By Thomas J. Diedrick, Executive Director

The next few months will be critical to funding programs and services for people with disabilities and those who are older. Advocacy is needed!

Governor Walker just released his State budget for the next biennium. The Legislature has started reviewing the budget - the first step in the budget process. Then the Joint Committee on Finance will be holding public forums for people to express their opinions and advocate for programs and services that affect them. A few items in the state budget that impact people with disabilities are: proposed changes to the Medicaid Purchase Plan (MAPP) for people with disabilities who want to work; added funds to eliminate the Children’s Long Term Waiver waitlist; a 2% increase for Personal Care Services; and funding for the Independent Living Centers at same level. As we and other advocates review the details of the budget, I encourage you to check Options facebook and website often for updates and meeting notices.

There are also very important items at the Federal level. One of the most crucial issues is the proposed repeal of the Affordable Care Act (or commonly referred to as Obama Care). There are many implications for people with disabilities on just this one issue. The Affordable Care Act (ACA) included exemption of pre-existing conditions; the Money Follows the Person (MFP) demonstration program that helps people with disabilities transition from institutions to the community; and the Community First Choice Option (CFCO) was established,

In addition to the repeal of the ACA, block grants may replace the way States receive Federal Funding, especially in the area of Medicaid dollars. Also, school vouchers are under discussion. These are just a few issues, if passed, will affect many individuals with disabilities.

Options primary mission is advocacy! We at Options encourage you to contact your State and Federal Legislators. Attend any local public forums they may be hosting and express your concerns and/or support for budget proposals at a state level and legislation at a federal level. See inside for more information on state budget updates concerning people with disabilities, upcoming state budget training, Disability Advocacy Day, and changes to the MAPP Program.

Options website is: www.optionsil.com and Facebook is: https://www.facebook.com/optionsil.greenbay/
Proposed Changes to the MAPP Program
Championed by Rep. Andre Jacque Now in the Governor’s Budget!

For over three years Rep. Andre Jacque (R-De Pere) has worked with members from the Governor’s Committee for People with Disabilities MAPP Ad-hoc Committee, which included members from Disability Rights WI, WI Board for People with Developmental Disabilities, WI Mental Health Alliance, Grassroots Empowerment Project, and others to promote changes to the Medicaid Purchase Plan (MAPP). MAPP is a work incentive program available to people with disabilities who want to work, but fear losing the Medicaid /long term care services they need. There are still many disincentives in MAPP that stop people with disabilities from working or working to their fullest potential. This year Governor Walker’s biennial budget includes proposed changes to MAPP that will remove many of the disincentives.

Over the past three years, Rep. Jacque and the committee garnered much support in the legislature for changes to the MAPP program. As a result of this work and legislative support, the Department of Health Services (DHS) saw the need to remove many of the disincentives. DHS began working with the group last year to develop a list of necessary changes that would be budget neutral. When that was accomplished, DHS proposed the changes as a part of the Governor’s biennial budget.

The changes are many and a little complicated, but they will be beneficial to people with disabilities who want to work and need Medicaid. Here are some of the proposed changes: treating earned and unearned income the same in premium calculations, which would remove the premium cliff for people on SSDI and exempting independence accounts/assets/retirement accounts accumulated while on MAPP or COP when applying for another MA or long term care program. This would allow someone to retire after being on MAPP and still maintain long term care services. Another change is the deduction of medical, remedial and long-term care expenses over $500 a month in eligibility calculations. This would allow those with higher incomes to deduct those costs from their income, thus allowing them to be on MAPP. A proposed change that is not MAPP specific, but very critical for people with disabilities, is the increase of the medically needy rate to 100% of the federal poverty level. There has not been an increase in this rate in over 30 years!

If the budget passes with the MAPP changes intact many of the disincentives currently in MAPP will be gone, allowing people with disabilities to work to the greatest extent possible without the fear of losing their Medicaid benefits or being unable to afford them.

Our many thanks go out to Rep. Andre Jacque for his commitment and diligence in working with advocates the past three years to shed light on the importance of these changes. Our thanks also go out to DHS and the Governor for their work in placing the changes in the budget. The Governor’s theme for this year’s budget is “Wisconsin Works for Everyone.” These proposed changes will go a long way in making that happen for people with disabilities throughout the state who want to work! Now the work starts...let’s get the proposed MAPP changes in the budget passed. Contact your legislator and ask for their support. If your legislator already supports the changes, say thank you!
More State Budget Info

Each year WI Independent Living Centers gather at the Capitol to visit our legislators and discuss legislation and/or budget items important to people with disabilities. We will visit our legislators this year on March 16. Along with the proposed MAPP changes, we will be discussing the following issues:

**Wisconsin’s Long Term Care and Mental Health Services and Supports**

Wisconsin is known as a national leader in providing long term care and mental health services and supports for its children, adults with disabilities and aging population. The Wisconsin Independent Living Network (WILN) is supportive of many of these related items in the Governor’s proposed Biennial Budget for 2017-2019. These include, but are not limited to:

Providing statewide parity for long term care services and supports by providing the Family Care and IRIS Programs statewide. (71 of the 72 counties have fully transitioned into Family Care/IRIS or will by end of this year and Dane County will in January of 2018).

Improving access to care by providing $14,067,300 in fiscal year 2017-18 and $25,205,500 in fiscal year 2018-19 to eliminate the waiting list for long term supports for approximately 2,200 children with disabilities.

Supporting the Personal Care Program direct care workforce by providing a 2% increase of $5,034,300 in fiscal year 2017-18 and a 2% increase of $9,936,300 in fiscal year 2018-19 to address increased program acuity.

Supporting access to the independent Ombudsman Program for all IRIS participants over the age of 60 years through the Board on Aging and Long Term Care, who currently provide the Ombudsman Program for people in Family Care Program over the age of 60.

Continuing to support access to recovery based services and supports for people with Mental Illness through the Peer Run Respite Centers and the Certified Mental Health Peer Specialists Program.

**Wisconsin Needs a Transportation Coordination Task Force**

Wisconsin can provide better more efficient, more effective transportation alternatives for all of Wisconsin’s residents who need transportation—whether they’re people with disabilities or older residents no matter where they live in our great state, and do so by facilitating coordination among our present programs. To accomplish this, the Wisconsin Independent Living Network (WILN) is asking that the formation of a Transportation Coordination Task Force be included in the 2017-2019 Biennial Budget.

Integrating coordination at all levels into our state’s transportation system offers the opportunity to create more access by more effectively utilizing the transportation resources and options that are funded right now. But our current, complicated system presents obstacles. Presently, providers who try to combine destinations, riders, trip purposes and funders face an uphill battle with little reward. The job of the task force will be to look for ways Wisconsin might streamline our regulations to eliminate these obstacles and implement solutions.

Continued on page 4...
State Budget continued...

What would the task force look like? Our two biggest transportation funders; WisDOT and DHS (with Medical Assistance transportation) must be there. In addition, Vocational Rehabilitation, Workforce Development and Veterans Affairs also provide significant transportation funding. The Office of the Commissioner of Insurance with its role in insurance for transportation might also be helpful. Whatever its eventual makeup, state-level leadership provided by the task force can speed us toward our goal; a coordinated, accessible, affordable, dependable, safe, statewide system providing the best transportation for all Wisconsin’s residents.

The resulting coordinated system will both save money and add capacity. In addition to providing more efficient and effective transportation access there are further benefits. Under the FAST Act, our current federal transportation authorization, state level intergovernmental coordination is a recommended best practice. As Wisconsin’s intergovernmental representatives identify and implement efficiencies, Wisconsin would benefit from fast-track approval for our State Transportation Improvement Plan, shortening the time between planning and implementation for transportation projects.

The challenge to accessing transportation poses one of the significant barriers for older residents and people with disabilities to their full participation in our communities. For many, lack of access means isolation. Transportation can prevent the negative outcomes caused by isolation.

While the largest communities in the state are served by public transit systems which provide a basic level of transportation for all residents, rural areas and smaller communities lack even these options. The work of a Transportation Coordination Task Force can provide us with the means to extend these crucial transportation options for all Wisconsin’s residents. That is why the Independent Living Centers of WI support the creation of this Task Force.

These are not all of the issues that pertain to people with disabilities in the budget, but if you support any of the issues please let your legislator know. You can call the legislative hotline at 1-800-362-9472, let them know who you legislator is, and the person answering the hotline will give you the phone number for your legislator.

If you don’t know who your legislator is you can go online to http://maps.legis.wisconsin.gov/ and enter your address in the search box in the right upper corner. Or you can contact Sandy Popp at Options at 1-888-465-1515, ext. 179 and Sandy can assist with information on who your legislator is and how to make contact. If you want more information on the budget please try to attend one of the budget trainings listed on page 7 in this newsletter.
Register for Disability Advocacy Day

Join people with disabilities from throughout the state for Disability Advocacy Day in Madison on Tuesday, March 21 at the Monona Terrace and Convention Center, One John Nolen Drive. Make certain your voice is heard! Disability Advocacy Day is designed to connect you with your legislators so you can talk about issues that matter to you. You are the expert in sharing how legislative policies affect people with disabilities in their everyday lives.


New this year is an online registration through PayPal to reserve a lunch. Lunch is a box lunch and the cost is $12. You can also bring a lunch from home if you prefer! And if you are able, please donate to help others attend this event!

Please note that Survival Coalition will schedule your legislative visit. Your visit will be with others from your district. In order to have accurate scheduling – you must use your home address on the registration form. Check-In starts at 9:30 am on March 21, 2017. Parking is own your own. Fees may apply. Parking is available at Monona Terrace. For groups of 10 or more: If you need transportation assistance please contact: Survivalcoalitionwi@gmail.com.

Disability Awareness Day Agenda

9:30 AM: Check in: Monona Terrace, One John Nolen Drive, Madison
Pick up materials/T-Shirt (if you don’t have one)

10:30 AM: Briefing on Survival Coalition’s current issues

11:00 AM: Planning time with others from your district

12:00 PM: Pick up your box lunch (if you ordered one). You may eat your lunch at Monona Terrace or at the Capitol. Outside restaurant food is not permitted in Monona Terrace but you may bring a lunch from home.

12:30-12:50 PM: Rally at the State Capitol, South Hamilton Street. entrance. (3 blocks away)
(You are responsible for your own transportation to the Capitol).

1:00- 3:00 PM: Legislative visits scheduled

3:00-3:30 PM: Check out and debrief after your visit at the Capitol

*Justin Dart, considered the father of the Americans with Disabilities Act, is quoted as saying “Get into politics as if your life depends on it. It does!”*
Are You Still Having Problems with MTM, the Non-Emergency Medical Transportation Provider for People on Medical Assistance?

For those of you who are on Medical Assistance and have never heard of MTM, MTM is the provider of non-emergency medical transportation for when you have no other way to get to your medical appointments. MTM, Inc. began providing Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) brokerage services for those on Medical Assistance in August of 2013 through a contract with the Department of Health Services (DHS). Concurrent with the contract, DHS implemented several new procedures for oversight and quality control. But problems continue with the provision of service for those who rely on this type of transportation.

Problems with the service have frustrated people over the years and has led to people choosing not to take MTM and foregoing necessary medical services, or finding other ways to acquire transportation. Sometimes the “other ways” entail working with counties who utilize other funding sources to provide transportation to the individuals who need it. This is commonly called double dipping. MTM, whether or not they provide you the transportation service, gets paid ahead of time for service provision. So if you don’t use MTM and utilize another area agency service provider like your area elderly services, Commission on Aging, or County Mobility Manager program, you are using that funding when MTM has already been paid to provide you the service. It is a confusing detail many do not know about.

MTM’s contract with DHS is due this August. DHS is able to extend MTM’s contract one more year. If you are having problems with MTM or have had problems that went unresolved and now you chose not to use their services, we need to hear from you. Please take the following steps:

- First, if you have had a problem with MTM’s service and have not done this, file a complaint with MTM. You can contact MTM directly on their “We Care” line at (866) 436-0457. Make sure you have the ride number and the date of your ride reservation. You may also file a complaint online at http://www.mtm-inc.net/wisconsin-website/wisconsin-home/. In addition, you can also ask MTM to elevate the complaint to the Ombudsman at MTM. We are aware of the long wait times when you call and the frustration felt by many, therefore if you choose not to take this step please take the next one!

- Second, contact your legislator and tell your story. MTM is due for a 1 year contract renewal this year and your legislator needs to know problems still exist with the service. Tell them your story. Let them know this model of NEMT transportation management is not adequate for people who need the service, nor is it cost effective for the Wisconsin taxpayers. Paying a provider ahead of time for providing a service they may never provide is not a good business model. Your input will help legislators determine whether a different way of providing non-emergency medical transportation is needed. The legislative hotline number is (800) 362-9472. They can give you the name and number of your legislator.

Place those calls! Together we can make a difference! If you have any questions or would like assistance with an MTM concern, please contact Sandy Popp at Options, 920-490-0500 or toll-free at 1-888-456-1515, ext. 179. Thank you!
State Budget Trainings

Governor Walker just introduced a new two year budget for the state of WI. Want to learn about what's in the Wisconsin State Budget? Attend a State Budget Training in your area.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Friday, March 17</th>
<th>Tuesday, March 28</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3:00—5:00 PM</td>
<td>7:00—8:00 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Options for Independent Living</td>
<td>The ARC Fond du Lac</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>555 Country Club Road, Green Bay</td>
<td>500 North Park Avenue, Fond du Lac</td>
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The Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities, The Arc Wisconsin and Disability Rights Wisconsin are partnering to bring budget trainings about disability issues to as many communities as possible during the months of February and March.

Here's what will be presented: the State Budget process and timelines; overview of what's included in the Governor's budget; information on issues important to people with disabilities including: Family Care, IRIS, special education, children's long-term supports, transportation, employment, personal care and more; Specific information on Medicaid Block Grants and related concerns; next steps for the Affordable Care Act and health care coverage for people with disabilities; action steps you can take; where to find resources, information and support for your advocacy.

Every effort is made to provide accessible training locations. To request disability related accommodations for a training session, please contact Diana at Disability Rights Wisconsin at 608-267-0214 or dianag@drwi.org. Place your request as soon as possible, and at least two weeks prior to the training date. We will make every effort to meet your accommodation needs. This training is appropriate for people with disabilities, family members, advocates and allies.

For more dates and locations for the training contact Sally Flaschberger at Sally.Flaschberger@drwi.org or (414) 292-2737 or go to: http://wi-bpdd.org/index.php/state-budget-trainings/.

Can’t Travel and Want to Get Involved in Legislative Advocacy? Join Act Now!

If you cannot go to Disability Advocacy Day or attend a budget training, but still want your voice heard why not join Options legislative advocacy network called Act Now. 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 can make a difference!
**Options has HOME funds for Home Accessibility, Rehabilitation, or Repair**

Options for Independent Living, Inc. 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.

**Consumer Spotlight**

Hi, my name is Tammy. I am Hard-of-Hearing and I have a cochlear implant. I discovered Options for Independent Living on the information sent me with my TEPP voucher. I was in need of an alarm clock and phone clip. I made an appointment with Alyson at the new Appleton location. Alyson Windle showed me several devices and discussed the features of each. I was even able to take one of the alarm/bed shakers home to test for a week before placing an order.

Alyson was very knowledgeable and eager to help! If she didn’t know about something she made calls to obtain the information; information regarding my voucher and equipment compatibility with my implant. She even suggested and showed me some cell phone apps which can also serve my needs when I’m away from home.

My experience at Options was all positive! I now have the equipment I need. I also know if I have any questions regarding the use of it, Alyson is a phone call away! Thank you so much for all your help!

**Find Options on facebook!!**

Options for Independent Living can be found on “facebook.” Check it out for the latest happenings, news, advocacy updates, information, etc. Then go ahead and like us on “facebook.”
Did You Know…Options has a Medicaid Personal Care Program

Options offers a Personal Care Program for people with permanent physical disabilities who are: Medicaid beneficiaries, medically stable, require personal care services, and have identified an individual to provide personal care.

The program is consumer directed and includes personal care assistance with: bathing, dressing/undressing, prosthetics, grooming, eating, mobility in home, toileting, transferring, and incidental services (laundry, light housekeeping, meal prep). The consumer must agree to responsibly use personal care services and have back-up support available as needed. Options does not provide emergency or back-up personal care services.

Consumers utilizing Options Personal Care Program must have chosen an individual who they are interested in hiring. The Personal Care Worker (PCW) candidate must be at least 18 years old and, ideally, be trained in the skill(s) necessary to provide cares to the consumer. The PCW can not be a parent/guardian of a minor child or a spouse.

If you have a referral or would like more information on Options Personal Care Program please contact Maia Xiong, HR Manager/Personal Care Program, at 920-490-8270 ext. 114 or toll-free at 888-465-1515, ext. 114 or e-mail at maiax@optionsil.org.

Mark Your Calendars: Friday, May 5th, Fox Valley Wheelchair Wash and Health Fair

Mark your calendars for the free Fox Valley Wheelchair Wash and Health Fair to be held on Friday May 5th at NuMotion, 920 North Westhill Blvd., Appleton, 11:00 am to 3:00pm. Power wheelchairs, manual wheelchairs and scooters welcome! Health Fair will include: Lunch (2 free meal tickets for each registration. Additional tickets $5); Door Prizes; Wellness Booths (11am-2pm); Complimentary Weight Checks (CNA Assisted Transfers Available); Wheelchair Safety Inspection.

NuMotion is accessible by Valley Transit Bus 15! Picks up and drops off 28 minutes after each hour. Please register with Making The Ride Happen at 920-225-1719. Walk-ins are welcome, but may experience a longer wait time. **Large groups are required to register in advance.

Volunteers are needed to help support this event. If you would like to volunteer for the “Wash”, please contact Alyson Windle at Options for Independent Living, 920-882-9309. This event is sponsored by: Disabled Citizens Inc.; Easter Seals; Johnny B; Lutheran Social Services; Making the Ride Happen; Mind Works; NuMotion; Options for Independent Living, Inc.
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 winter 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 go quickly. If you have not made your reservations and want to see what is available 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.

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.
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. 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.

*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. Here are just two of the pieces of “smart” technology available.

**Petnet Smart Feeder**

Petnet is an automatic pet feeder. While its primary marketing strategy is geared towards creating a healthy feeding habit for your pets by monitoring food portions, it also provides a solution for individuals who struggle to independently feed their own pets. With Petnet, you can create a feeding schedule, or dispense food through the use of a smartphone or tablet on demand. It has a large food container that it draws from and as long as there is food in the container, it can be dispensed.

The use of this device removes one major barrier for many individuals who own a pet and want to be able to independently care for them. You can contact *Options* for more information about this device, or other possible solutions for this type of barrier.

**August Smart Lock** - Your smartphone is now a smart key—and more. Lock and unlock your door, create virtual keys for guests, and keep track of who comes and goes, all from your iOS or Android smartphone. No more fumbling for keys. August Smart Lock auto-locks behind you for peace of mind and automatically unlocks as you approach.
CenterPoint is 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 environment 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 2nd Tuesday of the month from 6:30 – 8 pm. For more information contact Ann Hubbard toll-free at 1-800-693-2287 or direct at 715-341-5811 or email her at ahubbard@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.

**MDA Parent and Family Caregiver Support Group of Children Living with Muscle Disease** Meetings are held at Options every third Thursday from 6:00 P.M. – 7:30 P.M. For more information, please contact Sarah Arndt at the Muscular Dystrophy Association at sarndt@mdausa.org or 920-499-4571.
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.
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

**Acorn brand stair lift.** Only got a few weeks’ worth of use and now is not needed. Paid $3000. Would like $1300 but would negotiate. Will need to have someone disassemble and reassemble. Contact 920-209-4241. Appleton

**Lift Chair.** Brand new motor and remote, maroon color—Asking $275. Contact Kelly at 920-639-9224. Pulaski


**1999 Lift Equipped FORD 350 Cargo Van,** 139,000 Miles, Triton V8, Braun Rear-mounted automatic wheelchair lift. Asking $3995. For more information contact Jake at 920-366-5400. Green Bay

**Invacare 5000 Full Electric Homecare Bed** - Full motorized control, hand crank included for use during power outages. This bed is easy to use and safely adjusts the height of the bed frame for easy patient transfers. Full motorized clearly marked pendant control. Two locking and two non-locking casters to provide secure positioning. Half rail allows for turning and sitting assist. Side rails can be put on one side for full security. Clean. Great condition. Smoke free household. Asking $300. Contact Terry at 920-336-1721. De Pere

**2007 Invacare Pronto M61 Power Wheelchair** with adjustable power seat lift, red color with joy stick. In good condition. Asking $400. Contact Debbie at 920-493-8767. Sturgeon Bay

**Golden Technology Lift Chair**—Like new 3-way recliner lift chair, brown. Bought from Independent Mobility Plus in April 2016. Rarely used. Excellent condition. Contact Debbie at 920-493-8767. Sturgeon Bay

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 will 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 (Formerly the Wheelchair Recycling Program)** - 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/)
**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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Main Office—Green Bay 555 Country Club Road</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Toll Free 1-888-465-1515</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fax 920-490-0700</td>
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<td>TTY 920-490-0600</td>
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**STAFF DIRECTORY**

To reach staff directly, Call (920) 490-8270, then the Extension below:

- **Executive Director**
  - Thomas J. Diedrick Ext 111
tomd@optionsil.org

- **Assistant Director**
  - Kathryn C. Barry Ext 183
  kittyb@optionsil.org

- **Accountant**
  - Peggy Maas Ext 142
  peggym@optionsil.org

- **Rehabilitation Technology Specialist/Home Program Coordinator**
  - Steve LaFrombois Ext 122
  stevel@optionsil.org

- **Accessibility Assessment Specialist**
  - Sarah Dunks Ext 132
  sarahd@optionsil.org

- **Work Incentives Benefits Specialist**
  - Karin Zuleger Ext 106
  karinz@optionsil.org

- **Work Incentives Benefits Specialist**
  - Stacy Schultz Ext 105
  stacys@optionsil.org

- **Independent Living Coordinator**
  - Sandra L. Popp Ext 179
  sandyp@optionsil.org

- **Assistive Technology Specialist**
  - Calvin Richtig Ext 130
  calvinr@optionsil.org

- **Independent Living Coord./Memory Loss Technology Specialist**
  - Stacie Scheibe stacies@optionsil.org

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<tr>
<th>HR Manager/Personal Care Program</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maia Xiong Ext 114</td>
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maiax@optionsil.org

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<tr>
<th>RN Supervisor—PCA Program</th>
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| Bonnie Stankevitz Ext 184 |onnies@optionsil.org

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<tr>
<th>RN—PCA Program</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carol Hall Ext 181</td>
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carolh@optionsil.org

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<tr>
<th>Billing Specialist—PCA Program</th>
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<tr>
<td>Annette Nitke Ext 107</td>
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annetten@optionsil.org

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<tr>
<th>Secretary</th>
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<tr>
<td>Barb Guyes Ext 145</td>
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barbg@optionsil.org

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<tr>
<th>Certified Peer Specialists</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jacqueline West—920-680-2679</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dave Zanon—920-609-9467</td>
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**Fox Valley Office—Appleton 2331 E. Lourdes Drive**

- **Independent Living Coordinator**
  - John Meissner - Appleton Office
  920-997-9999
  johnm@optionsil.org

- **Independent Living Coordinator**
  - Alyson Windle—Appleton Office
  920-882-9309
  alysonw@optionsil.org

### Board of Directors

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<th>Board of Directors</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mark Merrifield</td>
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<th>Ann Jadin</th>
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<th>Eric Stream</th>
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