Subminimum wage reform is state focus

Moving disabled people out of subminimum wage work and into better-paying jobs is the goal of an $10.5 million initiative announced September 16. State grants to service providers throughout Minnesota will help people earn competitive wages and ultimately, live more independently.

The funding for the program was approved by the Minnesota Legislature in 2021 and is now being allocated by the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS). “Many people with disabilities want to be part of the general workforce, but have not had the opportunity,” said DHS Commissioner Jodi Harpstead. “Working-age Minnesotans with disabilities should have the chance to work and earn a competitive wage if they want to.”

Provider Reinvention Grants will go to 22 employment service providers. The University of Minnesota’s Institute on Community Integration will also receive funding to provide statewide technical assistance, engaging with job seekers and their families, and helping providers with training and tools.

The subminimum wage issue is one that sparks controversy within Minnesota’s disability community. A longstanding federal law has allowed Minnesotans with an array of disabilities to be paid less than the federal minimum wage. The law was enacted during the Great Depression as a way to help disabled people find employment. The practice is criticized as unfair and discriminatory by advocates, and is called out as a violation of the federal Americans with Disabilities Act Pay is typically just pennies on the dollar for menial jobs.

A state task force report indicated that between 4,500 to 6,000 Minnesotans made less than the dollar for menial jobs. But others have contended that if subminimum wage work is eliminated, some disabled people will miss out on needed social and work opportunities. Day activity centers and employment centers sometimes pay subminimum wages.

The grants are expected to be used for a wide variety of supports and services. Eight employment service providers will receive grants to phase out subminimum wages by April 1, 2024. They are Fairview Services & Training, Fairwood; Pine Hilation and Supported Employment (PHASE), Sandstone; Hope Haven, Rock Valley, Iowa, for an employment center in Worthington; Rise, Spring Lake Park; Rising Phoenix, Waidsena; TSE Inc., Roseville; Advance Opportunities, Marshall; and Employment Enterprises, Little Falls.

Fourteen employment service providers will receive funding to support more people in reaching employment goals. They are Accord, St. Paul; Arrowhead Community Employment, Duluth; Empower.

A trip to the polls to cast a ballot is an autumn rite of passage for many of us. Absentee and early voting provide convenience but going to the polls is a chance to take part in Election Day and see friends and neighbors. Minnesota voters with disabilities need to be mindful of regulations that can affect how they vote and what types of assistance are available.

Rev UP MN in September hosted a forum on voting, with Justin Page from the Minnesota Disability Law Center covering a wide range of elections-related topics. The center provides information on voting for disabled Minnesotans and can step in to help if someone has京ited voting. It also relies on a cadre of volunteers to check polling places statewide during elections, to make sure that locations are accessible.

“Voting is a right, not a privilege,” said Page. He wants voters to be aware of what is and isn’t legal in terms of assistance. Voters should not hesitate to ask for help when voting. One tip is for voters to prepare to go to the polling place. Voters typically won’t find themselves in the long waiting lines that are characteristic of presidential years so the reminders to bring water and any needed medications aren’t germane this fall. But voters who need to register at their polling placed do need to have specific voting help to page 3.

New Fairview hospital obtains final approval from state

A new, $62 million St. Paul hospital that will serve people with mental illness is moving ahead, despite red flags raised by advocates and even the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) itself. State officials determined in September that opening the new hospital would be in the public interest because it provides inpatient mental health beds.

The Fairview Health Services/Acadia Healthcare facility is granted an exemption of inpatient mental health beds. The Fairview Health Services/Acadia Healthcare facility is granted an exemption to Minnesota’s current moratorium on new hospital beds. The new 144-bed hospital is to be built in St. Paul on a site north of the capital city. The site has been occupied for decades by various Bethesda health care facilities. Bethesda originally opened as a community hospital in 1883. Its facilities most recently served as a Ramsey County homeless shelter, closing in the spring.

The new hospital will have capacity for 144 beds, with 120 new beds and 24 held for future use. Minnesota lawmakers approved the new facility during the 2022 session, then left the final decision on the facility in MDH’s hands.

Plans for the new hospital were announced in 2020 by Fairview. Response was mixed. Proponents point out the state’s severe shortage of beds, which means people have to wait for treatment or travel long distances for mental health services. They also cite Fairview’s long record of service in the community.

A rendering of the proposed hospital. Some mental health and health care advocates cite the potential problems with the way the hospital proposal was structured, citing the need for facilities that provide comprehensive health care. Another red flag is the involvement of Tennessee-based Acadia and problems that company has had in other states. Fairview has repeatedly made the case for the facility’s need, stating that “We know this crisis will not be solved by one hospital. It will take the concerted efforts of health care providers, community partners and others coming alongside local, county and state officials to ensure that we meet the needs of our patients and communities into the future.” Fairview officials called the planned facility “a significant and important step forward for our community.”

MDH has determined that the project is in the public interest because it provides additional inpatient mental health beds in the midst of a bed capacity crisis.
When it comes to assistive technology, government must lead and not follow.

That is not always the case. We tip our hats to the online news site Poliico for steering light to the complex and frustrating issues that disabled federal employees continue to face.

Polïico did extensive reporting on lack of compliance with a part of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act known as Section 508. Congress mandated Section 508, which went into effect in 1998. This change was still and is still meant for federal agencies to make technology accessible. But that hasn’t happened from what anyone can tell.

The foundation reports that the American Bar Association’s June 2021 directive that federal agencies make accessibility improvements, assuring that their web content isn’t accessible for questions for advancement and hiring can, increase, and physical accessibility barriers will be reduced.

According to a 2021 report by the Washington, D.C.-based Information Technology and Innovation Foundation, about 30 percent of the most-used federal websites don’t meet accessibility standards.

That affects the public, too.

The foundation promotes the use of technology in policy solutions. It appears to be lack of access to information. The Department of Justice hasn’t public any of the biennial reports that Congress mandated on compliance with Section 508. The last report Polïico found was in September 2012. At that time, fewer than half of the federal agencies had compliance plans in place. Agencies with plans on place had budgeted, on average, $35,000 to implement accommodations needed.

It’s striking to realize that the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was 18 years old and didn’t even have curb cuts.

That is just ridiculous and unacceptable on so many levels. For one thing, the reports should be public information. Period. Without the reports, we don’t know if federal agencies have made needed changes over the past decade.

And $35,000 is a pittance in the scheme of federal funding. If adjusted for inflation, we’d bet the coffee budgets for some federal agencies are larger than that amount.

Here’s another reporting issue: Nor are mandated agency reports to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) available to all. It’s required that 24 agencies file reports twice a year about the accessibility of their technological infrastructure. But those reports aren’t public.

The access issues have generated much back and forth between members agency leaders. Over the summer Senate Aging Committee Chair Bob Casey (D-Pa.) and ranking member Tim Scott (R-S.C.) contacted Veterans Affairs Secretary Denis McDonough and Attorney General Merrick Garland about the accessibility of VA websites. That prompted debate over how accessible VA websites are for disabled veterans. The VA is now conducting daily accessibility scans.

One in four of us has a disability. Changes are needed for our leaders to lead and for us to work.

The scope of impacts on federal employees must be equally frustrating. That’s true to no one. Agencies simply aren’t taking the time or spending the money to comply.

The U.S. Senate Aging Committee heard testimony over the summer about the ongoing problems federal employees have faced. The National Federation for the Blind, Temple University’s Institute on Disability, National Association for the Deaf, private law firms and other groups representing elders and people with disabilities are among those speaking out about the issues of public websites access and the need for federal employee accommodations.

Getting technology in place is one challenge our community faces. Another is what appears to be lack of access to information.

One in four of us has a disability. One in four. What does it mean for us when information on accommodations isn’t available at the federal level? What does it mean for people with disabilities seeking employment at the federal level, when their work doesn’t match with their skills? We need compliance in technology.

It’s now time for us to work. When it comes to assistive technology, government must lead and not follow.
VOTING HELP

From page 1
documentation in hand if they do not have a neighbor or family member in the same

Voting helps must verify identity and

Electronic voting must verify identity and

People with disabilities may need help

The public is being asked to send feedback gaps remaining after the establishment of the facility that other providers will need

For example, the new facility lacks an emergency department for receiving patients undergoing a mental health crisis, and because it does not offer a full complement of medical care, it will only serve as one of 10 inpatient facilities.

Staffing levels are another concern MDH and members of the public raised.

It’s also an opportunity to present this type of program to the community and for

It’s also an opportunity to make a tax-
deductible donation to Minnesota’s disability news source. Event sponsors are needed. Contact Executive Director Holly Anderson at 651-644-2133 ext. 3

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Please listen to me and understand: I'm hard of hearing, not dumb

by Mark Daly

The national health insurance plan has no idea how to communicate with those of us who don’t hear well. Many lose their patience when they cannot understand what we are saying. An alarming number will turn downright rude, treating people with hearing loss like they’re fools when conversations become too difficult.

I recently experienced that worst sort of treatment at, of all places, a government services center. More about that in a moment.

I readily accept the fact that a large portion of the responsibility for whether a conversation goes smoothly depends on me – or anyone else with a hearing disability. But it’s not difficult to converse with someone who understands the problem.

Whenever I meet someone new, the first time I have any trouble communicating with what I hear, I quickly say, “I’m sorry, I’m hard of hearing.” Oftentimes, I’ll also point to one of my hearing aids.

The experience speaking with people who have hearing loss will frequently begin to shout or lean in and attempt to speak louder over my ears. Neither technique is helpful.

What those of us who don’t hear well need to do is (1) slow down, 2) announce, and 3) look directly at us. This is true even with those of us with hearing loss eventually learn to lip read. If you’re speaking too fast or can’t see your face, it doesn’t help to speak louder. Missing the first few words of what you’re saying often makes it impossible to understand the rest of your intended message because all context is lost.

To maximize my ability to communicate with others, in just the past five years, I’ve spent more than $10,000 on two sets of hearing aids with Bluetooth technology that sync with my cell phone. Even the best health insurance plans pay $0 for hearing aids. They’re considered a “luxury item” – not a necessity. This, even though 30 million Americans experience hearing loss.

I’ve also had to invest in an expensive headset to participate in Zoom meetings. An quickly say, “I’m sorry, I’m hard of hearing.” Oftentimes, I’ll also point to one of my hearing aids.

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There are some winners focus on disability issues.

• Hennepin Healthcare, Minneapolis
• American Indian Cancer Foundation, Minneapolis

Some winners focus on disability issues.

• Hennepin Healthcare, Minneapolis
• American Indian Cancer Foundation, Minneapolis

Several Minnesota human services organizations are recognized for their commitment to providing housing, economic assistance, food, health care and other essential services to the state’s most vulnerable people.

The first award presentation was to Housing Matters in Bemidji, for its work to address the community’s growing housing crisis.

Housing Matters’ mission is for every disabled person experiencing long-term homelessness to have access to the environment in the community of their choosing, whether living alone or with family members. Housing Matters helped the Bemidji’s experience the growing housing crisis by developing a community-site supportive housing model that led to the acquisition of the supportive housing project.

The organization also provides Housing Stabilization Services, the state Medicaid benefit that ended in July 2020, to help people find and keep housing.

The Bemidji group is one of the seven Minnesota human services organizations that have been recognized for their role in addressing Bemidji’s growing housing crisis. The award recognizes all of housing.

Housing Matters came from a range of racial and ethnic backgrounds, Halle Brown, tailor services to meet the diverse needs that people live far away. I like to believe that I do everything I can to participate in fully in life; that I do more than I can control and that I do more than the price I’d pay if I were forced to live an isolated life.

Now I look forward to that awful experience at the government services center.

Like every Minnesotan who owns a car, once a year I receive notice from the state’s driver and vehicle Services (DVS) that I need to renew my driver’s license tabs. Upon receiving such a notice a few months ago, I promptly mailed a check to pay for my new tabs.

Three weeks later, I received a letter from the DVS stating they couldn’t send me my new tabs because I had “elected to keep my driver’s information private.”

That was untrue. Regardless, after calling the DVS and waiting more than an hour on the phone twice – I did as instructed: I filled out an online form confirming that I did not want my driver’s information to be private. And then I waited – more than a month. The new tabs never arrived.

The old tabs had long since expired and I was worried that I’d be pulled over by a police officer and ticketed.

So, with copies of documents in hand, I contacted the DVS office and asked for help.

I explained the situation and handed the documents to a DVS agent. She said and said I had to provide a photo earlier. It was 2:30 in the afternoon. They closed at 4 p.m. She then began speaking quickly, alternately looking down at the papers and over at the clock – everywhere but at me.

I said, “I’m sorry. I don’t hear well.”

Five minutes later, I walked out of the service center with new tabs in hand.

Hennepin Healthcare, Minnesota

Handi Medical Supply

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Handi Medical Supply

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Direct support professionals make a difference, are honored

ARRM, an association representing more than 200 direct care providers and supporting service providers for people with disabilities in Minnesota, is proud to recognize six direct service professionals (DSPs) with the ARRM Cares Award. The award is given annually to honor the top care workers in the state. Award winners have significantly enhanced the life of a person, or persons, whom they support, and demonstrate an outstanding level of professional integrity, creative and person-centered service, and ability to connect their clients with family and community support networks, called “natural supports.”

Like all DSPs, ARRM Cares honorees perform a diverse array of job functions, from healthy lifestyle support to employment assistance to health care. Award winners represent the highest standard of quality.

Association members nominate their top DSPs for the ARRM Cares Award, from which winners are selected by a committee of member representatives. In 2022, 178 nominations were received, from every corner of the state. The 2022 ARRM Cares winners are:

- Sarah Clay, Sevita - REM Ramsey
- Julie Jacob, Living Well Disability Services
- Michelle Voigt, Thrive Behavioral Network
- Jackie Poldoski, DRCC
- Elise Lakin, CCRI
- Sarah Clay, Sevita - REM Ramsey

Each ARRM Cares winner was recognized at an event hosted by their employer throughout September. The six winners were chosen from a committee of member representatives. They represent the gold standard in public service. They support them. His commitment to working across the political divide to put the needs of Minnesota’s most vulnerable first is the gold standard in public service.

ARRM, an association representing more than 200 provider organizations, businesses and advocates. Members are dedicated to leading the advancement of home and community-based services supporting people living with disabilities in their pursuit of meaningful lives.

ARRM President Stacy Roe. "The past few years have been incredibly challenging for direct support professionals and the people they support. Throughout it all, these incredible DSPs showed an inspiring level of commitment, drive, and compassion in every aspect of their work. They represent the gold standard in direct care," said ARRM President Stacy Roe.

Each ARRM Cares winner was recognized at an event hosted by their employer throughout September. The six winners were chosen from a field of finalists. They are Katie Henzel, EON Inc.; Stacy Jaycox, CCRI; Keith Johnson, Accord; Douglas Mystery, Lakes Homes and Program Development; Pam Norman, Hammer Residences/Northeast Residency; and Jayllyn Yonker, Harry Meyering Center. These nominees have been three or more years of services.

The recent project involved replacing seat boards and repainting the big chair. Through the sale of regular-sized cedar Adirondack chairs and sales of Adirondack chairs in the summer of 2020, Sisson worked closely with Elpis Enterprises, who built the chairs and sold them to the community for every two chairs sold. Sisson was the originator of the original Green Chair project that began in south Minneapolis during the early 1990s. The project was a unique collaboration of Lakeside Center, artist Joel Sisson and Elpis Enterprises. Sisson was the patron for trainees to build skills, experiences and connections. Its social enterprises include customized decorated/imprinted apparel and similar items, as well as a product-centered woodworking enterprise. Elpis also offers community-based do it yourself workshops.

With hands-on work provided by young people working toward creating a better future for themselves and the community, the six-foot-tall Giant Green Chair located at the northwest corner of Bde Maka Ska in Minneapolis got some attention.

The project is a unique collaboration of Lakeside Center, artist Joel Sisson and Elpis Enterprises. Sisson was the originator of the original Green Chair project. The Green Chair at Bde Maka Ska was part of the original Green Chair project that began in south Minneapolis during the early 1990s. The project was a way for the neighborhood young people to create a better community. With guidance from Sisson, young people around the Twin Cities built Adirondack chairs and gave two to each house on two blocks. The project was re-ignited by Elpis Enterprises with Sisson’s guidance in the summer of 2020 after the murder of George Floyd. During the summer of 2020, Sisson worked closely with Elpis Enterprise’s trainees to build Adirondack chairs (using the jigs from the 1990s project). The trainees built the chairs and used a sales model of a third chair donated to the community for every two chairs sold.

The recent project involved replacing seat boards and repainting the big chair. Elpis Enterprises summer intern from both Step Up Minneapolis and Right Track (St. Paul) helped with this project as part of their summer internship. The sale of regular-sized cedar Adirondack chairs help support this program and can be purchased online through Elpis Enterprises. Workshops on chair building are also offered by Elpis.

Elpis Enterprises is a nonprofit organization that uses its social enterprises to support young people with lived experiences that can make it difficult to enter the workforce and launch a career pathway that will provide family-sustaining wages. Many of the trainees are experiencing homelessness or have unstable housing. Program participants have included youth people with disabilities., Elpis Enterprises provides paid work experiences that offer opportunities for trainers to build skills, experiences, and connections. Its social enterprises include customized decorated/imprinted apparel and similar items, as well as a product-centered woodworking enterprise. Elpis also offers community-based do it yourself workshops.

Conclusion

ARRM is proud to recognize six direct service professionals for their commitment to enhancing the lives of people with disabilities. Their dedication and hard work are essential to the advancement of home and community-based services.

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Tim Benjamin
Accent Press Executive Director and Editor 2001-2020

Thank you for the gifts in memory of Tim Benjamin


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**Locations**

- Camp Courage
- Camp Eden Wood
- Camp Friendship
- Camp Courage North
- Lake George

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www.lssmn.org/hosthomes

Opportunity Partners
V-952-938-0311 info@opportunities.org
www.opportunities.org

Restart, Inc.
V-952-767-3350 viann@resarticmnc.org
www.restartincmnc.org

SERVICE ANIMALS
Helping Paws
V-952-988-3359 info@helpingpaws.org
www.helpingpaws.org

Pawsitive Perspectives Assistance Dogs (PawPADs)
V-612-643-5671 info@pawPADs.org
www.PawPADs.org

SKILLED NURSING FACILITIES
ACCORD
V-612-362-4400 info@accord.org
www.accord.org

supports - other types
Interact Center for the Visual and Performing Arts
V-651-209-3575 advancement@interactcenter.org
https://interactcenter.org

Highland Friendship Club
V-612-340-0711 info@highlandfriendshipclub.org
www.highlandfriendshipclub.org

Phoenix Alternatives, Inc. (PAI)
V-612-846-9274
www.paimn.org

technology
Gillette Children’s
V-651-291-2848 publications@gillettechildren.com
www.gillettechildren.org

Vision IMPAIRMENT
Minnesota Commission of the Deaf
DeafBlind & Hard of Hearing (MNCDDH)
V-651-431-5961 mncddh.info@state.mn.us
www.mn.gov/deaf-commission

WAIVER CASE MANAGEMENT
ACCORD
V-612-362-4400 info@accord.org
www.accord.org

Acura
V-952-935-3515 jwhite@tunheim.com
www.accracare.org

Reach for Resources
V-651-290-3030 F-952-229-4468
www.reachforresources.org

VOLUNTARY HOSPITALS/EVENTS/OTHER SERVICES
Reach for Resources
V-651-603-2015 F-952-229-4468
www.reachforresources.org

VISUAL IMPAIRMENT
Minnesota Commission of the Deaf, DeafBlind & Hard of Hearing (MNCDDH)
V-651-431-5961 mncddh.info@state.mn.us
www.mn.gov/deaf-commission

WACOSA
V-320-251-0087 info@wacosa.org
www.wacosa.org
November 2022    Volume 33, Number 10

Grants to assist those with dementia

Eleven Minnesota organizations will be able to increase awareness of Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias; promote early diagnosis and connect caregivers to resources, thanks to grants from the Minnesota Board on Aging. The board is granting almost $750,000 to the organizations for 2023 projects.

“These funds support not only people with Alzheimer’s and other forms of dementia, but their family and friends, who play such a critical role in caregiving,” said Kari Benson, board executive director. “Their support is always needed. It’s a unique opportunity, thanks to grants from the Minnesota Board on Aging.”

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“Everyone was excited to cut the ribbon for the new facility. The Arc announces board members

The Arc Minnesota and Arc’s Value Village are honored to announce the election of Tim Allen of Dominium as a new co-chair of the organization’s board. He joins co-chair Nate Scott. The board also welcomes newcomers Bryan Boyce, Munee Kercher-Ramos and Roy Adams. The Arc Minnesota is near and dear to me,” said Allen. His family has utilized its resources. Allen has been on the board since 2010, and served as chair for the 2019 gala. “As a strong and stable, long-established organization, now is the time for the Arc Minnesota to work towards realizing our new vision, grow to serve more Minnesotans.”

Bryan Boyce of Cow Topping Press and Munee Kercher-Ramos of St. Paul’s Office of Financial Empowerment were elected to the board during the 2022 annual meeting. Roy Adams of Ramsey County Community Corrections was appointed to the board by CEO Andrea Zuber.

“For me, joining the Arc Minnesota board was very personal,” said Kercher-Ramos, whose son is autistic. “I’ve served on lots of different boards where I am [an expert or that align with my career. As I looked to join this board, my first foot forward was personal—the work of the Arc impacts my son, our family, and the broader disability community.”

The Arc is a statewide nonprofit organization that works to promote and protect the human rights of people who have intellectual and developmental disabilities, actively supporting them and their families in a lifetime of full inclusion and participation in their communities.

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CFSS implementation faces delays

The Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) continues its private vendor program to launch Community First Services and Supports (CFSS), but even when that funding started, many people were surprised to learn the program would be handled by for-profits. The new experimental waivered program, which will be used to help the State achieve one of its goals to increase community-based services and provide flexible funding for people with disabilities, has yet to be approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). MPR News reported in July that the department’s plans for CFSS were being held up by a CMS review of the state’s proposed plans.

The department is working to address CMS’s concerns, which include the proposed timeframe for CFSS implementation, the state’s plan to roll out the program to counties, and the state’s ability to manage the CFSS program. The department is also working to address concerns raised by local human service agencies about the program’s implementation.

The department has met with CMS several times to discuss the program and its implementation, but CMS has yet to approve the state’s plans. The department is working to address the concerns raised by CMS and other stakeholders and is confident that the program will be approved in the near future.

Disabled veterans need assistance

Minnesota’s disabled veterans who are not currently receiving care from the VA say they face barriers to accessing care. Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert Wilkie recently announced that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is taking steps to improve veterans’ access to care. The changes include expanding the number of VA clinics and expanding the types of services provided.

However, some veterans who are not able to obtain care from the VA say they face challenges in accessing care. They say they are often met with long wait times or are unable to obtain care because the VA does not have the resources to provide care to all veterans who need it.

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Radio Talking Book is seeking volunteers to record books and periodicals for the Radio Talking Book Library in Faribault. The catalog is at www.mnbtbl.org and their team are regularly posting forms a bond with the local milk lady. Read by Stevie Ray. Eight broadcasts; begins Wed, Oct. 19.

Night Journey* Monday – Friday 7 p.m.

Night Journey is also on the National Federation for the Blind’s NFB-NEWSLINE by calling 651-539-1424. The NFB-NEWSLINE service provides access to the printed news magazines and newspapers, plus information on COVID-19 in the “Breaking News” section. To learn more, visit www.nfb.org/programs-services/nfb-newsline.

Donate to the State Services for the Blind by check or credit card

Marching to the Beat

www.mnbtbl.org


Newberry, 2022. Four teenagers grow to death. Read by Marylyn Burridge. 10 broadcasts; begins Mon, Oct. 17. – L

Youth of state. Read by Michele Potts. Nine broadcasts; begins Mon, Oct. 17. – L

The Orchard, fiction by Kristina Grochow-Nichols, 2022. Two teenagers grow inseparable in the late days of the Soviet Union—but not all of them will live to witness the fall of communism. Read by Marie Bunridge. 10 broadcasts; begins Mon, Oct. 17. – L, V

To Not Die Alone by Logan Ury, read by Holly Sylvester. (rebroadcast), fiction by Reed King, 2019. Set in a satirical, dystopian future, a young woman has a mysterious illness that causes her to die. Read by Dr. Wendy Suzuki, read Good Anxiety. (rebroadcast), fiction by Kristi DeMeester, 2021. A heart-stopping tour-de-force about powerful women, angry men, and all the ways in which girls fight for the things that they find it too hard to silence. Read by Pat Kovel-Larbo. 11 broadcasts; begins Wed, Oct. 26.

A Thousand Steps, fiction by T. Jefferson Parker, 2022. Sixteen-year-old Matt McPherson thinks his older sister is just another runaway hippie chick, enjoying a summer of love. Not after an anonymous group of girls turns up on the beach, Read by Andrea Bell. 11 broadcasts; begins Tue, Oct. 18. – L, V

Off the Shelf* Monday – Friday 1 p.m.

The Dreamsers (rebroadcast), fiction by Karen Thompson Walker, 2019. A collection of students thinks she’s caught the flu. In fact, she has a mysterious illness that causes her to die. Read by Marylyn Burridge. 10 broadcasts; begins Mon, Oct. 17. – L

The Strand* Monday – Friday 12 p.m.

Choice Reading* Monday – Friday 2 p.m.

Poite Society (rebroadcast), fiction by Mahsah Rash. 2019. When a young man discovers he has a mysterious illness that causes his body to die, he travels around the country to find the right mixture of love and light. Read by Glenna Miller. 12 broadcasts; begins Mon, Oct. 17. – L


The Reader’s Voice* Monday – Friday 1 p.m.


The Right: The Hundred-Year War for American Conservatism, nonfiction by Matthew Connelly, 2022. A magisterial intellectual history of the last century of American conservatism and its impact on the present. Read by John Potts. 17 broadcasts; begins Mon, Oct. 3. – L, V

Punpotr* Monday – Friday 9 p.m.

The Enchanted Hour (rebroadcast), nonfiction by Meghan Cudx, 2018.

Radio Talking Book offers access to a wide array of programming. More programs and books are available.

Enjoy programming anytime and anywhere on a hand-held, mobile device, for either iOS or Android. Visit the Apple App Store for iOS, or Google Play for Android, and download the Minnesota Radio Talking Book app.

Listen to the NFB-NEWSLINE service online at www.mnbtbl.org/rnb. Books broadcast on the Minnesota Radio Talking Book Network can be accessed, including those broadcast through the Minnesota Braille and Talking Book Library in Faribault. The catalog is at www.mnbtbl.org, click on the Link the Library Catalog. Call the Minnesota Braille and Talking Book Library at 800-722-0550, Mon – Fri, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

For more Minnesota Radio Talking Book Network books, go to the Facebook site or contact your local Radio Talking Book office. To learn more about the radio talking book service and how to access it, visit the NFB-NEWSLINE service online at www.mnbtbl.org/rnb.

Watch the show on YouTube @ Disability Viewpoints and on community radio. The show is produced by Mark Knutson, Charlie Bros and his team of cohosts feature current news, interesting people and groups in Minnesota’s disability community. The show is produced by volunteers at St. Paul Saint Louis Park. Stella lives outside of Twin Cities or looking for a past show, will find the show on Archive.org. Email disabilityprograms@osajamsie.com with questions and suggestions, or call 651-341-3434. Postal mail can be sent to KFAI, 1808 Riverside Ave. S., Disability and Progress, Box 116, Minneapolis MN 55445.

Disability Viewpoints Disability Viewpoints is an award-winning public television show by and for people with disabilities. people with disabilities. Shows are now available on podcast.

Ask the smart speaker to play Disability and Progress podcast for the latest episode. For more information, please contact them at disabilityviewpoints@gmail.com.

Disability Radio. They work with Conor’s Council and are looking for people to say their stories and people with disabilities who want to have their show on the airline. They are looking for people who wants to be a part of HoodWing can contact them. Find HoodWing radio at https://www.hoodwingradio.com or www.hood-wingradio-live.tv or www.hoodwing.org

Cup of Council Cup of Council is a podcast launched by speech language pathologist/Minnesian Amy Gundlach and two of her colleagues, who call themselves “the council.” They deliver a talking goat to a laboratory in a satirical, dystopian future, a young woman has a mysterious illness that causes her to die. Read by Dr. Wendy Suzuki, read Good Anxiety. (rebroadcast), fiction by Kristina Grochow-Nichols, 2022. Two teenagers grow inseparable in the late days of the Soviet Union—but not all of them will live to witness the fall of communism. Read by Marie Bunridge. 10 broadcasts; begins Mon, Oct. 17. – L, S

Poetic Reflections, noon Sun

To Not Die Alone by Logan Ury, read by Holly Sylvester. (rebroadcast), fiction by Reed King, 2019. Set in a satirical, dystopian future, a young woman has a mysterious illness that causes her to die. Read by Dr. Wendy Suzuki, read Good Anxiety. (rebroadcast), fiction by Kristina Grochow-Nichols, 2022. Two teenagers grow inseparable in the late days of the Soviet Union—but not all of them will live to witness the fall of communism. Read by Marie Bunridge. 10 broadcasts; begins Mon, Oct. 17. – L, S

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Ask the smart speaker to play Disability and Progress podcast for the latest episode. For more information, please contact them at disabilityviewpoints@gmail.com.
Poetz is remembered
A celebration and remembrance of Clifford Poetz, a pioneer in the self-advocacy movement and lifelong disability rights activist, is 7-3 p.m. Sat, Nov. 5 at the Spirit of St. Stephen’s, 501 31st Ave. S, Mpls, in the New Branch building. The service will include an opening and closing prayer, readings, a eulogy, and an opportunity to share stories. Refreshments will be served. The event will livestreamed on YouTube (https://youtu.be/Hp4e-EWCCA).

Poetz not only defined self-advocacy, he set the example and opened the door for countless others to take up the cause of disability rights. At the time Poetz became an activist, about 200,000 Minnesotans were still living in institutions. Since 2001 Poetz served as community liaison with the Research and Training Center on Community Living Planning Committee in 2012. The Planning Committee’s efforts. A legal settlement agreement was approved in December 2011 with the state, and the 10th Anniversary of the first Olmstead Report is marked.

The Angel of youth
Young Dance presents Fall Fling 3-6 p.m. Sat, Oct. 15. Activities will be outdoors in the Fairview Business Center parking lot, 655 Fairview Ave N S, Paul. In event of rain, the event will continue inside building at each partner’s location. The free, outdoor celebration celebrates Young Dance’s 36 years of transforming lives through movement by bringing together numerous community partners for an event for the whole family. Performances and interactive demonstrations will be led by Young Dance, CAAM Chinese Dance Theater, Ripple Effect Community Fitness, St. Paul Ballet, and Youth Performance Company, plus there will be a family-friendly silent auction. Young Dance, 3200 Pillsbury Ave S, Mpls.

FFI: https://youngdance.org

Panettone at PACER
PACER Center’s annual benefit is Sat, Nov. 5 at Mpls Convention Center. Enjoy an array of activities and the music of a cappella superstars Pentatonic. The evening will include an exciting live auction and a huge silent auction featuring sports tickets and memorabilia, exciting getaways, fabulous experiences, jewelry, and much more. Event tickets are now available. FFI: www.pacer.org

Two AuSUm events
Autism Society of Minnesota (AuSUm) has two events coming up. Ignite inclusion is 7-9 p.m. Wed, Oct. 19 at Brother Justin Whiskey Company, Mpls. The in-person event replaces the past galas. Enjoy live and silent auctions, activities, craft cocktails and appetizers, and much more. Preregistration and cost information are online.

The 5th Annual AuSUm Connections Jigsaw Puzzle Competition will be in-person and virtually on Sat, Nov. 5. Contests at Mall of America Hosted Bank Rotunda and on Zoom will compete to see who is fastest. To put their jigsaw puzzling passion to the test by competing for the fastest puzzle.

Conferences
Attend state conference
The National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) Minnesota hosts its state conference Sat, Nov. 19 at Loews RiverCentre. The theme is Charting A New Future. Learn how to reduce mental health disparities and advance health equity from the opening keynote speaker Dr. Kisha B. Holden. Then choose from 18 breakout sessions on a wide variety of current mental health topics, including children and screen time, the important role of peer specialists, the impact of war on mental health, and many more. Check online for more information. FFI: info@naminn.org

Children and families
PACER workshops sampling
PACER Center offers many useful free or low-cost workshops and other resources for families of children with any disabilities. Workshops are online and livestreamed at this time. Advance registration is required for all workshops. At least 48 hours’ notice is needed for interpretation. Check out PACER’s website and link to the newsletter of statewide workshops that allows participants to pick and choose sessions designed for their needs.

Back to School Stress: Tools and Apps to Minimize Stressor Sessions is 2-3 p.m. Thu, Oct. 13. School is back in session and elementary and high school student may experience increased stress. The workshop will explore tools and apps you or your child can use to decrease stressors and distractions.

Proactive Crisis Planning for Children with Mental Health Challenges is 6:30-8 p.m. Tue, Oct. 18. When children or teenagers experience escalating behaviors at school, a proactive crisis plan can help support recovery and wellness. The session will provide information on strengths-based planning in the school setting. FFI: PACER, 952-838-9500, 800-537-2357, www.pacer.org

Info & Assistance
Learn about cohousing
Ann Zabaldo, co-developer of a grassroots built 43-unit intentional community in Western D.C., speaks live via Zoom at 7 p.m. Wed, Oct. 12. Zabaldo consults on a national level, and serves on the board of Mid Atlantic Cohousing. She lives with disabilities. A live Q&A will follow her talk. All are welcome. Zabaldo’s talk is free. But only 100 people can attend.

Cohousing communities are designed for comfort-in-window, comfortable, shared spaces–and are co-designed and managed by the residents. There are 150 such communities in the U.S. The first community being built.

The talk is hosted by Twin Cities Cohousing Network, an all-volunteer nonprofit devoted to raising awareness about and supporting co-creation of cohousing in our area. FFI: bl.273@ZabaldoOct22

They’re on the move
After more than 75 years on Lyndale and Franklin, Vision Loss Resources, DeafBlind Services, and Contract Production Services are moving into St. Paul. Oct. 1. Their new home is at 2330 Spruce St NE, St. Paul. FFI: 651-692-0619 will be closed to the public until Mon, Oct. 10. FFI: 612-643-3439, 612-671-2222, info@visionlossresources.org

Many classes available
NAMI Minnesota (National Alliance on Mental Illness) has set up a wide variety of classes through November to support mental health classes. Choices include Hope for Recovery, Transitions, Ending the Silence, Understanding Early Periods, Caring Communities, smoking cessation, a suicide prevention class called QPR –Question, Persuasion and Refer, a special QPR class for Agricultural Communities and many more. The classes are designed for family members and caregivers, persons living with a mental illness, service providers, and also the general public.

Learn how to join in by going to naminm.org and complete the first 3 classes” or go straight to https://naminm.org/education-public-awareness/classes/scheduled

Open Flow Forum
The Artists with Disabilities Alliance meets 7:30 p.m. the first Thu of the month. Upcoming dates Oct. 6 and Nov. 3. Virtually join artists with disabilities and supporters to share visual art, writing, music, theater and artistic effort. Disability advocate University professors are Tara Irmon, Kip Share and Springboard for the Arts. The gatherings are free, anyone needing special accommodations should contact Andi Studervant at host organization Springboard for the Arts. FFI: online access for needs. FFI: 651-294-0907, resources@springboardforthearts.org

Less to enjoy!
In-person events are for arts events as well as banquets and fundraisers for disability service organizations. Schedules may be subject to change. View all visual art, writing, music, theater and artistic effort. Disability advocate University professors are Tara Irmon, Kip Share and Springboard for the Arts. The gatherings are free, anyone needing special accommodations should contact Andi Studervant at host organization Springboard for the Arts. FFI: online access for needs. FFI: 651-294-0907, resources@springboardforthearts.org

See what is available through the Minnesota Access Alliance and its calendar, at https://mnaccessalliance.org/
Accessible Space, Inc.  
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TTY/TDD 800-627-3529

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budget, and more so that you can spend your time how you want.

Access Press Presents
DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION
A FREE ONLINE EVENT FEATURING 
NEWSMAKER, BELO CIPRIANI

Join Access Press November 15 at 6:30 p.m. for our first online event.  
We'll launch our new website, provide an Access Press Update and hear 
from keynote speaker, Belo Miguel Cipriani, Ed.D. Belo is a digital 
inclusion strategist who became passionate about making online spaces 
accessible after being blinded by a group of men in 2007. His books and 
articles on disability issues have received numerous awards and 
international recognition. Through his digital access consulting firm, Oleb 
Media, he has helped countless organizations build inclusive websites, 
including Access Press!