

Celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the Signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) July 26, 1990 - July 26, 2010

ADA 20th Anniversary Celebrated!!!!

Our Nation's Capitol was the scene of the National Council on Independent Living's annual meeting and conference commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the enactment of the American's with Disabilities Act.

ABC 7 News Video On Demand



It's been 20 years since the Americans with Disabilities Act became law. But supporters say their fight for inclusion is far from over.

Above: the opening frame of a Washington D.C. ABC affiliate news website picturing ACES\$ Executive Director, Dan Loftus [in the red shirt, sun glasses and 'silver' hair], among hundreds marching in the streets to Our Nation's Capitol.

As part of the annual meeting the large group marched, en mass, approximately 1 mile to the U.S. Capitol, they gathered in front of, arguably, one of the most recognizable buildings in the world. After the rally, members dispersed to their respective representative's offices. They went to educate about the ADA, discussed disability-related concerns and sought their support for the initiatives concerning all persons with disabilities.



Just prior to the rally, at the U.S. Capitol, pictured with a paper mache caricature, of the 'founder of the ADA' - Justin Dart, is ACES\$ Executive Director Dan Loftus.

More to Celebrate!!!!

According to the State of Illinois Procurement Website, ACES\$ has been selected to be a Fiscal Employer Agent into FY-2011 for the Department of Human Services.



ACES\$ Is NOT Affiliated with ANY Union or Labor Organization!

From time to time, questions come up about whether or not ACES\$ is affiliated with a union or labor organization. We are not.

- ACES\$ does not make unannounced visits. You will be called prior to the scheduled visit, by a ACES\$ staff person, and as always, we have ID badges to ensure your protection. Please ask to see our ID badge.
- Remember, DO NOT sign anything if you are not sure what it is.
- ACES\$ does not, and will not, release personal information without written authorization from your employer AND the Illinois Department of Human Services.
- If you have been visited by INDIVIDUALS who claim to be affiliated with us, but are not from ACES\$, it is important to let us know.

PLEASE NOTE:

Many of you already know that we sent out monthly statements to show how to utilize your monthly budgets.

We have sent out three mailings thus far, be sure to check your mail. These attachments do look a lot like the check stubs, so don't confuse them for a check stub and toss them out.

In addition to anything you have spent, the statements include informational notes to let you know about new things going on at ACES\$. Please look for our notes and make sure to read them.

Many of you are calling in to ask, what can we do about the amount that hasn't been used? If you have any questions call us at **877-223-7781**

Pictures from our Consumers!



Jacob and his buds going to prom



Gretchen, Casey, and Jim enjoying Disney.

For more information, please contact:

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Local Celebration of ADA by ACES\$

ACES\$ celebrated the ADA twentieth Anniversary with an Awards luncheon and a speech by Ann Ford, the Executive Director of INCIL for Illinois.

Consumers within the Springfield area joined us, at the beautiful Executive Mansion. This wonderful occasion allowed for Community Leaders, Consumers, Personal Support Workers and Legislators from in and around the area to gather to celebrate this landmark legislation that has made the lives of countless persons with disabilities live a quality and inclusive independent life.

Craig Morrison, of ACES\$ stated, "it is through the passage of the American's with Disabilities Act, that countless numbers of persons with disabilities have choices, freedom to live independently, and a barrier free existence to be a vital part of our communities. It is important to celebrate such real legislation and commitment, and to not take for granted this opportunity to highlight its meaning and the hardships it took to get to this point." He added, "we must not become complacent, and ever strive to uphold the spirit of the ADA in our daily lives."



Consumers Steven and Bernice enjoying the ADA Awards Luncheon



The ARC/TAP Conference

Once again, ACES\$ attended The ARC of Illinois and Autism Program's Annual Conference in Lisle, IL.

The conference hosted a great lineup of professionals and speakers who offered many learning opportunities.

Conferences are about people too.....as captured by these photographs.



Upper Right: Tony Pualauski, Craig C. Morrison and Charlotte Cronin.



Above: Quintin Bradley at ARC/TAP Conference

Left: attendees of ACES\$ ADA 20th Anniversary Awards Luncheon

Illinois Project Manager's Corner



Craig C. Morrison

It has been an eventful several months since our last newsletter! Uppermost on everyone's mind is the state's budget crisis. With the ongoing financial problems, we all worry that the state will not be able to adequately fund services for persons with disabilities. I urge you to get active in those groups that work hard to make sure that the human services agency gets the funding they deserve and to assure you have the needed services.

Here in the ACES\$ Springfield office, we have been busy instituting several new processes to speed things up and will continue to move forward and become more efficient. One of these changes is when a new employee packet arrives we are pulling the police checks and the Child Abuse and Tracking System (CANTS) form and sending them off to get done. Once they are completed they are kept with the packet for final processing.

Another of the new changes is that all employee packets (not just those under the children's waiver program) now require a CANTS form. The start date for all workers will be the date that the CANTS form is marked with a "NO PRIORS" stamp by the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services.

Background checks will also be done differently. The waiver program is going to a live scan background check instead of the name based one. This will mean that workers will be finger printed electronically in the future.

In the next few months you will notice some new voices on the phone when you call us.

We are about to welcome two newcomers to the Springfield office family. Haydee and Kneoca are both expecting babies in early fall. While they are out on family leave, we will be hiring two temporary employees to cover their duties.

Please feel free to call or e-mail us with questions and suggestions. We are always looking for your feedback or answer any questions you may have. Call our office at: 877-223-7781, or send me an e-mail, cmorrison@acesfea.org

New Time Cards

We sent a copy of our newest time cards for you to use. Note that there is no longer a change of address section. In order to change an address, you will need to submit it with your signature either by mail or fax.

Mail to your nearest ACES\$ office or **FAX: 217.528.9849**



We are working harder than ever to make sure that we are the best FEA in the state.