

# ENDEPENDENCE CENTER NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2022

## ECI Operational Plan

ECI recognizes the seriousness and effect that the Coronavirus (COVID-19) can have on people we work with. So that ECI staff and participants stay safe, we have established the following operational plan:

1. ECI's office will be open for scheduled appointments only.
2. You can call and speak with your IL Coordinator about scheduling an appointment to discuss your goals.
3. ECI staff continue to be available by phone and e-mail, Monday – Friday, 9am – 5pm.
4. ECI will be holding a few in-person group activities.
5. ECI's will update the Facebook page, website, and newsletter to reflect this policy and any changes.



## Celebration of Life

**Kathryn Gage**  
**Thursday, August 25, 1:00pm**  
**Endependence Center,**  
**6300 E. Virginia Beach Blvd., Norfolk**



Kathryn Gage was a longtime volunteer, advocate and friend at the Endependence Center. Kathryn died June 27. She was 43 years old.

Kathryn successfully left a nursing facility in 2002. She lived a life of helping others and friendship. Always willing to help others by lending words of support and helpful information, Kathryn lived independently in her apartment until 2017 when she was placed in a nursing facility against her will.

Kathryn graduated from Caroline High School in Milford, Virginia. She had planned to attend Tidewater Community College. She was employed for a time and planned to return to the workforce when she was healthy.

Kathryn was a strong advocate for herself and others with disabilities. She attended many advocacy trainings and learned her rights and how to advocate. She participated in the ECI News Team and wrote articles for the participant newsletter. Kathryn attended several Independent Living Advocacy Days at the Virginia General Assembly and met with legislators about housing, access to medical care, and personal care support. Kathryn was active with the Young Endependent Advocates (Y.E.A.) youth group and participated in advocacy efforts to gain access to the Virginia Beach Amphitheater and the ticket booth at The Spirit of Norfolk.

Kathryn had a lovely voice and enjoyed signing. She was always up for dancing and participated in many events where she shared her joy of socializing with others.

The Endependence Center celebrates Kathryn and all that she accomplished. We embrace the memory of her spirit of friendship, advocacy and kindness.

## 2022 General Assembly Session Wrap Up

The 2022 regular General Assembly session has ended and the final budget for the Commonwealth of Virginia has been signed. Many of the bills that would have impacted people with disabilities were not passed and some were carried over to the 2023 General Assembly session. Included in the budget are rate increases for many Medicaid services, including a 7.5% increase for attendant, companion and respite services. The bill tracking and budget highlights from the Virginia Association of Centers for Independent Living are posted on the ECI website under “News and Resources”.



### Independent Living Skills Training

The topic for Independent Living Skills Training for August will be ***Housing, Part 2: Developing Skills for Apartment Living.***

Date: Tuesday, August 9, 2022

Time: 2:00pm-3:00pm

For more information, and to register, ECI participants should contact **Travis Webb** by phone at **757-351-1574** or by email at **[twebb@endependence.org](mailto:twebb@endependence.org)**. Please inform Travis Webb no later than Friday, August 5, if you plan to attend.

### Advocacy Group Meeting

The Advocacy Group Meeting  
In-Person at the Endependence Center  
**Tuesday, August 23, 2022**  
**1:00pm-2:30pm**



The Advocacy Group meetings will resume in August. We have not met since 2020. During this first meeting, we will cover the following:

- Purpose of the Advocacy Group;
- Survey about advocacy issues important to you; and
- Upcoming training on the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Registration is required for this meeting. To register and to request accommodations, please contact Tammy Manno at 757-351-1586 or **[tmanno@endependence.org](mailto:tmanno@endependence.org)**



## **VIRGINIA ORGANIZING**

### **Workshop: Make Norfolk More Accessible!**

Independence Center and Virginia Organizing will host a workshop to discuss issues related to accessibility in Norfolk. These include:

- Sidewalks and curb cuts
- Loading zones and parking
- Housing
- Bus stops
- Traffic and speeding

When: Thursday, August 11

Time: 12-1:30pm

Where: Independence Center 6300 E. Virginia Beach Blvd., Norfolk

Voice your concerns and make a plan for change! Questions and to request accommodations - please contact **Meghan: 847-922-1213** or **Meghan@virginia-organizing.org**



### **Upcoming Local Job Fairs and Hiring Events**

#### **Naval Base Norfolk Career Fair Sponsored by Honeywell**

Date / Time: August 25, 2022, 11-1:00pm

Address: Vista Point Center - 1754 Massey Hughes Drive, Norfolk, VA 23511

Open to ALL branches of service active duty, reservist, veterans, family members and DoD employees.

For more information visit:

**<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/naval-base-norfolk-career-fair-sponsored-by-honeywell-tickets-213733110487?aff=ebdssbde>**

#### **Huntington Ingalls/Newport News Virtual Recruitment Event**

Date / Time: August 24, 2022, 10-2:00pm

Online Virtual Event – Register at:

**<https://app.premiervirtual.com/events/246e460c-c8ce-45cf-bb50-bff591c2fdce/huntington-ingalls-newport-news-shipbuilding-virtual-recruiting-event-may-25th/attendee>**

For more information about upcoming job fairs, visit **<https://www.vec.virginia.gov/node/14321>**

*Reach out to ECI's Employment Network contact, **Carol Robinson**, at **757-351-1570** or **[crobinson@endependence.org](mailto:crobinson@endependence.org)** if you are interested in employment assistance*



**Disability Advocacy &  
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schedule or by calling  
461-8007, Option 4

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[jbertsch@endeppendence.org](mailto:jbertsch@endeppendence.org)



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You can access it two  
different ways

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