

➤ *Managed Care for Persons with Disabilities*

Persons with disabilities on Medical Assistance will be enrolled in managed care with an opt-out provision between January and June 2012. Managed care for persons with disabilities is known as Special Needs Basic Care (SNBC). Each individual will receive an enrollment letter and information, and they can opt out by contacting the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS). DHS says it intends to phase-in SNBC. Adults will be enrolled between January and April. Children will be enrolled in May and June.

Members of The Arc Minnesota and the Minnesota Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (MN-CCD) will participate on the DHS-sponsored SNBC Advisory Committee and will participate on the subcommittees working on Children's Issues, Consumer Education, and Evaluation. For those wanting more details, we have a [handout on our website](#) from DHS titled "Expansion of Managed Care for People with Disabilities."



➤ *20% Relative PCA Caregiver Cut Update*

On August 8th, The Arc Minnesota sent a letter to DHS Commissioner Lucinda Jesson, expressing our concern about the harm caused by the harsh cut in wages to people who provide PCA services to relatives. She responded on August 24th that this was a difficult cut and to fix it would require an additional \$24 million. During a WCCO-TV interview at the Minnesota State Fair, an audience member asked Governor Dayton about this issue, and he responded that he felt bad about this legislation and would work to fix it during the next legislative session. We have scheduled a meeting this week to talk to the Governor's staff about it.

Unfortunately this legislation goes into effect October 1, 2011, and it will be impossible to stop it from being implemented before then. We are continuing to receive stories about people who are harmed by this legislation. Please send your stories to Anni Simons at asimons@arcmn.org.

➤ *Congregate Living Rate for Low Need Individuals Update*

Like the PCA wage cut, a 10% cut to the service rate for 3,600 low needs individuals living in corporate foster care will go into effect October 1st. In late August, DHS sent a list to counties of persons affected by this change. After counties review these lists, the individuals and providers impacted will be notified in September.

➤ *Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities Town Hall Meetings*

The Minnesota Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities has scheduled a series of [Town Hall Forums](#) for this fall. The first one will be held on September 15, 2011 in Moorhead. We strongly urge members of The Arc to attend these forums and be prepared to share your stories. In fact, bring copies of your stories to share with any legislators in attendance.

Now that these forums are set, The Arc Minnesota will work with our Civic Engagement Committee to schedule additional town hall forums and home visits to prepare for the 2012 Legislative Session.

➤ *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. The Arc Minnesota is in the process of scheduling similar forums in other parts of the state. During the first hour of the September 29th 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 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.

➤ *Register for Our State Conference by Sept. 15; Save \$25!*

Join us for “Charting Your Path: Preparing For Transitions To Community & Employment At All Ages,” our 2011 Annual State Conference on November 4-5, at Breezy Point Resort in the Brainerd Lakes Area. We’ll have a weekend full of workshops, networking, and fun. We’ll help you “chart a path” to make successful transitions at all stages of life. Parents, self-advocates, providers, and state officials will be there to share information, success stories, and best practices. Our line-up of workshops includes: helping parents prepare for the transition from school to life after graduation; new resources for people with ASD and their families, getting and holding a job and keeping essential benefits; current post-secondary options for people with disabilities; innovative public policies; independent housing opportunities; relationships; and creating a secure financial future for loved ones with disabilities.

Sign up by Sept. 15, and save \$25 on registration! In addition, hotel rates are \$10 lower than last year. 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.

➤ *Thank You, JoAnn*



The Arc Minnesota wants to say a huge “Thank You” to JoAnn Lawler, long-time advocate at The Arc Southeastern Minnesota, who retired this summer. In addition to working with individuals and families to help them navigate the service system and stand up for their rights, JoAnn was a strong public policy advocate and a great organizer. She helped bring many delegations from southeastern Minnesota to St. Paul for Day at the Capitol, rallies, and visits with state legislators. Down in Rochester, she helped put together numerous forums with legislators, forwarded countless action alerts, and played a central role in organizing several successful news conferences. We are grateful that JoAnn will continue to be a volunteer public policy advocate for the chapter, and we wish her the best as she starts a new phase in her life.

➤ *Nominations for DSP Awards Still Being Accepted*

The Direct Support Professional Association of Minnesota (DSPAM) is accepting nominations of outstanding DSPs to honor at its annual awards ceremony on September 18, 2011. They have extended their deadline for accepting nominations to Monday, September 12, 2011. Use the attached nomination form to submit your nomination, and send it to iamdspam@gmail.com.