



Bringing People and Services Together

Air Waves

Wisconsin's Information Network

--- Summer 2011 ---



WisconsinAIRS is a statewide, non-profit professional association of Information & Referral (I&R) and Information and Assistance (I&A) organizations and individuals. The association is dedicated to developing and maintaining a high quality, coordinated information and referral network for Wisconsin and is an affiliate of AIRS (Alliance of Information and Referral Systems), the national organization.

Our mission is to promote the information and referral profession and support professionals engaged in Information & Referral and Information & Assistance.

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www.wisconsinairs.org

WisconsinAIRS 32nd Annual Conference

October 13-14, 2011

Kalahari Resort and Conference Center, Wisconsin Dells

Workshops!
Speakers!
Networking!
Great food!

More details on page 2

Or go directly to www.wisconsinairs.org

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Please share this issue with co-workers and agencies that may benefit from this information and/or who may benefit from membership in WisconsinAIRS.



A message from the president of WisconsinAIRS -- Events and Successes

Greetings,

I was looking at my calendar and looking ahead to September and October. Where did the spring and summer go? Fall and winter will soon be upon us. My how quickly time passes.

Thinking about fall, the WisconsinAIRS Annual Conference will be held on October 13 and 14, 2011 at the Kalahari in the Wisconsin Dells. There will be a nationally known keynote speaker, Laurie Boettcher, who will talk about social media and how agencies can take advantage of social platforms such as Facebook and Twitter. If you haven't attended a conference in the past, I would encourage you to attend this one. It will be worth your effort! If money is tight in your agency, WisconsinAIRS is providing five full scholarships for the conference. If you would like to know more about the conference or for a scholarship application, go to our website at www.wisconsinairs.org.

Jayne Mullins, WisconsinAIRS Board Vice President and AIRS Affiliate Representative recently looked back at 2010 WisconsinAIRS activities. As the Affiliate with the 3rd largest number of AIRS members, WisconsinAIRS had a very successful year. In addition to a number of United Ways, 2-1-1s, Specialty I&R/As and County/ Tribal Aging Offices, over 35 ADRCs covering 59 counties are represented in our membership. Wisconsin was one of 20 states that received a grant from the Administration on Aging to develop standards for Options Counseling, a core service of ADRCs. WisconsinAIRS has a representative serving on an advisory committee for this important grant.

WisconsinAIRS has an active listserv and distributes this quarterly newsletter ("Air Waves") highlighting various topics. Last year we held our 31st annual conference, 'Change...Surviving or Thriving' in Green Bay with over 100 attendees, and offered 16 workshop sessions. The board awarded five conference scholarships. A successful joint meeting of the WisconsinAIRS and 2-1-1 Wisconsin boards was held in 2011. A WisconsinAIRS board member sits on the Wisconsin 211 board. There are eleven 2-1-1 call centers serving Wisconsin's 72 counties of which ten are AIRS members. AIRS Certification study groups are offered, as needed, for those preparing to sit for AIRS certification testing. Our board purchased two copies of the ABC's of I&R, which are available through a statewide inter-library loan system. This allows individuals, who would not otherwise have access to the ABC's, the opportunity to borrow a copy to adequately prepare for certification testing.

There is so much going on in our I & R/A world right now, that it's hard to keep up. The field of I & R/A will be the strong tie that binds our nation in the future and we will be there to support the professionals who are in those roles.

Remember to take time to smell the roses, take care of yourself, savor the now and appreciate and embrace the new changes.

Take care and hope to see you at the conference,

Julie Seeman, President
WisconsinAIRS

*** WisconsinAIRS 32nd Annual Conference ***

October 13-14, 2011

Kalahari Resort and Conference Center, Wisconsin Dells

Go to: www.wisconsinairs.org for

Conference info / registration AND Scholarship application

Continuity gives us roots; change gives us branches, letting us stretch and grow and reach new heights.
~Pauline R. Kezer

Workshops and speakers:

- **Social Media - Facebook and Twitter for your agency (keynote speaker)**
- Mental health inquiries
- Alzheimer's resources and supports
- Long Term Care program enrollment maze
- ADRCs and APS
- Law of surrogate decision-making
- Anti-bias education for adults
- FoodShare myths and facts
- Support for family caregivers
- And more ...

- Join the PERC mailing list.
- Add your events to the PERC calendar.
- Join an online community.
- Check out PERC's growing training library.

A Whole Lot of Things Are PERCing

What in the World is PERC?

The Paths to Employment Resource Center, or PERC as it is known, provides education and training, technical assistance, research, and resources to expand opportunities for persons with disabilities to earn income and participate fully in community life. PERC develops content and materials and shares and connects individuals to information and resources developed by others that promote employment and independence for people with disabilities.

Here are just some of the things available on the continually growing PERC website:

www.percthinkwork.org

Training for Public & Professionals

PERC is in the process of developing three training series: Employment Strategies Series; Benefits Counseling Series; and Employment Support Professional continuing education curriculum. The Employment Strategies Series and the current Benefits Counseling Series is free to the public and provides an overview of different employment strategies such as supported, customized and Benefits Counseling 101. Additional modules describe public programs

that can assist a person with a disability seeking employment.

Connecting & Sharing Through Online Communities

PERC's Online Communities are available for consumers and professionals to continue learning and sharing experiences and best practices on employment-related issues and self-directed supports. To date, there are two active learning communities:

- Employment Network – <http://employmentnetworkwi.org>
- Self-Directed Supports Network – <http://sdsnetworkwi.org>

Join us to connect, share, and learn!

Resources with Impact

PERC has published a number of resources that reflect evidence-based research, frequently asked questions on a number of topic areas, federal, state and local resources and legislation related to employment.

PERC also offers technical assistance through individual inquiries, as part of the training curriculum and through learning communities.

How can I&A Specialists use PERC?

Customers of I&A Specialists who have disabilities may inquire about finding work and where they can get help. PERC's free training modules are designed to provide a general overview of different public agencies who can provide help and the types of employment strategies that may be available to them. I&A Specialists may show the modules to their customers as a way of pursuing employment options and resources. New I&A Specialists or seasoned specialists may find the free modules helpful in learning or refreshing themselves about current employment options.

Check them out at <http://www.percthinkwork.org/education/courses/employment-strategies-series/>.

What is the foundation behind PERC?

Guided by an all-inclusive needs assessment, evidence-based practices and consumer-centered values, PERC provides education, technical assistance, research, and resources to key stakeholders, including individuals with disabilities, their families, government agencies, educators/transition coordinators, and employment service providers.

PERC has been a MIG-funded collaboration between Stout Vocational Rehabilitation Institute

(SVRI), UW-Madison's Department of Rehabilitation Psychology and Special Education, and Employment Resources, Inc. (ERI).

A series of focus groups and listening sessions, conducted by UW-Madison, helped identify training and resource needs related to improving employment outcomes for people with disabilities. Out of these findings, training and technical assistance priorities were developed. The findings can be summarized as follows: stakeholders need increased knowledge of employment services, everyone needs a better understanding of how to navigate the service systems available and consumers need support and resources to meet their employment needs. The full needs assessment report can be found at <http://www.percthinkwork.org/research/list/category/research-briefs/>.

Where Can You Find Out More?

Visit www.percthinkwork.org!

- Join the PERC mailing list.
- Add your events to the PERC calendar.
- Join an online community.
- Check out PERC's growing training library.



www.percthinkwork.org

Listen

A competent professional listens well, probes, asks questions, and thinks before he speaks. This is easy to say, but hard to do.

Jeffrey G. Allen

FEMA Encourages Americans to Participate in September's National Preparedness Month

National Preparedness Month has been observed each September in the United States since 2004. It is sponsored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) within the Department of Homeland Security,

The eighth annual NPM will kickoff this September, using the slogan: "A Time to Remember. A Time to Prepare." The campaign seeks to transform awareness into action by encouraging all Americans to take the necessary steps to ensure that their homes, workplaces and communities are prepared for disasters and emergencies of all kinds.

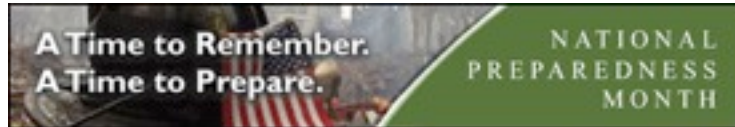
"As we move forward with planning for this year's events and activities, we also recognize that this September marks the ten year anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks," said FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate. "By doing what we can to ensure that our communities, and our nation, are prepared to respond and recover from all types of disasters and

hazards, we honor the memory of those who were lost that day."

Individuals and groups can now register to become NPM coalition members by visiting community.fema.gov. Once registered, members have access to a toolkit that includes suggestions for activities and events, templates, articles, banners and customizable materials. Coalition members also have access to an events calendar allowing them to post and promote preparedness events,

share success stories, and participate in national and regional discussion forums to engage with fellow coalition members and FEMA representatives.

By hosting events, promoting volunteer programs and sharing emergency preparedness information, coalition members can help ensure that their communities are prepared for emergencies. Becoming a coalition member is easy and free, so register now to get started. Nearly 2,000 coalition members have already joined this year's campaign.



A State Plan for Alzheimer's



Your feedback is requested -- please click here to take a series of surveys.



The Planning Council is partnering with the Helen Bader Foundation and the State of Wisconsin to gather the voices and wisdom of people across Wisconsin including providers, policy makers, academics, practitioners, and families and friends of individuals who have Alzheimer's disease. The goal of the process is to spread knowledge about Alzheimer's, help identify existing services and gaps in Alzheimer's care and inform the State plan. Your feedback, concerns and comments count and we want to hear from you.

Provide your feedback through a series of surveys. Attend a "Learning and Listening Session." Go to: www.planningcouncil.org/CMS/alt_login.php?gr=2

**TWO pieces of important information
for your clients on Medicare**

**Medicare dates change for
enrollment in Part D and Medicare Advantage plans**

NEW: October 15th to December 7th

- This year, the annual enrollment period to choose and join a private health or drug plan for 2012 will kick off on October 15 and wrap up on December 7. The new coverage will take effect on January 1, 2012.
- Changes -- all plans have contracts with Medicare that change from year to year. Watch the mail and do some investigating into any changes from this year's plans. Changes may include monthly premium amounts and co-payments charged to the Medicare person. The best plan for this year, may not be the best plan for next year.
- Medicare National Number (1-800-633-4227). Customer service representatives will enter a person's drugs into the plan finder and offer the opportunity to immediately sign up for the plan of chosen by the caller.
- Medicare people or a family member can compare either Drug (Part D) or Advantage Plans at www.medicare.gov. Choose a plan, and enroll on-line. The Medicare website is changing on a daily basis, so wait until October 15.
- Help! For updates, worksheets, tutorials, tip sheets, on-line demo, etc, go to <http://tinyurl.com/plan-finder-toolkit>
- More help! Older adults may contact an Elderly Benefit Specialist (to find the nearest one, go to www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/aging/EBS/counties.htm). Or disabled adults may call the Disability Drug Benefit Helpline at 1-800-926-4862.
- ***Enrollment ends December 7. Changes will not be allowed after that date.***

Get "Extra Help" to Pay for Prescriptions

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services estimates that more than 2 million people with Medicare may be eligible for "Extra Help," but are not currently enrolled in the program to take advantage of these savings.

Those with limited income and resources who qualify will get help paying for Medicare's prescription drug coverage premiums, copayments, and deductibles. To qualify, you must make less than \$16,335 a year (\$22,065 for married couples), and your resources must also be limited to \$12,640 (\$25,260 for married couples). Medicare's "Extra Help" program sets it up so you pay no more than \$2.50 for each generic drug and \$6.30 for each brand name drug.

It's easy and free to apply for "Extra Help." You or a family member, trusted counselor, or caregiver can apply online at www.socialsecurity.gov/prescriptionhelp or call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY: 1-800-325-0778).

This information prepared by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Wisconsin's New Voter Photo ID Law

What is and is not allowed ... How to get an ID card ... Questions answered
 ~ Go to these web links ~

<http://gab.wi.gov/taxonomy/term/135> -- FAQs, dozens of questions answered

<http://gab.wi.gov/elections-voting/photo-id> -- Voter photo ID law information

www.dot.wisconsin.gov/drivers/drivers/apply/idcard.htm -- how to obtain an ID card

Information provided by the Wisconsin Government Accountability Board
 (See contact information below)

<p>What has changed in the law?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Wisconsin law requires voters to show an acceptable photo ID to vote starting with the 2012 February Primary. ➤ In any election before the 2012 February Primary, the law requires election workers to ask voters for an acceptable photo ID at the polling place, but voters without an acceptable photo ID will still be allowed to vote. ➤ An acceptable photo ID will be required before receiving a ballot at the 2012 February Primary and all subsequent elections.
<p>What is an acceptable ID?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">An acceptable photo ID is not required to have a current address.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A Wisconsin DOT-issued driver license, even if driving privileges are revoked or suspended ➤ A Wisconsin DOT-issued identification card ➤ A Military ID card issued by a U.S. uniformed service ➤ A U.S. passport <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin: 5px 0;"> <p><i>Identifications above must have an expiration date after the November 2, 2010 election.</i></p> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A certificate of naturalization that was issued not earlier than two years before the date of an election at which it is presented ➤ An unexpired driving receipt issued by Wisconsin DOT ➤ An unexpired identification card receipt issued by Wisconsin DOT ➤ An identification card issued by a federally recognized Indian tribe in Wisconsin ➤ An unexpired identification card issued by a Wisconsin-accredited university or college that contains the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- Date of issuance -- Signature of student -- Expiration date not later than two years after date of issuance
<p>How do I get a free photo ID to vote?</p>	<p>Wisconsin law requires the Department of Transportation to provide free ID cards to any individual who will be at least 18 years of age on the date of the next election and who requests a free ID for the purpose of voting. The regular fee is \$28.</p> <p>Due to the need to provide a birth certificate and other documents to receive a DOT-issued ID, individuals should start the process of obtaining a statutory identification well in advance of an election at which they wish to vote.</p>

For detailed information about the Voter Photo ID law, please visit the Government Accountability Board website: <http://gab.wi.gov> or call 1-866-VOTE-WIS or contact the G.A.B. Help Desk at 608-261-2028 or TTY 1-800-947-3529.



U.S. Department of
Transportation --
National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration

For twenty three million students nationwide, the school day begins and ends with a trip on a school bus. The greatest risk is not while riding the bus, but approaching or leaving the bus. Before children go back to school or start school for the first time, it is essential that adults and children know traffic safety rules.

Drivers

- When backing out of a driveway or leaving a garage, watch out for children walking or bicycling to school.
- When driving in neighborhoods with school zones, watch out for young people who may be thinking about getting to school, but may not be thinking of getting there safely.
- Slow down. Watch for children walking in the street, especially if there are no sidewalks in neighborhood.
- Slow down. Watch for children playing and congregating near bus stops.
- Be alert. Children arriving late for the bus may dart into the street with out looking for traffic.
- Learn and obey the school bus laws in your state. Learn the “flashing signal light system” that school bus drivers use to alert motorists of pending actions:
 - **Yellow flashing lights** indicate that the bus is preparing to stop to load or unload children. Motorists should slow down and prepare to stop their vehicles.
 - **Red flashing lights** and extended stop arms indicate that the bus has stopped, and that children are getting on or off. Motorists must stop their cars and wait until the red lights stop flashing, the extended stop sign is withdrawn, and the bus begins moving before they can start driving again.

Children

- Get to the bus stop at least five minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive.
- When the bus approaches, stand at least three giant steps (6 feet) away from the curb, and line up away from the street.
- Wait until the bus stops, the door opens, and the driver says that it's okay before stepping onto the bus.
- If you have to cross the street in front of the bus, walk on the sidewalk or along the side of the road to a point at least five giant steps (10 feet) ahead of the bus before you cross. Be sure that the bus driver can see you, and you can see the bus driver.
- Use the handrails to avoid falls. When exiting the bus, be careful that clothing with drawstrings, and book bags with straps don't get caught in the handrails or doors.
- Never walk behind the bus.
- Walk at least three giant steps away from the side of the bus.
- If you drop something near the bus, tell the bus driver. Never try to pick it up because the driver may not be able to see you.

Parents

- Teach children to follow these common sense practices to make school bus transportation safer.

Wheelchair Recycling -- Mobility Store

NEW -- name
NEW -- Milwaukee location
NEW -- now a Medicaid provider



WRP is excited to announce that we have received our Medicaid license and will be working to expand our contracts with providers and Managed Care Organizations across the state. This license recognizes The Mobility Store as meeting Medicaid required standards.

What's in a name? When you are talking about the Wheelchair Recycling - **Mobility Store**, you are talking about high quality, low cost mobility and medical equipment. All equipment has been restored, sanitized and is provided at affordable prices to those who need it. Our innovative non-profit organization has been meeting our mission of "providing mobility with dignity to those in need" for 23 years.

The **Mobility Store** was previously known as the Wheelchair Recycling Program and as a result many people did not realize that we carry and accept donations of a **wide variety** of equipment including power and manual wheelchairs, scooters, walkers, rollators, hospital beds, commodes, bath equipment, pediatric equipment, canes and more. Shipping is available for purchased equipment at an additional charge.

All proceeds support our mission. If you or someone you know needs mobility equipment, contact the **Mobility Store** staff at one of our two office locations:

Madison Area Office
2554 Advance Road
Madison, WI 53718
(608) 243-1785 (Phone)
(608) 243-1787 (Fax)
wrp-mad@wrp.org
www.wrp.org

Greater Milwaukee Area Office
12040 West Feerick Street, Unit N
Wauwatosa, WI 53222
(262) 439-8248
(262) 439-8130
wrp-gma@wrp.org
www.wrp.org

Lots of WEBSITES -- resources and information for professionals and clients

FREE credit report -

<https://www.annualcreditreport.com/cra/index.jsp> -

Fight identity theft by monitoring and reviewing your credit report. You may request your free credit report online, [request your report by phone](#) or [request your report through the mail](#). Free credit reports requested online are viewable immediately upon authentication of identity. Free credit reports requested by phone or mail will be processed within 15 days of receiving your request.



CLICK!
CLICK!
CLICK!

Internet and Social Networking Safety -

www.usa.gov/topics/science/communications/internet/social-networks.shtml

The Internet gives you easy access to information, entertainment, financial offers and countless other services. The flip-side, however, is that it can leave you vulnerable to online scammers, identity thieves,

Hospice Foundation of America --

www.hospicefoundation.org/

End-of-life care resources for professionals, patients, and families

September is National Cholesterol Education Month

<http://hp2010.nhlbi.nih.net/cholmonth/>

The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute offers helpful resources to use during National Cholesterol Education Month. Find facts on high cholesterol, heart healthy recipes, suggestions for community education, booklets and bulletin board displays.

Home Energy Saver --

<http://hes.lbl.gov/consumer/>

Save money, live better, help the earth! Check your own house, find local initiatives, learn about energy-saving upgrades.

Choose My Plate --

<http://www.choosemyplate.gov/>

Everything about the new food selection guide from the USDA.

My Food-apedia --

<http://myfoodapedia.gov/>

An easy-to-use online calorie counter

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration -

www.samhsa.gov/

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) mission is to reduce the impact of substance abuse and mental illness on America's communities. Website with many resources and links.

Medicaid issues --

<http://familiesusa.org/issues/medicaid/>

58 million people rely on Medicaid services. Families USA provides this site with updates on sustaining and improving Medicaid.

Prevent phone “cramming” --

www.fcc.gov/encyclopedia/cramming-tip-sheet-consumers

A consumer tip sheet from the FCC

Caller ID “Spoofing” --

www.fcc.gov/blog/caller-id-spoofing-whos-really-line

Don't fall victim to this “electronic mask.”

A Toolkit for Serving Diverse Communities --

www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/AoA_Programs/Tools_Resources/DOCS/AoA_DiversityToolkit_Full.pdf

If your agency serves older adults, this is for you. A “one size fits all” approach will not work to reach your potential clients. Use this toolkit to find a method of providing respectful, inclusive and sensitive services to your whole community. The four steps are (1) Assessments, (2) Identifying Resources About the Community, (3) Designing Services, and (4) Program Evaluation.

Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia Resources --

www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/aging/Genage/ALZFCGSP.HTM

From Wisconsin Department of Health Services -- multiple links to programs and services, person-directed dementia care study, resource materials, publications. Info for professionals and families.

Help children and teens understand Alzheimer's and dementia --

www.alz.org/living_with_alzheimers_just_for_kids_and_teens.asp

The Alzheimer's Association has recently added a new resource to our website in the form of educational videos for children and teens to help them better understand Alzheimer's and dementia. This has been added to our website and is available in the form of videos that can be viewed via the internet. Please check this out and become familiar with the new resource as it is great!

The “Quality Care Finder” is a new online Resource from Medicare --

www.medicare.gov/quality-care-finder/

It's for consumers and their loved ones to access all of Medicare.gov's compare tools so they can get information that will help put them in control and feel more confident about the healthcare decisions they make. Includes Hospital Compare, Nursing Home Compare, Home Health Compare, Dialysis Facility Compare, Physician compare, Medicare Plan Finder. Get contact info, compare info about the quality of care and services, get tips on what to look for when comparing providers or plans.

Bullying of LGBT youth -- helpful resources

“It Gets Better” project -- an inspiration for young people facing harassment. Recorded video messages give hope and support to young people who are being bullied or harassed because of their actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity. Watch the videos and find resources for youth.

www.itgetsbetter.org/

www.whitehouse.gov/issues/civil-rights/it-gets-better

-- videos from President Obama and White House staff.

How to contact your elected officials:

U.S. Senate: www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm

U.S. House of Representatives: www.house.gov/representatives/

The President: www.whitehouse.gov/contact/

More (state governors, state legislators, government agencies): www.usa.gov/Contact/Elected.shtml

HOT weather! --

Just in case more hot weather arrives in Wisconsin before summer is over (or save these sites for next summer):

http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/extremeheat/index.html?s_cid=fb1009

<http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/heatillness/index.html>

<http://www.epa.gov/sunwise/>

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/heat/index.shtml>

Light bulbs: lumen vs. watts

www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/pubs/consumer/green/grn01.shtm

Shopping for light bulbs? Learning about *lumens* is a bright idea. Light bulbs are getting better. Newer bulbs — like halogen incandescents, CFLs and LEDs — last longer and use less energy than traditional incandescent bulbs, saving you money on your energy bills. In fact, beginning in 2012, everyday light bulbs have to meet new Department of Energy standards for how much energy they use. Bulbs that don't will be phased out over the next couple of years. Along with this move to more efficient bulbs comes a new way to shop for them.

Bidding for Good -- online auctions

www.biddingforgood.com/auction/

BiddingForGood.action

Shop online auctions or find out how to set up an online auction for your organization. All proceeds support non-profits and schools.

Websites for FUN!!!

Light bulb web cam!

<http://www.centennialbulb.org/photos.htm>

Light bulb at Livermore-Pleasanton (CA) Fire Department has been glowing continuously for 110 years. Watch it live on the bulb cam!!

The Yuckiest site on the internet

<http://yucky.discovery.com/flash/>

For kids of all ages (!), from the Discovery Channel. Science entertainment, including all you need to know about barfing, belching, and blackheads. Features yucky fun games, gross and cool body, worm world, and a roach world. Wendell the worm will answer your questions.

Cool Quiz -- trivia for everyone

www.coolquiz.com/trivia/

All kinds of trivia -- facts, quotes, words, history, cartoons, and more. Also puzzles, humor and fun pages.

Bright ideas for events and parties

www.brightideas.com/

“Click, Create, Celebrate” -- craft ideas, unique recipes, and group activities. Themes organized by event and holidays, e.g. Birthdays, Valentine's Day, Back to School, Christmas, etc. Includes theme-related printable party invitations, send e-greetings, decorating and gifts ideas.



Alliance of Information and Referral Systems announces how you can lend your support to a national day of recognition for our profession

Last week, U.S. Senators Robert Menendez (D-NJ) and Patty Murray (D-WA) introduced the AIRS resolution—*designating November 16, 2011 as “National Information and Referral Services Day.”* The resolution aims to raise public awareness and recognize the critical importance of the I&R/A field.

To view the joint Senate press release and text of the resolution click here:

www.airs.org/files/public/SenateResolution241_PressRelease.doc

www.airs.org/files/public/SenateResolution241.pdf

In order for the resolution to be considered for a vote and passed by the Senate, we need your help in securing additional cosponsors for S.RES.241.

Please send the message below via email, snail mail or fax or make a phone call. Fill in all the relevant information and feel free to add in personal stories or details you wish to share. To find your Senators, go to www.senate.gov or call (202) 224-3121.

If it is available, please include local or state data in your communications (i.e. increase in calls, what groups do you serve the most, etc.)

Dear Senator _____:

As a constituent, Information and Referral/Aging Professional and a member of the Alliance of Information and Referral Systems (AIRS)*, I am **writing/contacting** you to urge you to cosponsor S.RES.241, *a resolution expressing support for the designation of November 16, 2011, as National Information and Referral Services Day.*

Organizations (such as mine) do Information and Referral/Aging (I&R/A). Especially during difficult economic times, I&R/A provides a lifeline, bringing people and services together. **(Insert local data)** When people don't know where to turn, I&R /A is there for them.

Last year, AIRS members answered **more than 20 million calls** for help. Comprehensive and specialized I&R/A programs help people in every community and operate as a critical component of the health and human services delivery system. People in search of critical services such as, food, shelter, child care, work and job training, mental health support often do not know where to begin. More often than not, I&R/A organizations provide the answers.

S.RES.241 will bring attention to the important field of I&R/A and recognize the critical role **(insert name of your organization)** in **(insert state name)** play in delivering critical assistance to your constituents.

Senator Robert Menendez (NJ) is the author and sponsor of this resolution and if you have questions about S.RES.241 or would like to sign on, please contact **Sarah Reinprecht in Senator Menendez's office.**

Thank you,

(insert your name)

*AIRS is the national voice of Information and Referral/Assistance (I&R/A) services and we provide a professional umbrella for over 1,200 I&R/A providers in both public and private organizations.

If you receive a response as a result of your Senate contact or have questions about contacting your Senators, please let Shannon Donahue and Bob Blancato (AIRS Public Policy Contacts) know by emailing sdonahue@matzblancato.com.

*Thank you for your assistance. We look forward
to working with you to gain support for S.RES.241!*

WisconsinAIRS Board of Directors, 2010-2011

-- OFFICERS --

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2nd Term expires Fall 2012

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2nd Term expires Fall 2011

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