

Center for Independence of Individuals with Disabilities

Newsletter Summer 2019

Emergency Preparedness Events

Benjamin McMullan, Systems Change Advocate

In June, CID provided community education to people with disabilities and seniors on Emergency Preparedness. On June 5, CID presented to 38 people at the East Palo Alto YMCA. On June 26, CID presented to 92 people at the Menlo Park Senior Center. At both events, CID's Systems Change Advocate, Ben McMullan was joined by Theresa Smith from the County of San Mateo Emergency Medical Services and Mark Zuckerman from the American Red Cross. Attendees also had the chance to hear from local first responders on community preparedness and have their questions answered. In East Palo Alto, we were once again joined by Menlo Fire Disaster Response Manager, Ryan Zollicoffer, who educated the audience on the systems in place that respond to emergencies in the area. Fire Marshal Jon Johnston presented in Menlo Park.

After excellent presentations on community preparedness, Ben, Theresa, and Mark spoke about personal preparedness. Topics covered included: the importance of to go kits, what to include in a personal to go kit, and making a plan with family, friends, and colleagues that considers individual needs during an evacuation. The presentation also covered what people with varying disabilities may need incorporated into their plan.

Following the presentation Emergency Kits were raffled off to help participants begin to prepare for an emergency. Thank you to all attendees for joining us, and our presenters for making these events possible!

The Landmark Olmstead Decision

Benjamin McMullan, Systems Change Advocate

June 22, 2019 marked the 20th Anniversary of Olmsted, the landmark Supreme Court decision that people with disabilities have the right to live in the least restrictive environment. CID's Systems Change Advocate was one of four panelists

addressing the decision at the Disability, Inclusion, and Community Life panel at San Jose City Hall on June 27. The panel was hosted by The Kelsey, a nonprofit organization dedicated to creating mixed ability, mixed income housing opportunities where people of all abilities can “live, play, and serve together.” (To learn more about The Kelsey’s efforts, visit thekelsey.org)

The panelists discussed what Olmstead means to them and the impact it has in their lives. The panel was made up of an advocate, a law professor and mother of a child with a disability, a transition specialist, and a person who successfully transitioned from a nursing home back into the community. Members shared that although independent living may look different based on an individual’s level of need, it can become a reality for everyone through access to the proper supports and services.

There are currently two pieces of legislation in Congress to ensure the promise of Olmstead. The **Disability Integration Act (DIA)** would enable funding structures such as Medicaid and Medicare to fund Home and Community Based Services. Currently this funding is only permitted to fund institution-based care. DIA also calls for affordable, accessible housing to be made available to seniors and people with disabilities when they return to the community. The **Empower Care Act** supports Olmstead by extending the Money Follows the Person (MFP) Demonstration Project through 2023. MFP provides states with additional funding to improve Home and Community Based Services. If the Empower Care Act is not passed, the demonstration project will end in September 2019. It is vitally important that both of these bills are signed into law this year. Help make this happen by contacting your Congress members and asking them to vote yes on these bills.

Wheelchairs to the World!

Steve Freier, Assistive Technology ReUse Program

Through its ReUse Program, CID accepts donations of wheelchairs and durable medical equipment such as canes, commodes, and tub transfer benches. Every so often CID accumulates too many items. I am pleased to share that CID has partnered with the international non-profit organization Joni and Friends, to extend the reach of our ReUse program. Joni and Friends ships wheelchairs to San Bernardino where inmates are trained to refurbish and customize wheelchairs for individuals in developing countries. To date, CID has provided 21 wheelchairs, 15 sets of crutches, 18 canes, and a few other assorted items for this program. CID hopes to be able to supply more wheelchairs in the future.

Joni and Friends has been providing services for over four decades. For more information about Joni and Friends, please visit: <https://www.joniandfriends.org/>

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Center for Independence of Individuals with Disabilities:

Locations

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San Bruno Branch Office: 1590 El Camino Real, Suite C San Bruno, California 94066, Tel: 650.589.8994 Fax: 650.589.8995 TTY: 650.589.8170.

Our services include:

- ADA Consulting
- Housing Modification
- Counseling & Peer Support
- Independent Living Skills
- Training
- Information & Referral
- Systems Change Advocacy
- Assistive Technology
- Financial Benefits
- Counseling
- System Reuse Program

Please call, email, or stop in for more information.

CID's mission is to provide support services, community awareness, and systems change advocacy to promote full and equal community integration and participation for people with disabilities in San Mateo County.

For accessibility, this publication is available in alternative formats upon request. Please contact our office for details

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