibitor Setup (Ferris Foyer)

7:30AM-5:00PM
Registration Table Open (Ferris Foyer)

8:00-9:00AM
Continental Breakfast (Ferris Foyer)

9:00-10:15AM
Opening General Session (Ferris A&B)
Keynote Speaker: Andrew Imparato, National disability rights lawyer and executive director of the Association of University Centers on Disabilities

10:15-10:45AM
Expo (Ferris Foyer)

10:45AM-12:00PM
Concurrent Workshop Sessions
- Independent Living Services in County Jails (Sage I)
- Achieving the Transformation Vision: Update (Ferris A)
- The ADA and Medicaid: Next Generation of Long-term Services and Supports (Ferris B)
- Protections For People With Disabilities Under NYS Human Rights Law (Roebling Library)
- Understanding the Intersection of Long Term Service and Support Systems for Aging and Disability (Sage II)
- MLTC Part 1: Basics of Managed Long Term Care (MLTC) (Osborne Amphitheatre)

12:00-12:30PM
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Luncheon (Ferris A & B)

1:45-3:00PM
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- Building Disability Leadership in Opposing Legalization of Assisted Suicide (Ferris A)
- Addressing the Housing Crisis for People with Disabilities in New York (Ferris B)
- Transformation is Us: Our Lives, Our Choices, Our Community (Roebling Library)
- Overview of Governor’s Employment First Initiative (Sage II)
- MLTC Part 2: Navigating MLTC (Osborne Amphitheatre)

3:00-3:30PM
Expo (Ferris Foyer)

3:30-4:45PM
Concurrent Workshop Sessions
- Do you have civil rights when disaster strikes? The ADA and Disaster Planning (Sage I)
- Using Grassroots Community Organizing to Build Powerful Disability Rights Organizations (Ferris A)
- Facilitated Session on the New York Statewide Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) for 2017-2019 (Ferris B)
- Expanding Youth Peer Advocacy Across Systems: Statewide Trainings and Resources (Roebling Library)
- Phasing Out 14(c): Collaborating toward a Future of Equality in the Workplace (Sage II)
- MLTC Part 3: Special Medicaid Budgeting Issues in MLTC (Osborne Amphitheatre)

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David Veatch Award Presentation to Frank Pennisi and Carrie Bergeron
Special Guest Comedian Andy Pitz

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- Critical Strategies in Grant Writing for ILCs (Ferris B)
- Practical and Effective Uses of Social Media for Engagement and Collaboration Among Disability Organizations (Osborne Amphitheatre)
- Guardianship and other Decision Making Tools (Sage II)
- Strategies for Effecting Positive Systemic Change (Sage I)
- Learning from Our Past to Improve our Future (Roebling Library)

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- Applying the ADA to Health Plans: Securing Equal Access to Health Care (Ferris B)
- Overview of Disability Rights New Yorks (Osborne Amphitheatre)
- Meeting the Needs of Persons Living with Brain Injury (Sage II)
- Implementation of WIOA and the Increased Focus on Youth with Disabilities (Sage I)
- Supported Decision-Making: From Justice for Jenny to Justice for All! (Roebling Library)

3:00-3:30PM
Expo (Ferris Foyer)
Thank you to NYAIL’s 2015 Conference Sponsors

Major Sponsors:

Center for Disability Rights:  www.cdrnys.org

NYS Developmental Disabilities Planning Council:  www.ddpc.ny.gov

NYS Office for People With Developmental Disabilities:  www.opwdd.ny.gov

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New York State Independent Living Council Inc.: www.nysilc.org

Northeast ADA Center, Cornell University:  www.northeastada.org

Not Dead Yet:  www.notdeadyet.org

Resource Center for Independent Living:  www.rcil.com

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Association Development Group, Inc.:  www.adgcommunications.com
Andrew Imparato has served as executive director of the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) since September, 2013. As a disability rights lawyer and policy professional with more than two decades of experience in government and advocacy roles, Imparato has worked with bipartisan policymakers to advance disability policy at the national level in the areas of civil rights, workforce development, and disability benefits. Prior to coming to AUCD, he was senior counsel and disability policy director for Senator Tom Harkin on the US Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions. Before that, he spent 11 years as President and CEO of the American Association of People with Disabilities, a national membership organization working to grow the political and economic power of the disability community. Imparato’s perspective is informed by his personal experience with bipolar disorder.

Since joining AUCD, a national network of over 100 university-based programs that conduct research, training and advocacy to improve the quality of life of children and adults with disabilities, Imparato has helped the organization broaden the scope of its advocacy and expand its leadership capacity. Imparato is currently serving on two bipartisan panels developing recommendations for reform of the Social Security Disability Insurance program and has spearheaded a national “Six by ’15” campaign designed to leverage next year’s milestone anniversaries of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to focus public attention on the areas where the disability community wants to see more progress. This campaign has been endorsed by over 140 disability organizations.

Imparato’s work has been recognized by the Secretaries of Health and Human Services and Transportation, the US Junior Chamber of Commerce, the National Council on Independent Living, the National Association of the Deaf, and the Osteogenesis Imperfecta Foundation. He has testified nine times before Committees of the US Senate and House of Representatives and has been interviewed on a wide range of disability issues by national television, radio and print media. He cultivates grassroots activism on social media and is known for seeking out and mentoring emerging leaders with disabilities. He co-authored articles that have been published in the Stanford Law and Policy Review and the Milbank Quarterly, and wrote a chapter on the Supreme Court’s disability rulings in The Rehnquist Court: Judicial Activism on the Right (Hill & Wang 2003). Imparato graduated summa cum laude from Yale College and with distinction from Stanford Law School. He lives in Baltimore with his wife Betsy Nix and has two sons, Gareth and Nicholas.

Jason Braase is a member of Warriors Speak, a Wounded Warrior Project (WWP) program. Warriors Speak is a prestigious group of wounded warriors and caregivers who share their unique stories with the public. The goal of Warriors Speak is to educate the American public on the struggles our nation’s service members overcome through the extraordinary and inspiring stories shared by wounded warriors and caregivers.

“When I first arrived to the United States from Iraq, I had nothing – not even a toothbrush,” says Jason Braase. “That’s when Wounded Warrior Project (WWP) first came into my life in the form of a backpack. I wore out everything in it and rocked that backpack on my wheelchair with pride.”

It was June 2005, and Jason had been escorting Explosive Ordnance Disposal early one morning. During security operations, an improvised explosive device (IED) detonated in front of his Hummer. Shrapnel blew through his right leg just below the knee.

“The doctors replaced the damaged arteries and pieced together what was left of my tibia back into the knee joint. Plastic surgeons detached half of my calf muscle to cover the wound with soft tissue before performing a skin graft to seal the injury.”

His recovery took Jason on a seven-year journey that included 13 surgeries. Before each surgery, there was always doubt as to the outcome. “You may lose your leg,” doctors told him prior to several procedures. But he didn’t. “You may never walk again,” he was later told. But he did. “You’ll never be able to straighten your leg,” he was warned. But today he has 95 percent mobility. “The support I received brought me from the brink of suicide to almost complete recovery. I can now walk, run, and ride a bike with little pain.”

Today, Jason lives an active lifestyle and is an inspiration to many who follow in his footsteps. “WWP support is directly improving lives by providing exactly what our warriors and their caregivers need. For me, I needed a purpose. I want to be there for warriors just like they have been there for me and being a Peer Mentor has given me that opportunity.”
NYAIL is pleased to announce that we will offer the following concurrent workshops.

**Independent Living Services in County Jails (Sage I)**
- Scott Danforth, Peer Counselor Jail Program, Northern Regional Center for Independent Living, Inc.
- Karen Bolivar, Associate Director, Northern Regional Center for Independent Living, Inc.

This presentation will focus on both the administration and delivery of peer services in jail settings. The presenters will discuss how ILC services succeeded where other organizations could not because of clinical and financial restrictions. We hope that other ILCs will be interested in implementing this delivery model and presenters will answer questions about the negotiations necessary to successfully execute this model. We will also explore how this model may integrate with other activities in health care delivery system reform.

**Achieving the Transformation Vision: Update (Ferris A)**
- Jo Ann Lamphere, Deputy Commissioner for People Centered Supports, Office of People With Developmental Disabilities

In 2011, New York State embarked on a reform initiative to transform its system of supports and services for individuals with developmental disabilities, one that will modernize outdated system structures that limit individuals’ independence and achievement of their goals and create a more person-centered approach to meeting needs and supporting improved outcomes. New York State and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) have identified a series of shared goals that will improve opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities in the areas of employment, integrated living, and self-direction of services. In this session OPWDD Deputy Commissioner, Jo Ann Lamphere, will provide an update on implementation of the transformation agenda.

**The ADA and Medicaid: Next Generation of Long-term Services and Supports (Ferris B)**
- Merrill Friedman, Vice President for Advocacy, Amerigroup Corporation
- Andrew Imparato, Executive Director, Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD)
- Bruce Darling, President and CEO, Center for Disability Rights

As the ADA celebrates its 25th anniversary and Medicaid celebrates its 50th anniversary, it’s important to look back on their evolution, their role in America’s health care system, and the role they play for supporting people with disabilities into the future. Nearly a third of individuals today look to Medicaid for their long-term services and supports (LTSS). It is an important component of our nation’s shift to a more comprehensive model of social and economic supports that further the inclusion and independence of people with disabilities. This session will explore the next generation of issues in Medicaid LTSS, including workforce participation; the nexus to employer insurance; full community integration; and, sustainability.

**Protections For People With Disabilities Under NYS Human Rights Law (Roebling Library)**
- John P. Herrion, Director of Disability Rights, New York State Division of Human Rights

New York State Human Rights Law has many of the same protections for people with disabilities as the ADA and the Federal Fair Housing Act. This is true now more than ever since NY incorporated protections found in Title II of the ADA into State law. However, there are some distinct differences between State and Federal protections. Workshop participants will hear from the NYS Division of Human Rights (DHR) about the protections afforded people with disabilities in the areas of housing, public accommodations, and state and local government.
Understanding the Intersection of Long Term Service and Support Systems for Aging and Disability (Sage II)

• Corinda Crossdale, Director, New York State Office for the Aging

There is a general understanding that there are some similarities between the needs of older adults who may face challenges as they age and those who are faced with a long term disability. It has long been recognized that there is a necessity for integrated services for both of these populations and a number of new initiatives are seeking a holistic approach to develop new services and enhance current ones. NY Connects is a locally based “No Wrong Door” system that provides one stop access to free and comprehensive information and assistance for people of all ages needing long term services and supports. New York is vastly expanding this program; at the same time the state is exploring the feasibility of an Office of Community Living which seeks to improve service delivery and program outcomes for older adults and persons of all ages with disabilities. At this workshop, the State Office for the Aging will present updates to these initiatives and answer your questions.

MLTC Part 1: Basics of Managed Long Term Care (Osborne Amphitheatre)

• Valerie J. Bogart, Director, Evelyn Frank Legal Resources Program, New York Legal Assistance Group
• Elizabeth P. Siegel, Empire Justice Center

This workshop will explain the basic landscape of Managed Long Term Care (MLTC). This includes who must enroll, how MLTC is rolling out in new counties, how one enrolls in MLTC as a new applicant vs. what happens to people already receiving Medicaid home care and transitioning to mandatory MLTC. The relationship of MLTC and Medicare coverage will be discussed, including the consumer’s choices for pairing MLTC with Original Medicare or Medicare Advantage, or choosing a “fully capitated” managed care plan that provides all Medicare and Medicaid services – such as Medicaid Advantage Plus, PACE, or in NYC and Nassau only – FIDA.

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The ADA at 25: How are we doing on key indicators of well-being? How is your region of the state doing compared to the nation? (Sage I)

• Susan M. Dooha, J.D., Executive Director, Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY

This 90-minute presentation and discussion will review the status of people with disabilities on key indicators of well-being: education, employment, transportation, housing, income, poverty, health coverage and family. We will talk about how the status of people with disabilities in New York State and each of its regions compares to the status of people with disabilities at the national level. We will discuss the implications for future civil rights challenges and recommendations to policy makers. Participants will learn how to use U.S. Census data to inform their arguments for change.

Building Disability Leadership in Opposing Legalization of Assisted Suicide (Ferris A)

• Diane Coleman, President/CEO, Not Dead Yet
• Bruce Darling, President/CEO, Center for Disability Rights
• Stephanie Woodward, Director of Advocacy, Center for Disability Rights

People with disabilities are the natural leaders against the legalization of assisted suicide. The reported reasons for assisted suicide requests in Oregon and Washington where it is legal are related to disability rather than terminal illness. Government reporting forms under “Death with Dignity” laws explicitly accept the notion that suicide is the dignified response to physical dependence, while independent living disproves measures of “quality of life” based on physical condition. The session will include presentations, participant questions, and a sure-to-be-lively discussion. Topics will include: (1) Information on assisted suicide bills and litigation in NY; (2) How to talk confidently with individuals and before groups about the dangers that assisted suicide laws pose to people with disabilities, whether terminally ill or not; (3) How to present information about abuses and problems that have been documented in Oregon and Washington state; (4) How to talk with legislators and media about disability rights concerns in the face of the well funded public relations campaign mounted by assisted suicide proponents; and (5) How to organize cross-disability efforts and work in coalition with faith-based groups. Presenters will use specific examples and materials to explain the current issues, and the full range of strategies will be discussed.
Addressing the Housing Crisis for People with Disabilities in New York (Ferris B)

- Mark Kissinger, Director, Division of Long Term Care, OHIP, NYS DOH
- Lisa Irizarry, Director of Special Needs Housing, NYS Homes and Community Renewal

The lack of affordable, accessible and integrated housing is one of the biggest barriers to people with disabilities living independently in the community. There are a number of programs and initiatives which seek to address the housing crisis for people with disabilities in New York. Come hear from the Medicaid Redesign Team (MRT) supportive housing workgroup on some of their exciting new initiatives for people receiving long term care. In addition NYS Homes and Community Renewal (HCR) will highlight some of their programs which assist people with disabilities to obtain accessible housing.

Transformation is Us: Our Lives, Our Choices, Our Community (Roebling Library)

- Steve Holmes, Administrative Director, Self-Advocacy Association of NY
- Clint Perrin, Statewide Policy Director, Self-Advocacy Association of NY

Representatives of the Self-advocacy Association of New York State, Inc., will discuss SANYS advocacy around the Office of People with Developmental Disabilities’ (OPWDD) Transformation Plan. For self-advocates, transformation of OPWDD’s system means we will have as much control as we can over where we live, our choices for employment and other meaningful activities, and who supports us. We’ll talk about SANYS’ view of the HCBS settings rule and the best way to ensure Money Follows the Person (MFP)–self-determination/self-direction.

Overview of Governor’s Employment First Initiative (Sage II)

- John B. Allen, Jr., Special Assistant to the Commissioner, NYS Office of Mental Health

Over 1 million working-age adults with disabilities live in New York State. Yet their employment and earnings fall far below those of New Yorkers without disabilities. And, according to the US Census Bureau, the gap continues to grow exponentially. The disability community commends Governor Cuomo for responding to this crisis by issuing Executive Order 136, establishing the New York State Employment First Commission (NYSEFC), tasked with making recommendations on how to increase employment opportunities for people with disabilities throughout the state.

MLTC Part 2: Navigating MLTC (Osborne Amphitheatre)

- Valerie J. Bogart, Director, Evelyn Frank Legal Resources Program, New York Legal Assistance Group
- Elizabeth P. Siegel, Empire Justice Center

This workshop will focus on how MLTC works for people who are already enrolled. This includes what services are available, how to request new or increased services, how to work with care managers, how/when to change MLTC plans, how to appeal decisions, how to access the fair hearing process.

Do you have civil rights when disaster strikes? The ADA and Disaster Planning (Sage I)

- Susan M. Dooha, J.D., Executive Director, Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY

This 90-minute presentation and discussion will describe the civil rights violations in NYC’s emergency planning and disaster response by the federal court in recent litigation. It will provide an overview of agreements negotiated by the parties to remedy those violations dealing with: Shelter; Transportation; Evacuation; Canvassing; Communications; Power Outages; and Reporting and Monitoring. The presentation will identify key components in emergency planning that promote and support inclusion, integration and equal access. This presentation will allow participants to lessons from New York’s experience that can apply to their situations; the importance of developing solutions that are cross-disability; strategies for crafting agreements; and making the case for inclusion.

Using Grassroots Community Organizing To Build Powerful Disability Rights Organizations (Ferris A)

- Phil Prehn, Statewide System Advocate, ARISE

Community organizing techniques can be used to create powerful local organizations of dedicated and active people with disabilities. This interactive workshop will provide attendees with the basics of community organizing. Attendees will learn the need for collective action on disability issues, how to teach and nurture basic leadership skills, and will explore the shared history and philosophies of community organizing and the disability rights movement.
Facilitated Session on the New York Statewide Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) for 2017-2019 (Ferris B)

- Brad Williams, Executive Director, New York State Independent Living Council, Inc.

Participate in a facilitated session, providing feedback on the next Statewide Plan for Independent Living (SPIL). Collective feedback during formulation leads to priorities which emerge as content in the plan.

Expanding Youth Peer Advocacy Across Systems: Statewide Trainings and Resources (Roebling Library)

- Stephanie Orlando, Executive Director, YOUTH POWER!

Youth peer services are expanding in NYS and YOUTH POWER! is leading the way. Learn more about available trainings and how you can be an informed part of the expansion. This workshop will include an overview of the trainings and resources available for young leaders, organizations and supervisors. Participants will learn more about youth peer services, the role of a Youth Peer Advocate and how they can help with the expansion of these services. A particular emphasis will be placed on Youth Peer Services anticipated to be included in managed care.

Phasing Out 14(c): Collaborating toward a Future of Equality in the Workplace (Sage II)

- Rose Sloan, Government Affairs Specialist, National Federation of the Blind
- Frank Pennisi, Disability Rights and Access Director, Southern Tier Independence Center

Under Section 14(c) of the 1983 Fair Labor Standards Act, workers with disabilities can be paid subminimum wages - which the Department of Justice found to be a violation of the ADA based on the 1999 Olmstead decision. This workshop will present on the national advocacy efforts of the National Federation of the Blind to ensure fair wages for workers with disabilities, as well as efforts underway in NYS to phase out sheltered workshops. Workshop participants will learn how people with disabilities are utilizing supported and customized employment strategies to engage in integrated, competitive employment, concluding with an interactive discussion of Section 14(c) and how we can responsibly phase it out.

MLTC Part 3: Special Medicaid Budgeting Issues in MLTC (Osborne Amphitheatre)

- Valerie J. Bogart, Director, Evelyn Frank Legal Resources Program, New York Legal Assistance Group
- Amy E. Lowenstein, Senior Staff Attorney – Health, Empire Justice Center
- Elizabeth P. Siegel, Empire Justice Center

This workshop will cover spend-down issues in MLTC and special Medicaid budgeting available to people who get MLTC that can reduce or even eliminate a spend-down. These strategies including spousal impoverishment, “community budgeting” that allows short-term nursing home residents to retain more of their income to maintain their home, special needs trusts/pooled trusts, and the MLTC housing allowance for people who were in a nursing home or adult home and are discharged home with MLTC services. While not unique to MLTC, will briefly discuss the Medicaid Buy In for Working People with Disabilities.

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Putting the Pieces Together: Medicaid Redesign & LTC (Ferris A)

- Mark Kissinger, Director, Division of Long Term Care, OHIP, NYS DOH

During this session, NYSDOH’s Division of Long Term Care leadership will provide an update on mandatory Managed Long Term Care. As MLTC continues to expand throughout 2015 to upstate counties, other programs are being rolled out such as the implementation of the Conflict Free Evaluation and Enrollment Center, the Fully Integrated Duals Advantage program, the Managed Care Ombudsman, and the Balancing Incentive Program (BIP). Hear the DOH vision & definition of care coordination under MLTC and the expectations, roles and relationships of providers and MLTCs.
Critical Strategies in Grant Writing for ILCs (Ferris B)

Karen L. Six, Grants Administrator, Resource Center for Independent Living, Inc.

Mrs. Six will present the most important points a grant writer should consider when choosing which grants to target including mission connection, collaborative partnerships, program development, and budget. Participants in this workshop will learn how to find grant opportunities that match the mission of the organization; work collaboratively with other agencies to create a strong balance of service provision; develop relationships with program personnel to involve them in the process; and think carefully through the budget so that all costs are considered and included. The presentation will demonstrate each step of the process for one successful grant proposal to ensure understanding of how the pieces fit together to result in an effective application that leaves everyone involved feeling enthusiastic about the proposed project. Each participant will be expected to bring questions and personal experiences to the presentation.

Practical and Effective Uses of Social Media for Engagement and Collaboration Among Disability Organizations (Osborne Amphitheatre)

Emily Ladau, Communications Consultant, Social Justice Media Services

This interactive workshop will encourage cross-generational, cross-disability online engagement among CILs and other disability organizations. Learn to embrace social media as a means of communicating with consumers and sharing the important work your organization is doing. The session will cover best practices for using major social media platforms, social media strategy development, and online community building.

Guardianship and Other Decision Making Tools (Sage II)

Simeon Goldman, Senior Sate Attorney, Disability Rights New York

Sim Goldman of Disability Rights New York (DRNY) will discuss who should consider guardianship, Article 81 vs. Article 17A Guardianship, what decisions can be made by a guardian, rights and responsibilities of the individual and the guardian, corporate/institutional guardianship. He will also cover other methods of substitute decision-making, including the use of a representative payee, power of attorney and healthcare proxy; as well as the new concept of supported decision making.

Strategies for Effecting Positive Systemic Change (Sage I)

Clifton Perez, Systems Advocate, Independent Living Center of the Hudson Valley Inc.

Systems Advocacy can be an effective way to promote an issue in order to influence policy-makers and encourage social change. Are you interested in how the political system works? Do you need to know how you can become a more effective Systems Advocate? This workshop will provide an introduction to Systems Advocacy and factors that can influence the outcome of public policy. Attendees will learn tools and strategies used in Systems Advocacy and when and how to utilize them to impact positive social change.

Learning from Our Past to Improve our Future (Roebling Library)

Todd Vaarwerk, Western New York Independent Living

This workshop will review lessons learned from our most important disability rights leaders, using interview videos provided to the Rehabilitation Research and Training Center for Independent Living Management (RRTC-ILM). Amongst the fourteen advocates who participated on the Pioneers in Independent Living services, we will hear from Justin Dart and Judy Heumann about the advocacy strategies that made the Americans with Disabilities Act a reality.

Serving Veterans with Disabilities (Ferris A)

James Arrington, Veterans Service Center Manager, Samuel S. Stratton VA Medical Center

Jack Downing, Chief Executive Officer, Soldier On

Dr. Kevin Cahill, Vice President of Treatment, Soldier On

Jason Braase, Member of Warriors Speak, a Wounded Warrior Project (WWP) program

Joe Toman, Peer Veteran Advocate, Southern Tier Independence Center

Veterans with disabilities are a population Independent Living Centers have long struggled to engage. This panel is intended to be an interactive discussion geared towards helping centers learn more about how the independent living network can better serve veterans. Panelists will discuss services currently available to veterans through the Veterans Affairs system, as well as the needs of veterans with disabilities and current gaps in services.
Applying the ADA to Health Plans: Securing Equal Access to Health Care (Ferris B)

- Heidi Siegfried, Esq., Director of Health Policy, Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY
- Howard Tsai, Health Care Advocate, Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY

This workshop will cover the legal obligations and responsibilities of health plans under the ADA and New York State Law to provide equal access to people with disabilities. Presenters will describe Plan’s responsibilities to provide accommodations in call centers and to ensure ADA compliant provider networks. Presenters will illustrate the issues with case studies will solicit hypothetical case examples from the audience. Attendees will learn strategies for securing their rights for health plans will learn how to file complaints and appeals.

Overview of Disability Rights New York (Osborne Amphitheatre)

- Simeon Goldman, Senior Staff Attorney, Disability Rights New York
- Evonne Opoku, Staff Attorney, Disability Rights New York

Sim Goldman and Evonne Opoku of Disability Rights New York (DRNY) will discuss the Protection & Advocacy System and Client Assistance Program (P&A/CAP) for persons with disabilities in New York. As the P&A/CAP for New York, DRNY advocates for the civil and legal rights for New Yorkers with disabilities. New York residents with disabilities can contact DRNY for assistance with problems directly related to their disabilities. DRNY investigates complaints and provides direct assistance to callers with disability-related issues under the terms of its federal grants and its annual goals and priorities. Information on the history of the program, eligibility, types of services and how to access services will be given.

Meeting the Needs of Persons Living with Brain Injury (Sage II)

- Margo B. Singer, Program Coordinator, Brain Injury Association of NYS

Brain injury is often called the “silent epidemic” because of the staggering number of people who are injured each year. More than 140,000 New Yorkers sustain a brain injury each year. Each year, traumatic brain injuries result in more than 2,000 deaths, 19,000 hospitalizations, and over 112,000 emergency department visits among New York State residents. Brain Injury is never expected, it can strike at any time. It has no cultural, geographic or economic preference and can strike people from all walks of life. When it does it can have far reaching consequences. Effects of brain injury can include impaired thinking or memory, movement, sensation, or emotional functioning. These issues not only affect individuals but can have lasting effects on families and communities. This workshop will encompass: (1) What is brain injury, including statistics, signs & symptoms; (2) How brain injury can occur and common problems after brain injury; (3) Resources and supports, including “take-home” handouts and multimedia materials; and (4) Q & A opportunity. Attendees will leave with a greater understanding of the impact of brain Injury, as well learning about the resources & supports offered to individuals with brain injury -- and their families-- through the Brain Injury Association of New York State and the NYS waiver programs.

Implementation of WIOA and the Increased Focus on Youth with Disabilities (Sage I)

- Frank Coco, Coordinator of District Office Administration, ACCES-VR
- Brianna Valsey, Youth Engagement Consultant, YOUTH POWER!
- Brian J. Williams, Principal Employment & Training Coordinator, Rensselaer County One Stop Career Center
- Jan Hennessy, Senior Project Director, New York Association of Training & Employment Professionals (NYATEP)

Many changes are forthcoming in New York’s vocational rehabilitation system, particularly with respect to youth services, as a result of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). Join this panel discussion to learn more about the system changes underway and the opportunities for your center to be part of the process. Presenters will discuss the implementation plans within ACCES-VR and strategies for employment providers to engage youth through a lesson on supporting self-advocacy and disability disclosure. Participants will have the opportunity to learn more about the youth employment programs under WIOA and how to connect with their local areas for skills training, work experience, and other opportunities.

Supported Decision-Making: From Justice for Jenny to Justice for All! (Roebling Library)

- Jonathan Martinis, Legal Director, Quality Trust for Individuals with Disabilities
- Samantha Crane, Legal Director and Director of Public Policy, Autistic Self Advocacy Network

An informative and interactive introduction to Supported Decision-Making - an alternative to guardianship where people with disabilities work with trusted friends, family members, and professionals to receive the assistance they need and want to understand the situations and choices they face, so they can make their own decisions. Supported Decision-Making makes the person, rather than a guardian, the ultimate decision-maker in some or all areas in his or her life, according to the person’s choices and abilities. As a result, it increases the person’s self-determination, which has been directly linked with increased life outcomes like independence, employment, community integration, and safety. Using the “Justice for Jenny” case as background, this presentation will provide attendees with information on the science and studies behind Supported Decision-Making, examples its use across the country and internationally, and practical applications for it in education, employment, and health care planning. In addition, the presentation will discuss ways that we can change laws, policy and practice to increase access to supported decision-making as an alternative to guardianship.

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3:00-3:30PM
Expo (Ferris Foyer)
Thank you to NYAIL’s 2015 Conference Exhibitors!

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New York Relay Service
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www.nyrelay.com

New York State Coalition of Alzheimer’s Association Chapters
4 Pine West Plaza, Suite 405
Albany, NY  12205
(518) 867-4999
www.alz.org/northeasternny/

New York State Independent Living Council
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Voice: (315) 363-4672
TTY: (315) 363-2364

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Voice: (315) 342-4088
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Concepts of Independence is excited to celebrate NYAIL’s BACK TO THE FUTURE Conference & Expo

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CONGRATULATIONS TO NYAIL AND ITS MEMBER INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTERS FOR ALL THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENTS WHICH ENABLE PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES TO BE FULLY INTEGRATED INTO THEIR COMMUNITIES
Center for Disability Rights Proudly Supports NYAIL in Commemorating the 25th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act!

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INTEGRATION • INDEPENDENCE • CIVIL RIGHTS
The Mission of the North Country Center for Independence is to empower people with disabilities to live more independent and productive lives, and to promote beneficial policies and community understanding of disability issues.

NCCI 2013 Advocacy Day photos have been posted in our photo gallery.

NCCI Join us for our Disability Self Advocacy Support Group this Wednesday. More info here:

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September is National Suicide Prevention Month, but groups that advocate for legalization of assisted suicide say that old, ill and disabled people should not get the same suicide prevention as everybody else. We in the disability rights movement disagree with their “better dead than disabled” policies, and we have a message:

**EQUALITY** Every human being is of equal value. Laws that treat some lives as worth protecting, and other lives as worth ending, are discriminatory.

**DIGNITY** Dignity isn’t a handout, and our doctors can’t give it to us in the form of a lethal prescription. We don’t need to die to have dignity – we already have it.

**DIVERSITY** Human diversity is a beautiful fact of life. There is no one perfect kind of human being that we need to strive to be like. We all belong in the human family.

**PRIDE** The disability community is a positive, creative force. We take pride in the strengths and accomplishments, and potential, of our community. Individually and collectively, we take pride in being disabled.

If you agree, please sign your organization on to Not Dead Yet’s Statement of Solidarity in Observance of Suicide Prevention Month. For more info: http://www.notdeadyet.org/2015/08/statement-of-solidarity-in-observance-of-suicide-prevention-month.html

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For State Plan Public Notice and Comment Information:
http://www.nysilc.org/

NYSILC Consumer Needs Assessment survey:
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2015_NYSILC_Consumer_Survey
(To be filled out by New Yorkers with Disabilities)
THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!

For any additional questions or information, please call 518-465-4650.