



Monday Morning

June 2006

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NJCDD hires new executive director

The New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities has hired Alison M. Lozano, Ph.D, M.P.A., as its new executive director. Lozano, has been the executive director for the past five years for the Utah Developmental Disabilities Council. She is expected to assume her new role in August.

"As a community of advocates, we must be willing to think 'outside the box' to educate and inform the public..."

Lozano is a graduate of Texas Christian University in Fort Worth. She received her Master of Science in Social Work from the University of Texas at Arlington. She earned her Ph.D. in Social Work and Master of Public Administration from the University of Utah in Salt Lake City. She has more than 30 years experience in the field of developmental disabilities with extensive fiscal and grants management skills.

Before taking the position of executive director at the Utah DD Council, Lozano was an adjunct professor and research assistant at the College of Social Work, University of Utah. Before that, she was the technical assistance coordinator at the Boling Center for Developmental

Disabilities at the University of Tennessee in Memphis. She also is a former member of the Tennessee DD Council.

The selection of Lozano comes after a national search conducted by NJCDD over a period of several months. The final candidates were asked to submit written responses to a variety of questions from the Council's search committee.

Lozano wrote that the most critical issue facing individuals with developmental disabilities is, "lack of respect from the community and society in general." She related a story of a young man with Down Syndrome who is a member of the Utah DD Council. The man was taunted by two teenagers while riding a public train in Salt Lake City because he, "was immediately identified as being different from themselves."

"The solution to this specific problem of lack of respect is to educate the public," wrote Lozano. "As a community of advocates, we must be willing to think 'outside the box' to educate and inform the public regarding the rights of people with developmental disabilities to be fully integrated into our communities and society as a whole."

Training seminar open to all Monday Morning members

The Monday Morning Project and the Northeast ADA & IT Center will conduct a Polling Place Accessibility Certification Training Seminar, June 23, 2006, 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., at the Lafayette Yard Marriott Conference Hotel, Trenton, NJ. The presenter will be Shammi Carr, Northeast ADA & IT Center, and the keynote address will be given by Jim Dickson, Disability Vote Project, Vice President for Governmental Affairs, American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD).

This is an opportunity to learn how the ADA relates to polling places. Participants will also be trained and certified in conducting accessible polling place surveys in their own community. An ADA-trained certificate will be awarded to each participant. Lunch and refreshments will be provided.

The seminar is open to all members of Monday Morning, but space is limited to 80 people. Please call Luke Koppisch as soon as possible to reserve your space. Telephone: 609-777-3293. Fax: 609-292-7114. E-mail: luke.koppisch@njddc.org



Looking for members

Somerset and Gloucester Counties are now forming Monday Morning Networks and are looking for new members. There will be an "Open Mic" event in Somerset County on Monday, July 10, at the Franklin Township Library, 485 Demott Lane, Somerset, from 7 to 9 p.m. There will also be one in Gloucester County on Wednesday, July 12 at the West Deptford Public Library on 420 Crown Point Road in Thorofare, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. These are opportunities for people with disabilities, family members and supporters to speak out about the issues that affect those living in their coun-

ties, such as transportation, transition services, employment and ADA enforcement. For more information for Somerset County, contact Jackie Jackson, Monday Morning Network facilitator, at 732-422-8998 or jackeejackson@aol.com.

In Gloucester County, contact Nan Ivins, Monday Morning Network facilitator, at 856-845-4034 or nan.ivins@comcast.net.



Direct Support Worker bill introduced in Congress

Today, millions of people with disabilities count on direct support workers to assist them in managing their daily lives so they can live, work and volunteer in their communities. These workers assist people with disabilities with daily medica-

tions, dressing, preparing and eating meals, getting to work, gaining life skills and handling daily affairs.

Unfortunately, these positions have as high as a 75 percent turnover rate each year because of poor wages and high job demands, putting the quality of life for people with disabilities at risk. Meanwhile, demand for these workers is growing—hundreds of thousands of people with disabilities are waiting for services and the demand will grow 62 percent by 2010 as these Americans get older.

Representatives Lee Terry (R-NE) and Lois Capps (D-CA) have introduced the Direct Support Professionals Fairness and Security Act (H.R. 1264). The bill is gaining momentum in Congress and currently has 58 co-sponsors.

The Arc of the United States has joined United Cerebral Palsy, ANCOR and Lutheran Services in America in a national advocacy campaign to enact this bill for people with disabilities nationwide.

Send a letter to your member(s) of the House to make sure people with disabilities get the quality supports and services they need and deserve. For more information, log onto <http://www.thearc.org/ppc/capinsider.doc>.

NJCDD New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities

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Monday Morning is a compilation of news stories from various sources, organized to provide information about proposed federal and state policies, programs and laws to New Jersey's grass-roots disability community. The opinions expressed are not necessarily representative of the opinions of all or a majority of the members of the N.J. Council on Developmental Disabilities.

Monday Morning is an initiative of the "Monday Morning Project," an effort by disability community advocates to mobilize people with disabilities to preserve the rights they are entitled to under current federal law; to preserve vital support services; and to give people with disabilities and their advocates a major role in determining how federal funds and matching state dollars are used.

Legislation planned to eliminate Medicare's "in the home" restriction on mobility devices

Medicare currently only covers those devices that are needed to complete certain activities inside the



beneficiary's home, but will not pay for devices that a beneficiary may need to move beyond the front door and access his or her community. To fix this discriminatory restriction, Senator Jeff Bingaman (D-NM) has drafted legislation that would allow beneficiaries with long-term mobility needs to access devices that are necessary for "domestic, vocational, and community" activities.

FY 2007 Budget Resolution in doubt

The House Republican leadership remains unable to bring a Fiscal Year 2007 Budget Resolution to the floor for final action. Even if the House does put together enough Republican votes to pass its version, the task of achieving a compromise with the Senate appears insurmountable. If Congress fails to pass a budget resolution, when appropriations subcommittees prepare legislation to set spending limits for each US government department (such as Labor, Education, Human Services, etc) they will not have guidance or spending allocations. Each appropriation

bill will be subject to increases or decreases from the President's proposed budget, because differences have not been resolved with a budget resolution.

Bill would provide emergency housing vouchers to Katrina victims

The Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2007 (H.R. 4939), a bill that funds the war in Iraq, Hurricane Katrina relief and various "earmarked" projects, is expected to be debated by a House and Senate conference committee. This bill is important for people with disabilities affected by Hurricane Katrina and their families because conferees will consider a provision to provide 4,500 Section 8 project-based vouchers targeted specifically for permanent supportive housing. The provision is in the Senate's version of the Emergency Supplemental bill, but not the House version.

The House and Senate conference committee was expected to vote on the emergency supplemental spending bill when Congress returned from its Memorial Day recess.

Has the ADA worked for you?

The national network of ADA & IT Technical Assistance Centers (DBTACs) seeks input on personal experiences with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Feedback on experiences in employment, building access and access to public services will help the Centers to identify train-



ing gaps and issues needing increased technical assistance. Visit the online form and share your experiences—what has worked for you, what barriers you still encounter, and how the ADA has made a difference in your life. The survey will only take a few minutes and is confidential. The only identification requested is the state in which you reside.

Visit www.adata.org (the survey is on the center of the webpage, click on: Share Your Opinions!).

More than 50 million Americans report some level of disability

About 18 percent of Americans in 2002 said they had a disability, and 12 percent had a severe disability, according to a report released by the U.S. Census Bureau. Among people with disabilities, more than half of those 21 to 64 years old had a job, more than 4-in-10 of those ages 15 to 64 used a computer at home and a quarter of those age 25 to 64 had a college degree.

Approximately 51.2 million

(continued on page 4)

Families voice their concern over inadequate funding for Family Support services

As reported in the last issue of *Monday Morning*, the proposed state budget for the 2007 fiscal year did not include increased funding in the state's Division of Developmental Disabilities budget for families who care for members with developmental disabilities living at home.

Since that proposal became public, the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities has held a series of forums around the state to give families the opportunity to voice their concern to local legislators on state Senate and Assembly budget and appropriations committees. Hundreds of family members told stories of their efforts to care for loved ones with developmental disabilities and their disapproval of possibly being forced to group homes or other institutional centers, which would re-

ceive more funding.

On May 8, Human Services Commissioner Kevin Ryan announced at the Senate Budget and Appropriations hearing that he would set apart \$10 million of the \$50 million identified for individuals leaving developmental centers, with \$6.2 million directed towards individuals requesting waiting list services (e.g. Real Life Choices and residential placement) and \$3.8 million targeted for support to families.

Statewide Family Support Coordinator Monique Wilson said it's a good step in the right direction. "There still needs to be an annual appropriation in the division's budget for the services that are crucial to keep families together, so that families don't have to fight every year for funding."

U.S. Census bureau report on disability

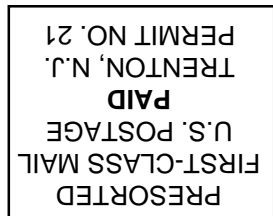
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people said they had a disability; for 32.5 million of them, the disability was severe.

About 56 percent of people ages 21 to 64 who had a disability were employed at some point in the one-year period prior to the interview. People with a severe disability status reported the lowest employment rate (42 percent). This compared with the employment rates of people with a nonsevere disability (82 percent) and those with no reported disability (88 percent).

Among other findings, people with a severe disability had an increased likelihood of having Medicare or Medicaid coverage, living below the poverty level, reporting their health status to be "fair or poor," receiving public assistance and having a household income below \$20,000.

Return Service Requested



monday morning
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