



Serving Kansans with disabilities

Message from the Executive Director

By Chad A. Wilkins

This year has been a whirlwind of activity here at RCIL as we celebrated 25th years of service with 25 events. We hosted 10 legislative lunch & learn events in the communities where we have offices to meet with legislators and discuss the budget situation. On July 24th, each of our offices celebrated the 19th Anniversary of the passing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) by inviting consumers to join us for a picnic. This fall, RCIL was proud to host 4 *Walking & Rolling with RCIL* events to raise awareness about accessibility issues that people with disabilities face and to promote our Build A Ramp Program. Our own Adam Burnett kicked off the Walk & Roll event in Emporia, Miss Wheelchair Kansas 2009 Marie Clement kicked off the Walk & Roll events in Iola and El Dorado, and Ray Petty of the Great Plains ADA Center was our keynote speaker at the last event in Paola. We had the pleasure of concluding our silver anniversary year with a staff celebration at the historic Granada Theater in downtown Emporia. Staff were recognized for their hard work and dedication, had lunch, and we were all able to watch the movie "*Darius Goes West*" on the big screen. The next 25 years are sure to promise opportunities and challenges. We look forward to enhancing our current programs and services as well as developing new and innovative resources for people with disabilities.

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New Ottawa Location

The RCIL office in Ottawa has moved is now located at **233 W. 23rd**. An open house and ribbon cutting is being planned. More details to come!



The SILCK/KACIL Public Policy Committee has developed a website that has factual statistics and information that individuals can use to make sure that the word gets out that Home and Community Based Services and Centers for Independent Living can tolerate no more cuts! The website is WWW.THEKANSASTRUTHIS.COM. When you look at this website, you will most likely be shocked to learn how much money the state of Kansas can save by giving more people the choice to be on HCBS services instead of forced into institutional care. You might also be shocked to find out how much money is lost every year in the reduction of taxes. This website has up to date news articles, consumer stories and information that can be used in the education of the legislature, the media, and the general public. There is a downloadable booklet that can be given out as well as talking points, videos, and stories from Kansans with disabilities, and there is a feedback form if you do get to share this with your state Senator or House Representative. This year we will be up against lobbying groups that will push for no new taxes and no increase in any taxes. They will say that Kansas programs like HCBS and other social services should be cut more and that Kansas is tax poor. This simply isn't true and the 1500+ people on the Physical Disability waiting list, the 2100+ people on the Developmental Disabilities waiting list, and the 200+ children on the Autism waiting list will tell you, there is nothing left to cut. Please take a few moments and look over this website, WWW.THEKANSASTRUTHIS.COM.

TALKING POINTS CHECKLIST

1. We want quality services, fair taxes and an opportunity to be employed.
2. No More Cuts!
3. Home & Community Based services are 1/3 to 1/2 the cost of institutional care.
4. These services are crucial for people with disabilities who want to go back to work or enter the job market.
5. We have cut taxes enough.
6. General Property taxes from 1998 through 2010 have been reduced by over \$4.9 Billion dollars.
7. Kansas is not a high tax state. In 2007, KS was ranked 26th in terms of tax burden on individual Kansans. (1 is the highest tax burden)

Photos from our 25th Events!



1984-2009: A quarter century of supporting choice

New Faces! New Roles!



Please welcome the latest additions to RCIL's Targeted Case Management Team. Pictured from the left: Angela Ndhlovu will work from the Topeka office; Macy Gaines recently went from part-time to a full-time TCM position and works in the El Dorado office; and Angie Cummings will work from the Fort Scott office.

Also, Ashley Chance was hired as the Office Assistant in the Fort Scott office.



RCIL launches into Cyberspace!

Join RCIL on one of these social networking and virtual information sites to learn about what RCIL is doing and important disability issues!

Facebook-Become a fan of RCIL on our group page! Get updates, see pictures of events and learn what we have going on next!

If you are already on Facebook you can find us under groups as RCIL (Resource Center for Independent Living), then click on become a fan!

If you are not on Facebook, go to www.facebook.com, create a profile for yourself (it's free!), then in the search field that is in the top right hand corner of the page type in RCIL (Resource Center for Independent Living) and hit enter, then click on become a fan underneath the RCIL logo!

Twitter-Receive tweets from RCIL on what we are doing and important info and events that are happening in the disability community!

If you are already on Twitter, click on Find People and type in RCIL and follow!

If you are not on Twitter, go to www.twitter.com and click on Sign Up Now (it's free!), fill out the info, you can skip the next step after that if you want and then click finish. Once you are on your Twitter home page, go to the Find People option at the top of the page and type in RCIL, find the RCIL logo and click on follow!

NetPals-Become a member of our email group and receive emails about events, resources and advocacy updates!

Go to the RCIL Website www.rcilinc.org and click on the Get Involved tab on the left hand side, then at the bottom of that page click on the RCIL Net Pals link, put in your email address and your name. You will receive a confirmation email asking you to click on a link, after that you will be signed up!

ENROLLMENT PERIOD FOR MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLANS

(PART D) NOVEMBER 15 – DECEMBER 31 EACH YEAR

Anyone who has Medicare hospital insurance (Part A), medical insurance (Part B) or a Medicare Advantage plan (Part C) is eligible for prescription drug coverage (Part D). Joining a Medicare prescription drug plan is voluntary, and you pay an additional monthly premium for the coverage. You can wait to enroll in a Medicare Part D plan if you have other prescription drug coverage, but if you don't have prescription coverage that is, on average, at least as good as Medicare prescription drug coverage, you will pay a penalty if you wait to join later. You will have to pay this penalty for as long as you have Medicare prescription drug coverage.

People who become newly entitled to Medicare should enroll during their initial enrollment period (as explained under [Signing up for Medicare](#)). After the initial enrollment periods, the annual coordinated election period to enroll or make provider changes will be November 15 – December 31 each year. There also will be special enrollment periods for some situations.

For more information call the Social Security Administration directly at **1-800-772-1213** or visit them on-line at www.socialsecurity.gov or call your local RCIL office.

RCIL Friends Group Schedule Current RCIL Friends meetings

2nd Wednesday of the month - **Osage City**
 3rd Tuesday of the month - **Topeka**
 3rd Tuesday of the month - **Ft. Scott**
 3rd Wednesday of the month - **Overland Park**
 3rd Friday of the month - **Wyandotte**
 4th Tuesday of the month - **Iola**
 4th Tuesday of the month - **Ottawa**
 4th Wednesday of the month - **El Dorado**
 4th Tuesday of the month - **Emporia**
 4th Monday of the month - **Eureka**

“RCIL Friends” are peer groups of people with disabilities that come together for social and educational events. All RCIL consumers are invited to join in the fun and fellowship. Call your local RCIL office for more details.

All RCIL offices will be closed on the following dates:

Thursday & Friday, December 24-25, 2009
Thursday, December 31, 2009
Friday, January 1, 2010
Monday, January 18, 2010

For consumers that utilize personal care services, please remind your PCAs of the cutoff dates for timesheet submission:

- Submit timesheets using the 3rd and 18th cut off dates for the holiday season.
- The cut off to be paid before Christmas is December 18th timesheets received after that date will not be paid until January 12, 2010.
- Emailing or faxing timesheets might be better than mailing during the holiday season.



Ms. Wheelchair Kansas Seeking Contestants for the



Ms. Wheelchair Kansas is encouraging wheelchair mobile women to enter in the contest to become Ms. Wheelchair Kansas 2010. Eligible contestants are between the ages of 21 and 60, utilize a wheelchair for 100% of daily community mobility, have lived in Kansas for at least six months, and be willing to fulfill the MWKS mission. Completed applications are due Jan. 7, 2010. For more information visit www.mswheelchairkansas.com or contact the state coordinator at 785.267.5982.



Ms. Wheelchair Kansas 2009
Marie Clement



PO Box 257
Osage City, KS 66523

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**Resource Center for
Independent Living**

1137 Laing
Osage City, KS 66523

Phone:

(785) 528-3105

(800) 580-7245

TDD (785) 528-3106

Fax:

(785) 528-3665

Satellite Office Locations:

Arkansas City
126 E. Washington
620-442-0775

El Dorado
615 ½ N. Main
316-322-7853

Fort Scott
710 W. 8th, Suite 201
620-223-5670

Ottawa – New Location!
233 W. 23rd
785-242-1805

Topeka
519 SW 37th Street
785-267-1717

Burlington
410 Cumberland
620-364-2263

Emporia
625 Merchant, Suite 238
620-342-1648

Iola
726 W. Patterson Ave
620-365-8144

Overland Park
10200 W. 75th, Suite 100
913-362-6618

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.rcilinc.org

TAKE ACTION NOW!!!

This is an excerpt from an email from Shannon Jones the Executive Director of the Statewide Independent Living Council of Kansas. Please read this and start making calls, writing letters and sending emails to your legislators. These cuts will most likely force wage reductions for Personal Care Attendants at **ALL agencies** across the state. This includes not only Centers for Independent Living, but home health agencies, assisted living organizations, and other agencies that provide Home and Community Based Services under Medicaid. It will take every last contact to make a difference!

“As you know Governor Parkinson announced \$260M worth of budget cuts. All of these cuts will be applied to the current fiscal year we are now in, 2010.

The budget director, Duane Goossen announced that fiscal year 2011 looks even worse, stating 'we are well beyond the point of looking for efficiencies in state government, we are in an unprecedented situation for 2011'...due to the fact that federal stimulus money will be gone and revenues have continued to drop for the past 4 years.

The 10% Medicaid rate reductions will apply to all Medicaid services delivered on or after January 1, 2010. This means every service delivered under the HCBS waiver program will be reduced by 10%; personal services, sleep cycle support and assistive services (I have no idea how they will do that one), etc. The 10% cuts apply to any and all Medicaid services; Dr's, hospitals, nursing facility care, etc., etc.

These cuts, on top of the reductions already made are going to demolish the whole system of community services.

We need everyone and I mean everyone, Personal Care Attendants, consumers, staff, and board members to call their legislators to say '**No More Cuts**', respond to news articles with letters to the editor, then call your legislators again!!

What we need is revenue, in whatever form it takes; repealing of sales tax exemptions, cigarette tax increases, income tax, whatever it takes!!!”

**For more information visit The Kansas Truth Is
website: www.thekansastruthis.com**

If you have any questions or need help with contacting a legislator please contact:

Kathy Cooper, Legislative Advocate
Resource Center for Independent Living, Inc.
913-362-6618 or 877-439-2847 or via email cooper@rcilinc.org