Montana Medicaid for Workers with Disabilities
The Montana Medicaid for Workers with Disabilities program, Montana’s new Medicaid Buy-in program, goes into effect July 1, 2010. Find out how you can qualify.

The ADA Generation
By Justyn Field

There live a people who will never feel the sacrifices that their forefathers made to fight for their freedom. They will never truly understand that only a short time ago their people were not citizens in the land of the free—they could be shipped off to an institution against their will, be arrested for going out in public or be barred from even applying for work. These people will know, though, that it is their right as Americans to exist—to be a part of the fabric of American society.

They will demand employment, because the promise of America lies in the opportunity to improve life through hard work and dedication. They will expect the right to use the buses, planes and trains that their money goes to support. And roads. And sidewalks.

They will shop in stores, sleep in hotels, play in parks, compete in sports and view the events in their hometowns.

They will communicate freely with other Americans, even with those whose voice they cannot hear and those who cannot hear their voice.

They will do these things because a document, a guarantee signed by the representatives of the people of America, promised them freedom. This paper, this sheath of independence, was signed, not on July 4, 1776; but on July 26, 1990. These people are the first generation to be protected by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Continued on Page 4

"The ideals behind the ADA are freedom, independence, and the opportunity for people to go out and live their dream...to pay their own way, get a job, own a home -- to live that idea of independence."
~ Mike Mayer, Summit Executive Director

20th Anniversary Americans with Disabilities Act Celebration

On July 26, 2010, the nation will say Happy Birthday to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

The Americans with Disabilities Act passed in 1990 and was the last great civil rights bill, prohibiting discrimination for people with disabilities in employment, transportation, state and local government, public accommodations, commercial facilities and telecommunications.

Montanans are invited to attend a barbecue celebrating the ADA’s 20th Anniversary. The barbecue will feature live music and catering from Famous Dave’s. The event will be held from 6 p.m. – 9 p.m. on July 26th at Fort Missoula, hosted by Missoula’s own Summit Independent Living Center.
Montana Medicaid for Workers with Disabilities In Effect July 1st

The Montana Medicaid for Workers with Disabilities (MMWD) program, one of the key achievements of the 2009 Legislature for individuals with disabilities, goes into effect July 1, 2010. The MMWD program is a new Medicaid eligibility category specifically designed for individuals with disabilities to go to or return to work or for those who are already working and may become ineligible for health care coverage under the Medicaid program under other eligibility categories such as the Medically Needy category or through the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program.

Medicaid eligibility is important for individuals with disabilities because Medicaid is a program that covers typical health care expenses for individuals and families with limited incomes, including adults and children with disabilities. In addition, Medicaid covers many disability-specific services and supports not covered by private pay insurance, including things like personal assistance and developmental disability services. The fear of losing Medicaid coverage is one of the primary reasons many adults with disabilities are afraid or reluctant to start or return to work. Many adults with disabilities cannot risk losing the benefits that provide them with the services, supports, and medical care they need to live on a daily basis. Through the MMWD program, working

Continued on Page 3

Community and Rural Health Clinic Accessibility Studies

Summit and Montana’s three other Centers for Independent Living are teaming up once again with the Montana Disability and Health Program at the Rural Institute on Disabilities this summer to conduct accessibility reviews at all community and rural health clinics throughout the state of Montana.

You may recall when the Center’s partnered with the MTDH Program last year to do accessibility studies of all of Montana’s mammography clinics. Those reviews resulted in the comprehensive Montana Mammography Directory. The 2009-2010 Montana Mammography Directory provides information on mammography service providers by city. Each entry includes contact information, hours of operation, standard and additional services available, and disability access information. You can download the directory at http://mtdh.ruralinstitute.umt.edu/mammography.htm.

The goal of this project, with support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, is to increase awareness among health care professionals about the importance of routine health screenings for people with disabilities and improve access to those screenings for this often underserved population. We also plan to increase awareness in the disability community about Community Health Centers (CHCs) and Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) as sites where quality health care can be sought.
Medicaid for Workers with Disabilities… Continued from Page 2

people with disabilities can continue to participate in the Medicaid program by paying affordable premiums — similar to purchasing private health insurance (with the exception of Native Americans who will not have to pay a premium). Individuals who are eligible to participate in the MMWD program will be able to retain higher income and resource levels, and still maintain their Medicaid coverage.

To be eligible for the MMWD program, an individual must be employed and be able to show proof that they are having FICA taxes withheld from their paycheck or, if self-employed, proof that they are paying FICA taxes.

Individuals must have a net family income that is less than 250% of the Federal Poverty Level (250% FPL = $27,075/year for 2010). An individual’s net family income will be determined using the SSI calculations for evaluating the income of the working individual with a disability and any other financially responsible adult living with that individual.

Individuals participating in the MMWD program will also be able to increase the amount of resources they are allowed to have beyond what is typically allowed in other Medicaid eligibility categories which, is $2000 for an individual and $3000 for a couple. Under the MMWD program, the resource limit will increase by four times the standard amount. Individuals will be allowed to have up to $8000 and a couple will be allowed to have up to $12,000. These limits also include any resources that may belong to other financially responsible relatives or adults that may be deemed to be available to the individual as well.

One exception to the resource limit is that individuals participating in the MMWD program will also be allowed to have a retirement or pension fund. Any amount that the individual saves in a retirement or pension fund will not count as a resource or towards the $8000 or $12,000 resource limits.

One of the most notable differences between the MMWD program and the Medically Needy program that many individuals with disabilities are aware of is the cost-sharing requirement. Instead of having to spend down or incur costs down to a specified threshold ($645 per month for the Medically Needy program after income exclusions), the MMWD has premiums that are based off the level of an individual’s income. Unlike determining eligibility for the MMWD program where an entire family’s net income is counted, MMWD cost share premiums will be based solely upon the individuals total countable income. The monthly premiums range from a base of $35 all the way up to $175 as noted in the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Countable Income as a percentage of federal poverty level (FPL)</th>
<th>Monthly countable income dollar amount</th>
<th>Monthly payment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Up to 100%</td>
<td>$01.00 to $903</td>
<td>$35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 100% to 150%</td>
<td>$903.01 to $1,354</td>
<td>$75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 150% to 200%</td>
<td>$1,354.01 to $1,805</td>
<td>$125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 200% to 250%</td>
<td>$1805.01 to $2,256</td>
<td>$175</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you would like more information regarding the MMWD program, you can contact Travis Hoffman at Summit Independent Living Center or go to your local Office of Public Assistance. If you think you or someone you know may be eligible for the MMWD program, contact your local Office of Public Assistance to talk to a Medicaid eligibility specialist. The Department will begin taking applications for the MWD program beginning July 1st.

Now get back to work! 😊
The ADA Generation

But in their lives, these people will not find everyone is a willing supporter of their right to co-exist, their right to succeed.

There will be those in opposition. Those who point out that people with disabilities have not found their place in the job market despite the promises of the ADA, even as they bar them from homes and businesses.

There will be others, still, who gather up the precious resources of our country and use them to build structures or develop programs for the many in a way that shuts out the few. These people do not believe that disability is a part of life, but an affliction cast on those more unfortunate than themselves. These people will be untouched by arguments that people with disabilities have families to support, to entertain, to travel with. Families that will not use their services or purchase their goods, if made inaccessible. They will exclude, not with hatred, but with naivety, with their belief that they are choosing not to follow an unjust law.

The people of the ADA generation will have to be strong. They must realize that the ADA is not a floodwater that carried barriers away, but simply a bucket that must be constantly refilled to wash away the relics of injustice, prejudice, apathy and intolerance. A bucket filled with their own belief that as citizens of America they must not only bear the burden of the country’s demands, but must be allowed to reap the benefits of this great nation.

In Montana, we are preparing to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the passage of the ADA. We see the ADA as a paper, made not just of words and legal obligations, but as a symbol of the coming together of a great people. As a house becomes a home through the toil of those it shelters, so too has the ADA become something more than a law. It embodies the dreams of those who struggled before it and embraces the ideas and vision of those who framed it.

And although it has done much, we must envision a future where it can do so much more. We will not cease to fashion a world in which we are true citizens, where our voices are the catalyst in our lives, where we shape our own destinies—where we are as free as our families and neighbors to choose our own paths.

Because the ADA is not a cheap gimmick to tug at heartstrings, but a cloak of independence as real as those of us who grew up wearing it. We stride into the world as adults demanding our freedom — our right to be citizens brave enough to continue the legacy of those who came before us.
Flathead County Update

Forty-eight consumers, family and friends had a wonderful time at the Karaoke and Comedy Night party May 1st. We enjoyed having Mike Beers there to give us some laughs. We also had Flo and peer advocates, Leo, Marty and Carolyn give a performance as “The Monkees” which was very “tuneful.” Silliness was everywhere as people enjoyed trying on outrageous glasses or having their picture taken “driving down Broadway.”

The next social event will be in August. MATOR from the Rural Institute in Missoula will be visiting us on August 10th to demonstrate accessible fishing, hunting and camping gear that you can borrow from them. We will be meeting at Snappy Sport Center's Pond from 3:00 to 6:00. Watch your mailbox for more information, or if you are not yet on the social activities mailing list, call us at 406-257-0048 to get on the list.

Summit ILC participated in Share Fair at the Kalispell Center Mall on April 24th. The display table was manned by Peers throughout the day. The Peer Advocates provided a Disability Awareness Training at Bigfork elementary May 14th for the fourth grade and May 19th for the eighth grade.

Dianna collaborated with the Samaritan House and other agencies in the planning and implementation of Homeless Connect on June 9th. During the day-long event, she provided information on Summit services and applying for Social Security benefits. Flo, Amanda and YODA participants also volunteered at the event.

A Self-Esteem for Women With Disabilities workshop was held in January and February. Flo and Dianna co-facilitated a Working Well with a Disability workshop in April and May. The next workshop will be offered in the fall. If you are interested in either workshop, please call to get on the waiting list.

Summit Brings On New Staff Members

Amanda Edwards – Youth Specialist

Amanda Edwards from Bigfork, MT has been hired as Summit's Youth Specialist in the Flathead office. Amanda has been a wheelchair user since September 7th, 1997 as the result of a car accident. It happened a month before she turned 16 years old and she’s always had a great attitude about it, never letting it stop her from living a fulfilling life. Amanda is married, has 3 beautiful children, and goes to college. Amanda had this to say about Summit, “Summit Independent Living Center has opened so many doors for me. I found out about Summit Independent Living Center and how many resources that are in our community for people with disabilities. I found out that there was a peer advocacy training happening in Kalispell so I went. My whole life changed after that day! I graduated from the training, became a Peer Advocate, and from that day on I knew I was meant to help other people with disabilities. I now lead a group for youth with disabilities in the Flathead Valley, teach them how to advocate, and help them to be involved in their community. Right now I’m also coaching a baseball team for people with disabilities in our community at the Miracle Field. I’m going to college at FVCC to get my teaching degree and become a Special Education Teacher. I love working with youth! Summit Independent Living Center has taught me that I can help other people with disabilities overcome their obstacles by inspiring them to live a full and happy life. I love being part of Summit Independent Living Center's family!”
Missoula County Update

Right now Summit is under a lucky star! Spring and Summer is so busy we can hardly tell when we are coming or going, but it’s been a blast!

We hosted an ADAPT board member picnic on June 26th. What is ADAPT you ask? ADAPT is a national group of disability rights activists who have championed such changes as accessible public transportation, community living language in the health care act and nursing home transition. Thanks to Bob Liston and Marsha Katz for inviting the ADAPT board to Missoula so we could mingle outdoors in Montana’s Big Sky sunshine and learn from each others’ upcoming ADA events.

Darren and Andrea offered the Living Well with a Disability workshop. Mike Beers and Mary Olson offered an overview of Disability History and Independent Living Movement Culture along with a quick update of the Americans with Disabilities Act. These are a few of many classes we will also offer in the fall. Please call Jude at 728-1630 if you want to hear more about our fall skills training courses.

Justyn Field is our summer public relations intern and is doing a stand-up job collecting local stories about the Americans with Disabilities Act 20th year. He is gathering opinions from local disability leaders about Montana’s accomplishments and barriers we still need to work on. Thank you Justyn, we couldn’t have accomplished as much we have this summer without you!

Susan Morris was our Social Work student and has recently been hired as our Outreach Specialist. Her specialty areas will be Sanders County outreach, accessibility assessment, communicating with community resources, and nursing home transition. Welcome to Summit in your new role Susan!

There is a small, yet mighty group of advocates on the Nursing Home Transition Committee assisting people to escape from nursing homes and back to the community. Have you, or are you interested in moving out of a nursing home? If so, please call Jude.

Mary Olson and Mike Beers just finished up a series of Building Advocacy and Leadership Skills classes as well as disability awareness for students in high school. They are already booked for next fall in Missoula, Florence, and one school in the Flathead. This summer they are working with the Statewide Youth Task Force to host a Youth IL Symposium in Missoula July 28th. Contact Mike B. or Mary for more information.

The Montana Youth Leadership Forum (MYLF) is being held at Carroll College in Helena July 12-16. MYLF brings youth from all over the state together to learn about the disability movement and resources in our state as well as to network and get to know one another.

Youth Opening Doors through Advocacy in Missoula, a group of 14 – 30 years olds, were involved in the ADAPT picnic and are assisting Summit plan Continued on Page 7
Missoula County Update…Continued from page 6

for our July 26th ADA Fort Missoula social event and the Youth IL Symposium. Call Mike B. if you want more information.

The Regional Youth Forum will be held in August 18th from 10:00 am to noon at the Rural Institute conference room, down the hall from Summit. It will be a very productive time for teachers, parents and adult providers to strategize how everyone can work together.

The First Annual ZooTown Throw Down will be held at the Ogren-Allegiance Stadium early this fall. The Missoula Youth Forum and Summit are putting together a Community Resource Fair along with plenty of entertainment and music provided by local bands. Contact Darren Larson for more information.

The Montana Association for Rehabilitation (MAR) Conference is coming to Missoula October 13-15 at the Holiday Inn Downtown. For more information about the MAR conference, check out their website at http://www.mtmar.org/.

Summit Brings On More New Staff Members

Susan Morris – Outreach Specialist

Susan Morris from Clinton, MT has been hired as Summit’s new Outreach Specialist. Susan recently graduated from the University of Montana with her bachelor’s degree in Social Work. Prior to graduating from the University of Montana Social Work program in May, Susan worked at Summit as a student intern completing her Social Work practicum here.

Susan’s new position at Summit will include participating in our outreach efforts to Sanders County as well as helping us with our nursing home transition goals. Susan will visit and work with individuals who live nursing homes and assisted living facilities to identify people who wish to move out of the institutions and assist them in accessing the resources they need to move into the community and their own homes.

Susan enjoys reading, playing with her five dogs, and horseback riding throughout the Clinton area.

Mary Dalton – SDPAS Assistant

Mary Dalton from Missoula, MT has been hired as Summit’s new clerical assistant to help with various duties in the Self Directed Personal Assistant Services Program. Mary will be working in a part-time position with Lorna Palin and Mike Giddings. Mary began her career as a Certified Nurses Aide (CNA) at Riverside Health Care. During the past 10 years she has worked in various positions in the community serving older adults and people with disabilities. This includes her current position as a social worker coordinating the respite, homemaker and senior companion programs for Missoula Aging Services.

Mary moved to Missoula from her hometown of Jackson, WY in the ‘80s. After raising her family she returned to school and earned her bachelors degree in Social Work from the University of Montana. Mary enjoys spending time with her 3 adult children and 2 granddaughters. Most weekends will find her out hiking in the mountains and her goal this summer is to summit Trapper Peak, the highest peak in the Bitterroot Range. Her hobbies include scrapbooking and cross-stitch. She is also an active member of Toastmasters.
The peer advocates and members of the Bitterroot People First Action Club are very busy planning disability awareness activities in conjunction with Bitterroot Glory Days to be held July 2nd, 3rd, 4th at the Ravalli County Fairgrounds. They plan to participate in the parade on Friday and the activities on Saturday to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) by providing disability awareness activities including a PowerPoint presentation and quiz on famous people with disabilities, a wheelchair obstacle course, a visually impaired challenge in completing a dot to dot while wearing Vaseline smeared sunglasses.

People First members will be registering people to vote and there will be an AutoMARK voting machine on display. The AutoMARK is a ballot-marking system designed to provide privacy and accessibility to voters who are blind, vision-impaired, or have a disability or condition that would make it difficult or impossible to mark a ballot in the usual way.

People First members continued their cooking classes throughout April and May, but will be taking the summer off. Classes will start up again in September. On June 15th they planted flowers at the Bitterroot Youth Homes, and not only did they enjoy themselves, but the flowers were greatly appreciated, and no doubt will bring joy to others throughout the summer. They had a great outing to the Missoula Carousel at Caras Park on June 17th, helped out with the Kiwanis Fishing Derby on June 19th, and are all looking forward to the celebratory activities during Bitterroot Glory Days.

Future community activities are currently in the planning stages. They include the biennial Ravalli County Caregivers Conference, which will be held this fall; coordinating with the Bitterroot National Forest to develop more accessible recreation sites; and the list goes on! It will be a busy summer, and you are all welcome to join in on the activities and help us celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the ADA!

Joanne Verwolf
Ravalli County Coordinator

The Flathead Youth Opening Doors through Advocacy (YODA) group has been having so much fun in the past few months! We have gained 6 new members and hopefully there are more to come. We have a member that will be attending MYLF as a delegate this year. We helped with a Comedy/Karaoke party that was put on by Summit Independent Living Center in Kalispell. Of course we attended the party as well and had some great food, sang our hearts out, and got some really great laughs in from Mike Beers’ comedy act. Right now, YODA and Summit Independent Living Center have formed a baseball team that plays at Miracle Field in Kalispell twice a week. We are all so lucky to have this field! It is completely accessible for people with disabilities, including the dugouts, so if you have never had the chance to play baseball, or just haven’t been able to play for a while, then you can contact Amanda Edwards at Summit Independent Living Center in Kalispell. Miracle Field provides most all the equipment, including uniforms. Baseball will go on through the first week of August and you can join our team at any time. We are the Athletics team and, of course, our uniforms are GREEN to honor YODA!

Flathead YODA meetings are held on the first Saturday of each month in the United Way conference room at the Gateway Community Center, from 2pm – 4pm. We have yummy snacks and drinks for everyone. At our upcoming meetings, YODA will be doing some advocacy work for our community.

Continued on Page 9
Flathead Youth Corner
Continued from Page 8

There is a local business that isn’t accessible so we will be writing letters to the business asking to put a ramp up. If you are between the ages of 14 to 30ish, like to make new friends, and want to help make your community be the best it can be, then contact your local Summit Independent Living Center at 406-257-0048 and ask for Amanda Edwards. Or you can email her at aedwards@summitilc.org.

LET THE FORCE BE WITH US!!

New Lake County Co-Coordinators
Scott and Michelle Williamson

Summit has recently hired both Scott and Michelle. They have been involved with Summit Independent Living Center off and on for the past seven years as peer advocates. Scott has an Associates degree and a Bachelors degree in Information Technology and is currently in school to earn a degree in Psychology. Michelle has an Associates degree in Psychology and a Bachelors degree in Social Work. She is now working towards her masters in Rehabilitation Counseling. Each one of them has their own skills and talents that they use to serve their community. As co-coordinators for Lake County, both of them have a desire to see people with disabilities achieve their maximum personal level of independence.

BULLETIN BOARD
See our website at newsletter.summitilc.org for more ads

Wheelchair Accessible Home for sale in Kalispell. 2650 square feet, 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath, office, family room, large finished basement, roll in shower, hardwood floors. $250,000.00. 954-933-2614 or email shelleylaing@comcast.net.

Levo Active Easy Lift Chair (instruction manual included) for $4000.00 or offer. Call 1 (406) 883-9298.

Permobile Chairman 2k power wheelchair. 3 Function, leg, seat (power elevator?) and tilt. Needs batteries. $2,500. OBO. Call after 9am 728-2689.

2004 Pronto M71 Surestep electric wheelchair. Blue in color with a cloth interior. Slight damage on armrest. $800 or best offer or will trade for a 20-25’ teepee. 1-406-225-8044.

Quickie V121 Power Wheelchair. Black, battery cases, headrest, oxygen tank holder, and backpack. Rarely used. $1,000 OBO. 406-531-7662 or 406-543-4521.

Have something you want to sell or give away or are you looking for a hard-to-find piece of equipment? If so, list it here by contacting Travis and list or find those hard-to-find items on the Montech item exchange website at: http://montech.ruralinstitute.umt.edu/mtdb/.

Summit’s PR Intern

Justyn Field, a Journalism student at the University of Montana, has been working at Summit this summer as the Public Relations Intern to help prepare for our Symposums and ADA Celebration. Justyn’s main job is to interview Montanans and find out how their lives have been impacted by the ADA. At Summit we believe everyone has an important story, but sadly, Justyn can’t get out to everyone who wants to share their experience. If you have a personal story that involves the ADA, bad or good, and you would like to share it, please send it in to Justyn at jfield@summitilc.org. Justyn wishes everyone a great summer and hopes to see you all at the ADA 20th Anniversary celebration at Fort Missoula on July 26. It will be a blast!
Missoula County Reverse 911

Reverse 911 allows the Missoula County 911 Center to notify citizens of emergency events occurring in their area such as wildfire, gas line ruptures, or any event that might require notification or evacuation. The 911 Center specifically encourages citizens with cell phones to register their phone number using the new web portal.

Currently local phone companies, such as Blackfoot Telephone and Qwest, provide landline phone numbers to the Reverse 911 system. If you are concerned that we may not have your home phone number in the system we encourage you to register your landline number.

Missoula County encourages everyone to register for the Reverse 911 service, especially if you don’t have a landline and rely solely on a cell phone. Registering your cell phone gives the Reverse 911 system the ability to contact you in case of an emergency near your residence.

To register your phone number, visit the website https://missoula.onthealert.com and follow the prompts.

If you would like more information or have questions about Reverse 911, call Chris Lounsbury, 911 Center Assistant Operations Manager, at 406-258-4469 to learn more about the system.