



Tuesday Morning Memo

Thursday, July 2, 2009

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HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!!

- **GOVERNOR DOYLE SIGNS BIENNIAL BUDGET BILL**

Governor Doyle signed the 2009-11 state budget proposal on Monday. He vetoed 81 provisions. One of his vetoes may be unconstitutional – and it is of great interest to advocates for people with developmental disabilities. One policy in the budget proposal had been the implementation of a committee to study the necessity of ICF/MRs. Under the pre-veto provision, the committee would have had to issue a written report to the Joint Committee on Finance. Governor Doyle's veto significantly changed the provision by changing the scope of the study, eliminating the study committee and the requirement that a report be submitted to the Joint Committee on Finance. In effect, all that remained was that some sort of study of ICF/MRs be done.

While reports related to this have focused on the constitutionality of the veto, the disability advocacy has significant concerns with the “watering down” of this study committee. The Arc-Wisconsin has already been in touch with leaders of the Joint Committee on Finance to express our support for the “pre-veto” provision.

To see news reports and a Legislative Fiscal Bureau report on this issue, go to:

<http://www.madison.com/archives/read.php?ref=/wsj/2009/06/27/0906270046.php>

<http://www.jsonline.com/news/statepolitics/49559377.html>

http://www.legis.state.wi.us/lfb/2009-11Budget/2009_06_30_Partial%20Vetoes.pdf

As always, visit The Arc-Wisconsin website at www.arc-wisconsin.org for updated information.

- **IT'S DÉJÀ VU ALL OVER AGAIN**

In November of 1972, Lori Knapp moved from an institution to a group home developed by her parents, Don (Sr.) and Bette Knapp. Lori was a pioneer – the first person in Wisconsin to benefit from community-based services that are funded with Medicaid dollars.

Nearly 40 years later, Lori Knapp and her family continue to be pioneers. Lori will be one of the first people in Crawford County to be served through IRIS (Include, Respect, I Self-Direct), one of Wisconsin's Medicaid long-term care program options. For more information on IRIS, go to the IRIS website at:

<http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/bdds/IRIS/index.htm>

- **SPEAKING OF IRIS....**

There is an upcoming opportunity for people to learn about IRIS. Experts from IRIS will present information on the program on Thursday, July 22, in Eau Claire. For more information, go to:

<http://www.arc-wisconsin.org/resources/irisflyer709.pdf>