



News & Views April 2014

AccesSolutions

It's been an interesting winter and the CIL team is looking forward to spring arriving soon. Better weather makes some of us think of golf and who can think of golf without thinking about AccesSolutions? Our annual fund raising golf tournament is scheduled for September 11th at Tumble Brook Country Club. We don't want to rush the seasons, but please mark your calendar so you don't forget.

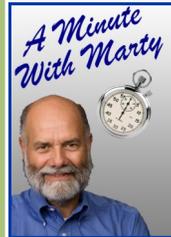
Many of you know that for more than twenty years, our golf tournament has raised money for our AccesSolutions program, but you may not understand exactly how this fits into what we do or how it impacts people in need. You may also not be aware that in addition to the money raised through the golf tournament, CIL is donating another \$100,000 from our operating budget to the AccesSolutions program this year. In order to really explain AccesSolutions, we need to start with an alphabet soup of state and federal programs which interrelate – such as LFA and MFP (previously NFTP), administered by DSS and DOH. Confused, yet?

It can be challenging to present simple and concise explanations of complex programs, but here's an attempt to cover the basics.

Let's start with the Money Follows the Person (MFP) Rebalancing Demonstration Grant, which is a federal project, under Medicaid, dedicated to assuring access to a full range of high quality, long-term care options that maximize autonomy, choice and dignity. Simply put, it's a program intended to both give people the option to leave institutional care facilities and save the State money.

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A Fond Farewell to a CIL Family Member



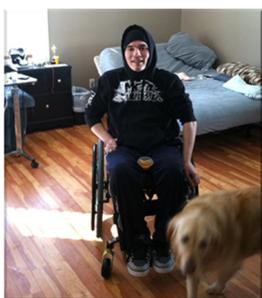
I would like to take this opportunity to share and recognize the accomplishments of a CIL employee. Bill Lennon, VP of Construction for the last 14 years, will be entering retirement at the end of June 2014. He came to CIL in 2000, with 16 years of experience as a custom homebuilder. In the years since then, Bill has made huge contributions to CIL. Under Bill's direction we have grown from constructing single-family homes to building schools, renovating office space, and converting factories. His relationships with contractors, town officials, and other non-profit agencies have made this growth possible. As Vice President of Construction, he has been a mentor and leader dedicated to CIL's mission.

The true test of a person's character is in how they handle adversity. Bill has shown his inner strength and perseverance with how he handled his stroke in August 2013 and his recovery thereafter. His determination to overcome the obstacles before him and return to work at CIL was an example to all of his colleagues and friends.

And now I, along with everyone at CIL, extend our congratulations to you, Bill, on your retirement! You have been a major part of the CIL family, and the leadership you have shown will have a lasting effect on CIL. We send you our gratitude for your years of hard work, service to the community and friendship. May you find much happiness in this next chapter of your life, and enjoy continued good health!



Bill Lennon



CIL had the opportunity to help a young man through the funds we received from Money Follows the Person. The client was 21 years old who had sustained a spinal cord injury in an accident. The injury had changed his life drastically. Because his home, in Putnam, was not accessible, he had no means to bathe or to get in and out of the house, which left him completely dependent on everyone in his family. With the MFP funds, CIL was able to give him back his independence by installing a ramp and converting his bedroom into an accessible bathroom with a roll-in shower. He is now able to get out of the house independently. He participates in a rowing class 3 times a week and is thinking of going back to school. This program has improved his health both mentally and physically and he is so happy to have been a part of this program.



AccesSolutions Cont.

There are currently 44 states and the District of Columbia participating in the demonstration. Nationally over 31,000 people with chronic conditions and disabilities have transitioned from institutions back into the community through MFP programs as of December 2012. The Affordable Care Act of 2010 strengthened and expanded the MFP program allowing more states to apply, but Connecticut has been a participant for many years.

People who wish to move out of institutional care (primarily nursing homes) make a request to the Department of Social Services (DSS) which refers eligible individuals to one of five Independent Living Centers in the state. A care plan is developed in cooperation with a Transition Coordinator in order to define what is needed based on the individual needs and the location in which they will live – which might be their own home, a family home, or a rental unit.

Once the care plan has been developed, CIL gets involved. We administer the funds from the Department of Housing (DOH) to actually build the vision. In early March, the State Bond Commission authorized an additional \$1 million in funding for this program.

The most common transition costs are related to adding ramps or modifying bathrooms in homes. First floor space conversions or additions in order to provide accessible bedrooms are the next most common item. There are funding limits per person, as well as limitations on exactly what is covered. Additionally, the funds are only available within the first year after an individual moves out of institutional care.

CIL also administers the Loans for Accessibility (LFA) program funded by DOH. It is a similar program to MFP that can be accessed by people who have not transitioned from institutional care within the last twelve months. CIL works with DOH to determine eligibility and establish the modifications needed for LFA applicants. We've been happy to see the waiting list and overall volume of the LFA program reducing over time as more people are reached by MFP.

Unavoidably, there are gaps in coverage, ineligible people in need, and costs that exceed funding limitations under both MFP and LFA. That's where AccesSolutions comes in. It's another way we can make sure that everyone has a choice of where to live and not be forced into institutions. After all, CIL is "Where Visions are Built".

News Briefs

- In February we hired Robert Hedden as the new VP of Construction. Prior to joining CIL, Rob was Vice President of Construction at Goman+York where he was responsible for the management and oversight of construction projects. He also has previous experience with Leger Group, Modern Woodcrafts, Diggs Construction, Konover Development, Konover Management & Konover Construction Corp. 
Robert Hedden
- Sue Schiller, Senior Accountant celebrated her 5th anniversary with CIL in December 2013.
- Aurelie Verbeke, of the Finance Department was promoted to Senior Accountant in February.
- Ken Gieparda of the Construction Department has changed roles from Senior Carpenter to Construction Projects Manager. Also, as of March 2014, Ken celebrated his 5th anniversary with CIL.
- Maria Green, VP/Controller, has completed her MBA from Quinnipiac University.
- The State Bond Commission has approved an additional \$1 million for the Money Follows the Person Program that CIL will administer.
- FY 2014 Production Updates:
 - Realty of CT: 6 group homes acquired; 2 completed
 - Realty of MA: 9 group homes acquired; 6 completed
 - CIL Construction: 7 projects completed; 13 in progress
- CIL employees participated in our 3rd company bowling event. The winning team was Marty Legault, Steve Martino & Ken Martin. It was a fun day for all. 
Steve, Marty & Ken

www.cil.org

Established in 1979, the Corporation for Independent Living creates and sustains housing and other community resources that provide affordability, accessibility and independence to those in need.

CIL is an Affirmative Action Equal Opportunity Employer
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