



ICED NEWS

Interagency Committee On Employees With Disabilities

ICED HOLDS 2010 LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION

The State Interagency Committee on Employees with Disabilities (ICED) held a successful legislative reception in Springfield on April 27, 2010. Over 50 people attended the evening event, including legislators, state employees with disabilities, advocates, and friends. The Committee's legislative awards for 2010 were presented at the conclusion of the event.

ICED Co-Chair Rocco J. Claps (Department of Human Rights' Director) welcomed the group and set forth the Committee's priority in the coming year as employing greater numbers of people with disabilities through the state Successful Disability Opportunities Program. In her remarks, ICED Co-Chair Michelle R.B. Saddler (Department of Human Services' Secretary) discussed Governor Quinn's "Put Illinois to Work" employment program which is estimated to create 15,000 jobs around the state. Division of Rehabilitation Services Director Robert Kilbury spoke about the Committee's history and the importance of jobs for people with disabilities in Illinois.

Representative Esther Golar was presented with the Committee's 2010 Carl Suter Award for the legislator of the year. Representative Sara Feigenholtz received a certificate of appreciation for her work on behalf of people

with disabilities throughout Illinois. The Committee also honored former Representative Kathleen Ryg, who was unable to attend the event. Each of ICED's honorees sponsored legislation in the 2009 session that benefited ICED's mission of increasing employment of persons with disabilities.

Among the dignitaries present at the event were, Jonathan Monken, Acting Illinois State Police Director, Terry Scrogum, Executive Director of the Arts Council, and Daniel Stralka, Executive Director of the Civil Service Commission.

The reception was planned by a subcommittee headed by Carlos Charneco, of the Department of Employment Security, who served as the event's Master of Ceremonies. John Allen was the ICED photographer for the event.

ICED, a committee composed of 5 agencies, Departments of Human Rights, Human Services, Central Management Services, Veterans' Affairs, and the Civil Service Commission, and four employees, was created to increase independence and access for state employees with disabilities. Other agencies, including the Department of Employment Security, the Council of Developmental Disabilities, and the Secretary of State's office, assist the Committee with its work.



DHS Secretary Saddler & DHR Director Claps present Rep. Esther Golar (center) with the Carl Suter Award



DHS Secretary Saddler & DHR Director Claps present Rep. Sara Feigenholtz (center) with a Certificate of Recognition

ICED AWARDS CEREMONY

Each year the Committee hosts an Awards Ceremony and Reception to honor individuals and organizations that have promoted independence and civil rights for people throughout the state as well as promoting both the spirit and intent of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Award categories this year included State Employee of the Year, State Agency, and Nonprofit Organization.

State Employee of the Year

Was presented to Larry Stockdale, Department of Employment Security. During his thirty year career as a Veterans Representative with the Department of Employment Security (DES), Mr. Stockdale has worked with veterans with disabilities like himself, who needed assistance with finding employment, benefits, and training. Mr. Stockdale has put forth the effort to assist veterans with disabilities not only in his office, but also in state prisons. He has volunteered to speak with veterans with disabilities during local deployments, stand-downs, job fairs for returning veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan. According to DES, Mr. Stockdale has passed up opportunities to move into positions which offered a better career ladder, because, as he stated, Mr. Stockdale preferred to assist veterans with disabilities with their needs. The community of veterans with disabilities has profited over the past thirty years from Mr. Stockdale's contributions. He has proven to be a stable and dedicated advocate for veterans with disabilities.

State Employee Certificate Winners

Mshenda Diming, Investigator I, DHR, Gregg Newberry, Human Services Caseworker, DHS, Benro Ogunyipe, Accessibility Specialist, DHS and Tommy Saunders, Office Clerk, DHS

Organization of the Year

Was presented to The Heart of a Marine Foundation, Roy and Georgette Frank, Directors. The mission of The Heart of a Marine Foundation is to provide comfort, support, financial assistance, and educational resources to improve the quality of life of military personnel and veterans from all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces, veterans, and their families. The Foundation's directors, Roy and Georgette Frank, developed the organization in memory and tribute to their son Lance Corporal Phillip E. Frank, who was killed in action April 8, 2004.

In addition to providing scholarships, the Foundation has two important projects, the Aphasia Project and the Walking Tall Project. The Aphasia Project provides computers and Aphasia Software to polytrauma units within the Veterans Administration Hospitals nationwide, including Edward Hines Jr. V.A. Hospital in Hines, Illinois. The Walking Tall Project was born out of the need to reduce the amount of hand irritants and blisters due to Shepard canes, an orthopedic hand grip, ergonomically sculptured and adjustable staff were the answer for those needing assistance with walking canes. The orthopedic canes have been donated to Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Bethesda Naval Hospital, and to any military member or veteran in need. In fact, Roy Frank travels with the canes in his car and will supply one to any veteran or military member in need he meets.

Organization of the Year Certificate Winners

Disabilityworks, Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce, Living Independently Now Center for Independent Living, Self-Employment Resources Network, and Transitions of Western Illinois



Pictured left to right are: Jonathan Wheat, disabilityworks, Ray Luna, DHR, Roy and Georgette Frank, Heart of a Marine, Tommy Saunders, DHS, and Gregg Newberry, DHS

ICED INTERNSHIP PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

We are excited to report that the Interagency Committee on Employees with Disabilities (ICED) is continuing its Internship Program for Students with Disabilities for the 11th year. ICED, in conjunction with the Illinois Department of Human Services' Division of Rehabilitation Services recruit eager and well-qualified students with diverse skills and abilities who will be matched with the needs of your agency. Since the inception of this program, both state agencies and students with disabilities have reported positive outcomes. Agencies are free to place interns anytime during the year, based on their needs; however, most placements are made in the summer. They are hired as student or summer workers and typically the cost is spread over two fiscal years (June, July, and August).

Recruitment and initial screening of interns will be conducted by rehabilitation agencies. Candidates for internships in agencies under the jurisdiction of the Governor must complete the CMS-100 application form. Separate application forms may be necessary for jobs in the offices of the other constitutional officers. A list with brief biographical information of all candidates for internship positions will be prepared and distributed to all agencies under the jurisdiction of the Governor and other constitutional officers.

ICED will ensure that any support needed for the success of the intern or student worker and your agency will be provided. Such assistance could include assistance from a placement counselor or reasonable accommodation.

For State Agencies that list jobs on www.work.illinois.gov we encourage listing the student/summer jobs under the title "Student Services".

Thank you for your continuing support of the committee. If you have any questions about the program, please call or e-mail Marva Campbell-Pruitt, at (312) 636-0390, or Marva.Campbell-Pruitt@Illinois.gov



JUSTICE NEWS

ADA Consent Decree Near in Illinois Case Involving Institutionalization

The U.S. Justice Department recently filed a brief in support of an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) consent decree that will move many Illinois residents with mental illness from institutionalized care to community living. The Illinois lawsuit, involving a state-wide class of individuals living in large, privately-owned institutions for mental illness, alleged that the residents of these institutions can live independently in the community with proper support. By segregating people with mental illness in institutions, the state has violated federal law, according to the Justice Department.

The Justice Department's brief, and two other similar ones involving cases in Florida and New Jersey, alleges that the three states are failing to comply with the ADA and the Supreme Court's decision in *Olmstead v. L.C.*, a decision that has often been called the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision of the disability rights movement. Last year, President Obama issued a proclamation launching the "Year of Community Living," and directed the administration to redouble its enforcement efforts. The Justice Department supports the Illinois consent decree because it advances the important public interest in community integration.

Bipartisan Measure Would Take 'Retarded' Out Of Federal Lexicon

At the end of last year, U.S. Senator Barbara Mikulski, of Maryland, with bipartisan support, introduced Rosa's Law, which would change the term 'mentally retarded' in federal laws and programs to 'intellectual disability.' The bill is named for Rosa Marceline, a Maryland resident whose family, along with the Arc, lobbied state and federal officials for the language change. After Rosa was labeled by her school as mentally retarded, her family was successful in getting the language change in the state's health and education code. Now, the U.S. Congress is trying to make the same change.

Attention to the word "retard's" hurtful consequences has taken off in recent years, thanks in part to the outspoken former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, whose son Trig has Down syndrome. Palin called for White House Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel to be fired earlier this year after he called liberal healthcare activists "f---g retarded."

More recently, in an episode of ABC News "What Would You Do?" a grocery clerk with Down syndrome was berated by a customer yelling "You're absolutely retarded!"

ICED TRAINING SEMINAR:

Accessible Parking

The objective of this training session will be to review key access compliance and become familiar with the following: Parking, Exterior Path of Travel, Interior Path of Travel, Door Clearances, Work Space Clearances, Vertical Access Requirements, Visually Impaired Requirements, Hearing Impaired Requirements as they relate to the ADA and the Illinois Barrier Act. The seminar is tentatively scheduled for July 8, 2010 from 9:30am- 12pm on-line at www.state.il.us/iced and at the following locations:

Choate Mental Health Center
1000 North Main St.
Anna, Illinois 62906

DHS-DRS
Hay Edwards Building - Suter Room
400 East Lawrence
Springfield

DHS-DRS
JRTC
100 W. Randolph
5-300

ALL BANK OF AMERICA ATM'S NOW ACCESSIBLE

As part of its commitment to customers with visual impairments, Bank of America just announced that every Bank of America ATM in the country has been equipped with voice-enabled technology. Visually impaired customers can now access more than 18,000 Bank of America ATMs, the largest network of bank-owned ATMs in the U.S.

Talking ATMs provide audible instructions in English or Spanish to persons who cannot view information on an ATM screen. These machines make it easier for people with visual impairments to withdraw cash, deposit money and perform other ATM transactions. The ATMs have audio jacks that deliver spoken instructions privately through standard headsets, to protect the security of users who are blind or have low-vision.

In addition to talking ATMs, Bank of America is the first major bank to equip all of its deposit-accepting ATMs throughout the country with deposit imaging technology. This technology is now available at 13,800 Bank of America ATMs. Deposit Image ATMs allow customers to feed checks and cash directly into the ATM slot, eliminating the need to fill out deposit slips and stuff envelopes.

Interagency Committee on Employees with Disabilities

Rocco J. Claps, Co-Chairman, Director, Department of Human Rights
Michelle R.B. Saddler, Ph.D., Co-Chairman, Secretary, Department of Human Services
James P. Sledge, Director, Department Central Management Services
Dan Grant, Director, Department of Veterans Affairs
Chris Kolker, Chairman, Civil Service Commission
Deborah Johnson-Small, Employee Member, Department of Human Services
Michael Knepler, Employee Member, Department of Agriculture
Elaine Lazell, Employee Member, Department of Healthcare and Family Services
Karl Moulton, Employee Member, Department of Employment Security
Susan Allen, Department of Human Rights
Joseph Ashcraft, Department Central Management Services
Andrew Barris, Civil Service Commission
William Bogdan, Secretary of State's Office
Jason Brewer, Department of Natural Resources
Marva Campbell-Pruitt, Department of Human Services
Carlos Charneco, Department of Employment Security
Rita Crim, Department of Finance and Professional Regulation
Dan Dickerson, Department of Human Services
Teresita Gonzalez, Department of Human Services
Tammy Hall, Department of Financial and Professional Regulation
Margaret Harkness, Council on Developmental Disabilities
Brandy Hayes, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission
Terry King, Division of Specialized Care for Children
Jonathan Lackland, Illinois Association of Minorities in Government
Sue Masten, Department of Human Services
Jimmie Miller, Department of Veterans Affairs
Lisa Riegel, Department of Human Services
Fred V. Stewart, II, Department Central Management Services

ICED

c/o: Department of Human Rights
222 S. College, Room 101A
Springfield, IL 62704

(217) 785-5119 (Voice)

(217) 785-5125 (TTY)

(217) 785-5106 (Fax)

E-Mail: Susan.Allen@Illinois.gov

Website: <http://www.state.il.us/iced>

Note: This newsletter is available in alternative formats upon request.