

➤ *Congregate Living Rate for Low Need Individuals Update*

Eight-hundred ninety individuals on the Developmental Disabilities (DD) Waiver and 1,756 individuals on the Community Alternatives for Disabled Individuals (CADI) waiver living in corporate foster care homes or customized living (sometimes called assistive living) will receive a 10% reduction in their rate. The cut was delayed a month when the Department of Human Services (DHS) revised its criteria for identifying low needs individuals on the CADI waiver; it will now take effect on November 1, 2011.

On Tuesday, October 4th, DHS issued an announcement to outline the methodology used to identify the 2,646 individuals impacted by this legislation. To review the announcement, [click on this link](#). ARRM will survey its members to determine the impact of this legislation. Please contact me about any homes that will close due to this action (651-523-0823, ext. 113 or stevel@arcmn.org). Data on the number affected by county and by provider have been requested.

The DHS announcement also includes the following section titled: *Service changes or appeals*. It says: *DHS has decided that a rate reduction does not trigger an automatic appeal. For instance, the 1.5% provider rate reduction was implemented with MA (Medical Assistance) recipients only getting a general notice of all changes to MA during the 2011 Session. The 10% reduction is a provider rate reduction for a person still receiving customized living, the CADI Waiver service of foster care, or the DD Waiver service of supported living in a corporate foster care setting. Lead agencies (counties) must:*

- 1. Discuss with individuals and the providers whether service plan modifications are necessary or if the provider is able to manage services without appreciable difference to the person.*
- 2. Determine if they need to revise a service plan.*
- 3. Send a notice of action to the recipient if service plan changes are required.*

In addition there was a paragraph relevant to this section that reads:

On Friday, September 30, 2011, regional resource specialists provided information about those affected by the 10% reduction to lead agencies (counties) via e-mail.

On the DD Waiver the 890 individuals targeted were rated as Profile Four, which means they have limited self-care needs and no major behavior problems.

Next Steps: If you think you might be impacted by this rate reduction, contact your provider or county social worker to verify. DHS will not send individual notices to those impacted. If you are impacted, ask whether this will necessitate a change in your service plan (ISP). You can appeal any change in the ISP, but only if there is evidence to show that the person's health, safety, and welfare are jeopardized by a service reduction.

An individual who receives services can always request a new assessment if the current assessment is not up to date and doesn't reflect one's needs. If you think the current assessment does not accurately reflect your needs, you can appeal. DHS is currently saying that getting a new assessment will not change who is impacted by this rate cut, but we believe this is an item for further discussion with them. Contact an advocate at your local chapter of The Arc if you need assistance.

➤ *Two Upcoming Special Education Forums*

The Arc Southeastern Minnesota and The Arc Minnesota are cosponsoring “Realize Your Power in Special Education” on Monday, October 10th, 2011, from 6:00 p.m. 8:00 p.m. at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 1212 12th Street NW, Rochester. During the first hour of the forum, you will:

- Learn what happened during the 2011 Legislative Session.
- Review what to expect in the 2012 Legislative Session.
- Learn how you can effectively share your personal story with elected officials.

During the second hour, state legislators (six have said they plan to attend) will be available for you to share your stories or ask questions. Let them know, through your experiences, stories, and concerns, how important special education is to you and your children. For more information or to RSVP, contact Beth Honecker at bhonecker@arcse-mn.org or 507 287 2032.

On October 12th from 6 - 8 p.m. the Autism in Action Forum will be held in Anoka at the Anoka City Hall, 2015 First Avenue North. The Arc is sponsoring this forum with several of our partnering organizations. An overview will be provided on current autism issues, and individuals will have a chance to share their stories with legislators. For more details contact Kim Kang at kimk@arcmn.org.

➤ *Adult Services Performance Measures Listening Session*

The Steering Committee on Performance and Outcome Reforms was authorized by the Minnesota Legislature as part of the 2009 State-County Results, Accountability, and Service Delivery Reform Act. They are hosting a listening session on performance outcomes for mandated human services on Thursday, October, 19, 2011 from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. [Click on this link](#) for information about the forum. Register by October 14th by contacting Tasha Truskolawski at Tasha@mncounties.org. Please contact me at stevel@arcmn.org or 651-523-0823, ext. 115, if you intend to testify.

➤ *What Do Our State Conference and Fall Colors Have in Common?*

You probably heard the reports that the colors of fall leaves will be especially beautiful this year. These colors provide a wonderful transition from summer to autumn. The Arc Minnesota is focusing on creating beautiful transitions, too; transitions for people with disabilities and their families, that is. Our state conference this year is devoted to helping you make successful transitions throughout the lifespan. Join us on November 4-5, 2011 at Breezy Point Resort for “Charting Your Path: Preparing for Transitions to Community & Employment at All Ages.”

Check out our [conference flyer on our website](#) for the full program; you can [register through our website](#), too. For answers to your questions, call Marlene Thomas at 1-800-582-5256, ext, 110. **Registration deadline is October 14, 2011.**

➤ *Upcoming Call-in Day to Protect Medicaid*

The Arc Minnesota is putting together an action alert for the week of Oct. 10 for a Call-in Day to Congress to urge them to protect Medicaid. Check your e-mail in the coming days for that alert, and be ready to contact your member of Congress. In the meantime, you can [contact your members of Congress](#) and tell them, “Don’t Cut Our Lifeline!”

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