

## HEALTH REFORM EQUALS ONE CARE

National health reform—known as Obamacare or the Affordable Care Act—has many components, including one that has generally flown under the media radar. States can now integrate care and services for people with disabilities on both Medicaid and Medicare. In Massachusetts this is happening through an initiative begun on October 1, 2013 called One Care. The aim of this demonstration project is to improve the health of enrollees by coordinating care and services and giving greater prominence to home and community-based services.

90,000 people with disabilities in the state will be targeted for enrollment by one of three managed care plans, which are Commonwealth Care Alliance, Network Health, and Fallon Total Care. BCIL, as noted elsewhere in the report, has been a big advocate for consumer voice and protections. One outcome of our work and that of others involved with Disability Advocates Advancing our Healthcare Rights is a requirement that medical providers contracting with the health plans make their services accessible, in compliance with the ADA. Another success is that every enrollee has the right to an *Independent Living Long Term Services and Supports (IL-LTSS) coordinator*. This unique position will serve as a link for consumers between health providers and community-based services critical to independence in the community. We encourage people who want to know more about One Care, and especially the IL-LTSS coordinators, to contact BCIL. We are contracted with Commonwealth Care Alliance to provide IL-LTSS coordination, a big step that can integrate independent living into health reform.

### How to contact BCIL:

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Boston, MA 02111-1324

617-338-6665 • 617-338-6662 (TTY)  
866-338-8085 (toll free)

(617) 338-6661 (fax)  
www.bostoncil.org

## BCIL Financial Statement

June 30, 2013

### ASSETS

<b>Current Assets</b>	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	<b>\$431,506</b>
Certificates of Deposit	<b>\$492,570</b>
Accounts Receivable - Third Parties, Net of Allowance for Doubtful Accounts of \$5,000	<b>\$205,034</b>
Accounts Receivable – Contracts	<b>\$155,727</b>
Accounts Receivable – Other	<b>\$55,749</b>
Prepaid Expenses & Deposits	<b>\$30,372</b>
Property and Equipment, Net	<b>\$20,483</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$1,391,441</b>



Dennis Heaphy and Florette Willis at forum in June held by Disability Advocates Advancing Our Healthcare Rights.



The Boston Center for Independent Living gratefully acknowledges the support of the United Way.

## Donations & Dues

A donation to BCIL helps us serve over 5,000 people with disabilities and advocate around housing, healthcare, PCA services, ADA compliance, employment, and more. BCIL relies on the generosity of members, corporations, foundations, and individuals who support the independence of people with disabilities in Greater Boston.



BCIL member Elaine Hamilton testifying in October at the State House on a proposal to reduce RIDE fares.

## BOSTON CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

60 Temple Place, 5th Floor  
Boston, MA 02111-1324

**YES!** Here is my \$ \_\_\_\_\_ contribution to BCIL.

**YES!** Here are my \$20 dues to become a member.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my tax-deductible check payable to BCIL.

Please charge my:  Visa  Mastercard

American Express  Discover  Diners Club

Card number \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail to BCIL, 60 Temple Place, Boston, MA 02111 or visit our web at [www.bostoncil.org](http://www.bostoncil.org) to make your donation or pay your dues. Thank you!

## BOSTON CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING ANNUAL REPORT 2013



### LEADING ON SERVICES AND ADVOCACY

**2013** was another banner year for quality service delivery and frontline advocacy by the Boston Center for Independent Living. With our members and allies, we advanced the cause of independent living in Boston's neighborhoods, throughout the Greater Boston region, across Massachusetts, and in Washington.

One crucial achievement during the year was our effort to assist people to get out of nursing homes: our staff helped over fifty people with disabilities return to real homes in the community, and a large majority of these people are under age 60. Along with the state's other independent living centers, we also undertook a campaign to get more support for staff to do this work. The result was a legislative appropriation of \$1.1 million for the centers to hire additional staff to go into more nursing homes to get people out. We are also participating in the state's Money Follows the Person initiative, which provides critical resources for people leaving nursing facilities.

Housing remains one of the major concerns raised by people seeking BCIL services, and in response, our direct service staff aided 72 people to obtain housing and nearly another hundred to retain their housing. In addition, we have been working closely with Citizens Housing and Planning Association (CHAPA) to gain increased support



Marty Walsh, elected Boston mayor in November, in a meeting days before the election with Catherine Hardaway, Central Boston Elder Services and Jerry Boyd and Sergio Goncalves of BCIL.

for housing programs, including the Home Modifications program and the Community Based Housing program, which houses people at risk of going into nursing homes or leaving one. Over \$60 million will be allocated by the state over five years for these vital programs.

Personal care attendant (PCA) services remain a key BCIL program. 1,200 people access this consumer-directed program from us, enhancing their ability to hold jobs, raise families, get an education, and live dignified lives. Statewide, more than 22,000 people are on the program, and we spearhead many efforts to ensure that the program remains vital and is not harmed by budget cuts.

Another big effort is our work on the health reform initiative that is integrating care for up to 90,000 people with disabilities, ages 21-64, on both Medicaid and Medicare in Massachusetts. The program, called One Care, began on October 1. "This initiative represents cutting-edge reform, and if we get it right here, we'll set a national model that increases independence and also improves health outcomes," said BCIL's Nassira Nicola. BCIL has advocated strongly for PCA services, durable medical equipment, and peer services for people with mental illness to be a focal point of integrated health care. We are co-chair of the group Disability Advocates Advancing our Healthcare Rights (DAAHR), which has ensured that consumers' voices are



Olivia Richard of Boston leading efforts for housing for people with disabilities outside HUD in Washington. She has been a BCIL leader on housing advocacy, health reform, and issues around the RIDE.

## BCIL STAFF

Anna Barahona-Smith  
Arnold Berry  
Maria Bourgeois  
Martine Cadostin  
Peter Cronis  
Angel Dailey  
Licy Davis  
Jim Dowd  
Andy Forman  
Scott Forman  
Renee Foster  
Bernadette Gillis  
Brandon Goldsmith Garcia  
Carole Hall-Herborg  
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Marcia Samuels  
Karen Schneiderman  
Michelle Selmon-Forrester  
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Erica Tanen  
Jennifer Turpin  
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Noah Zizinga

## VOLUNTEERS

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Valerie Sullivan

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heard in how these new managed care plans are designed and implemented. Spirited DAHHR forums have attracted hundreds of people with disabilities who have told government policy makers that quality care and consumer direction of services are bottom lines for reform.

Advocates continued to confront fare and access issues with MBTA services. We're partnering with Massachusetts Senior Action Council to seek a rollback of fares for The Ride, which were increased a year ago by 100% (and 150% for some trips!). This increase has, according to a state report, caused 58% of users to leave the house less often, having to reduce visits with family and friends, social activities, grocery trips, and medical appointments. BCIL also continues to work with Greater Boston Legal Services to promote compliance with the ADA by the MBTA in accordance with the 2006 settlement of our class action lawsuit. Continued training of bus drivers and a reduction of dangerous gaps between station platforms and subway cars are among top priorities.

BCIL's accomplishments would not be possible without the support of numerous individuals and organizations. Those who pay dues and make individual donations are key to our work, as are those who attend meetings, rallies, forums, and otherwise spread the message of independent living for people with disabilities of all ages. We are indebted to United Way, the Hyams Foundation, the Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation of Massachusetts, the Miller Innovation Fund, Community Catalyst, Spaulding Hospital, the Jeff Thompson Charitable Fund, and the Christopher Reeve Foundation for generous backing of our advocacy and service work. Invaluable support for our many IL services is provided by the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission under Commissioner Charlie Carr; by MassHealth, directed by Kristin Thorn; and by the Executive Office of Elder Affairs, under Secretary Ann Hartstein. Along with groups already mentioned, BCIL also salutes our strong partnerships with the Disability Law Center, Easter Seals, MPOWER, Health Care for All, the Disability Policy Consortium, the Boston Commission for Persons with Disabilities, the other ILCs in the state, and member agencies of the Suffolk County, Metro, and Southeastern Massachusetts Aging and Disability Resource Consortiums.

As we look to 2014, we wish to emphasize the importance of an active disability community in BCIL's work to assist individuals to live independently and our efforts to change policies, practices and laws to increase integration and equality in the broader community.

## THANK YOU!

**Bill Henning**, *Executive Director*  
**Sergio Goncalves**, *Board Chairperson*



Secretary John Polanowicz of Health and Human Services at an April meeting with BCIL staff, including Rob Park and Anna Barahona-Smith, on independent living, PCA issues, and health reform.

## SUCCESS STORIES

The determination, experience, and creativity of BCIL staff assists many people to move from difficult situations to greater independence. Here is a quick sampling of recent successes:

- A 19 year-old leukemia survivor lost his housing after an accident and had no place to go after he was discharged from a rehab facility. BCIL helped him acquire an accessible apartment in Belmont.
- A 54 year-old woman with schizophrenia received skills training at BCIL around her employment goals, including assistance with her resume. She is now working three days per week with a cleaning company.
- A 19 year-old woman with cerebral palsy who had never ridden a bus or subway on her own came to BCIL for peer mentoring. She is now using MBTA services to get to her classes at UMass Boston.
- A 45 year-old man with depression and cerebral palsy received peer mentoring, which led to his finding housing in Brighton and then finding a better job, working as a nanny for a family.
- An 18 year-old with autism participated in BCIL's internship program this summer, working with a local managed care organization. When this was finished, she secured two part-time jobs, one with a property management company in Boston and the other at her former high school. She said the internship "helped greatly at knowing what to do out in the employment world."
- A 47 year-old man with a spinal cord injury was in a nursing home in Norwood. BCIL staff worked with him to find housing, obtain needed furnishings, and acquire PCA services from BCIL.



Students in BCIL's Transition Internship Program, which placed 15 youth with disabilities in paying jobs this past summer.

## Construction Night at the Boston Pops

The 34th Construction Night at the Pops was another success at Symphony Hall, featuring a gourmet reception and a terrific performance by Keith Lockhart and the Boston Pops. BCIL is grateful to our Host Sponsor, the O'Connor Group of Companies, and especially President Tom O'Connor III and Chris Mayo, along with our additional sponsors and attendees who continue to demonstrate their support for our work in the disability community of Greater Boston.

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Adrienne Langlois of BCIL with disability rights group ADAPT in March outside U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in Washington. Activists were demanding that HUD increase efforts to provide housing for people leaving nursing homes.

## BCIL Marie Feltn Award Ceremony

Just under 200 people made it through a 20-inch snowstorm for the 17th annual BCIL Marie Feltn Award Ceremony on March 8 honoring individuals that embody the pioneering spirit of the late Dr. Marie Feltn, who was a powerful advocate for patients with disabilities. Our terrific honorees were Christine Griffin of the Disability Law Center, a leader and advocate for disability rights; Rob Restuccia of Community Catalyst, an activist and champion for healthcare justice; and Florette Willis of the Disability Policy Consortium and MPOWER, an impassioned advocate for disability rights and justice.

The ceremony again benefited from the efforts of our great friend, Dr. Robert Master, and our master of ceremony, Dr. Lisa Iezzoni. BCIL also gratefully acknowledges our Host Sponsors: the Commonwealth Care Alliance, Partners HealthCare, and the Blue Care Partnership (Blue Cross Blue Shield).



BCIL Marie Feltn honorees Rob Restuccia, Christine Griffin, and Florette Willis.

## BCIL Feltn Sponsors

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Blue Care Partnership  
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### PLATINUM

Boston Medical Healthnet Plan  
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Neighborhood Health Plan

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Central Boston Elder Services  
Cerebral Palsy of Massachusetts  
Disability Law Center  
Christine Griffin  
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Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission  
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Steve Rosenfeld  
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Mary Glover  
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Lisa Iezzoni & Reed Drews  
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Margaret McKenna & Paul Feiss  
Karen Nemeth & Rick Bowe  
Clare Reilly & Mark Reynolds  
Rob Restuccia & Emily Feinberg  
David Rosenbloom  
Richard Segan & Ellen A. Bruce

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The 18th annual BCIL Marie Feltn Award Ceremony will be Friday, March 21, 2014 at the Fairmount Copley Hotel. And in the autumn of 2014, BCIL will celebrate its **40TH ANNIVERSARY** as the second independent living center in the country. Please contact the office if you want to support events commemorating a great history of advancing the independent living cause while also committing us to continued leadership in disability services and advocacy.