Letter From The Executive Director

There’s a lot going on in our universe... and it’s amazing how almost every person in our society is feeling the effects of government and healthcare reform, whether as a consumer of healthcare services, an employer or a provider in the health and human services industry. The shift to a managed care system is moving quickly throughout New York State and the country. It seems that every other day we’re watching another webinar, attending trainings, or hosting meetings to learn more about ways we can assimilate into managed care and improve our overall service delivery.

I remember 20 years ago when Arthur Weintraub, who at the time was the President of the Northern Metropolitan Hospital Association (NorMet) said, the new mantra under a managed care system will be “adapt or die”… Fortunately or unfortunately, depending on how you view managed care, the shift didn’t happen then, but nonetheless, many of us went through boot camp training expecting that it would. At that time we became quite

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Independence Square Groundbreaking Ceremony

On Thursday, June 26th, approximately 100 people attended the groundbreaking ceremony for Independence Square, which, when complete, will be a safe, affordable, and fully-accessible 74-unit apartment complex consisting of one, two, and three-bedroom units. “It’s a dream-come-true for the community,” said Doug Hovey, President and CEO of Independent Home Care, Inc., a corporate affiliate of Independent Living, Inc.

Independence Square is being developed by Jonah Mandelbaum, President of Warwick Properties, Inc. Funding sources for the project include: NYS Homes & Community Renewal (HCR), NYS Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD), Orange County Community Development, the Community Preservation Corporation (CPC), and Raymond James Tax Credit Funds, Inc.

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Photos by Peter Calvin
ABILITY AWARENESS DAY AT PINE TREE ELEMENTARY

This past May, Independent Living’s staff members Cheri Stalter and Diane Troeller were guest speakers during “Ability Awareness” week held by Pine Tree Elementary School, part of the Monroe Woodbury Central School District.

In a room filled with 2nd, 3rd and 4th graders, Diane and Cheri educated the students about disability etiquette. Everyone enjoyed learning the alphabet in American Sign Language, how to approach or assist someone with a disability, and that service animals are not pets.

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS!

The Independent Living, Inc. Board of Directors welcome Rory Gage and Tracy Paige.

Tracy Paige grew up in New Windsor and currently resides in Ulster County. She earned a MS Ed in Speech Language Pathology at SUNY New Paltz, and has been a practicing speech language pathologist for 18 years. She currently works with preschoolers at Orange AHRC’s Preschool Learning Experience.

An accomplished jazz musician, Rory worked as a trade support professional for over ten years with JP Morgan Chase and Deutsche Bank. He earned a B.S. degree in Business Administration from Northeastern University. A former member of the New York Road Runners Club, Rory has also served as president of two condominium associations and as a senior mentor at New Alternatives for Children.
UPCOMING EVENTS

Independent Living, Inc. Friends of Independence
Open House & Tour 5:15 - 6:15 pm
• Wednesday, September 17th – Newburgh Center
• Thursday, October 2nd – Monticello Center
• Wednesday, November 19th – Middletown Center

Support Group for Individuals with Visual Impairments
• Tuesday, September 9th – 5 Washington Terrace, Newburgh, NY from 6 - 8 pm. For more information contact Josie Longstreet at 845-565-1162 ext. 239

Sixth Annual Diversity Job Fair
• Thursday, October 9th at the Cornerstone Residence, 111 Broadway, Newburgh, NY from 10 am – 1 pm

Did you know...?

Autism is a developmental disability that affects 1 in every 110 children in the United States. Every day sixty-seven children are diagnosed with autism. More children will be diagnosed with autism this year than with AIDS, diabetes & cancer combined. Autism is the fastest-growing developmental disability in the United States, yet receives less than 5% of the research funding of many less prevalent childhood diseases. There is no medical detection or cure for autism.

Sources: Autism Speaks, New Horizons in Autism

Save the Date!

Welcome Orange
Chris Ashman Wellness & Recovery Conference
Tuesday, November 18, 2014; 9 am – 4 pm;
Anthony’s Pier 9, New Windsor, NY

LETTER FROM THE ED, continued from page one

familiar with terms such as ‘population management’, ‘capititation’, ‘bundling’ and ‘diagnostic related group’ (DRG’s) among many others used to characterize a very different formula for financing and delivering physical and mental healthcare.

It has been said for many years that the healthcare system is a fragmented patchwork quilt with many gaps. Today, the shift to managed care is an attempt to address this fragmentation and it is impacting beneficiaries of healthcare (AKA covered lives) as well as the providers who deliver such services. Hospital care and community based services are changing rapidly to meet the demands of the Affordable Care Act and the Triple Aim – customer service, efficiency of services and cost containment (available, adequate and affordable). Emerging ‘Health Homes’ coordinated networks of providers are setting out to provide comprehensive service delivery for individuals who are Medicaid beneficiaries and are referred to as having “complex needs” – another new term that has quickly become a stigmatizing label for people who use services. I think it would behoove us to identify ourselves as being “challenged” or having “complex needs” as members of a system that struggle with getting ourselves together to offer effective care and support in a concerted fashion -- benefitting consumers who are high users of health and mental health care services. And more recently, the DSRIP effort is underway in New York. Delivery System Reform Incentive Plan (or payment) is a rigorous attempt to coordinate healthcare systems by geographic region, starting with hospitals and cascading all the way down to small health and human service organizations that serve parts of the respective community. The challenge before us is to figure out how to eliminate the gaps in care and to incentivize improved overall community health.

Figuring out how to incentivize or pay for essential pieces of the healthcare process is a big challenge. The space between visits and the research and follow up by professionals require a great deal of time that is largely uncompensated. Communication among professionals who are treating the same individuals also takes time that is not compensated financially. What is the solution to all of this? What will be the incentives for improving the overall health of our communities? For today, it looks like managed care is the solution. As for the incentives to make this happen, one would like to believe that it’s the overall health of our communities...
Independent Home Care is a licensed home health care service agency (LHHCSA) dedicated to providing reliable, high-quality home care and related services for individuals of all ages. Our vision is a barrier-free community with a broad array of supports, enabling people to live with dignity in the home of their choice.

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IL Strategy Group is dedicated to assisting affiliates in the Independent Living System with their missions, and designing solutions for issues of poverty, disability and the social determinants of community and individual well-being, including, but not limited to, the provision of affordable and accessible housing, opportunities for education, employment and social inclusion.

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