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[www.hearthstonewi.org](http://www.hearthstonewi.org)

## Family Care Concerns? - Now there's help!

- Do you need help in understanding your Family Care or Partnership services or benefits?
- Are you confused about your rights under Family Care or Partnership?
- Are you satisfied with your care plan or services?
- Are you receiving services that meet your needs and support your outcomes?
- Do you have questions regarding your cost share?

Disability Rights Wisconsin's (DRW's) *Family Care Ombudsman Program* is now available. It can provide assistance regarding eligibility, services or other Family Care and Family Care Partnership concerns. The Wisconsin Board on Aging and Long Term Care (BOALTC) will continue to provide its ombudsman services to Family Care and Partnership enrollees and potential enrollees age 60 and over.

DRW provides services to people with disabilities age 18-59. An Ombudsman (OM-budz-man) is an advocate. If you are applying for or receiving Family Care or Family Care Partnership, you are eligible for DRW's Ombudsman services. The ombudsman can assist you whether you are living in your own home, a supported apartment or another residential setting.

The Family Care Ombudsman Program offers many services, including:

- Investigating complaints
- Resolving and mediating issues
- Providing information and education on consumer rights
- Assisting in negotiating care plans
- Appealing denials of services or changes in services
- Working with enforcement and regulatory agencies

The Family Care Ombudsman Program has staff in DRW's Madison, Milwaukee and Rice Lake offices and is available to advocate for Family Care and Family Care Partnership participants in *any* Wisconsin Family Care county. It can help Family Care and Family Care Partnership enrollees or potential enrollees, their guardians and families with issues such as:

**Development of a Care Plan that supports your goals:** Were you actively involved in developing your care plan? Were your concerns and questions addressed? Does your team understand what kind of life you want your long term care services to help you achieve? Did you get good information about all of your services (such as employing your own caregivers)? Were you given the opportunity to direct some or all of your services (such as employing your own caregivers)? Do you understand how decisions about your services were made?

**Reduction in Services:** Have you requested services that are not provided? Were any previous services changed or reduced? If so, do you understand why?

**Employment:** Are you interested in having a job or working toward employment? Are you getting support in getting or keeping a job?

**Living Arrangement:** Are you living where you want? If you want to move, have you told your care team about that? Is your care team helping you live where you want? With whom you want?

**Young Adults Moving from School to Adulthood and enrolling in Family Care or Partnership:** If you are at least 17 years and 9 months old, do you know that you might be eligible for Family Care or Family Care Partnership? Are you getting information about your options for services?

(continued on next page)

## President's Report



### The Budget Crisis and What it Means to You.

*By Jon Rost*

Well, we aren't certain as yet, but we know there will be difficult decisions ahead for families, providers and legislators. The Federal and State budget deficits are unparalleled and their impact on people with disabilities has already begun. Our hopes that Family Care would eliminate waiting lists by February of 2010, have now been delayed by another year (at best).

The extension of health insurance benefits to children challenged with Autism seems encouraging, however the issue of overall healthcare reform remains unclear and filled with controversy.

Closer to home, Sheboygan County is struggling with its budget as well, largely due to Governor Doyle's proposed 3 1/2% reduction in state aids to local governments (which, incidentally, have remained flat for the past 15 years). As is appropriate, all County programs are being examined. In our areas of concern are all programs that are not mandated by Federal and State regulations. Many valuable programs currently funded by Sheboygan County, such as work related services, may be at risk because the County doesn't HAVE to fund them.

HearthStone encourages you to attend one or both of the Sheboygan County Health & Human Services Budget Hearing Sessions:

*"Hearth" to symbolize a loving, caring home; "Stone" to symbolize permanence"*

## 2010 Budget PUBLIC HEARINGS for the Sheboygan County Health and Human Services Department

### THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2009

**1:15 P.M. – Agriculture Building – Forest Room**

(650 Forest Avenue, Sheboygan Falls)

**5:00 P.M. – Sheboygan County Human Services**

**Building – Room 413**

(1011 North 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Sheboygan)

PLEASE consider attending and voicing your concern for those we care about.  
Thanks for your support of HearthStone.



Regards,  
Jon Rost, President  
HearthStone of Wisconsin

PS. On a lighter note, our Young People had a wonderful evening at the Spring Dance back in March. Record attendance and a good time was had by all. Thanks to Terri Sterzen ! And, put August 1<sup>st</sup> on your calendar for a Picnic and Boat ride on Elkhart Lake (Note: boat ride limited to first 30 reservations)

## Spring Dance—A Hawaiian Luau

By Terri Sterzen

Hearthstone sponsored it's 9th Annual Spring Dance for the Young People of the organization. It was held on Friday March 13,2009 at the Plymouth Youth Center. We had a Luau theme this year. We had a wonderful time as usual! 39 people came and danced and sang karaoke and enjoyed yummy food and fellowship. We do have so much fun when we are together! The most frequently asked question was "What are we doing next?"



*HearthStone Friends enjoy a time of food, friends and fun*

## Family Care Listening Session & More

By SueAnn Shuh

Mark the date, 9/10, Join us for a community listening session on how Family Care is going in Sheboygan county, Family Care is 1-1/2 years old now and we want to hear how it is working for you and your family. Betsy Abramson, Manager of the Ombudsman Program will be joining us along with a consumer from Sheboygan County that is using IRIS and will share what their experiences have been using IRIS. We will be meeting at Paragon Community Services in Plymouth. A flyer with all the details will be out in July. See you 9/10/09.

Hearthstone is pleased to cosponsor with RCS an evening in October on how supported employment will effect benefits, opportunities, future support and just to generally take some of the mystery out of employment. This will be held at RCS, date to be announced soon.

## Upcoming Events

**Friday, June 12th, 2009 - 7:00 a.m.**, HearthStone Monthly Meeting  
Fountain Park Restaurant in Sheboygan

**Friday, July 10th, 2009 - 7:00 a.m.**, HearthStone Monthly Meeting  
Fountain Park Restaurant in Sheboygan

**Saturday, August 1st, 2009 - 12:00 p.m.**, Summer Picnic & Boat Ride  
Fireman's Park in Elkhart Lake, Please RSVP

**Friday, August 14th, 2009 - 7:00 a.m.**, HearthStone Monthly Meeting  
Fountain Park Restaurant in Sheboygan

**Thursday, September 10th, 2009 - 6:00 p.m.**, Family Care Listening Session  
Paragon Community Services in Plymouth



*"Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail"*

*Ralph Waldo Emerson*



### We're here to help you unlock the right doors.

HearthStone of Wisconsin is a not for profit organization based in Sheboygan, WI. Our members are people with developmental disabilities, their families and friends and people within our communities who care about them.

We offer assistance, guidance, advocacy and support in transition to and in perpetuation of community-based living.

We believe in working together to help dreams come true.  
 Dreams of Independence. Dreams of Respect. Dreams of Achievement.  
 Dreams of Laughter.

For many people dreams like these may seem impossible or impractical. HearthStone members are dedicated to helping one another break down the barriers that appear to prevent those dreams from becoming reality. Our role as an organization is to facilitate, communicate and educate ourselves, our families and our communities to enable all people to achieve their highest potential.

To dream the dream, and strive to live the dream.

If you and your family are interested in designing and implementing sustaining individualized support systems for a family member who has a developmental disability, then you may benefit from HearthStone. Our members share a common concern and willingness to actively support individuals with developmental disabilities within our communities.

Our ultimate objective is to help people achieve their highest possible levels of community integration and independent living and to do so safely, securely and meaningfully.

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## Family Care continued

If you are age 18-59, are applying for or are enrolled in the Family Care or Family Care Partnership and have a question or concern, you can contact the Family Care Ombudsman Program at the Disability Rights office in Madison: 608-267-0214; Toll-free: 800-928-8778

Disability Rights Wisconsin provides reasonable accommodations upon request. Language translation services are available.

Disability Rights Wisconsin is a private non-profit organization. Founded in 1977, it was designated by the Governor to ensure the rights of all state citizens with disabilities through individual advocacy and systems change. DRW is part of a national system of federally-mandated independent disability agencies. It serves people of all ages, including people with developmental disabilities, people with mental illness, people with physical or sensory disabilities, and people with traumatic brain injury. DRW respects the cultural values and personal choices of those seeking our services.

For more information about Family Care or other disability advocacy issues, please visit our website at: [www.disabilityrightswi.org](http://www.disabilityrightswi.org).

Family Care and Partnership give you several choices for help if you have a concern about your service plan. You can visit the DHS web site for a listing of options: <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/lc/lc.htm>.

Betsy Abramson, Manager  
 Family Care Ombudsman Program  
 Disability Rights Wisconsin

## FREE MEMBERSHIP REQUEST

### WHAT IS HEARTHSTONE

HearthStone is a self-help and advocacy organization for people with disabilities and their families. Our mission is to make our communities a welcoming place for people of disabilities and to support and encourage positive life experiences.

### BENEFITS OF JOINING HEARTHSTONE

- Free Quarterly Newsletter with news & information you can use
- Free subscription to HearthStone's email listserve
- Free Quarterly Social Events for Young Adults
- HearthStone sponsored respite program for qualifying families
- Advance notice for Free Community Meetings & Educational Programs
- Free P.A.T.H. Planning resources to help move your dreams forward
- Help, family mentoring, referrals, resources
- Add your "voice" to the hundred plus Lakeshore area families to help us advocate for funding for programs for people with disabilities and service providers – help us end "The WAITING LIST" game here and throughout Wisconsin and adequately compensate our caring service providers.

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Yes, please add me to your list of Members. I understand there is NO CHARGE to become a HearthStone member.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Person(s) you are advocating for: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Needs, Interests and/or Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Donations and volunteer activities are always welcome.

(HearthStone of Wisconsin is a 5013C non-profit, making your contribution fully tax deductible)

HEARTHSTONE OF WISCONSIN

P.O. Box 1444 – SHEBOYGAN, WISCONSIN 53082-1444 - 920.451.3179 - WWW.HEARTHSTONEWI.ORG

HearthStone of WI  
P.O. Box 1444  
Sheboygan, WI 53082-1444

## Yes, I'd like to help HearthStone help our special population

Please help us help others right here at home. Your contribution is fully tax deductible  
HearthStone of Wisconsin is a 501(C)3 non-profit corporation.

Yes, I'd like to donate:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$25    \_\_\_\_\_ \$50    \_\_\_\_\_ \$75    \_\_\_\_\_ \$100    \_\_\_\_\_ \$250    \_\_\_\_\_ \$500    \_\_\_\_\_ other

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

If you'd like to donate  
securely on-line, visit:  
[www.hearthstonewi.org](http://www.hearthstonewi.org)

You can make a difference. Volunteer for HearthStone  
In addition to your financial support, you can help HearthStone with your  
donation of time and energy. We are an entirely volunteer organization. With your help,  
our expenses are minimized and more goes to the people we serve.

### *Volunteer opportunities*

- Educational meetings     Fundraising     Maintain our growing database  
 Website update     Newsletter production     Events for our young people

**HEARTHSTONE OF WISCONSIN**

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