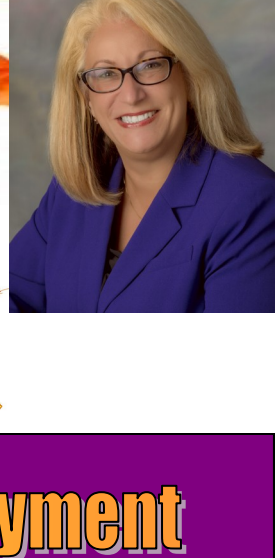


Happy Fall

Protecting and Inspiring Dignity
and Respect

October 2017



National Disability Employment Awareness Month

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM). This is a national campaign that raises awareness about disability employment issues and celebrates the many and varied contributions of America's workers with disabilities.

According to Department of Labor statistics, the unemployment rate for people with disabilities is twice that of the general population, and they are also nearly three times more likely to live in poverty than those without disabilities.

[Click Here to Read Further and find ideas on how to promote a disability friendly workplace](#)

State of Michigan launches Project SEARCH internship program for students with disabilities

Students with disabilities now have greater opportunities to gain career experience and skills with the launch of a Project SEARCH program within the State of Michigan. Lt. Gov. Calley announced Monday. Project SEARCH is a program providing high school students with disabilities the opportunity to train, gain and maintain employment through businesses and organization opportunities across the nation. Through this program, students are offered a one-year opportunity to develop valuable workplace skills leading to post-graduation employment.

[Click Here for More Information](#)
[Click Here for Info on Project SEARCH](#)

Transition to New Medicare Numbers & Cards

CMS recently mailed letters to all Medicare Fee-For-Service providers about their work to assign new numbers (known as Medicare Beneficiary Identifiers or MBIs) and issue new Medicare cards to all people with Medicare beginning in April 2018. Carefully review the letter and accompanying fact sheet and find out how to prepare to accept the new number beginning in April 2018. Your letter will contain specific information for your MAC.

Here is a [sample letter](#) and [print-friendly fact sheet](#).

Here is a link to the [new Medicare card design](#) and a [press release](#) with more information about the project.

HR 620 would undermine Americans with Disabilities Act

Various entities, who find accommodating citizens with disabilities to be inconvenient, have been trying to chip away at the ADA's protections, almost since the ink was dry on its enforcement regulations. They have never entirely succeeded. However, there is a bill now in the House of Representatives that disability rights advocates fear has a good chance of being passed by the 115th Congress and is likely to be approved by the Trump administration. The National Council on Independent Living states, "H.R. 620 is a terrible bill that would be a major step backwards for people with disabilities ... and make it even harder to enforce our rights under the ADA."

[Click Here for Full Article](#)

Stop ADA Education & Reform Act (H.R. 620)

In September, the House Judiciary Committee passed the [ADA Education and Reform Act \(H.R. 620\)](#). The ADA Education and Reform Act revises civil action procedures for businesses and organizations found to be in noncompliance with the ADA provision requiring access public accommodations, shifting responsibility for educating organizations to the individuals for whom the law was designed to protect. H.R. 620 would require those whose rights are denied to first provide written notice to businesses citing the specific ADA violation, then allow for a period to take corrective action.

The bill significantly impacts the ability of people with disabilities to legally enforce their rights under ADA and places the onus of educating business owners about ADA provisions squarely on individuals with disabilities. H.R. 620 now moves to the House for a vote, and, if passed, could set disability rights back decades.

Take action today! [Contact](#) your representative and urge them to say NO to H.R. 620. Together we can work to ensure the ADA continues to protect people with disabilities for years to come.

Bazelon Center's "Campus Mental Health: Frequently Asked Questions" Guide Helps College Students Navigate Mental Health Disability Rights

The Judge David L. Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law, a national legal advocacy organization advancing the rights of people with mental disabilities, has published "Campus Mental Health: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)," a guide to help college students navigate mental health disability rights on their college and university campuses.

"Many students attending colleges experience anxiety, depression, and other mental health problems that can make it difficult for them to function during the school year," said Maura Klugman, a staff attorney at the Bazelon Center. "We created this guide as a user-friendly resource for students with mental health issues to become more aware of their rights. For instance, students should be aware that they cannot be disciplined or punished for having a mental health disability."

[Click Here to Continue Reading](#)
[Click Here for the FAQs guide](#)

The Importance Of Teaching Children About Differences And Disability

The following is a short excerpt from an inspirational post written by Heaven Ramsey. Heaven Ramsey is 14 years old and has a diagnosis of mild spastic diplegic cerebral palsy.

"When I was small, I did not realize I was any different than anyone else. My family never treated me differently even when I knew I had CP. However, when I would get upset over things I could not do, my Nana would tell me God gave everyone something that made them special and CP was mine. So when I started school, I was in mainstream classes. No one else had a disability of any kind. Suddenly, Cerebral Palsy (CP) was not what made me special because those kids didn't understand...

...I felt so lonely in this world. But after some thoughts, I realized that they didn't understand and I hadn't tried to help them understand. I had been trying to fit in and had not ever explained to them about my CP condition. I started opening up and speaking about WHY I was different. I made my Facebook page "A Stairway To The Stars Heaven's Journey With CP" shortly after that and with the help of Charisse Hogan and Richelle Heath and many friends who I came to know through Facebook, I came to accept that it's OK to be different."

[Click Here to Read the Full Post](#)

15 Most Expensive States for Long-Term Care: 2017

The price of long-term care insurance is high—for everyone involved. Not just the patient but also the caregivers pay in more than money to make sure that the person in need of care is given the best care they can manage. In this year's version of [Genworth Financial's annual study](#) on the cost of care nationwide—not just in nursing homes, which are less and less on the forefront, but also care provided at home, adult day care and assisted living facilities—the news is not reassuring. Costs have risen steadily, with those for licensed homemakers—those who provide what the study calls "hands-on personal care" for patients still in their homes—rising the fastest, increasing 6.17% just since last year.

[Click Here to Continue Reading](#)

Medicare Open Enrollment Means More To Boomers Than Ever

Each year, Medicare Open Enrollment begins on October 15 and ends on December 7. It's an important opportunity for eligible individuals to select a Medicare plan that best meets their current and potential health needs, and also offers crucial protection for unexpected costs.

According to a recent study from the Bankers Life Center for a Secure Retirement, today, only 57 percent of middle-income boomers feel confident meeting their daily financial obligations. Today, boomers expect to carry more debt into retirement; only 34 percent expect to retire debt-free. One of the main drivers of debt for this demographic is the nationwide increase in health care costs.

During Medicare Open Enrollment, middle-income boomers can identify health care savings opportunities and prepare for unexpected costs related to illness or injury, with the goal of achieving a more personally satisfying retirement.

[Click Here for Full Article including 4 tips to consider as you plan for open enrollment](#)

Terminology reveals co-opting of disability activism

Excerpts from an opinion piece by Jesser Horowitz.

"Never in my life have I met a differently abled person. Despite running a disability rights group and attending a training session on disability rights activism in Washington D.C. and publicly speaking about disability for years, I have never met a person who has willingly and proudly referred to themselves as "differently abled." And although I am certain that there are some people who fully and wholeheartedly embrace this term, I have never met them nor do I have any particular desire to."

"For disabled people, the word "disability" connects us to a broader movement and its history. It connects us to our own civil and human rights movements and a brave community of people fighting for dignity and human rights across the world. It truly is a grand unifier that gives us a sense of community that many among us have lacked for the entirety of our lives, and it frames our activism within a broader historical context."

"By stigmatizing the word "disability," non-disabled people deprive us of that sense of community and that larger historical context, both of which are fundamental components of many of our identities as well as the fight for equity and justice. Rather than signaling understanding and tolerance, it serves as a means by which non-disabled people isolate disabled people in order to jettison our advocacy so that they can selfishly use it to call attention to themselves."

[Click Here to Read the Full Piece](#)



The Murkiness of Medicaid and Medicare

The guessing game of how much will be reimbursed and the timeline for it to appear can run physicians out of business

In its most basic form, success in business is simply making more money than you spend. When applied to the business of medicine, the lines of success become murky. Success or profitability in any modern American health-care business is challenging because money is typically not exchanged at the time of service provided; it's reimbursed by insurance - private or Medicaid/Medicare, at a later date. Medicaid/Medicare presents complexity – In our case, the growth of "covered lives" since the expansion of Medicaid through Obamacare created a significant uptick in patient volumes at some locations. However, because of the one-sided payer mix, any hiccup to the system is quickly felt.

[Click Here to Continue Reading](#)

Nursing home complaints rose by 33% over four years, new report finds

While nursing home occupancy dropped between 2011 and 2015, complaints were up by a third during the same years, a new federal report asserts.

In 2011, there were 47,279 complaints, which had risen to 62,790 by 2015, notes a new report from the Office of Inspector General Report from the Department of Health and Human Services. More than half were prioritized as high priority or resulting in immediate jeopardy, triggering onsite investigations within 10 working days. A third of complaints were substantiated, the OIG found.

[Click Here for the Full Article](#)
[and a link to the New Report](#)

Upcoming Event

Beyond Basics 2017
Fall Literacy Event

Thur. Nov 9th—6:00 PM
74 Arden Park Blvd,
Detroit

[Click Here to purchase tickets](#)

