



# THE COORDINATING CENTER

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## INSPIRED SOLUTIONS

### THE CENTER LINE

March 2016

#### THE CENTER FEATURED ON PBS NEWSHOUR AND IN USA TODAY



[PBS  
NEWSHOUR  
USA TODAY](#)

Check out our recent innovative work on PBS *NewsHour* on

February 15, 2016  
and in *USA Today* on March 5, 2016.

#### 2016 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



[CLICK TO LEARN](#) more about some of the issues we are following this legislative session.

#### LAUREN'S STORY

Growing up, Lauren liked participating in sports, however, due to a genetic eye disorder



#### Greetings!

Welcome to **The Center Line**, our first quarterly newsletter that will help you stay informed about The Coordinating Center and the work we are doing to support people of all ages and abilities in the community to achieve their aspirations for independence, health and meaningful community life.

We hope you find this newsletter informative. Please let us know what you think or share ideas for future articles by emailing Jennifer Przydzial at [jprzydzial@coordinatingcenter.org](mailto:jprzydzial@coordinatingcenter.org).

Karen-Ann Lichtenstein  
President/CEO

#### WHAT'S NEW

Here at The Coordinating Center we know that health care can be confusing, fragmented, inefficient and expensive, and we recognize that the notion of shrinking revenues is here to stay. Population health is no longer just a catchy phrase, it is the focus of the present and future. Transforming Maryland's health care system to be person centered, highly reliable and efficient requires consumer engagement and increased collaboration among hospitals and health systems, payers, long-term care, and other providers as well as public health and community based organizations.

Today, we are actively engaged in important

that causes Lauren to progressively lose her sight, she always felt limited in what she could do. All of that changed in eleventh grade when Lauren attended the Maryland School for the Blind and was introduced to goalball.

In goalball, a sport designed for blind and visually impaired individuals, players compete on teams of three and take turns attempting to throw or roll a ball with bells in their opponent's goal. It is a fast-paced game consisting of two 12-minute halves and once a player has the ball, they have 10 seconds to pass it or attempt to score.

"I never knew there was a sport for blind people," says Lauren, co-founder of the United Goalball Association, Inc. "It was fun and I got the opportunity to try something new."

[CLICK TO LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW LAUREN IS HELPING OTHERS](#)

## WHY I GIVE



"The Coordinating Center's commitment to people with disabilities and complex health needs is inspirational. Each day they help individuals and families access the supports they need to lead a meaningful and independent life in the community of their choice. I am proud to give my time and support to The Center and make a difference in the lives of those who need it most. I encourage you to make a tax deductible donation, where every cent of every dollar goes directly to the individual in need." - Elizabeth Weglein, Board Chair, The

partnerships with eight hospital and health care systems throughout the state of Maryland to improve the health outcomes for people with complex illness and who may lack access to social and economic opportunities. Widely recognized for our innovative approaches to coaching and care coordination, The Coordinating Center is rapidly expanding our population health services division. Our approach focuses on personal motivators, working with individuals to reach their personal goals and navigate complex health care systems, social services and supports.

Stay connected with us through social media to learn more about how The Coordinating Center is helping Maryland transform the state of healthcare and improve population health.

## HEALTH CARE TRANSITIONS FOR YOUNG ADULTS

The Coordinating Center is leading an effort to improve health care transitions for young adults through the launch of the Transition Connection Initiative (TCI), a program funded by the Office for Genetics and People with Special Health Care Needs.



According to the National Survey of Children with Special Health Care Needs, only 36.8% of children and youth with special health care needs in Maryland receive the information they need to successfully transfer to adult health care providers and responsibly manage their own health care needs. "Ideally, every provider should have a policy about transfer of care to adult health care providers," says Eric Levey, MD, past president of the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Recognizing the importance of health transition services, TCI aims to improve connections among health care providers, and provide resources to practitioners and families to assist with health care transitions.

Without receiving health transition services, youth are more likely to have unmet health care needs as adults. Dr. Kathy Rivers, Director of TCI will speak at the Pediatric Academic Society Healthcare Transition Research Special Interest Group Meeting on April 29 and the Maryland American Academy of Pediatrics

## HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE



Our Family Resource Fund provides critical financial assistance and improves quality of life for individuals and families when they need it most.

[CLICK TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE FUND AND HOW TO MAKE A DONATION](#)

## PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: AUTISM WAIVER



There are over 10,000 students in Maryland identified as having autism. The Maryland Autism Waiver serves 1,000 students and over 4,000 additional students are on the waiting list.

Autism is one of the fastest-growing developmental disorders in the U.S. While many view autism as a challenge, here at The Coordinating Center we see children who have autism as an opportunity. Each day our service coordinators help children and young adults in Dorchester, Harford, Howard and Worcester Counties make small steps toward very definable goals. In some situations our clients do exceedingly well and no longer qualify for the Maryland Autism Waiver services. Two of our former graduates are examples of how supporting ones unique gifts can result in incredible opportunities. One student was recently accepted into five universities, while the other has designed cartoons that are being considered by Nickelodeon. We are so proud to be a small part of these students lives. It is successes like these that help our team support the families we are privileged to serve.

**STAY CONNECTED WITH  
THE COORDINATING CENTER**

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

