

## ➤ *Implementing the METO Settlement Agreement; Information for Class Members in the Lawsuit*

As we mentioned in our June 28, 2011 *Public Policy Update*, a settlement was reached with the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) on behalf of three former residents of Minnesota Extended Treatment Options (METO). The settlement included: \$3 million to be divided up among all the Class Members of this lawsuit; a prohibition on abusive restraints used against people with developmental disabilities; creation of a committee to review and update Rule 40 (the state rule on using aversive procedures); development of a Minnesota Olmstead Plan to address barriers to individuals who want to move from institutions to the community; and additional training for staff on effective ways to work with people with developmental and other disabilities, including the use of positive behavior supports. You can find a [summary](#) of the settlement agreement and a more detailed [Q & A sheet](#) on the agreement online.



A Notice of the Class Action Settlement was mailed to every person residing at METO from July 1, 1997 through May 1, 2011. Class Members in this lawsuit are eligible to receive payment from the settlement. A Class Member must have been a resident of METO during the July 1, 1997 through May 1, 2011 timeframe and experienced maltreatment during that time. Class Members must file a claim for that payment by September 15, 2011.

If you experienced maltreatment at METO, if you know someone who is or might be one of the Class Members in the lawsuit, or if you need more information or have questions about the settlement, contact: Shamus O'Meara, Lead Attorney for the Settlement  
Johnson & Condon, P.A.  
7401 Metro Boulevard, Suite 600  
Minneapolis, MN 55439-3034  
(952) 806-0438; [SPO@Johnson-Condon.com](mailto:SPO@Johnson-Condon.com)

## ➤ *Protecting the Medicaid Lifeline: Activities for August*

Congress has recessed for the month of August. They will likely spend part of the month in their districts meeting with constituents. Before they go back to Washington, D.C. in early September, impress upon them how important Medicaid is to you, your family, and/or your loved one with disabilities. Medicaid is the lifeline for people with disabilities and their families, providing half of the funding for many supports that make life possible in the community and keep families together.



**DON'T CUT OUR  
LIFELINE**

Members of the U.S. House and U.S. Senate often hold town meetings during August. Contact their district offices to see when and where they are holding meetings, and be at those meetings to stand up for Medicaid. Share your story about the lifeline that Medicaid provides for

you and/or your family. Give your member of Congress [a fact sheet from The Arc](#) about the program. Ask them [questions written specially](#) for these events. To find out who your members of Congress are and how to contact them, go to <http://www.gis.leg.mn/OpenLayers/districts>.

The Minnesota State Fair (where federal officials often make appearances) and your local papers are also good venues for getting out the word about Medicaid. Later this week, we will have more information about sharing information with members of Congress during the Fair and putting together letters to the editor.

### ➤ *PCA Wage Cut Update*

The Arc Minnesota and partner agencies continue to register opposition to the 20% cut in wages to personal care attendants (PCAs) who support relatives for which they are not legally responsible. I [sent a letter](#) to DHS Commissioner Lucinda Jesson last week, expressing our opposition to this provision in the state health and human services bill for the next biennium.

If Governor Dayton calls a special session, we want a repeal of this 20% cut placed on the agenda. We and our partners are collecting stories of families and agencies that will be harmed by this cut. We at The Arc Minnesota have already received more than a dozen stories since the end of July. If you haven't sent in your story, e-mail it to Anni Simons, Coordinator for the Minnesota Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities, at [asimons@arcmn.org](mailto:asimons@arcmn.org).



### ➤ *Input Needed, Innovative Housing Spotlited, Legislative Session Reviewed*

- **Wanted: Your Input!** Are you a member of The Arc? A staff member at one of our local chapters? Both? How well are we serving you and your local chapter? To better meet your needs, we want to assess the effectiveness of our current efforts. That's where we'd like your help. We have brief [surveys for members](#) of The Arc and for [staff working at local chapters](#). Please fill out the appropriate survey by September 6, 2011. We value your input and insights; thanks in advance for your feedback!
- **Innovative Housing Covered in Twin Cities Paper:** Jeremy Collins, son of our Master Trust Director, Dennis Collins, recently moved into his own place, where he receives some support from staff and family and has technology installed to warn them if any problems arise when they aren't around. Jeremy's innovative housing was featured recently in an article in the [Star Tribune](#). Read more about this new effort to give greater independence to people with disabilities.
- **MN-CCD Sponsoring Review of the 2011 Session:** The Minnesota Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities, which I co-chair, is sponsoring a "State Budget Breakdown" on Monday, August 29, 2011 at the Goodwill/Easter Seals office at 553 Fairview Avenue North in St. Paul from 2-4 p.m. Come hear disability policy experts share their perspectives on what the 2011 state budget will mean for the disability policy community, and get answers to your questions. For more information or to RSVP, contact Anni Simons at 651-523-0823, ext. 112, or e-mail her at [asimons@arcmn.org](mailto:asimons@arcmn.org).