The Governor’s 2017-19 state budget has many impacts on Wisconsin’s disability community. The budget’s strong support for community-based Medicaid programs are key to the independence of children and adults with disabilities. Below is a summary of the disability-related issues within the new biennial budget:

Children’s Long Term Supports: The budget provided funding to eliminate the wait lists and serve 2,200 children with physical, developmental, or emotional disabilities eligible for long-term supports and services.

Public Education: The budget increases general school aids, the increase in per pupil aids, the special education transition grants, the mental health programs, and youth transition grants to improve employment outcomes for student with disabilities.

Direct Care Workforce: The budget acknowledges Wisconsin’s community-based direct care workforce crisis with a 2% increase per year in the Medical Assistance Personal Care rate. This is an important first step in addressing the workforce crisis. The demand for personal care, which provides cost-effective supports to people with disabilities and older adults in home or community-based settings, is expected to grow dramatically in the coming years and people are already struggling to find workers.

Long-Term Care: The budget includes funding to provide Ombudsman services for people over 60 interested or participating in the IRIS program. By January 2018 all of the 72 counties will have access to Family Care and IRIS for their long-term care services and supports.

Transportation: The increase of Transportation Aids for the Elderly and Disabled (85.21 program) in the Governor’s budget are very positive. Advocates and people who use transportation funded by 85.21 funds are happy with the increase while concerned it is not sufficient to meet the increased need, especially with the continued decreased Transit Aids.

Mental Health: The budget includes an expansion of peer run respite in Wisconsin, by providing funding in fiscal year 2018-19 to develop a Peer-Run Respite Center for Veterans in the Milwaukee area to improve outcomes of veterans in crisis and those having difficulty coping with mental illness. In addition, the budget includes positive investments to support inmates with mental health needs, including expansion of the Opening Avenues to Reentry Success (OARS) program to five additional counties. OARS supports reentry to the community for prison inmates with a mental illness, through access to case management, housing, psychiatric treatment, medication, and other assistance.
From the Director Cont....

- Medicaid: An important issue is the updates to the Medicaid Assistance Purchase Plan (MAPP) work incentives program that are a promising start to addressing the limits placed on people who want to work and earn more but who need to be able to afford their health insurance. The budget includes most of the beneficial MAPP changes proposed by Rep. Andre Jacque (R-DePere) last year.

These are positive highlights of program and services funding for people with disabilities. While there are other issues yet to be addressed, this budget cycle is very encouraging. We thank all who were involved in advocacy for this budget development through the many phone calls and correspondence with Legislators and the Governor.

Be Prepared, Have a Plan: Emergency Preparedness Toolkit

Hurricane Harvey, Irma and Maria wreaked havoc for millions of people in the US, Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands. Although we don’t have hurricanes here in northeast Wisconsin, we do have tornados, floods, and other natural and man made disasters. Have you thought about what you would do if you needed to evacuate with little notice? The Wisconsin Council on Physical Disabilities is pleased to announce the completion and availability of the “Be Prepared, Have a Plan: Emergency Preparedness Toolkit for Persons with Disabilities.”

The toolkit is a product of over ten years of work by past and present members of the Council. After witnessing what happened to people with physical disabilities in the wake of hurricanes Rita and Katrina, the Council knew more work needed to be done to ensure the safety and protect the lives of people, especially those with physical disabilities, before and during emergencies and natural disasters including but not limited to floods, fires, tornadoes, power outages, and chemical spills.

The toolkit serves as a resource and provides all people, particularly those individuals with physical or other disabilities, with emergency preparedness information including: Safety Tips, Checklists (General, Car, Disability, Important Documents), Medical Emergency Wallet Card, Visual Communications Tool, Family Emergency Planning Form, Basic Fire Escape Planning, Evacuation Planning Guide, Tips for Professionals and Volunteers when Assisting with People with Disabilities and the Elderly, Emergency Information Form for Children with Special Needs, and Emergency Preparedness Apps and Resource Apps for Volunteers, Emergency Responders, and People with Disabilities.

“The Council considered all disabilities when designing the toolkit and deciding what materials to include in order to make it accessible for all people,” stated Karen Secor, Chair of the Emergency Preparedness Committee of the Council. “For example, the visual communications tool could be used in an emergency situation to communicate with someone who is deaf or hard-of-hearing, if an interpreter was not available, or with a person who is non-verbal.”

Cont. on next page...
Continued...Be Prepared, Have a Plan: Emergency Preparedness Toolkit

“Planning is especially important for the elderly and people with disabilities as they have additional needs to consider including medical conditions, transportation, and accessibility. That is why the toolkit’s disability checklist assists people with disabilities in planning for items they would need to take with them in emergency situations such as medications, signaling devices, communication devices, assistive technology devices, and mobility devices (including ways to power them),” said Karen Secor.

The Council has also prepared two presentations for the toolkit. The general presentation includes information on the Council and what tools and resources are included in the toolkit. The outreach presentation is targeted to service providers, first responders, volunteers, and other stakeholders who may have to respond and work with people with disabilities and/or assess functional needs during an emergency or natural disaster. The outreach presentation includes the items listed in the general presentation as well as Psychological First Aid, disability sensitivity training video, disability etiquette, and apps designed for volunteers and first responders working with people with disabilities.

To view the toolkit in its entirety and the additional tools, resources, and presentations the Council has created, please visit: https://cpd.wisconsin.gov/toolkit.htm.

Green Bay Wheelchair Wash a Success

The Knights of Columbus Council #617 and Options for Independent Living hosted a wheelchair wash on September 22nd from 9—noon. It was an extremely warm and humid day therefore not as many people as usual showed up to get their wheelchairs cleaned. But those who did got star treatment and a very clean mobility device. Special thanks to the Knights of Columbus Council #617 for making the event possible. Pictured below are the Knights of Columbus cleaning wheelchairs.
Want to Get Involved in Legislative Advocacy! Join Act Now!

People with disabilities of all ages voiced their opinion this year on such topics as Federal Health Care Reform, Long Term Care wait lists for children, and much more. And best of all, their voices were heard! Congress was unable to pass national health care reform and Governor Walker included funding in the budget to end the Long Term Care waitlists for children. How did those individuals who advocated know who to call or email? Many were a part of legislative networks like Options Act Now, which give individuals the information they needed to contact their legislator or congressman about topics that are important to them.

Options Act Now Network works like this...individuals in the network receive, via email or mail, legislative alerts and updates on issues impacting people with disabilities. When an alert or update is received, the individual is encouraged to pursue the issue by contacting their area legislator. Contacting your legislator about issues that may affect you, or someone you know, is important. Your legislator wants to hear first hand how legislation being considered can impact your life positively or negatively. It helps in their decision making. Joining Act Now will assist you in those efforts. This network will educate you on the issues and help you to advocate more effectively. And the more people in the network, the greater the impact.

If you are interested in joining Act Now, contact Sandy Popp at Options (920) 393-1043 or toll-free at (888) 465-1515, ext. 179. Remember, your voice does make a difference!

Find the Equipment You Need to Be Independent at the IndependenceFirst Mobility Store.

The IndependenceFirst Mobility Store is an innovative nonprofit program that offers low-cost, refurbished and sanitized mobility and medical equipment to those who may need it. The Mobility Store also offers a selection of low-cost new equipment. All previously owned equipment is donated to the Mobility Store by individuals, businesses, and other nonprofit agencies.

Every item is carefully sanitized and refurbished by experienced workers at Badger State Industries. Every dollar collected for equipment is re-invested in the program and helps to sustain our services. We sell and accept donations of: • Manual and Power Wheelchairs • Walkers, Canes and Crutches • Scooters, Rollators and Grab Bars • Hospital Beds, Bath Equipment, Pediatric Equipment, and more. If someone you care about is in need, you can contact the Mobility Store or see a list of our inventory and pictures of available equipment in our catalog and on our website, https://www.independencefirst.org/services/mobility-store.

Not sure if you can afford equipment? You may be eligible for a grant for free or low-cost equipment or you can also apply for alternative funding through the Equipment Advance Fund (EAF). EAF is a short-term, no interest loan that allows to pay for Mobility Store equipment when funds are not immediately available to purchase equipment you need and when access to credit is not an option. The money in this fund is donated through funding resources within the community. Individuals pay back the fund in an allotted time depending on how much the individual can afford to pay. For locations, please check out the Mobility Store ad on the “For Sale” page in this issue.
Tech Closet News

Options AT Specialist can assess an individual with a disability to determine the role assistive technology can play in achieving greater independence. In addition, Options new “smart” technology room is ready for tours. There are many pieces of new “smart” technology, along with conventional assistive technology available to try-out and/or view. For more information on the pictured technology or other assistive technology that can help you reach your goal of independence, contact Calvin Richtig, Options AT Specialist, at 920-490-8270, ext.130 or toll-free at 888-465-1515, ext.130. (Assistive technology partially supported by the WisTech, Assistive Technology Program. Telecommunication partially funded by the Universal Service Fund (USF)).

Wireless smartphone / tablet charger - With the accessibility benefits that smartphones and tablets have added for so many individuals with disabilities, they also present some barriers that prevent people from being able to use them independently. Many individuals are using smart devices hands free because of limited mobility or dexterity in their hands.

One of the greatest barriers that is presented is the ability to charge the devices each day. Users are required to place the device into a docking station or plug a small wire cable into a small charging port, which requires a great amount of fine motor skills. For many, this has become a deal breaker in independent usage. In recent months a solution, that has been present for about ten years, has finally become readily available. It is effective to use on nearly all devices. Most major manufacturers now have the capability to charge devices wirelessly.

This technology, called Qi, a form of inductive charging, consists of a charging pad that transmits power to a device that is left attached to the smart phone charging port, hidden inside the phone/tablet case. The user is now only required to place the device on top of a charging pad. For those individuals who are using the “Hey Siri” feature that requires the phone to be plugged in to power, this charger will work the same way. This charging system will allow individuals who can benefit from a smartphone or tablet more independence when operating their device.
Tech Closet cont...

Things to make your life easier

Recently we were an exhibitor at a county senior expo in which we regularly participate. The booth is pictured below. Our most common response by attendees is “I don’t need that yet”. This year, many attendees took a closer look at what we had to display and the trend was “Oh, so you help people find equipment that will make their lives easier?” YES, that’s one of the many things we do!

If you find that in your daily life, there are tasks that are more difficult than they used to be, or you are unable to participate in activities that you previously enjoyed, do not give up just yet. Talk with our staff and make sure you expose yourself to as many possible solutions as you can. Below you will find some examples:

**Ring Pen** – A great pen for people with arthritis or limited grip. It clings to your hand so you don’t have to squeeze like you do with a traditional pen.

**Big button phone** – Great for individuals with vision loss and limited dexterity. Very simple for those with some memory loss or just seeking a simple device. Also great for those who accidentally hit multiple buttons accidently.

**Toothpaste dispenser** – There are several types of wall-hung dispensers that only require you to push your toothbrush into the holder in order to dispense the toothpaste. Some are even motion activated so don’t require any pressure.

**Williams Sound Pocket Talker**— A small listening device for individuals with moderate hearing loss. Great for individuals who want to hear conversations better. Has a extension cord to use with the TV also.

**Multi opener**—This tool opens six different types of seals and lids such as pull tabs, bottle tops, bottle lids, etc. Great for someone with limited hand dexterity and strength.
Consumer Spotlights on Technology

**My name is Joyce**—I have MS, I am in an electric wheelchair and have limited control on my arms and hands. Calvin Richtig, the assistive technology specialist from *Options* for Independent living, has been helping me for the past year or so with assistive devices. In fact, I am using one now as I am writing this email using voice to text. In my kitchen I can turn the lights and the fan on and off using my voice and the Amazon Echo. In the living room I can control the TV with the same device. In the bedroom I can turn the lamp on and off the same way. Additionally the Echo allows me to make shopping lists, get the weather and all the other features of the device, hands-free. Assistive technology devices have allowed me some independence and control which is very important to me.

**My name is Jim**—*Options* IL Coordinator, Alyson Windle, assisted me with purchasing an iPad and case using the TEPP voucher funded through the Universal Service Fund. I do not have use of my vocal cords and have limited dexterity in my hands and fingers due to Cerebral Palsy. I have used an iPad with Proloque2Go as my main form of communication for over 5 years. I would use this program with my landline phone to make appointments and schedule rides. I also use a texting app on the device to stay in contact with friends and family. My current iPad was no longer receiving updates and was becoming unreliable, the touch screen was malfunctioning. Alyson was able to assist me in ordering an iPad Pro and protective case and then assisted in transferring my information from my old iPad onto the new one. I am very grateful for the TEPP voucher program and the funding assistance that helped cover the co-pay costs. (*Partially funded through the Universal Service Fund.*)

**Options has HOME funds for Home Accessibility, Rehabilitation, or Repair**

*Options* for Independent Living has received federal funding through the State of Wisconsin Department of Administration, Division of Housing to administer the HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME Loan Program). The HOME Loan Program provides deferred no payment and no interest loans to low or moderate income persons with a disability and those who are older for the purpose of making accessibility improvements and general home improvements or repairs to their single family home. The loan must be paid back when the property is sold, transferred or ceases to be the borrower's principal place of residence.

Types of projects include (but not limited to) ramp construction, bathroom, kitchen and bedroom modifications, along with general housing rehabilitation and repairs. The counties served by this program include Brown (outside Green Bay City limits), Calumet, Door, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Marinette, Marquette, Menominee, Oconto, Outagamie, Shawano, Sheboygan, Waupaca, Waushara and Winnebago Counties. Applicants must meet the eligibility requirements to be considered for a loan. For more information contact Steve LaFrombois at *Options*, 920-490-0500 or toll-free at 1-888-465-1515, ext. 122.
Options has a Medicaid Personal Care Program

Did you know that if you have medical assistance, a physical disability, and need help with personal cares, you could be eligible for Options personal care program?

Options offers a personal care program that empowers people with disabilities to manage their in-home personal care services being done by family or friends while Medical Assistance covers the cost. (Note: spouses cannot be paid to care for one another, and parents are eligible to care for their children age 18 or older). The following are some examples of situations where our program could be a good fit for you:

- You have a disability, are on medical assistance, and have an individual/caregiver you want to provide cares for you. What do you do? Call Options toll-free at 1-888-465-1515 or 1-920-490-0500 to refer yourself to Options Personal Care Program. If you qualify for 20+ hours of care a week, your caregiver is eligible for Options Retirement Plan. If you require 30+ hours of care a week, your caregiver is also eligible for our affordable health insurance.

- What if you have a disability and are on medical assistance, but don’t know anyone that can provide cares for you? Perhaps there is a family member, (sister/brother 18 or older, aunt/uncle, mom/dad, grandma/grandpa) or maybe a friend or neighbor that has personal care experience that could help. What about someone from church or a community group you are involved in? They can be paid to care for you too and have the possibility of being eligible for both Options retirement plan (20+ hours/week) and/or insurance benefits (30+ hours/week).

- Do you need personal cares and have SHC (Supportive Home Care) through IRIS? We can combine your need for personal cares and your SHC hours with the possibility of your aide being eligible for our retirement plan and/or insurance benefits.

Our program allows you to choose your own qualified caregiver(s) so you can be comfortable and in control of your personal care needs. You can also be assured your caregiver is being compensated for their valuable assistance. Call Options today toll-free at 1-888-465-151 05 or 920-490-0500 to make a referral for our Personal Care Program.

What People are Saying About Options Personal Care Program…

- RN is a very caring, wonderful supervisor!
- I appreciate how the nurse sets up the next appointment and confirms it.
- This program’s fantastic. Helps patient. Helps us pay for her needs.
- Options is a great place to work.
Wisconsin WisLoan Program

WisLoan is a state-wide alternative loan program helping Wisconsin residents with a disability to purchase assistive technology that assists them in living more independently and productively. Any Wisconsin resident with a disability over the age of 18 in need of assistive technology or home modifications is eligible to apply for a loan.

Some examples of assistive technology include wheelchairs, hearing aids, CCTV's, and vehicles with modifications. In addition, loans have been approved for home modifications such as ramp construction and roll-in showers. Loan amounts range from $500.00 to $50,000.00, but the actual loan amount will depend on the items purchased and ability to repay.

Current interest rate on a WisLoan is 6.5%. If you have bad credit, including bankruptcy, your application will still be considered. The focus is on the ability to make monthly payments to pay back the loan. For more information or to apply for WisLoan call Options at 920-490-0500 or toll-free at 1-888-465-1515.

WisLoan is a federally-funded project of the National Institute for Disability and Rehabilitation, and a cooperative service of the WI Dept. of Health and Family Services, IndependenceFirst, and BMO Harris Bank.

Telework Loan Program

The Wisconsin Telework program is a statewide, alternative loan program that allows Wisconsin residents with disabilities to purchase computers and other equipment needed to work from home or from other remote sites away from the office, such as work on the road or at a telework center. Loan funds can be used to purchase equipment, training to use equipment, extended warranties, and cost of maintenance and repairs.

You can apply for the amount you need, but actual loan amounts will depend on the item purchased and your ability to repay the loan. The interest rate is 6.5%. Term length depends on the amount of the loan and the item purchased. For more information contact the staff at Options for Independent Living at 920-490-0500 or toll-free at 1-888-465-1515.

This program is made possible through a grant from Rehabilitative Services Administration and authorized by section (303)b of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended and implemented by subsequent program regulation 34 C F R Part 373. The Department of Workforce Development-Division of Rehabilitation received the grant and provides programmatic and fiscal oversight. IndependenceFirst, a community based and consumer-controlled independent living center based in Milwaukee, administers the program in partnership with BMO Harris Bank and WI Independent Living Centers.
Get Ready for Winter Recreation

Cross-Country Sit-Skiing available at many WI State Parks

State park visitors can enjoy the outdoors year-round, but cross-country skiing is a favorite among fervent FALL recreationists. "Wisconsin state parks offer opportunities for everyone," explains Nick Zouski, the accessibility coordinator for the Department of Natural Resources. The State Park System wanted to have cross-country skiing opportunities for people with disabilities and this was made accessible through sit-skis. Sit-skis include a chair on top of the skis, which provides more control and balance for skiers with a disability.

The sit skis are available for free at Buckhorn State Park, Governor Nelson State Park, Harrington Beach State Park, Kettle Moraine State Forest - Lapham Peak Unit, Mirror Lake State Park, & Richard Bong State Recreation Area. All the properties where the sit skis are available offer easier, groomed trails. For more information on using the sit-ski and availability of the ski, contact the park directly at the links above, or Nick Zouski, DNR, at (608) 267-7490, toll-free at (888) 936-7463. You can also check out the website at: http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/OpenOutdoors/equipment.html.

*On another note— Reservations for the state park accessible cabins starts January 10th and the cabins go quickly. Contact Nick Zouski at 608-267-7490 or email DNRWisconsinParks@wisconsin.gov or go online to http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/camping/cabin.html after January 10th to reserve a cabin.

Moving Mountains Adaptive Ski Program—Pine Mountain, MI

“Moving Mountains” is a coordinated effort between Pine Mountain Resort, local interested medical professionals and many highly energized and dedicated volunteers. The program's intent is to provide alpine ski instruction to those with disabilities who want to enjoy the outdoors and engage in a wonderfully exhilarating winter sport. The instructors are trained to work with individuals who have physical disabilities as well as those with intellectual disabilities. Moving Mountains has two adaptive junior dual skis and two adaptive adult dual skis for lessons.

Lessons are offered by appointment only. Please call (906) 779-3752 to schedule a lesson or to get more information. Lesson cost is $20 and includes all required equipment, lift ticket and instructor time.

Moving Mountains Adaptive Program is a 501(c)3 organization. The ski hill is located just across the border in Michigan at N3332 Pine Mountain Road, Iron Mountain.
Packer Game Tickets for Accessible Seating For Sale:

*4 tickets in section 102 are $115 each.* You can buy 4 tickets and one person must be in a wheelchair or you can buy 2 tickets and one person must be in a wheelchair. Payment is expected when you buy the tickets. Games available: Nov. 19 vs. Ravens @ NOON and Dec 3 vs. Buccaneers @ NOON. Contact Jim at 815-979-0464 or andersj384@aol.com.

*4 tickets in section 102 row 61 are $150 each.* Tickets will be provided via email. Games available are: Nov 19 game vs. the Ravens, Dec 3 game vs. the Buccaneers, and the Dec 23 game vs. the Vikings. Contact Emilie at emiliens@twcny.rr.com or phone at 607-592-0187.

Benefits Corner

**Medicare Open Enrollment Happening Now**

Medicare Open Enrollment is happening now for Medicare beneficiaries. Some of you may not know what that means? During Open Enrollment, which only happens once a year, a person who is currently on Medicare can switch to a different Medicare Part D or Medicare Advantage plan. Medicare Open Enrollment runs each year from **October 15th thru December 7th**.

Should You Switch Your Plan? Medicare Advantage plans or Part D can change their drug formularies each year. So, in 2017 your drug may be covered, but that same company in 2018 may not cover that drug, or possibly charge more for co-pays. Also, Medicare Advantage plans can change their network of providers, change the way they cover a medical service, and/or drop additional benefits like dental, vision, and hearing. Best practice, look over your Medicare Advantage and Part D plans every Open Enrollment period. It may take some time, but in the end you will know you are getting the best coverage at a cost you can afford.

**Social Security Announces 2.0 Percent Benefit Increase for 2018**

Monthly Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits for more than 66 million Americans will increase 2.0 percent in 2018, the Social Security Administration announced today.

The 2.0 percent cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) will begin with benefits payable to more than 61 million Social Security beneficiaries in January 2018. Increased payments to more than 8 million SSI beneficiaries will begin on December 29, 2017. (Note: some people receive both Social Security and SSI benefits) The Social Security Act ties the annual COLA to the increase in the Consumer Price Index as determined by the Department of Labor’s Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Some other adjustments that take effect in January of each year are based on the increase in average wages. Based on that increase, the maximum amount of earnings subject to the Social Security tax (taxable maximum) will increase to $128,700 from $127,200. Of the estimated 175 million workers who will pay Social Security taxes in 2018, about 12 million will pay more because of the increase in the taxable maximum. Information about Medicare changes for 2018, when announced, will be available at www.medicare.gov. The Social Security Act provides for how the COLA is calculated. To read more, please visit www.socialsecurity.gov/cola.
Benefits Corner Cont...

Social Security Expedites Decisions to Those with Serious Disabilities - Compassionate Allowances List Grows

Nancy A. Berryhill, Acting Commissioner of Social Security, announced three new Compassionate Allowances conditions: CACH—Vanishing White Matter Disease-Infantile and Childhood Onset Forms, Congenital Myotonic Dystrophy, and Kleefstra Syndrome. Compassionate Allowances are a way to quickly identify serious diseases and other medical conditions that meet Social Security’s standards for disability benefits.

“Social Security is committed – now and in the future – to continue to identify and fast-track diseases that are certain or near-certain to be approved for disability benefits,” said Acting Commissioner Berryhill. The Compassionate Allowances program identifies claims where the applicant’s disease or condition clearly meets Social Security’s statutory standard for disability. Many of these claims are allowed based on medical confirmation of the diagnosis alone, for example pancreatic cancer, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), and acute leukemia. To date, almost 500,000 people with severe disabilities have been approved through this fast-track policy-compliant disability process, which has grown to a total of 228 conditions.

By incorporating cutting-edge technology, the agency can easily identify potential Compassionate Allowances and quickly make decisions. For other disability cases not covered by the Compassionate Allowances program, Social Security’s Health IT program brings the speed and efficiency of electronic medical records to the disability determination process. When a person applies for disability benefits, Social Security must obtain medical records in order to make an accurate determination. It may take weeks for health care organizations to provide records for the applicant's case. With electronic records transmission, Social Security is able to quickly obtain a claimant's medical information, review it, and make a determination faster than ever before.

“The Compassionate Allowances and Health IT programs are making a real difference by ensuring that Americans with disabilities quickly receive the benefits they need,” added Ms. Berryhill.

Help Options CenterPoint Go Green!

Just like trying to reuse durable medical equipment, Options tries to be environmentally friendly as much as possible. Therefore, we would like your help. Options publishes CenterPoint two-three times a year. We mail out approximately 2,500 editions each time. CenterPoint is now available in electronic form, PDF and Word text formats, through Options website at www.optionsil.com.

You can also sign up to receive an email with the newsletter attachments. Go to the website Home page, scroll down and click on Newsletter Sign-up tab on the bottom left. Once you sign up, you will receive the newsletter via an email with a PDF and a Word Text attachment. Then call us to let us know you will be receiving the newsletter via electronic format and no longer want one mailed to you. Help us to not only save the cost of paper, printing and postage, but to be more environmental friendly. Sign up today! Thank you!
Support Groups Meeting at Options

Options for Independent Living hosts several support group meetings:

CARE Café – “A place for adults on the spectrum.” This is a social/support group for adults 18 and over on the autism spectrum. Meetings are held the 2nd and 4th Friday from 6-8 pm at Options. The meetings are free. For more information contact CARE Café on facebook or email mortongbay@aol.com or jjmorton@spectrumblue.net. You can also request that you be added to their email roster which will include updates on meeting plans and location, any meeting changes, etc.

Epilepsy Support Group – Meetings are held at Options every 3rd Tuesday of the month from 6:00—7:30 pm. For more information contact Tim Renken direct at 715-341-5811 or email him at trenken@epilepsywisconsin.org.

ALS Support Group - Meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday of each month at Options from 6 pm—8 pm. For more information contact Carolynne Younk, MS, Care Service Coordinator for ALS Association WI Chapter Satellite office in Green Bay. Contact number is 920-288-7095.

The Adult Asperger Support Group, of ASNEW- Autism Society of Northeast Wisconsin. Meetings are held the first Monday of each month at Options from 6 pm—7:30 pm. For more information email administrator@asnew.org or call 920-264-8067.

For Sale Items

CCTV with stand on wheels - Optelec ClearView + Color Reader with 19" Ultra Flexible Arm. Ideal for extended reading and writing. Bought new $2595.00. Will sell for $900 with stand or negotiable. Contact Bob at 920-465-8350. Green Bay


Bruno SRE-3000 Elan Chairlift. Purchased 2016. Used 2 months. Excellent condition. Track is 13 steps long. Home Medical Equipment installed and will disassemble. They will have a charge to install in another home. Asking $1650. For more information Call: 920-362-1640. Green Bay/Denmark area.

Invacare electric wheelchair Model TDX SP Excellent condition - newer cushion. wheelchair reclines with foot rests. Wheelchair is green with black cushion. Runs with a joystick. 400 LB Capacity, Battery charger included. Asking $1000 or best offer. For more information contact Diann @ 920-833-2954 Seymour

Continued on next page...
For Sale Items Cont…

**Hoyer power lift.** Used twice. Comes with extra battery and charger. Also comes with tub lift. Asking $900.00 or best offer. Contact 608-586-5423 Oxford WI

**2006 Montana 6 passenger van with a Bruno "Joey" interior platform lift,** a Bruno "Valet" Signature Seat (passenger side). Has sliding doors (side of vehicle, both sides), very good tires, built in air pump and 110 volt inverter in back hatch area. 156,000 miles, with a 3.5 liter engine. Power windows front and rear. This is a really nice runner! Well maintained. Call or text (715-927-8500) or email lzrdetr@gmail.com. White Lake area

**2014 Dodge Grand Caravan with w/c lift.** It is a rear entry with Braunability conversion. Mileage is 50,223. Asking $24,000. Contact 715-276-6780 or Email me_old_bag@yahoo.com Mountain Area

**2006 Chrysler Town and Country Mini-van with passenger side transfer assistance seat.** 90500 miles. Very good condition, good tires, has navigation, duel air conditioning, back up alarm heated seats, leather seats. 7 passenger. trailer hitch. adjustable foot petals, garage door remote, remote sliding doors and back hatch. Asking $6950. Contact Ron at 920-499-2692 or email at msharron2@att.net. Green Bay

**2003 Ford E150 Van with power wheelchair lift—** has tv, vcr, dvd player, power windows, power locks, power wheelchair lift in rear doors. No rust, clean. A little over 47,000 miles. Asking $11,500. Contact 920-810-5878. Appleton area.

Other Used Medical Equipment Resources

**Options website** has a classified tab where you may find other items listed that are not in the newsletter so check it out at [www.optionsil.com](http://www.optionsil.com). If you do not have access to the internet and want a print out of the website’s for sale list, contact Barb at Options, 888-465-1515, ext. 145, and the list can be sent to you. **Options also has a LEND closet** that contains donated medical equipment for people to use, such as walkers, bath benches, toilet seat risers, crutches, etc. If you do not have medical insurance that will cover these items and are in need of them, please give Barb at Options a call. We may have what you need in LEND.

**IndependenceFirst Mobility Store** - used medical equipment. Call (608) 243-1785 - Madison area or (414) 988-5333 - Greater Milwaukee area. Website: [http://ifmobility.mcservices.com/](http://ifmobility.mcservices.com/).

The Mobility Store also has financing for individuals with disabilities in Brown County to purchase adaptive equipment from the Mobility Store. Contact them for further details.
**Options for Independent Living Inc.**

**VISION STATEMENT:** Options for Independent Living empowers people with disabilities.

**MISSION STATEMENT:** Options for Independent Living, serving people with disabilities in 17 counties of Northeast Wisconsin, is the pre-eminent non-profit organization of choice to empower people with disabilities. Options provides opportunities, through advocacy and education, for individuals with all disabilities and ages, to actively access their communities, maximize their independence, and connect with the resources and funding available to them.

### Staff Directory

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>555 Country Club Road</td>
<td>Carol Hall Ext 181</td>
<td>Ann Jadin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Toll Free 1-888-465-1515</td>
<td><a href="mailto:carolh@optionsil.org">carolh@optionsil.org</a></td>
<td>Chair</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fax 920-490-0700</td>
<td></td>
<td>Jim Feenstra</td>
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<tr>
<td>TTY 920-490-0600</td>
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<td>Vice-Chair</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>STAFF DIRECTORY</strong></td>
<td>Billing Specialist—PCA Program</td>
<td>Eric Stream</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To reach staff directly,</td>
<td>Annette Nitke Ext 107</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Call (920) 490-8270, then the</td>
<td><a href="mailto:annetten@optionsil.org">annetten@optionsil.org</a></td>
<td>Autumn Nordall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Extension below:</td>
<td></td>
<td>Secretary</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Executive Director</strong></td>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Byia Martin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas J. Diedrick Ext 111</td>
<td>Barb Guys Ext 145</td>
<td>Joyce David</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:tomd@optionsil.org">tomd@optionsil.org</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:barbg@optionsil.org">barbg@optionsil.org</a></td>
<td>Scott Menzel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assistant Director</strong></td>
<td>Certified Peer Specialists</td>
<td>Karen Smits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kathryn C. Barry Ext 183</td>
<td>Jacqueline West—920-680-2679</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:kittyb@optionsil.org">kittyb@optionsil.org</a></td>
<td>Dave Zanon—920-609-9467</td>
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<td><strong>Accountant</strong></td>
<td>Fox Valley Office—Appleton</td>
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<td>2331 E. Lourdes Drive</td>
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<td>Grassroots Advocacy Coordinator</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Housing Program Manager</strong></td>
<td>John Meissner - Appleton Office</td>
<td>Byia Martin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Steve LaFrombois Ext 122</td>
<td>920-997-9999</td>
<td>Joyce David</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:Johnm@optionsil.org">Johnm@optionsil.org</a></td>
<td>Scott Menzel</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Accessibility Assessment Specialist</strong></td>
<td>Independent Living Coordinator</td>
<td>Karen Smits</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sarah Dunks Ext 132</td>
<td>Alyson Windle—Appleton Office</td>
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<td>920-882-9309</td>
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<td><strong>Work Incentives Benefits Specialist</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Work Incentives Benefits Specialist</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Stacy Schultz Ext 105</td>
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<td><strong>Independent Living Coordinator</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Assistive Technology Specialist</strong></td>
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<td>Calvin Richtig Ext 130</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Independent Living Coordinator/ Memory Loss Technology Specialist</strong></td>
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<td>Stacie Scheibe Ext 187</td>
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### Counties served:
- Brown
- Calumet
- Door
- Fond du Lac
- Green Lake
- Kewaunee
- Manitowoc
- Marinette
- Marquette
- Menominee
- Oconto
- Outagamie
- Shawano
- Sheboygan
- Waupaca
- Waushara
- Winnebago

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