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### Update and Announcements

## Individual Development Accounts Support Financial Goals

The Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) has released a *Community Developments Insights* paper that examines Individual Development Accounts (IDAs). As a tool for banks and other financial institutions, IDA's encourage lower-income persons and families to save money and build assets for particular financial goals. The *Insights* paper describes why banks offer IDAs, shows how banks are involved with IDAs, and addresses barriers to the growth of IDA products. Information presented in the paper was obtained from a variety of sources including financial institutions, IDA policymakers, nonprofit service providers and program funders. Click here for link to paper: <http://www.occ.treas.gov/ftp/release/2005-25a.pdf>

## Free Men and Women: Self-Determination and Mental Health

On March 16, Center for Self-Determination Director Tom Nerney participated in the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA) Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS) interactive satellite videoconferences/web casts " *Self-Direction and Its Relationship to Mental Health.*"

To see Tom's presentation *Free Men and Women* visit <http://www.connectlive.com/events/samhsa/images/pp.ppt>

Two more conferences will be held on April 6, at 1:00 pm (EST) Models *of Self-Direction in Mental Health* and May 25 at 1:00 pm. - *Self-Direction in Mental Health: from Ideas to Action.* For more information contact [Jackie Golden](#)

## SABE Back at the Table

On March 11, the SABE (Self Advocates becoming Empowered) Executive Committee and the founders of the Alliance for Full Participation (AFP) came together to develop a plan to move forward together to assure that the AFP Summit planned for September 2005 fully integrates self advocates throughout the process. According to the reconciliation announcement " *SABE has become a full partner in*

- [Business Manager Joins Center Staff](#)

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[Closing Quote](#)

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## [Fund Membership](#)

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Principles of Self-Determination

Freedom to live a meaningful life in the community

Authority over dollars needed for support

Support to organize resources in ways that are life enhancing and meaningful

Responsibility for the wise use of public dollars

Confirmation of the important leadership that self-advocates must hold in a newly designed system

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*the Summit working with all of the founding organizations.*” The Center for Self-Determination will exhibit our wares and host a meeting place at the Summit. For more information contact [Pat Carver](#)

## Self-Determination State Sites

### Alabama

#### - Immersion Plans Continuing

Following up on the plans made last spring in Atlanta, the Alabama team did further strategic planning with lead Center Planner Vickie Vining in Montgomery March 10. "Getting the word out" about self-determination and hosting an immersion-learning event is in the works.

#### - Civil Rights Exhibit

An informative Self-Advocacy exhibition is being displayed at the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute through Alabama April 24, 2005. Featuring Advocating Change Together, Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE) & People First of Alabama the exhibit traces perceptions, attitudes, services, struggles, and achievements in the history of persons with developmental and other disabilities. The Birmingham Civil Rights Institute (BCRI) mission is the communication and reconciliation of human rights issues worldwide, and to serve as a depository for civil rights archives and documents. Visit <http://www.peoplefirstofnh.org/SelfAdvocacyCivilRightsExhibit.htm>

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### California

#### - Tremendous Help to decrease unnecessary administrative oversight.

The following letter was received early this month from the California Alliance for Inclusive Communities, Inc.

"On behalf of the Board of Directors of the California Alliance for Inclusive Communities, Inc. (CAIC) I am writing to thank you for your outstanding appraisal of the California Department of Developmental Services (DDS) application for the Center for Medicaid Services 1915 © Self-Directed waiver program. Your conclusions and recommendations were submitted to the leadership at DDS for their review and widely distributed among California stakeholders, sparking considerable discussion. Many of your recommendations will likely be adopted by DDS in the final draft of the waiver application, although there will be no modification for either homeownership or vehicle purchases. CAIC will continue to advocate for the support of your recommendations and for meaningful outcomes in the California Self-Directed waiver. Your report has helped tremendously in our efforts to advocate for maximum participant choice while at the same time decreasing unnecessary

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administrative oversight. Thanks again for your thoughtful review and recommendations."

Contact Pat Napoliello, President  
California Alliance for Inclusive Communities, Inc  
<http://www.caic.org/>

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## **Maine**

### **- CHICAGO group forges ahead**

Debbie Gilmer, Center State Contact from the Maine Support Network and Western Maine Partnership submitted an update from the self-determination meetings held in Maine last month. To read report visit <http://www.self-determination.com/states/maine/index.html>

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## **Michigan**

### **- Learning about the Tools**

The ARC of Livingston hosted a one-day learning event to introduce all stakeholders to the tools of self-determination. Participants included Arc members and Livingston County Mental Health Many Center personnel. Sherri Boyd, Pat Carver, Jan Lampman, Angela Martin, Tom Nerney and Vickie Vining guided sessions on independent support, individual budgeting and fiscal intermediaries. A community-based task force has developed to ensure implementation of self-determination in the County. Contact [Sherri Boyd](#).

### **- Center Mini-Retreat**

The Center staff and Resource Guides held a two-hour strategy session devoted to addressing emerging issues in self-determination especially around fiscal management issues and provider issues. Community Living Services CEO, Jim Dehem, CFO Bill Yordy and CLS President and Center Treasurer Dohn Holye joined key Center personnel mentioned above.

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## **Montana**

### **- An Update by State Contact Marsa Katz**

Marsha reports, "There is much to be done here, but there are true pockets of excellence in self-determination throughout the state, and a renewed sense of excitement that will no doubt produce more in the coming months and years." To

update on self-determination in Montana report <http://www.self-determination.com/states/montana/index.html>

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## **Minnesota**

### **- Free Resource Online**

"Partners in Employment" is a self-study, Internet-based learning program, created to give users the practical skills needed to find real, competitive employment in their own community. The information in this course is relevant and useful regardless of where a participant is located. "Partners in Employment" is part of the continuing effort to create a new employment culture - one in which willing workers are welcomed and embraced by satisfied employers and a supportive public.

<http://www.partnersinpolicymaking.com/employment/>

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## **New Mexico**

### **- 2005 Institute for Self-Determination**

The Arc of New Mexico hosts this learning opportunity for citizens of New Mexico who want to direct their own futures or assist individuals with developmental disabilities and/or their families to direct their own futures. According to Rebecca Shuman, New Mexico Arc Director and Center State Contact, "People successfully completing this training will learn more about performing the functions of the Plan Facilitator or Community Resource Guide in a self-directed program." Contact [Rebecca Shuman](#) or visit [http://www.arcnm.org/index.php/news\\_events/article/168/](http://www.arcnm.org/index.php/news_events/article/168/) for more information.

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## **South Carolina**

### **- Project Promotes Confirmation**

A new endeavor at the Center for Disability Resources, USC School of Medicine, called the Self-Determination Project will "advocate for persons with disabilities by offering various types of training, technical support and collaboration with other support agencies." By working with local self-advocacy groups to strengthen and support them as well as assist counties within South Carolina that want to develop self-advocacy groups, the project begins looking at self-determination by way of honoring the principle of Confirmation of the important leadership that self-advocates must hold in a newly designed system. For information [Kim Cannon](#).

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## **Texas**

### **- Project on Self-Determination Underway**

Imagine Enterprises has completed contract arrangements with four Regional Conveners: Arc of the Gulf Coast, LifePath Systems, Sabine Valley Center and Lubbock MHMR. Imagine staff and Vickie Vining of the Center for Self-Determination have created plans for two-day regional conferences and follow-up sessions, and visited with all conveners.

Additionally, Imagine staff is assisting Ricky Broussard in development of his business, *Get A Life*, to provide presentations focused on self-determination from the perspective of a person with a disability. Contact [Kim Tope](#).

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## **Wisconsin**

### **- Creating a Working Self-Determination Platform**

The Western Wisconsin Alliance for Self-Determination is an organization committed to ensuring that people with disabilities and their family members are given a full voice in creating meaningful and successful lives within Western Wisconsin communities. . Efforts are focused in Pierce and St. Croix counties. The Alliance plans to fulfill this commitment through education, advocacy training, political action, peer support, and strong community foundations. Currently underway are education opportunities for people with disabilities and their families that emphasize understanding the current county and state funding system as well as strategies for change. The Alliance has a goal for stakeholders to become invested in creating a working Self-Determination platform for their Human Services programs.

Website is under construction, but watch for [www.wwasd.org](http://www.wwasd.org) to be up and running by the end of April. For more information, please contact [Naomi Silver](#) at 715-426-4836.

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## **Updates and Announcements**

### **Business Manager Joins Center Staff**

Billie Nagi officially joined the Center's effort this month. Organizing trainings, resource guidance and assisting Executive Director are Ms. Nagi's current duties at the Center. She will remain at Community Living Services where she has worked in administration for 11 years. Billie brings a strong commitment to good work, outstanding organizational skills and positive way of thinking to the Center **"I love**

**coming to work,"** Nagi says. Billie has traveled all over the world because her father was a diplomat with the India government. Before settling in Livonia with her husband and two sons, she lived in Moscow, Peking, Beijing and New York City. To reach [Billie Nagy](#) or call 734-722-7092.

- For back issues of the Alliance for Freedom E-Newsletter visit [http://www.self-determination.com/publications/eneews\\_index.html](http://www.self-determination.com/publications/eneews_index.html)
- To subscribe to the Alliance for FREEDOM listserv contact [Tiffany Devon](#)

### **Closing Quote for March**

*"You'll never plough a field by turning it over in your mind.  
-Irish Saying*

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