

➤ **10% Rate Cut for Low Need Individuals Takes Effect Oct. 1**

On October 1st, a 10% cut to the service rate for 3,600 low needs individuals living in corporate foster care will go into effect. This cut was included in the state health and human services bill approved in July. Counties had an opportunity to review a preliminary list of individuals, and they had to share the results of their review by Thursday September 15th with the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS). DHS will review these comments and then will issue notices to those receiving the 10% cut sometime next week.

Individuals do have the right to appeal this reduction in service if they feel this creates health and safety issues or that their assessment was not accurate. We will share more specific information about your appeal rights next week.

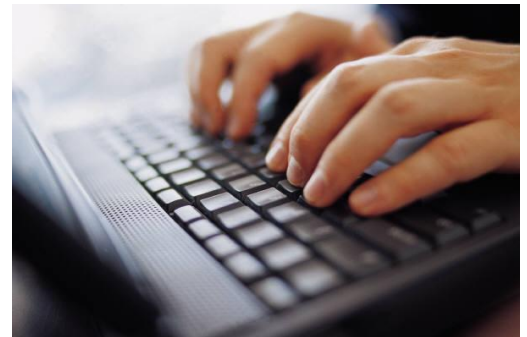
➤ **DHS Training on Managed Care for Persons with Disabilities**

The Disability Services Division of DHS is hosting a training session on Friday, Oct. 7th from 1 - 3 p.m. on the [Special Needs BasicCare \(SNBC\) Expansion \(click on this link\)](#). There is one classroom setting and four webinars to choose from. The flyer includes registration and session-specific information.

For additional information on SNBC, we have a [handout on our website](#) from DHS titled “Expansion of Managed Care for People with Disabilities.”

➤ **DHS Accepting Comments on PCA Caregiver 20% Cut**

Below is a notice and link to submit comments on the PCA relative rate policy change. DHS is collecting public comments through the link below for 30 days. When you click on the link, you see a page with information on the rate change, and an email address where you can send your comments. As you know, it is important to be as specific as possible about how and why this will hurt people with disabilities and their families. In addition, please send your stories about how this impacts you or your family to [your legislators](#) and to Anni Simons at asimons@arcmn.org. We will use these stories to lobby on this issue.



To: County directors, public health and waiver coordinators and supervisors, tribal health directors and other interested parties

From: Barbara Skoglund, Home Care Policy, DHS Disability Services Division

Comment Period Begins: September 15, 2011

Comment Period Ends: October 17, 2011

Purpose: Notice of 30-day public comment period regarding implementation of legislated PCA relative reimbursement rate

Contact information: Submit comments to: DSD.PublicComments@state.mn.us

View [30-day public comment period on PCA Relative Rate policy announcement](#).

➤ *Special Education Forum in Central Minnesota on Sept. 29th*

The Arc United and The Arc Minnesota are cosponsoring “Realize Your Power in Special Education” on Thursday, September 29, 2011, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Minnco Center Community Room, 236 Second Avenue SW, in Cambridge, MN. During the first hour of this forum, you will:

- Learn what happened during the 2011 Legislative Session on special education issues.
- 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 from Senate District 17 and House Districts 17A and 17B 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 Bev Kaler at arccentral5@aol.com or (320) 240-9550.

The Arc Minnesota is planning similar forums in other parts of the state. One has already been scheduled for Nov. 15th in the St. Cloud area, cosponsored by The Arc Midstate; at least one other forum is under discussion. We’ll have more details in future updates.

➤ *Autism in Action Forum in Anoka on October 12th*

The Arc Minnesota, The Arc Greater Twin Cities, the Minnesota Consortium for Citizens with disabilities, and the Autism Society of Minnesota are cosponsors of an “Autism In Action” forum on Wednesday, October 12th, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the Anoka City Hall Community Room, 2015 First Avenue North in Anoka. This is a good opportunity to learn more about public policy issues affecting Minnesotans with autism.

Specifically, you can learn what happened in the areas of health and human services and special education during the 2011 Legislative Session, what to expect in the 2012 Legislative Session, and how you can effectively share your personal story with elected officials. State legislators from Senate Districts 48, 49, and 51 as well as House Districts 48A, 48B, 49A, 49B, 51A, and 51B have been invited to attend the latter part of the forum. We hope many of them will be available for you to share your stories and answer your questions. For more information or to RSVP, contact Kim Kang at kimk@arcmn.org.

➤ *“Chart Your Path” in Breezy Point on Nov. 4-5*

The early registration deadline for our 2011 Annual State Conference has passed, but there’s time to sign up for “Charting Your Path: Preparing For Transitions To Community & Employment At All Ages.” Come to Breezy Point Resort in the Brainerd Lakes Area on November 4-5, and we’ll help “chart your path” from there. You’ll receive information, hear success stories, and learn about best practices from parents, self-advocates, providers, and state officials. You’ll also get updated on the latest in state public policy and receive tips on sharing your story with elected officials.

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.

➤ *Rep. Abeler’s Son Passes Away Suddenly*

The Arc Minnesota extends its sympathy to Rep. Jim Abeler for the recent death of his 22-year old son Josiah. Josiah has battled seizures in the past, and died this week after experiencing a seizure in his sleep. Rep. Abeler was honored in 2001 as The Arc Minnesota Legislator of the Year; he is the current chair of the House Health and Human Services Finance Committee.

