EPIC SMVI
Empowering People with Intellectual Challenges

STAKEHOLDERS BULLETIN
March 2014
Edition 6: “Pressing Forward”

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MEMORANDUM

To: Prospective Members
From: Bradley L. Carson, Board President
Date: March 18, 2014
Subject: Invitation to the Board of Directors

Within the next couple of months of this year, EPIC SMVI will be electing several new members to our Board of Directors.

We are looking for board members who believe in our mission and are willing to be active in their governance roles. We believe that this work has never been more important than it is today. If you feel that you are someone whose experience and involvement in the community would be an asset to our organization we hope that you will consider becoming a nominee.

EPIC SMVI is entering a challenging and exciting time, as economic pressures on adults with intellectual challenges increase and the demand for our supports continues to rise. We have a belief that high quality service and activism relates to economic security and community engagement of the adults we support, and we invite you to become a part of our team.

A copy of our board member job description is available upon request for interested parties. While we do ask that our board members play an active role, we pride ourselves on supporting each other as a team and believe that we offer an opportunity for our members to learn and grow with the organization.

A member of our Board, Judy Graham, will be contacting you by phone to discuss our invitation and to answer any questions you may have. If, once you have spoken to Judy, you wish to be considered, we ask that you complete our brief response form.

If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact our Executive Director, Clarissa Mitchell at (301) 516-7300, ext. 132.

Bradford L. Carson
President
Board of Directors, EPIC SMVI

EPIC SMVI’s mission is to empower adults with intellectual challenges to maximize their independence.

For more information, please visit EPIC SMVI’s website at www.smvi.org
Fitness Fridays

Fitness Friday was introduced in October of 2013. Each Friday at 3:30 pm a fitness instructor comes to the training room in the main office to conduct an exercise class of some type. Lately the focus of the class has been Zumba and all of the participants truly enjoy the class. Fitness Friday is open to whom ever wants to participate, but each participant will be charged $5.00 and must sign a waiver form. Anyone that wishes to attend class should contact Cartier Allen or Atai Nyambi at the main office.

Family Forum

The Quarterly Family Forum was held Saturday, February 22, 2014 in the remodeled Training Room at EPIC SMVI’s Main Office. The hot topics of this forum were “communication of events and highlights” and “the Day Program’s transition to a wallless division”. All and all it turned out to be a successful meeting with a great turn out. We want to thank parents/guardians for their continued support.

April is Autism Awareness Month

EPIC SMVI’s Day Program will be celebrating Autism Awareness month. The team will be showing their support by wearing the color blue on April 2nd.

Dental Services for Persons w/ Disabilities

DHMH Office of Oral Health has provided the following website as a resource tool for parties interested in obtaining dental services for their loved ones.

http://phpa.dhmh.maryland.gov/oralhealth/Documents/OralHealthResourceGuide.pdf - Additionally, Group 1 Mobile Dental Services provides mobile services to persons with disabilities. They can be contacted at (240) 997-5007 or at group.1mds@yahoo.com

Community Meetings

Community meetings concerning PG County’s Primary Healthcare Strategic Plan are being held at different locations within the county. The schedule is as follows: March 31st - Wayne K Curry Sports & Learning Complex
April 1st - Laurel Beltsville Senior Center
April 2nd - Southern Regional Technology & Recreation Complex
April 3rd - St. Margaret Church
All meetings are from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm - All residents are encouraged to attend.

Classes at Prince Georges Community College

PGCC is holding classes now through May 2014. Classes include: Line Dancing, Steps to Success, Personal Health and Nutrition, Meal Planning and Preparation, Communication Skills, and Introduction to Yoga. All classes are taught by Instructors certified in their subject matter.
REGISTER TODAY! For further information, call 301-322-0519 or contact Nancy Forsythe, EdS at forsythe.n@gmail.com
Director's Corner

Ready for Press

On February 27, 2014 several human service organizations, particularly those that assist individuals with disabilities, joined forces in support of SB 890 and HB 1266. Our esteemed leader, Clarissa Mitchell was involved in a press conference and even testified on behalf of those hardworking Direct Support Staff whom, despite the proposed minimum wage increase, are not adequately compensated for the dedication and care they provide to individuals with disabilities. Mrs. Mitchell represented these amazing workers well and continues to advocate by helping to increase public awareness and support for this worthy cause. She also encourages everyone to contact their local Maryland officials to vote for both the House and Senate bill. Read the following page for more information on this pressing issue.
CBS’s Mike and Molly is about a working class Chicago couple who find love at an Overeaters Anonymous meeting. The comedic series follows the couple through their journey for companionship and allows viewers to enjoy the circumstances, family, and friends they encounter along the way.

EPIC SMVI’s QA Director, Atai Nyambi’s son Nyambi Nyambi co-stars on the show. She would like to thank everyone that supports her son by tuning in Monday evenings at 9 pm EST to watch the show. The network recently announced that the hit comedy has been renewed for its 5th season. We would like to congratulate her son along with the rest of the cast and wish them all a great run. - CONGRATULATIONS!

As state lawmakers debate whether to raise Maryland’s minimum wage, another directly-connected battle has begun to brew. It centers on boosting pay for caregivers of the disabled. Matt Rice is an advocate for the disabled. He says the vital role of caregivers cannot be underestimated. “I would not be able to speak with you today if it was not for the impact of a direct support worker,” Rice said. Rice and others say if Maryland’s minimum wage is increased the hourly wages paid by the state to agencies that help the disabled must also be raised. Whitney Ellenby is the mother of a 12-year-old boy with autism. She says all she wants is to see that the workers are fairly compensated. “This is not a minimum wage job,” Ellenby said. “If anything, these people every single day outperform the lawyers and the attorneys and the doctors with what they do.” But lawmakers face a financial dilemma. If they increase the minimum wage and increase the so-called reimbursement rate for caregivers it could wind up costing the state millions of dollars. “It has a very steep fiscal note and this is also emblematic of the domino effect of any type of increase in the minimum wage,” State Senator David Brinkley said.


With only a couple of weeks left of the Legislative Session, we must fight NOW to increase funding so that direct support staff do not become minimum wage workers. There is much work being done on this issue and tremendous support growing. Tell your representative to vote for SB 890 and HB 1266, the bills to address the need to keep the wage factor for DSPs at least 50% above the minimum wage.

URGENT - YOUR EMAILS AND PHONE CALLS ARE NEEDED IMMEDIATELY!

Contact:

GOVERNOR Martin O’Malley
Email: http://www.governor.maryland.gov/mail/
Call: (410)-974-3901

LT. GOVERNOR Anthony Brown
Email: http://www.governor.maryland.gov/mail/ltdefault.asp
Call: (410)-974-2804

ALSO...
Contact Members of the House Health & Government Operations
http://msa.maryland.gov/msa/mdmanual/06hse/html/com/05heal.html
and House Appropriations Committees NOW:
http://msa.maryland.gov/msa/mdmanual/06hse/html/com/01app.html
Introducing EPIC SMVI’s new Vocational Center! Located at the main office, this center is dedicated to the Employment Services Division of the Day Supports Program. The goal with this new space is to provide a separate area complete with its own entrance where individuals can enhance their job skills. Computer work stations have been installed so individuals within the division can improve their computer skills and internal classes are being created to teach additional trades and skills. Such classes include carpentry, work readiness, interview techniques, arts and crafts, etc. This is just the start for our Day Supports Program. EPIC SMVI encourages those with a trade or skill, who are willing to volunteer their time to teach the individuals we support, to contact the Director of Day Supports, Lawrence Caesar at 301-516-7300 ext. 118.

Employee Spotlight Klaus Connolly-Leven

EPIC SMVI would like to extend a warm welcome to Mr. Klaus Connolly-Leven. Klaus has joined the EPIC SMVI family, as the Program Administrator for the Employment/Vocational Division within the Day Support Services Program. He has years of industry experience which he has already shown with the creative ideas that he has brought to the table. The entire organization supports Klaus as he acclimates to his new role and we look forward to seeing his creative ideas and leadership flourish as Day Support Services continues to strengthen and grow. Klaus is based in the vocational area, so we encourage staff and visitors to take some time to stop by and say hello. Again, we congratulate and welcome Klaus!
## 2014 Quarterly Training Schedule & Yearly Closing Information

### April
- **DDA (Part 1)**: Tuesday, April 1st & 15th from 9:30 am – 4:30 pm
- **DDA (Part 2)**: Wednesday, April 2nd & 16th from 9:30 am – 4:30 pm
- **DDA (Part 3)**: Thursday, April 3rd & 17th from 9:30 am – 4:30 pm
- **Defensive Driving**: Friday, April 4th from 9:30 am – 4:30 pm
- **OSHA**: Monday, April 7th & 21st from 9:30 am – 12:30 pm
- **BPS (Part 1)**: Tuesday, April 8th from 9:30 am – 4:30 pm
- **BPS (Part 2)**: Wednesday, April 9th from 9:30 am – 4:30 pm
- **CPR/First Aid**: Thursday, April 10th from 9:30 am – 4:30 pm
- **Incident Reporting**: Friday, April 11th from 9:30 am – 12:00 pm
- **New Hire Orientation**: Monday, April 14th & 28th from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
- **BPS (Refresher)**: Monday, April 28th from 9:30 am - 1:30 pm
- **CPR (Refresher)**: Tuesday, April 29th from 9:30 am - 4:30 pm

### May
- **Defensive Driving**: Friday, May 2nd from 9:30 am – 4:30 pm
- **OSHA**: Monday, May 5th & 19th from 9:30 am – 12:30 pm
- **DDA (Part 1)**: Tuesday, May 6th & 20th from 9:30 am – 4:30 pm
- **DDA (Part 2)**: Wednesday, May 7th & 21st from 9:30 am – 4:30 pm
- **DDA (Part 3)**: Thursday, May 8th & 22nd from 9:30 am – 4:30 pm
- **Incident Reporting**: Friday, May 9th from 9:30 am – 12:00 pm
- **New Hire Orientation**: Monday, May 12th & 27th from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
- **BPS (Part 1)**: Monday, May 12th from 9:30 am – 4:30 pm
- **BPS (Part 2)**: Tuesday, May 13th from 9:30 am – 4:30 pm
- **CPR/First Aid**: Wednesday, May 14th from 9:30 am – 1:30 pm
- **BPS (Refresher)**: Thursday, May 15th from 9:30 am - 1:30 pm
- **CPR (Refresher)**: Tuesday, May 23rd from 9:30 am - 4:30 pm
- **MAT (Part 1)**: Tuesday, May 27th from 9:30 am – 4:30 pm
- **MAT (Part 2)**: Wednesday, May 28th from 9:30 am – 4:30 pm
- **MAT (Part 3)**: Thursday, May 29th from 9:30 am – 4:30 pm
- **MAT (Part 4)**: Friday, May 30th from 9:30 am – 4:30 pm

### June
- **OSHA**: Monday, June 2nd & 16th from 9:30 am – 12:30 pm
- **DDA (Part 1)**: Tuesday, June 3rd & 17th from 9:30 am – 4:30 pm
- **DDA (Part 2)**: Wednesday, June 4th & 18th from 9:30 am – 4:30 pm
- **DDA (Part 3)**: Thursday, June 5th & 19th from 9:30 am – 4:30 pm
- **Defensive Driving**: Friday, June 6th from 9:30 am – 4:30 pm
- **New Hire Orientation**: Monday, June 9th & 23rd from 9:00 am – 12:30 pm
- **BPS (Part 1)**: Monday, June 9th from 9:30 am – 4:30 pm
- **BPS (Part 2)**: Tuesday, June 10th from 9:30 am – 4:30 pm
- **CPR/First Aid**: Wednesday, June 11th from 9:30 am – 1:30 pm
- **Incident Reporting**: Friday, June 13th from 9:30 am – 12:00 pm
- **MAT (Renewal)**: Friday, June 20th from 9:30 am - 4:30 pm
- **CPR (Refresher)**: Thursday, June 24th from 9:30 am - 4:30 pm

### FY 2013/2014 Holiday Schedule
- **Independence Day**: Thursday, July 4th, 2013
- **Labor Day**: Monday, September 2, 2013
- **Thanksgiving Day**: Thursday, November 28, 2013
- **Employee Appreciation Day**: Friday, November 29, 2013
- **Christmas Day**: Wednesday, December 25, 2013
- **Winter Break**: Thursday & Friday, December 26 - 27, 2013
- **New Year’s Day**: Wednesday, January 1, 2014
- **Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday**: Monday, January 20, 2014
- **Memorial Day**: Monday, May 26, 2014

The above schedule is tentative and subject to change - Stay tuned to the alerts for schedule changes and cancellations.

### Closing Information

Please note the following resources will be used to communicate delays and closures to people we support and the community:
- “School Closing System” with News Channel 8 (ABC 7)
- “Schools Out” electronic communication system
- EPIC SMVI’s Facebook Page
- Carematic
- “One Call Now” Messaging system that sends mass messages via call, text, and e-mail
- EPIC SMVI out going answering message from the main office phone line

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### Nurses News

#### Spring is Here

What to do to prepare for allergy season

Allergy Season Springs Into Bloom!!!

Spring is here and the temperatures are rising, flowers are blooming and the grass is growing. The pleasantries of spring will bring discomfort to millions of people who suffer from allergies, asthma and other respiratory disorders.

Here are some things you can do to protect yourselves and the individuals you care for:

1. Take allergy medications as prescribed by the MD
2. Monitor pollen count and stay indoors when it is high
3. Wash hands, hair and clothing after spending a great deal of time outdoors.
4. Keep windows and doors shut in the home and vehicle during allergy season
5. Use air conditioning which helps to clean the air
6. If symptoms persist or become worse contact your healthcare provider as soon as possible so that adequate treatment may be provided.
Kathleen LeHew was a founding member of SMVI (now known as EPIC SMVI). She was a parent with an adult child that needed assistance transitioning into adulthood. Not only was she a founding member but she also served on EPIC SMVI’s Board of Directors since it’s inception in 1985. In 2006 she took on the role of Board Secretary, which she diligently served in until her passing. The commitment and dedication that she has shown over the years have been appreciated. On behalf of the organization we would like to say THANK YOU to Ms. LeHew. She will be missed.

March 28, 1936 - January 11, 2014