We wrapped up a summer of educational advocacy webinars with a symposium in Great Falls, where advocates discussed priorities for the Montana Centers for Independent Living (CILs).

Some of the proposed priorities during the two-day symposium included:

- Increasing community inclusion
- Increasing collaboration between CILs and the community
- Educating the community
- Empowering the voice of people with disabilities
- Increasing diversity of services
- Embracing technology

These priorities are in addition to those identified during the task force webinars over the summer.

Some of this work will be handled by task forces, while other pieces will be handled by specialized committees at the CILs. One thing for sure, though, is that it will require a lot of effort to make Montana a stronger place.

And that’s where you come in. Are there issues that you’re passionate about? How about assuring all of us can voice our opinions on issues that impact our lives? What about making sure that people who live in rural areas have the ability to get to where they need to go? Or maybe you want to help, but you’re not certain where to get started?

Come into your local Summit office and find out how you can be a voice for your community!
UPCOMING EVENTS

FLATHEAD COUNTY

Social Security Orientation - First Friday of each month, 9:00
YODA Youth Group - Second Monday each month, 4:00 - 6:00
Parent Support Group - Third Monday of each month, 6:00
Men’s Discussion Group - Third Monday each month, 6:30

Women’s Discussion Group - Third Friday of each month, 1:00 - 3:00

Classes

Sign Language Class - New classes start every few months
Living Well With a Disability - Mondays and Wednesdays from 1:00 to 3:00 PM
beginning October 7th. Please call to register.

Unless otherwise noted, classes and groups are held at:
Gateway Community Center, United Way Conference Room
1203 Hwy 2 West, Kalispell

Call Flo at (406) 257-0048 for more information or to register.

RAVALLI COUNTY

People First - October 12, Trip to Travelers’ Rest
Women on the Move - October 2, 11:00 - 2:00, Trip to Travelers’ Rest
November 7 & December 5, To be announced
Man Cave - October 17, November 21, December 19, 11:00 - 1:00
Summit and Social Security Orientation - October 7, November 4, December 2, 1:00 - 3:00
Halloween Party - October 30, 6:00 - 8:00, Hamilton City Hall Community Center, 223 S 2nd St.

Unless otherwise noted, classes are held at:
Human Resources Council Building, Conference Room
316 N 3rd St., Hamilton

Call Joel at (406) 363-5242 for more information or to register.

MISSOULA COUNTY

Disability Mentoring Day - October 16
MYTransitions Conference - November 6-8
Summit Orientation - First Friday of each month

Summit Offices Closed - Nov. 11, 28 & 29, Dec. 25

Unless otherwise noted, classes are held at:
Summit ILC, Summit's Conference Room
700 SW Higgins, Suite 101, Missoula

Call Kathy at (406) 728-1630 for more information or to register.
I came to Montana from Florida, and I’m finally getting used to the temperature here.

I have actively participated in legislative lobbying efforts through Home and Community Based Services. I took part in the Food Insecurity Project for a couple of years through the University of Montana.

Recreationally, I try to take advantage of the marvelous opportunities Missoula has to offer. I so missed the fishing river float with the Colorado boys this summer. Although museums are grand, nothing beats our great outdoors.

I look forward to working with you all this coming year.

Nancy Davenport, Summit Peer
New Ravalli County Coordinator:  
Joel Peden

Joel’s background is in accounting and finance, in which he has a bachelor’s degree. Before joining the Independent Living Movement, Joel worked in public accounting before moving to work in the financial department of several manufacturing businesses.

He joined Summit in 2010 when he was hired on as a peer. He most recently served as the 2013 Montana Centers for Independent Living lobbyist, where he traveled to the capitol to monitor and fight for bills impacting Montanans with disabilities.

His main priority for Ravalli Summit will be to expand the social advocacy groups Man Cave and Women on the Move. He also hopes to see a Youth Group established in Ravalli soon.

Joel’s vision is to have people with disabilities treated the same way as other members of the community, with a degree of normalcy.

“I’d like to see people view everybody with disabilities the same way as they do someone who has to wear glasses or contacts,” he said. “I say this because if you take away somebody’s glasses or contacts, they wouldn’t be able to drive, read, use a computer or work. However, people don’t look at someone who wears glasses and say, ‘Wow, it’s amazing you’re able to go to work everyday!’ That’s my utopian goal.”

Joel is also a sports fan who roots for the Minnesota Vikings, Wisconsin Badgers and Montana Grizzlies. He does public announcing for Corvallis High School, as well as the Bitterroot Blaze and Missoula Osprey.
Playground Project

As spring gets closer, so does the build date for the All-Abilities Playground in Missoula at McCormick Park.

This playground will be a place where all children will have an opportunity to meet and play with their peers.

Along the way, kids involved in the project had the chance to play in several All-Abilities Baseball Games to raise money and have fun!

To learn more about the project please visit:

www.allabilitiesplayground.org

Or contact:

play@allabilitiesplayground.org

(406) 838-6752
Disability & Employment

Across
4. A reasonable (a)____ can help someone succeed in the workplace
5. Only 20\% of people with disabilities are in the (l)____ force, compared to 70\% of people without disabilities
6. A Plan for Achieving Self-Support, or (P)____, can be used to acquire goods or services to help someone reach a work goal
8. One service Montana Vocational Rehabilitation provides is job (t)____ to people who need to qualify for employment
10. Sometimes the biggest barrier job-seekers face are the (a)____ of employers
11. One place to get free guidance on disability employment issues is JAN, the Job Accommodation (N)____

Down
1. (D)____ a disability is a personal choice, but is necessary to receive protection from the ADA and Rehabilitation Act.
2. Albert (E)____ had a learning disability, but was one of the most successful scientists of all time
3. A 1990 survey revealed that people with disabilities have a higher rate of self-(e)____ and small business experience than people without disabilities
7. Unnecessary employment (b)____ can discourage people from seeking jobs or job training
9. (O)____ is National Disability Employment Awareness Month
EveryBody: An Artifact History of Disability in America
A collection of images and artifacts detailing the presence and impact of people with disabilities in American history.

Visit www.everybody.si.edu to learn more about the collection

The Deadline for IDAs Has Been Extended!
IDAs, Individual Development Accounts, are one of the only ways for SSI or Medicaid recipients to save money for a home without losing eligibility for the program they are on.

The deadline for completing an IDA in Montana has been extended to July 1 for the program managed by NeighborWorks Montana.

To learn more about this program visit: www.nwmt.org/idaprogram.html or call NeighborWorks at:
1 (866) 587-2244

What do you know about Social Security rules that cost taxpayers money while penalizing the poorest members of society without reason?

Not enough? Then watch our informative and funny video that outlines a handful of Social Security rules that just don’t make sense!

Social Security Rules: Bad for Everyone
www.youtube.com/summitilc
Summit E-Newsletter Challenge Comedy Video

As a reward for so many people signing up for our electronic newsletter, Summit has made a comedy video!

Just go to www.youtube.com/summitilc and check out ‘disability faux pasu,’ in which a bunch of volunteers get more than they bargained for!

And, as a bonus for our E-subscribers, another comedy video will be released later this fall!

Remember, you can always sign up for the e-newsletter by contacting: missoula@summitilc.org

October is Disability Employment Awareness Month

Become Educated
Have you heard of Vocational Rehabilitation? What about Medicaid for Workers with Disabilities? Do you know how your benefits work?

Train

Knock down barriers
Someone have a bad attitude? Show them that you’re still the best person for the job.

People with disabilities have the right to work. Have the tools to back it up.