

California Health Incentives Improvement Project Newsletter May 2010

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS, TRAININGS & WEBINARS

Upcoming Workshops and Trainings on the 250% Working Disabled Medi-Cal Program and other programs

Here is a list of upcoming workshops and trainings on the Medi-Cal Working Disabled Program and other programs describing ways of working and maintaining health benefits.

Upcoming workshops:

Date: Friday, May 28, 2010
Time: 1:00 to 3:00 PM
Presenters: Teddie-Joy Remhild and Michael van Essen
Place: Independent Living Center -- Kern County
1631 30th Street
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Date: Wednesday, June 2, 2010
Time: 1:00 to 3:00 PM
Presenters: Teddie-Joy Remhild and Michael Van Essen
Place: Good Will Industries of Southern California (Auditorium)
342 N. San Fernando Rd.
Los Angeles, CA 90031
Cross street -- Humboldt Street

Date: Wednesday, June 16, 2010
Time: 1:30 To 3:30 PM
Presenters: Teddie-Joy Remhild and Michael Van Essen
Place: Rolling Start, Inc.
570 W. 4th Street, Ste. 107
San Bernardino, CA 92401

Date: Thursday, June 17, 2010
Time: 1:00 To 3:00 Pm
Presenters: Teddie-Joy Remhild and Michael Van Essen
Place: Dayle Mcintosh Center
13272 Garden Grove Blvd.
Garden Grove, CA 92843
Cross streets - Fairview and Garden Grove Blvd.

Date: Tuesday, July 6, 2010
Time: 1:00 To 3:00 Pm
Presenters: Teddie-Joy Remhild and Michael Van Essen
Place: Services Center for Independent Living
107 S. Spring Street
Claremont, CA 91711
North of Arrow Highway – between Indian Hill and College Avenue

Date: Monday, August 26, 2010
Time: 1:00 To 3:00 Pm
Presenters: Teddie-Joy Remhild And Michael Van Essen
Place: Verdugo Jobs Center
1255 S. Central Ave.
Glendale, CA 91204
Cross Street - Los Feliz Rd.

To Register: Call Teddie-Joy Remhild at 818-848-2475, or reach her by e-mail at teddiejoy@att.net

These workshops are open to persons with disabilities and professionals who work with persons with disabilities. Accommodations are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

CHIIP Webinars - Karla Bell, Project Lead

The California Health Incentives Improvement Project (CHIIP) is now holding free monthly online training webinars on a variety of topics related to removing barriers to employment for people with disabilities. Focused on providing information on work incentive programs; webinar topics have included an overview of all Medi-Cal programs for people with disabilities who work, the Medi-Cal Working Disabled Program, SSDI and SSI work incentives, and a more detailed analysis of SSI work incentives. Individuals may also submit training topic requests to CHIIP for consideration. The webinars are primarily targeted toward service providers (including Medi-Cal county eligibility workers, Department of Rehabilitation staff, Independent Living Center staff, Regional Center staff, One-Stop staff, benefits planners, etc.), although consumers are also welcome to attend.

For more information please visit our [Talent Knows No Limits website](#) and/or our [Facebook](#) page).

To view archived webinars:

http://www.onlineconferencingsystems.com/chiip/archived_webinars.htm

If you would like to be on the distribution list for these webinars, or if you would like further information, please contact John Kerr - Project Specialist at: 916-319-9563 or john.kerr@dhcs.ca.gov

UPCOMING EVENTS

Disability Capitol Action Day

May 26, 2010 Sacramento, CA

Disability Capitol Action Day is one of the largest cross-disability events in the country. This year, on May 26th, 2010 the Disability Action Coalition will host its 7th annual Disability Capitol Action Day in alliance with the California In Home Support Services Consumer Alliance (CICA). Thousands will come together to recognize the 20th anniversary of the American's with Disabilities Act on the west lawn of the State Capitol. Featured speakers will include some of those who were at the White House during the signing of the ADA. In addition, a resource fair with over 25 vendors will be open to participants from 10AM to 3PM. Lunch will be provided to 1500 participants.

For more information on this event, please visit:

<http://www.disabilityactioncoalition.org/site/pp.aspx?c=ifIPKVOzFqG&b=2639151>

The Association of California State Employees with Disabilities (ACSED) presents their 2010 Training Symposium

June 30, 2010 -- Franchise Tax Board, 9646 Butterfield Way, Sacramento, CA

The 2010 Association of California State Employees training symposium, entitled "Advancing Inclusion – The Future of Employment in State Government for Persons with Disabilities" will be held on June 30, 2010 at the Franchise Tax Board campus, and is being developed as a "State as a model employer" event. It is intended to provide disability employment information useful to both State employees with disabilities and State agencies. Covered topics will include information on how to accommodate future and current employees, and best ways to navigate the State Application process. Information will also be provided

on the LEAP hiring process, best ways to enhance disability employment, and how best to market your skills for promotion.

For more information on the ACSED Symposium, please visit:

http://www.acsedonline.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=section&id=19&Itemid=230

NEW AND NOTEWORTHY UPDATES

250% Medi-Cal Working Disabled Program

We are excited to announce that as of May 10, 2010 there are 5,072 persons enrolled in the Medi-Cal Working Disabled Program. This program is the centerpiece of CHIP's funding and activities, and we are optimistic that it will continue to grow.

AB 1269: New Law Will Improve Medi-Cal for California Workers with Disabilities

As a reminder, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger of California signed AB 1269 into law just a few hours before the legal deadline on October 11, 2009.

- AB 1269 policy changes:
 - Eliminate Age 65 restriction: Social Security Retirement income remains exempt for individuals who were previously on Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI automatically converts to retirement income upon reaching full retirement age).
 - Allows earnings to be saved without a cap in separately identifiable account (individuals/couples can save over the typical \$2,000/\$3,000 Medi-Cal asset limit).
 - Changes premium structure to 5% of *countable* income – premiums now include disability-based income, although minimum and maximum premium rates (\$20-\$250 for individuals, \$30-\$375 for couples) remain the same.
 - Allows for a grace period of 26 weeks between jobs if employment ends.
 - Implementation of these policy changes will occur shortly after American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) funds to the Medi-Cal Program expire; although the funding may be extended, they are currently set to expire on December 31, 2010.
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Health Care Reform Summary

In late March of 2010, the U.S. Congress finished passing the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (H.R. 3590) and the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (H.R. 4872). These new laws will result in significant reform of our nation's health care system, including extending health care coverage to many more millions of Americans. To read more about upcoming changes and a timeline of when they will be taking place, click here:

<http://www.wid.org/health-care-reform-summary>

The US Departments of Defense, Labor and Veterans Affairs have introduced a re-designed and enhanced National Resource Directory Web site, www.NationalResourceDirectory.gov

Created for Wounded Warriors, Veterans and their families and caregivers, the new National Resource Directory is a useful tool for service providers who support the military and Veterans communities. The National Resource Directory provides access to over 10,000 services and resources at the national, state and local levels to support recovery, rehabilitation and community reintegration.

\$40 million in rental assistance is now available to local housing agencies to assist 5,300 families

The Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Housing and Urban Development have partnered to create rental assistance to support independent living for non-elderly persons with disabilities. As part of President Obama's Year of Community Living initiative, HHS & HUD have collaborated to offer approximately \$40 million to public housing authorities across the country to fund approximately 5,300 Housing Choice Vouchers for non-elderly persons with disabilities, allowing them to live independently.

To read the entire press release, please go to:

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2010pres/04/20100407a.html>

Disability a great learning tool for life

By Robert David Hall, Special to CNN

The following feature story appeared on the CNN website on April 21, 2010. Robert David Hall is a featured actor on "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation." Robert is also the lead spokesperson for CHIIP's Talents Knows No Limits Campaign.

To read this feature story please click here:

<http://www.cnn.com/2010/OPINION/04/21/hall.who.am.i/index.html>

YOUTH INITIATIVES

Youth Transition Toolkit

Things are About to Change - A Young Person's Guide to Transitioning into Adulthood.

Over the past several months and in collaboration with California Children's Services and other partners, the California Health Incentives Improvement Project (CHIIP) has been working on developing a comprehensive transition "toolkit" and resource guide, and we are excited to announce that our transition toolkit is in its final stages of production. Things are About to Change is a comprehensive transition "toolkit" and resource guide for youth with disabilities ages 12 to 18+. The overall objective of the toolkit is to help transitioning youth become better prepared and more successful in transitioning from youth to adulthood. The toolkit contains worksheets, tips for parents and valuable information on a number of transition-related topics, including:

- About Transition
- Healthcare
- Employment
- Financial
- Education
- Independent Living
- Social/Recreation

CHIIP will be conducting user-testing with various groups of youth to ensure that the look, feel and content are appropriate. The main media form for the toolkit will be an online website. This will help create sustainability and allow for ease of updating.

If you would like more information on this project please contact Rachel Stewart at 916-319-8519 or by e-mail Rachel.Stewart@dhcs.ca.gov

Disability History Week Campaign

A campaign led by young people with disabilities has resulted in the introduction of a new resolution authored by Assemblymember Jim Beall (D-San Jose), which aims to foster better understanding of the contributions people with disabilities have made to our society. ACR 162, co-authored by Assemblymember Jared Huffman (D-San Rafael), would designate the second week of October as Disability History Week and encourage schools and colleges to incorporate disability history into their curricula.

To learn more about the progress of the Disability History Week Campaign and how to become more involved, please visit:

http://www.yodisabledproud.org/site/c.mfIPKROxFqG/b.5506853/k.5787/About_Disability_History.htm

Take Action for Accommodations

YO! Disabled and Proud is partnering with Disability Rights California to launch the new Students with Disabilities - Community College 504 Campaign. Their goal is to empower students around the state to ensure that they know they have a right to access the services and programs they need in order to participate and succeed in school, by helping them to file a complaint under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act with the United States Department of Education Office of Civil Rights. Their hope is that students who have been denied accommodations in the community colleges will file a complaint and that the Office of Civil Rights will take action to restore their rights.

For more information on this campaign, please visit:

http://www.yodisabledproud.org/site/c.mfIPKROxFqG/b.6030313/k.9EE4/Take_Action_4_Accomodations.htm

NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT CAMPAIGNS

What can YOU do? The Campaign for Disability Employment

The Campaign for Disability Employment is a collaborative effort to promote positive employment outcomes for people with disabilities by encouraging employers and others to recognize the value and talent they bring to the workplace.

This is an interactive website which allows a place to share success stories from people with disabilities who are employed. It also provides valuable information for prospective employers

For more information, please visit: www.whatcanyoudocampaign.org

Think Beyond the Label

Think Beyond the Label is a national effort that CHIIP is involved in to help expand the reach of a marketing campaign by pooling together funding from a large number of Medicaid Infrastructure Grantees from across the state. Aimed at changing the mindset of employers on hiring people with disabilities, the campaign uses humorous television, radio and print ads to reach employers. The interactive website provides employers with real facts in an effort to dispel the existing myths within the hiring community, and also has resources separated out by state (California's resource section directs employers to both the Talent Knows No Limits and Disability Benefits 101 websites). The national website also provides information on tax incentives and best practices for going about hiring a qualified individual with a disability.

For more information, please visit: www.thinkbeyondthelabel.com

If you have information that you would like included in the next newsletter, or if you have any questions related to the content of this newsletter, please contact John Kerr at John.Kerr@dhcs.ca.gov or 916-319-9563.

If you would like to unsubscribe or add additional subscribers to this newsletter, please contact Cynthia Garcia at Cynthia.Garcia@EDD.ca.gov or 916-651-0618.