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Let’s Tell MassHealth What We Want in Our PCA Program!

You probably know that starting January 1st PCAs will get overtime pay if they work more than 40 hours in a week for one or more consumers. They will also be eligible for travel pay for the time they take traveling from the home of one employer (that’s you!) to another.

But that’s going to be cost the state a lot of money, so MassHealth wants to hear from PCA consumers, PCAs, and the general public on how to improve the PCA program to make sure consumers receive all of their authorized PCA services while trying to limit the need for PCAs to work over 40 hours.

We need YOU to tell MassHealth how important the PCA program is to you. Your voice can help shape the future of this important program! Join us to work through the changes that will come with Overtime and Travel Time for PCAs! Let’s make sure these changes don’t include cuts to our hours or to changes in how we qualify for these services!

Important: Our local listening session will be held at the **Community Room in the Mason Square Branch Public Library at 765 State Street in Springfield on Wednesday, January 27 (2016) from 1 PM through 3 PM!** For those who cannot attend personally you can listen and participate by phone. Call 866-565-6580 (Participant Code 9593452). **BE THERE!!!**

Advocacy is what we do at Stavros!

Thanks to our advocacy efforts and the support of our consumers, their families, and our donors we have been able to advocate for a number of issues that affect the lives of people with disabilities.



If you are a person with a disability, housing is at the top of your wish list. Where am I going to live? Will the place be accessible? Will I have the money to pay for it?

Stavros and hundreds of advocates across the state have been working on this priority and we are happy to say that #advocacyworks. Thanks to our staff, our consumers, and probably you we have been able to get 120 new housing vouchers for people with disabilities. **Seventy** of those 120 vouchers are coming to western Massachusetts!

With your help we can do even more to bring opportunities to people with disabilities. Please sign up for our e-news or follow us on Facebook or Twitter for the latest on how you can make #advocacywork in western Massachusetts. **And please consider sending a gift** to: Stavros, 210 Old Farm Rd., Amherst, MA 01002 or donate via our website

<http://www.stavros.org/donate.html> **Think of what we can do together!**

We Don't Take NO for an Answer!

We all expect schools to be places where you learn and develop your skills. But what happens when you have a disability and want to be an auto mechanic? Instead, you may hear **NO**, you can't: **NO**, that is too dangerous; **NO**, that is not an option for you. Thankfully, this young man called Stavros, where we say: How can we make it work? We believe that Life is What You Make of It, and how can we work together to make it happen?



The Stavros Transition Internship Program (TIP) worked with an auto repair shop and ask them to let this young man try out at the shop. We worked with them during the summer and they helped him developed his skills. By the end of the summer the owner of the shop told us ***“He is one of my best guys out there, he really gets the job done.”*** They did not want to let him go, so they offered him a job. He is not a mechanic yet. He will need to take the classes and get certified, but now he has proven to himself and the school system that it is possible. Now he is on his way to making it happen.



YOU HAVE OPTIONS!!!

Are you trying to figure out for yourself or someone you care about what services are out there to help you remain as independent as possible? Our Options Counseling Program could be what you need to help you make the right decision for you. Contact Stavros at **413-256-0473 or 1-800-804-1899 ext. 201.**

ACCESS AWARDS, the winners are...

Every year our consumers nominate business and people that make access possible in western Massachusetts This year's ACCESS AWARD WINNERS Are...

Paul Winske Awards: Animal Eye Care of New England (Dr. Isabel Jurk, Whately); Antonio's II (Bernardston); Boardwalk of Nashawannuck Pond in Easthampton; Dickinson Memorial Public Library in Northfield; Great Falls Harvest Restaurant in Turners Falls; Munich Haus, in Chicopee; St. Michael's Cathedral in Springfield; Sew Bizzie Quilting in Palmer; South Hadley Public Library; Unity Park in Turners Falls; and in Belchertown, Jessica's Boundless Playground and Mill Valley Veterinary Hospital. **And...**

Jan Bowers, LICSW in Gill; Carmen Burgos, A Positive Place in Northampton; Corey Durham, at Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission, Springfield; Suzanne Hangasky, NP at Mercy Medical Group, in Ludlow; Hurley and David, Inc., Springfield; Annie Knox, Cancer House of Hope; Robin Odentz of the Spectacle Shoppe of Wilbraham; Nancy and Gerry Paciorek from South Deerfield; Fritha Pengelly of Dance for Parkinson's, Northampton; and Dr. David M. Slack, of Valley Medical Group, Easthampton.

The Paul F. Batch Award was given to Roberta Perry for her work in the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community.

The Home Sweet Home Hero was given to Brenda Labbe from Greater Springfield Senior Services for her commitment to home access for the elderly and disabled.

Ted Martineau Award was given to Betty Tegel from Franklin County for her advocacy work for community access.

The Friends of Stavros

Award is given to community members and professionals for their dedication to helping Stavros improve services for all. This year's winners were **Judy Davis** from the Insurance Center of New England (Agawam) and **Garry X. Pelletier**, owner of GXP Contracting, in Colrain.

Advocate for Justice – Stavros honored **Jody Santos**, Journalist for Social Justice for her work with Disability Rights International that resulted in the prize-winning documentary "No Child Left Behind" (This can be seen at www.jodysantos.com).

Stavros would like to thank the Access Awards Sponsors for their generosity in helping to make this year's event possible: PeoplesBank, North Country Landscape & Garden Center, Dr. Pixie Plummer, R.K. Miles, and the Veterinary Emergency and Specialty Hospital. Find out more about this year's access awards at www.stavros.org

#advocacyworks because of your giving

Stavros has been in the forefront of the Disability Rights Movement. Advocating for access, independence, and equality for people with disabilities is what we do. Last year we:

- Organized community members to fight for access to local services
- Organized community to get housing vouchers for people with disabilities and the elderly
- Fought for the rights of people with disabilities to leave nursing facilities and live at home
- Provided individual and group training on advocacy issues for housing, finances, health and safety
- Attended and informed the community of numerous rallies and opportunities to increase access for people with disabilities.

Through all these efforts and others we helped people with disabilities increase their independence and be part of the community.

We need the support of people with disabilities and their families. We need to raise \$10,000 to continue our advocacy efforts and support independence and access in our communities.

.....**CUT HERE**.....



Please consider sending a gift to: **Stavros**, 210 Old Farm Rd.,
Amherst, MA 01002

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

or donate via our website: <http://www.stavros.org/donate.html>

