

FROM: AUTISM LIVING AND WORKING, INC. (ALAW - email: alaw@autismlivingworking.org)

TO: Individuals, Service Providers & Advocacy groups in Pennsylvania concerned with adult waiver services

RE: Virtual Termination of/Massive Changes to Community Supports for adults on the autism spectrum and other developmental disabilities being served through the OBRA waiver in Pennsylvania.

The Office of Long Term Living has issued a bulletin describing the redefinition of Community Integration (CI) services in the renewed OBRA waiver as a short-term occasional service, essentially eliminating what has been a core support service for adults with autism, and other adults being served through the OBRA waiver. This redefinition of Community Integration in effect terminates the main service received by adults with autism and other adults from the OBRA waiver and instead offers these adults the choice of essential custodial care in their present setting or placement in an Intermediate Care Facility (institutional placement). This change will take effect January 1, 2012.

This is a catastrophe for adults with autism & other adults living and working in the community and utilizing services through the OBRA waiver! ALAW is hosting a call-in presentation with Q & A to follow for families and adults with autism and other interested parties to begin strategizing how to undo this decision that threatens the quality of life of every adult relying on OBRA for community supports.

The call will be on Thursday October 27, 2011 at 4 PM.

The call in number is 1-218-862-1300 and the code is 639 821.

Please join together with others in Pennsylvania who care about adults with autism & all adults being served through the OBRA waiver to take action and stop this tragedy.

Let YOUR voice be heard! - Contact Information

Please share your concerns & how this affects you and your loved ones NOW!

Bonnie Rose, Deputy Secretary
Office of Long Term Living
555 Walnut Street
Forum Place Building, 5th floor
Harrisburg, Pa 17110

The Office of Long Term Living (OLTL) Quality Assurance Hotline 1-800-757-5042. From the Bulletin itself: Questions should be referred to OLTL's Bureau of Individual Support at 717-787-8091.

Site below will give you address personalized contact information (if applicable) for all elected officials: Senator, Representative, Governor and Legislators.

<http://www.usa.gov/Contact/Elected.shtml>

Centers for Medicaid Services (CMS) Regional Office:

<https://www.cms.gov/RegionalOffices/Downloads/PhiladelphiaRegionalOffice.pdf>

Regional Administrator, Nancy B. O'Connor - 215-861-4140 ROPHIORA@cms.hhs.gov

Deputy Regional Administrator, Roseanne Egan - 215-861-4140 (same email address as above)

(copy & pasted from OLTL email Sept. 30, 2011) Attached, please find an Office of Long Term Living Bulletin regarding Community Integration Services. This bulletin establishes changes to the COMMCARE, Independence and OBRA waivers and Specialized Services/Peer Counseling Evaluation of Durable Medical Equipment Grant Providers. Changes reflected in the bulletin will go into effect on October 1, 2011 for new OLTL waiver participants and on January 1, 2012 for participants with current approved ISPs. Affected parties will receive notification today about webinars to be held to review these changes. Questions should be referred to OLTL's Bureau of Individual Support at 717-787-8091.