Summit has been extremely busy this fall combating efforts on the federal level to dismantle long-term services and supports, namely the Community First Choice Program and the Medicaid program, as well as trying to beat back devastating budget cuts that have been proposed by Gov. Bullock on the state level.

While for the time being we have been successful in our efforts to stop the dismantling of long-term services and supports at the federal level, we face a very real and very dangerous series of potential state-level budget reductions that could decimate human services throughout Montana. These proposed cuts to long-term services and supports include:

- The elimination of the Personal Assistance Services program
- The elimination of optional targeted case management services in children’s mental health
- The elimination of the family education and support program within DDP
- The elimination of optional targeted case management services within DDP
- The elimination of the part C infant and toddler program serving developmentally disabled and at risk children age 0-36 month
- The elimination of the Big Sky RX program
- The elimination of targeted case management for children and youth with special healthcare needs
- The elimination of dental coverage for high cost, extensive dental procedures and dentures for adults
- A rate reduction for incontinence supplies in the amount of $1,457,314
- A rate reduction for durable medical equipment in the amount of $3,942,316
- A reduction of $6,821,206 to the Medicaid Big Sky Waiver program
- The elimination of the Healthcare for Healthcare Workers program

- The elimination of optional Hospice services
- A reduction of $6,463,098 to the Community First Choice program resulting in the elimination of optional services
- A reduction of $1,072,516 for mental health crisis intervention and jail diversion grant

Continued on Page 2...
• The elimination of targeted case management services for adults with severe disabling mental illness
• The closure of four Vocational Rehabilitation offices (Hamilton, Polson, Browning, and Bozeman)
• The elimination of the Montana Youth Leadership Forum program
• The elimination of the Montana Youth Transitions program
• The elimination of Orientation and Mobility Instruction for approximately 300 children with low vision or blindness
• A $570,000 reduction in extended employment services

The proposed cuts will set funding for critical programs back over a decade and there is no telling how long it will take programs to recover from this level of cuts, if ever. Medicaid services and providers are still trying to catch up after the budget cuts of 2003 and the level of cuts staring us in the face today will have an even more significantly negative impact on the people who rely on these services.

The proposed cuts are also a poor financial decision. Not only will the State lose valuable matching funds from the federal government (CFC alone has a 6% enhanced match rate from the federal government), community services are the most cost-effective method of providing services to Montana’s disability and older adult populations. The elimination of funding for community-based services could leave more individuals with no choice but to seek services in higher cost care settings such as nursing homes, the state hospital, MDC, or other institutionalized care settings that come at a far greater cost to taxpayers…or worse, to go without services which could leave many unable to survive.

Montana in many ways has led the country with self-directed services and the HCBS waiver program, along with CFC. These programs are vital to facilitating people with disabilities, older adults and families with children to remain in their own homes and stay actively involved in school, work, volunteerism, worship, and general participation in community activities along with everyone else. The role that community human service programs play in facilitating this is also a core fundamental component of the Americans with Disabilities Act and has been affirmed by the Supreme Court’s Olmstead decision.

Montanans with disabilities and older adults have no other alternatives but to rely on the long-term services and supports provided through the Medicaid program as these unique services and supports are not available through Medicare or the private insurance market and paying for these services out-of-pocket is impossible for a vast majority of the population.

What can you do to help fight these cuts?

We all need to work together to let the Governor’s office as well as Legislators know how important each and every one of these services are. Please go to http://balancedbudget.mt.gov to send a message to the Governor’s office as well as to http://leg.mt.gov/css/Sessions/65th/roster.asp?HouseID=0&SessionID=111 to find your legislators and send them a message.

Tell both the Governor and your legislators that Montana’s budget cannot be balanced solely with budget cuts and ask them to put aside their political differences and work together to come up with a more balanced solution to balancing Montana’s budget that will not harm individuals with disabilities, children, or older adults.
**Summit Staff**

**Missoula County**
- Executive Director: Mike Mayer
- Program Manager: Jude Monson
- Program Support Specialist: Mike Giddings
- SD-CFC/PAS Coordinator: Beth Anderson
- SD-CFC/PAS Coordinator: Betsy Ames
- SD-CFC/PAS Coordinator: Carrie Dyrd
- SD-CFC/PAS Assistant/Insurance: Sally Wahl
- Advocacy Coordinator: Travis Hoffman
- Peer Advocacy Coordinator: Chris Clasby
- People First Advisor/IL Specialist: Andrea Dahl
- Independent Living Specialist: Tyler Stosich
- Community Living Specialist: Bronwyn Troutman
- Youth Coordinator: Michael Beers
- BASE Coordinator: John Howard
- Youth Specialist: Cara Wherley
- Work Readiness/Employment Specialist: Jessica Vacca
- Secretary: Kathy Boyer
- Bookkeeper: Libby Miller
- Assistant Bookkeeper: Victoria Lahr

**Flathead County**
- Coordinator: Lynae West
- Independent Living Specialist: Tom Murphy
- Independent Living Specialist: Dayna Guffey
- SD-CFC/PAS Specialist: Aleyna Raymond

**Ravalli County**
- Coordinator: Becky Boykin
- Independent Living Specialist: Kwanele Ngema
- People First Advisor/IL Specialist: Mary Millin

**Lake County**
- Coordinator: Susan Morris
- Independent Living Specialist: Michelle Williamson
- Independent Living Specialist: Betty LaFountain

---

**Summit Wordsearch**

```
O H R H T K H Q O S K L U L Y
A C C E S S I B I L I T Y E C
V N E C N O I T A C U D E A A
J I O F P C A M O J D D Y D C
V J S I U X K M M Z Z M N E O
H Y C I S J M Z P F E G Y R V
B J S R T U T Y Q D Z G F S D
P I K O N A L O O G T K B H A
P G M I H X B C N U Q O D I O
H Y T N R N W I N D T W Y P W
Q Y C E J V S T L I V H V I S
S F L A G U N B Q I E V G I O
S U P P O R T F O E T Z K A W
W F G H M L N P J L Y X T G
Q G J W Y B A Z K I K I G L K
```

---

**ACCESSIBILITY**
- ADVOCACY
- COMMUNITY
- EDUCATION
- HOUSING
- INCLUSION
- LEADERSHIP
- SUPPORT
- VISITABILITY
- YOUTH
On September 11, Montana’s Centers for Independent Living, ADAPT Montana, Disability Rights Montana, the Montana Dental Association, the Behavior Health Association of Montana, Mental Health America of Montana, the Montana Youth Leadership Forum, the Montana Speech-Language-Hearing Association, and Western Montana Mental Health Center and other disability and aging advocates, providers, and consumers held a “People Matter” rally in response to Governor Bullock and the Department of Public Health and Human Services’ proposal to cut human service budgets.

The purpose of the rally was to draw attention to the impact that budget cuts will have on the people who rely on Medicaid services. It is our hope that this rally will lead the Governor’s office, DPHHS, and legislative leadership to do the right thing and come up with a different approach for balancing the State’s budget.

The theme for the rally was “People Matter,” chosen to emphasize the role community human service programs play in facilitating Montanans with disabilities, including youth and older adults, to live in their homes and actively participate in their communities.
LOOKING FOR SUMMIT EVENTS?

Starting this month we will no longer be putting a list of events in our newsletters.

To make it easier to find information on Summit events that are being held throughout Western Montana we are now listing all of our events on our website. To find a Summit event or class happening near you please go to:

www.summitilc.org/calendar

Have a Safe and Happy Halloween

CLASSIFIED ADS

Quickie Wheelchair
$500 OBO. Call Janet (406) 721-3751

Symmetry Stander
Call Madison (406) 670-9388

Braun Vangater Wheelchair Lift
Almost new wheelchair lift with 600 LB capacity. $2000 OBO. Call or text Tyler 406-925-9846

EZ -Way light hooyer Llift, 3 slide boards, Serta adjustable bed
All the equipment is in working order and slightly used. Information and prices call 493-1000 after 1pm

Harmar-Summit Stair Lift
Stair Chair Lift, straight up 14 steps/risers or standard stairs, 2 remote call boxes, all wiring and mounting hardware. Lightly used. $500 OBO. Call TonyO 546-1570

2014 OpenBook book reader
Never been used and has the camera with it asking $750 OBO. Contact Larry at ketch1969@gmail.com or 406-633-4036

Summit Pinnacle Chair stair lift
Gently used, works great. 2 remotes. Straight line - mount rope L. Pick up in Missoula. $1,300 OBO. Call Diane at 360-4061.

Garaventa Super-Trac Portable Wheelchair Lift for stairs. Purchased new for $12,000 and used only a few times. Will sell for $5,000 OBO. Contact Jacob Francom, Troy Public Schools, jfrancom@troyk12.org, (406) 295-4520.

Acorn Stair lift
For going up to 6 stairs while seated. $750 OBO. Call John at 546-7003.

To get listed contact Tyler Stosich at (406) 728-1630 or email tstosich@summitilc.org.

Or, list and find items on the MonTECH exchange: http://montech.ruralinstitute.umt.edu/mtdb/
Ravalli County Update - Hamilton Happenings

Positive changes will occur this fall at Summit’s Ravalli County office in Hamilton. We will be offering Workshops on Wednesdays (WOW) to give consumers opportunities to take classes like Independence and Gratitude and Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP). WOW will occur weekly beginning in late October, time TBA. Consumers are also welcome and encouraged to suggest new WOW topics for one- to three-session workshops. Since several agencies are interested in workshops and classes in Hamilton, Becky, Kwanele, and the peers will visit case managers and other agency professionals to recruit participants. Please refer people to the Hamilton office for more info.

The Hamilton office has also been expanding youth services over the summer. This fall we will offer Transitions to Life for Juniors and Seniors at Hamilton High school with a focus on their IEPs, Soft Skills, Post-Secondary Life, and learning advocacy and leadership skills. As part of this class, we will pilot a new workshop for youth called “Empowering Leaders and Coaching Life Skills (ELCLS).” This workshop is intended to empower youth and help them learn to utilize Life Skills. We anticipate this workshop to be broadened in the future and made available to youth who have also graduated from high school and want to enhance their skills and knowledge. The expansion of ELCLS will eventually include “Post-Secondary Education” training intended to strengthen the youth participants’ self-leadership skills.

Empowering Youth: Leadership and Life Skills

Summit aims to empower youth by providing necessary life skills and promoting independence for successful transition.
BASE stands for home base, like in hide and go seek. In life, you have to establish a BASE first, that’s where we come in.

To get involved or to share ideas of new BASE programs, please contact BASE Missoula, by emailing jhoward@summitilc.org.

### BASE EVENTS

**Game Night (GN)**
- Thursdays weekly, 2 p.m.- 6 p.m.

**Youth Opening Doors through Advocacy (YODA)**
- 2nd & 4th Wed monthly, 3:30 p.m. - 6 p.m.

**Base Art Group (BAG)**
- Fridays weekly, 1p.m. - 5 p.m.

**Adaptive Yoga**
- Wednesdays 4:15 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Programs at BASE are open to everyone

For more information visit [www.basemissoula.org](http://www.basemissoula.org)
We Are Looking For Research Participants!

- Help UM researchers learn about barriers encountered by people with disabilities.
- Answer survey questions about how you live in your home and community.
- Be reimbursed up to $110 over a 6-month period for completing surveys.

Participants must:

- Have a physical/mobility disability.
- Be receiving at least one service from Summit Independent Living.
  - Live in the Missoula area.
  - Be over the age of 21 and living independently.

For more information, please contact Bronwyn Troutman, Community Living Specialist, at Summit.
Phone: 406-728-1630, ext 121.

You can always sign up to get this newsletter by email by contacting: missoula@summitilc.org