



THE COORDINATING CENTER  
INSPIRED SOLUTIONS

April 2019

## The Center Line



### OUR MISSION

To partner with people of all ages and abilities to achieve their aspirations for independence, health and meaningful community life.

### Coal Fire Pizza Fundraiser

Throughout the month of June, join The Coordinating Center at any of four Coal Fire Pizza locations and Coal Fire will donate 20% of your bill to The Coordinating Center's Family Resource Fund!



[Download Flyer](#)

### Seeking Sponsors

Join us for our 4th annual CenterFlix Fundraiser as we celebrate the individuals and families we are privileged to serve. Become a sponsor today and help us meet our goal of raising \$150,000 for The Center's Family Resource Fund.

Thanks to our generous sponsors, the fund is able to support children and adults with disabilities and complex needs by providing critical financial assistance when they need it most.

CenterFlix features short films that celebrate the accomplishments of

4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
**CENTER**  
**FLIX** 

people with disabilities. Help us make a difference today!

Become a Sponsor

## Community Health

In 2018, [Senate Bill 163 \(Chapter 441\)](#) established the State Community Health Worker (CHW) Advisory Committee to advise the Maryland Department of Health on the certification and training of community health workers.

The CHW Advisory Committee is comprised of nineteen members and chaired by Ms. Fran Phillips, Deputy Secretary for Public Health Services at the Maryland Department of Health. Fay Alexander, a Senior Health Coach and Trainer at The Coordinating Center, is one of nine community health workers represented on the advisory committee, and is joined by representatives from Maxim Healthcare Services, Inc. (a community-based employer of CHWs), the Community Behavioral Health Association of Maryland, the Maryland Association of County Health Officers, the Maryland Hospital Association, Access to Wholistic and Productive Living Institute, Inc. (a CHW training organization), the Maryland Public Health Association, as well as a licensed social worker and a nurse with experience in community health and a member of the public who is familiar with the services of CHWs. Fay shares that the CHW Advisory Committee is important because it works to support Community Health Workers who "have the ability to make a difference in their clients' lives by helping them navigate medical and social systems to connect their clients to resources that they need to manage their health."

The Committee currently meets bimonthly and meetings are open to the public. [Click here](#) or email [MDH.CHW@Maryland.gov](mailto:MDH.CHW@Maryland.gov) for meeting information and additional details.

## Legislative Update

The Maryland General Assembly just closed the 2019 legislative session, giving the Governor until May 28th to sign or veto bills passed by the legislature. A total of 2,476 bills were filed. The Coordinating Center worked closely with Public Policy Partners to advocate for individuals with disabilities and work on bills that directly impact The Center's mission and constituents.

After strong campaigning by Fight for \$15, Maryland is heading for an increase in the state minimum wage to \$15 an hour. The [Minimum Wage Bill](#) will gradually increase minimum wage to \$15 by 2025. For disability advocates, this bill is critical as it has the potential to significantly affect direct care workers. The Maryland General Assembly has passed language that will increase rates for direct care workers for people supporting individuals with developmental disabilities, behavioral health, and direct care workers providing care under all home and community based services. The Center applauds the legislature for recognizing the need for parity as The Center supports people with all disabilities and as such recognizes that everyone equally needs the direct care support.



Graduate Intern Claire Meltzer testifies for The Center on bill HD520/SB406, "Prenatal and Infant Care Coordination- Grant Funding and Task Force."

The 2020 budget includes a 3.5% increase for development disabilities and behavioral health services, and a 3% increase across the board for home and community based services and Medicaid Waivers. The House Appropriations Committee recently reviewed a rate study of 20 distinct services, inclusive of care coordination. In all cases but one, rates were considered below that required to cover costs. The Committee has requested that the Maryland Department of Health develop a 5-year plan to bring these rates in line with the cost of delivering services.

Click below to see a complete list of bills that The Coordinating Center is following.

[Read More](#)

## In the Community

The Coordinating Center is committed to giving back and strengthening local communities through The Center's Year of Service initiative. Now in its second year, Year of Service has helped create positive team building experiences for coworkers, and at the same time has resulted in life-changing volunteer experiences. Just a few months into year two, 53 coworkers have already contributed 167 volunteer hours at 8 nonprofits across the state of Maryland, including A Wider Circle, Kennedy Krieger Institute, Maryland Food Bank, Moveable Feast, Night to Shine, Orphan Grain Train, Our Daily Bread and the Special Olympics Maryland. Our Year of Service provides support to vital organizations in our community, but also provides enrichment for our coworkers. Connect with us on social media using the buttons at the bottom of this email to follow our Year of Service posts under #TCCInAction.



## Meet a Client

### Meet Jacqueline



Jacqueline is a 28-year old who after experiencing burns over 90% of her body at only 5-years-old, has accomplished just as much as she has overcome. After spending a year and a half in the hospital to manage her condition, Jacqueline was feeling nervous about the amount of adjusting and recovery that was yet ahead of her. That absolutely did not stop her for setting and reaching wonderful goals.

[Read Jacqueline's Story](#)

## The Coordinating Center



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