



Advocate January 2010 Center for Independent Living for Western Wisconsin, Inc.

Peer Power

Peer Power has expanded! We are still looking for Participants and Mentors in the Chippewa Falls area, but now are also looking for Participants and Mentors in the Eau Claire area. Our group will meet once a month to discuss and learn about transitions skills like housing, how to purchase a vehicle, how to advocate for our needs, what there is to do in our area. The participants should be in high school and have a disability. We are looking for mentors that can talk about their experience in transitioning from high school to beyond high school.



If you are interested in joining Peer Power either as a participant or a mentor please contact Sara Zwiefelhofer at 1-800-228-3287 or szwiefelhofer@cilww. You can also learn more about Peer Power by going to the state website at <http://ilcw.org/peerpower/index.htm>

The Jacki Rickert Medical Marijuana Act

Using medical cannabis to treat debilitating illnesses remains a crime under current Wisconsin law. The Jacki Rickert Medical Marijuana Act would protect Wisconsin patients from arrest and prosecution and allow them or a designated caregiver to possess and grow a small amount of cannabis for medical use.

The Jacki Rickert Medical Marijuana Act has been introduced by Rep. Mark Pocan (D-Madison) and Sen. Jon Erpenbach (D-Middleton).

Passing the JRMMA is a grass roots effort. If you are interested, contact your Wisconsin State Assembly Representatives and State Senators and ask where they stand on JRMMA when it gets a floor vote.

What comes next?

The two committees, the Assembly Committee on Public Health and the Senate Committee on Health, Health Insurance, Privacy, Property Tax Relief, and Revenue must now deliberate and vote on the bills. Only when the bills are voted out of committee will the JRMMA move to the floor of each chamber, the Assembly and the Senate, for a floor vote. (**Assembly Bill 554, Senate Bill 368**)

For More Information:

Is My Medicine Legal YET?

<http://www.immly.org/>

The Jacki Rickert Medical
Marijuana Act

<http://www.jrmma.org/>

National Organization for the
Reform of Marijuana Laws

<http://www.norml.org/>

Toll-free Legislative Hotline:

1-800-362-9472 (Mon-Friday 8am-4:30pm).

Who Are My Legislators? <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/w3asp/waml/waml.aspx> lets you look up your legislator's phone numbers, mailing and email addresses to easily get in touch!

CILWW 2009: ANOTHER GREAT YEAR!

- Staff worked with 564 individuals on their independent living goals.
- Provided information and referral to over 1900 callers
- Provided information on Independent Living services and CILWW at 162 presentations and displays reaching over 6500 people
- Staff spent over 350 hours collaborating with other groups and serving on committees to help spread the word on services and disability related issues.
- Coordinated two great summer events: Camp Quest, an overnight camping experience for youth with disabilities, and Fishing Has No Boundaries, a weekend fishing event in Lake Holcombe
- Provided nearly 10,000 one-way trips throughout our regional transportation program

BOARD MEMBERS NEEDED

The Center for Independent Living for Western Wisconsin, Inc. (CILWW), located in Menomonie, Wisconsin is looking for energetic, dynamic, committed persons with disabilities to become members of a governing Board of Directors for a Consumer Controlled organization serving people of any disability in 10 counties in Western Wisconsin. CILWW's mission is to advocate for and with persons with a disability to exercise their right to full participation in society. Board meets six times per year.

To inquire or apply, please contact Tammy at 715-233-1070 or email at popple@cilww.com

Medical Assistance Purchase Plan & Health and Employment Counseling

- Did you recently get approved for SSDI?
- Do you have a 2 year wait for Medicare?
- MAPP may be an option for you. If you have a disability determination and are working 1 hour or more per month for pay or in-kind support, this could be an option for you to purchase Medicaid. If you are not employed, you could become eligible by having an approved Health & Employment Counseling (HEC) plan.

WisLoan and Telework Programs

The Wisconsin Telework Loan Program is a statewide, alternative loan program that allows Wisconsin residents with disabilities to purchase computers and other equipment needed to work from home or from other remote sites away from the office, such as work on the road or at a telework center.

The WisLoan program offers loans for assistive technology. The loans help people buy equipment such as hearing aids, modified vehicles, wheelchairs and ramps. The program is open to Wisconsin residents of all ages who have a disability. There are no income requirements, and individuals are not required to exhaust personal or public funding. Under the program, banks provide loans at a fixed rate of 5% to qualified borrowers. Loan amounts depend on the item purchased and the ability to repay the loan.



Staff at the Center for Independent Living can answer your questions and take applications. For either program, contact CILWW at 800-228-3287 or 715-233-1070. cilww@cilww.com



TEPP OUTREACH GRANT 2010

The Center for Independent Living for Western Wisconsin received a grant from Wisconsin's Universal Service Fund program. The purpose of this grant is to promote awareness of the Telecommunications Equipment Purchase Program (TEPP) and to demonstrate specialized telecommunication equipment to people with disabilities, service providers and the community at large. CILWW maintains a device Loan and Demonstration Program which has specialized telephones and communication devices available for a person to try out to determine what works best for them. Staff will assist with TEPP) applications or provide information on purchasing equipment.

We have ordered new phones and accessories to offer more options. New items include: ClearSounds Bluetooth Neckloop, Serene Innovations UA-50 Business phone amplifier, Clarity D613, Clarity W425, Clarity Professional C4320, Clarity Professional C4210, Clear Sound A 300 DECT6.0, Serene CL-60, 5.8 GHZ VTech, Clarity XL 45 Professional, ClearSounds CSC600, Geemarc Power 60, Geemarc AmpliVOICE 50, Serene HD- 40 Outgoing Speech, USB Captel, large Display Talking Caller ID, Pocketalker Ultra, Good Vibrations receiver, and Sidekick Receiver kit. Our new phones will have a variety of features- too many to list! Phones and their features can be viewed at WWW.cdhh.org or call CILWW and a Resource Counselor can assist you with identifying a phone that might meet your needs.

If you are interested in trying specialized telephone equipment, please give us a call at 1-800-228-3287 or 715-233-1070 v/tty. Rice Lake office numbers are: 716-736-1800 or 866-419-1260 v/tty

WisTech Loan and Demonstration Program By Kay Sommerfeld

New items in the loan and demonstration program! If you are interested in trying or learning more about the devices in our program (over 2000 devices) please call the Center at 1-800-228-3287 or 715-233-1070 v/tty. Rice Lake office numbers are: 716-736-1800 or 866-419-1260 v/tty

UpLift-Lifting Commode: Lifting commode chair helps users gently seat and raise themselves. Provides safe, controlled support and lifts up to 80% of a user's weight. Height adjustable legs. Can be used stand alone or over a toilet. Automatically locks into position when fully depressed

Mattress Genie: Universal bed lift by Contour Products, Inc. transforms your mattress into an adjustable bed. With the touch of a button, you can raise your bed to the angle that best suits your need. Lifting device is placed under your mattress and inflates to raise bed. Twin, Double and Queen size available. CILWW purchased a twin size for demonstration purposes.

Press –On™ One Handed Nail Clipper: Nail clipper can be used with only one hand. Gentle pressure on the lever easily clips nails.

Grip Mate: Built up holder for eating, writing and grooming utensils. Has Velcro strap to assist with gripping

Tek-Pal 6 Button Remote: Palm sized remote with large lighted buttons is easy to see and use.

Four in One Opener: Single tool can open pop tops, screw tops, bottle caps, and twist off tops

Curve Talking Clock: Easy to read LCD display, audio time report, hourly female time announcement and easy set alarm

Reizen Talking Atomic Alarm Clock: Full range female voice time & date announcement, automatically changes for daylight savings time, hi/low volume switch, optional hourly time announcement from 8am-10pm. Receives accurate time from the US Atomic Clock

Indoor –Outdoor Tri –View Thermometer w/clock: Easy to read ¾" display

DISABILITY RIGHTS WISCONSIN OFFERS FAMILY CARE AND IRIS OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM

Do you need help in understanding your Family Care, Partnership or IRIS services or benefits?

Are you confused about your rights under Family Care, Partnership or IRIS?

Are you satisfied with your care plan or services?

Are you receiving services that meet your needs and support your outcomes?

Do you have questions regarding your cost share?

Disability Rights Wisconsin's (DRW's) *Family Care and IRIS Ombudsman Program* is now available. It can provide assistance regarding eligibility, services or other Family Care, Partnership or IRIS concerns. The Wisconsin Board on Aging and Long Term Care (BOALTC) will continue to provide its ombudsman services to Family Care and Partnership enrollees and potential enrollees age 60 and over.

An Ombudsman (OM-budz-man) is an advocate. If you are applying for or receiving Family Care, Partnership or IRIS, you are eligible for DRW's Ombudsman services. The ombudsman can assist you whether you are living in your own home, a supported apartment or another residential setting. If you are applying for or already enrolled in the Family Care, Partnership or IRIS programs and have a question or concern, call DRW at one of the toll-free numbers at the end of this article.

The Family Care Ombudsman Program offers many services, including:

- Investigating complaints
- Resolving and mediating issues
- Providing information and education on consumer rights
- Assisting in negotiating care plans
- Appealing denials of services or changes in services that you don't agree with
- Working with enforcement and regulatory agencies

The Family Care and IRIS Ombudsman Program has staff in DRW's Madison, Milwaukee and Rice Lake offices and is available to advocate for Family Care, Partnership and IRIS participants in *any* Wisconsin Family Care county. It can help Family Care, Partnership and IRIS enrollees or potential enrollees, their guardians and families with issues such as:

- **Development of a Care Plan that supports your goals**: Were you actively involved in developing your care plan? Were your concerns and questions addressed? Does your team understand what kind of life you want your long term care services to help you achieve? Did you get good information about all of your services (such as employing your own caregivers)? Were you given the opportunity to direct some or all of your services (such as employing your own caregivers)? Do you understand how decisions about your services were made?
- **Reduction in Services**: Have you requested services that are not provided? Were any previous services changed or reduced? If so, do you understand why?
- **Employment**: Are you interested in having a job or working toward employment? Are you getting support in getting or keeping a job?
- **Living Arrangement**: Are you living where you want? If you want to move, have you told your care team about that? Is your care team helping you live where you want? With whom you want?
- **Young Adults Moving from School to Adulthood and enrolling in Family Care or Partnership**: If you are at least 17 years and 9 months old, do you know that you might be

eligible for Family Care or Family Care Partnership? Are you getting information about your options for services?

If you are age 18-59, are applying for or are enrolled in the Family Care, Partnership or IRIS programs and have a question or concern, you can contact the Family Care Ombudsman Program at the Disability Rights office nearest you:

Madison: 608-267-0214; Toll-free: 800-928-8778

Milwaukee: 414-773-4646; Toll-free: 800-708-3034

Rice Lake: 715-736-1232; Toll-free: 877-338-3724

Disability Rights Wisconsin provides reasonable accommodations upon request. Language translation services are available.

Disability Rights Wisconsin is a private non-profit organization. Founded in 1977, it was designated by the Governor to ensure the rights of all state citizens with disabilities through individual advocacy and systems change. DRW is part of a national system of federally-mandated independent disability agencies. It serves people of all ages, including people with developmental disabilities, people with mental illness, people with physical or sensory disabilities, and people with traumatic brain injury. DRW respects the cultural values and personal choices of those seeking our services.

For more information about Family Care or other disability advocacy issues, please visit our website at: www.disabilityrightswi.org

Family Care and Partnership give you several choices for help if you have a concern about your service plan. You can visit the DHS web site for a listing of options:

<http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/lcicare/>

Peer Specialist Employment Opportunities in the Mental Health System

Have you ever wondered how you could use your mental health/illness experiences as a tool for employment? Have you ever thought about how your experiences could help others? Did you know that you are gaining valuable knowledge that can have an impact on the mental health system here in Wisconsin as well as have an impact in peoples' lives? Have you considered getting paid for what you may be currently doing as a volunteer? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, then becoming a peer specialist may be an employment choice for you!

Read below on how a person can become trained to be a peer specialist...

Peer Specialist Training

To become a peer specialist, according to the META curriculum, a person would need to complete 70 hours of training that is delivered over 5 weeks. This may seem like a lot of hours and dedication; however, once a person graduates from the training, they become eligible to take the certification exam.

If interested in the training, please contact me at: (work) 414-481-2449, (cell) 414-708-8287 or by e-mail at cerna_75@yahoo.com. GEP has not determined when and where the training will take place; but, we will keep you posted!!! Thank You and I look forward to hearing from you, Carmen Cerna, Technical Assistance Coordinator, GEP.

Wisconsin's Property Tax Deferral Program

http://www.legis.state.wi.us/lfb/informationalpapers/26_property%20tax%20deferral%20loan%20program.pdf

This is a program administered by Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA) for those who are a homeowner 65 & older with a total household of no more than \$20,000. The max annual loan is \$2,500. If there is a co-owner or spouse, the other person must either be at least 60 or either person has a permanent disability. The lien limit on the home is 33% of the assessed value, so if the person already has other liens on the home (such as a mortgage), it is likely the person will not qualify for this program.

Think of it as a home equity loan that doesn't have to be repaid until the ownership transfers or the participant doesn't live in the home anymore. The loan, with interest, is to be repaid from the proceeds of the estate or the sale of the property. The person can continue using this program year to year as long as the household qualifies and the amount of liens on the home is not more than 33% of the value. The home must have insurance coverage, and flood insurance if necessary, with WHEDA being permitted to be a lienholder on the policy.

There were only 78 loans made in 2008, down from a peak of 486 in 1993. The drop is due to changes in the program such as a \$75 fee for a title search and a change to how the interest rate is calculated (not to mention the title search discovering some households didn't qualify due to other liens on the home). This program can be used for special assessments as well.

The contact person at WHEDA in Madison is Vivian Hancock at 608-264-6855. Please read the link to make sure the referral is appropriate. Unfortunately, WHEDA doesn't have a snazzy brochure or any information available online.

Brian Peters, Housing Policy Advocate

Independence *First*

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brianind1@yahoo.com (alternate e-mail)

(866) 909-6917 Toll-Free via Video Relay
Service

(414) 937-5912

414-291-7525 FAX

For Sale:

Small "Pride" button back lift chair, med. Blue, gently used by non-smoker, \$300
Call Julia at 715-235-3558.

Large Bicycle playing cards, \$10 per pack, have 4 packs,
Expanding Door hinge, sets of two, adds two inches to most doorways, have 7 packs, \$23.15 per set.
Call Della at CILWW 715-233-1070 ext. 10, afternoons only.

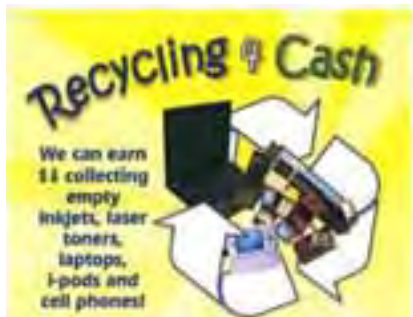
New Lift Chair, never used, maroon, non-smoker. \$960. Call Tammy 715-829-5004.

Donation:

Electric wheelchair, call Glen at 715-419-0902

Scooter, to donate for parts, Model is Bruno Cub, electric, 6 years old. Call Paul 715-231-2141

Recycle Those Ink Cartridges



Help CILWW earn money while improving the future of our world through recycling. CIL participates year round in a fundraising program that promotes a way of being environmentally responsible and to share in the goal of helping to preserve our environment.

Ink Cartridges can be turned into CIL at any time. Please contact for future drop off areas and thanks for your participation.

715-233-1070 or 800-228-3287

Safelink Wireless

Safelink Wireless is a government supported program that provides a free cell phone and airtime each month for **income-eligible** customers. Wisconsin residents are eligible for a free wireless phone and 60 minutes per month. <https://www.safelinkwireless.com/EnrollmentPublic/home.aspx>

Phone Numbers: For Enrollment Support: **1-800-977-3768** For Technical Support: **1-800-378-1684**

Correspondence: SafeLink Wireless, Attention: Executive Resolution Department, 9700 N.W. 112th Avenue, Miami, FL 33178

Hours: Monday - Saturday, 8:00 AM to 10:00 PM, EST Sunday, 8:00 AM to 7 PM, EST

Budget Blueprint

Pamphlet available from CUNA.org called Budget Blueprint Here is the link to the online version of the budget worksheet. <http://hffo.cuna.org/33330/article/555/html>

Once you click on the link to the worksheet, click on the circle V to show the detail list of expenses i.e. shelter. Click on circle V for rent/mort., property tax, utilities, heat etc. Happy Budgeting!

Legal Webinar Series

The following information is forwarded to you by the DBTAC-Great Lakes ADA Center (www.adagreatlakes.org) for your information:

The DBTAC-Great Lakes ADA Center invites you to join us for the 1st session in the 2009-2010 Legal Webinar Series. All sessions are offered free of charge.

Registration Information: On-line at www.ada-audio.org (Choose "Legal Webinar")

Questions regarding the program and/or registration can be directed to adaconferences@adagreatlakes.org or by calling 877-232-1990 (V/TTY)

changing the world one gift at a time



"Our mission is to build a worldwide gifting movement that reduces waste, saves precious resources & eases the burden on our landfills while enabling our members to benefit from the strength of a larger community." <http://www.freecycle.org/faq/>

**CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING
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CILWW MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Center for Independent Living for Western Wisconsin, Inc. is to empower persons with a disability to achieve full participation in society. The mission embodies the philosophy that this may be achieved through advocacy and provision of quality consumer controlled service.

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Visit Our Website:

www.cilww.com