

# Manchester Community Services Council

January, 2015

## January Meeting Topic - Advocacy and Protection for Adults with Disabilities

MCSC's October meeting highlighted advocacy and protection for children and the elderly. After that meeting, we received many requests for a similar program with a focus on advocacy and protection for adults with disabilities. In response, we are pleased to welcome Jade Vail and Jennifer Eriksson from Independence Unlimited (IU) to our January meeting. Jade and Jennifer will speak about the rights and protections afforded to adults with disabilities. In addition, they will review the remedies that are in place to address instances when those rights are disregarded in the fields of housing, employment, transportation, access and services. Information will also be available about the services offered by the State Office of Protection & Advocacy, Greater Hartford Legal Aid and the Housing Education & Resource Center. Independence Unlimited, Inc. (IU) is a non-profit organization that serves 38 cities and towns, primarily in Hartford County. IU was established in 1982 and is governed and managed by people with disabilities. Its core services include peer counseling, independent living skills training, information/referral and advocacy services on both the individual and systems level. The primary purpose of the agency is to support persons with disabilities who are seeking to live in the community as opposed to living in institutional settings.

### **Please note:**

**This month's meeting is being held at the Unitarian Universalist Society East  
153 West Vernon St.**

We are grateful to Highland Park Market for providing lunch for our January meeting. Lunch choices are Spinach Veggie Wrap, Roast Beef or Turkey on a roll. All choices include potato salad and fruit. The cost is \$9.00 and payment in the form of check or cash is due at the meeting. If you would like to purchase a box lunch, please notify Heather Wlochowski with your lunch choice by Tuesday, January 20, 2015. Heather can be reached at 860-647-5215 or at [Heatherw@manchesterct.gov](mailto:Heatherw@manchesterct.gov).

## MCSC Member Profile:

### Creative Living Community of CT

Creative Living Community of CT (CLCC) is a relatively new organization that seeks to implement an exciting and innovative model for adults with developmental disabilities. Public school systems have become more attentive to the needs of students with developmental disabilities. But according to CLCC Executive Director Alex Koenigsberg, "While this high level of attention and support is incredibly beneficial, it unfortunately comes to an end at the age of 22. Adults with disabilities have a very limited number of options available to them, few of which are sufficient toward seeing continued growth." It was out of this need that CLCC was formed. As Koenigsberg explains, "CLCC is proposing a different model for developmentally disabled adults in Connecticut. We want to embrace the individual's strengths and help find out what makes them happy. We want to help these individuals find meaningful work, a tight-knit community, and a sense of purpose." To this end, CLCC plans to develop a 100+ acre farmstead community in which individuals with and without disabilities can reside and engage in an array of meaningful activities centered primarily around various aspects of agriculture. The entire project will be completed in phases, the first of which has been achieved as CLCC currently operates a greenhouse in Vernon, CT where volunteers plant, grow, and harvest micro greens that are sold to local restaurants and at farmer's markets. Additional volunteers and donors are needed to turn complete the remaining phases of this project. For more information about CLCC, visit [www.creativelivingcommunityofct.org](http://www.creativelivingcommunityofct.org).

### **Upcoming MCSC Meetings**

Thurs, January 22, 2015 - Noon-1:30pm  
Unitarian Universalist Society East  
153 Vernon Street - West  
Topic: Advocacy for Disabled Adults

Thursday, Feb 26, 2015 - 12-1:30pm  
Manchester Memorial Hospital  
Haynes Street  
Topic: Heart Health

## Legislative Task Force on Hoarding

The issue of hoarding was addressed by MCSC last spring and was one of the more popular topics. The well-attended meeting reflected the fact that hoarding is more widespread and pernicious than is generally acknowledged. And so when the Newington Human Services Department convened a hoarding workgroup in late 2014, it was no surprise that more than 100 town officials and social service providers from around the State attended. One of the outcomes of the workgroup is the creation of a Statewide legislative task force on hoarding. This task force is expected to develop a uniform set of policies and a resource toolkit that will assist town officials and social service providers when dealing with hoarding cases.

## December Meeting Recap

The annual MCSC Legislative Breakfast was held on Friday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at Manchester Community College. More than forty attendees enjoyed a catered breakfast courtesy of the Manchester Community College culinary arts program. Attendees also heard a variety of remarks by State Representative Jason Rojas, State Senator Steve Cassano and MCC President Gena Glickman. A common theme was the increased need for economic and employment opportunity for Manchester's most vulnerable residents including those who struggle with behavioral, physical and intellectual disabilities as well as those who are caught in the vicious cycle of multigenerational poverty. The most hopeful takeaway from the meeting was a review of the many innovative and successful programs that are offered by MCC including ones for non-traditional students and for residents who are seeking to be re-trained for in-demand careers.



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