



Partnership for Independence

AN INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN A LISTENING SESSION

On June 22, 2009, the 10th anniversary of the landmark Supreme Court decision in the case of *Olmstead v. L.C.*, President Barack Obama launched “The Year of Community Living.” In response, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) established *The Community Living Initiative* to identify and promote ways to improve access to housing, community supports, and independent living arrangements for individuals with disabilities and older adults.

As part of The Community Living Initiative, HHS is holding a “listening session” for community stakeholders and consumers with diverse opinions on issues related to community living to provide information to public officials on the ways to improve community living options for individuals with disabilities and older adults. This listening session will help the officials develop and/or refine their policies and practices to better meet the needs of people with disabilities and older adults. This open communication is critical to the success of The Community Living Initiative.

In attendance will be representatives of key HHS agencies and offices, including: the Office on Disability (OD); the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE); the Administration for Children & Families (ACF); the Administration on Aging (AoA); the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS); the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA); the Office of Civil Rights (OCR); and the Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Also attending will be representatives of key state, county, and local stakeholder organizations, including the Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs, which is assisting in hosting this session.

The listening session will be held:

Date: Thursday, May 27, 2010
Time: 1:30 PM to 3:00 PM
Location: State Transportation Building, Conference Rooms 1–3
10 Park Plaza
Boston, MA 02116

Due to space limitations, attendance will be limited to the first 75 registrants and to no more than one individual per organization. **To RSVP, please contact Shereda Robinson, Research Analyst, Berkeley Policy Associates, at 510-465-7884 or shereda@bpacal.com.**

Public transit and driving directions/parking instructions for the State Transportation Building may be found at:

http://www.mhd.state.ma.us/topcrashclusters/default.asp?pgid=dist/HQ_directions&sid=about.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Claypool', is positioned below the word 'Sincerely,'.

Henry Claypool
Director, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office on Disability

Photo ID Required to Enter the State Transportation Building

The Community Living Initiative is a Federal effort organized by the Office on Disability to mobilize agencies within the Department of Health and Human Services and across other Departments to create a productive collaboration with a broad array of partners to ensure people with disabilities and seniors have new opportunities to enhance their status as valued members of their communities.