

WRITTEN NOTICE OF INTENT TO REDESIGNATE THE DELAWARE CLIENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Notice of Public Hearing to Receive Public Comment on the Proposal to Redesignate the Organization Responsible for the Administration of the Client Assistance Program (CAP) from the Current Designated Agency, United Cerebral Palsy of Delaware, Inc. to the Community Legal Aid Society Inc., the designated Protection and Advocacy system in Delaware.

Federal law requires that a state or territory, under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, must establish a Client Assistance Program to assist individuals who apply for or receive vocational rehabilitation or independent living services under the Act, 29 U.S.C. Section 732.

The purpose of the Client Assistance Program is to advise and inform clients, client applicants, and other individuals with disabilities of all the available services and benefits under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and of the services and benefits available to them under Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). In addition, the Client Assistance Program may assist and advocate for clients and client applicants in relation to projects, programs, and services provided under the Rehabilitation Act. In providing assistance and advocacy under Title I of the Rehabilitation Act, the Client Assistance Program may provide assistance and advocacy with respect to services that are directly related to employment for the client or client applicant.

The Delaware Client Assistance Program was created to satisfy the federal mandate. The Client Assistance Program advocates for clients with disabilities in Delaware who are seeking or receiving services through the Division for the Visually Impaired, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, and all Independent Living Programs and projects funded under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. The Client Assistance Program advises clients of their rights and responsibilities in the process of obtaining rehabilitation services funded under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. The Client Assistance Program explains specific rehabilitation services and benefits available to an individual with a disability. The Client Assistance Program helps clients with the appeal process when requested if a client disagrees with the rehabilitation services being provided or are denied services. The Client Assistance Program refers clients to other agencies (public or private) when a client may not be eligible for rehabilitation services. The Client Assistance Program identifies problem areas in the delivery of

rehabilitation services to clients with a disability and suggests methods and means of making systemic changes. Finally, the Client Assistance Program assists clients with questions regarding the Americans with Disabilities Act, Title I.

The Client Assistance Program currently resides with United Cerebral Palsy of Delaware, Inc. (UCP). For decades UCP advocated for individuals with disabilities who sought or received services from programs, projects and facilities authorized under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and informed individuals with disabilities of their rights under Title I of the American with Disabilities Act. UCP requested the Governor redesignate the CAP as part of an organizational restructuring initiative.

The Community Legal Aid Society, Inc (“CLASI”) will administer the Client Assistance Program as established pursuant to 29 U.S.C. Section 732. The Disabilities Law Program (“DLP”) is a special project of CLASI, which is designated by the Governor as the Protection and Advocacy System in Delaware. The DLP provides advocacy services to Delaware residents with physical, developmental or mental health disabilities. Services are prioritized based on federal agency guidance and needs identified by consumer and community groups. The DLP provides a variety of services that include information and referrals, self-advocacy training and community education, abuse and neglect investigation, legal representation, and systemic advocacy. For further information about the DLP and CLASI, please go to www.declasi.org.

The movement of the Client Assistance Program from United Cerebral Palsy, Inc. to the DLP of CLASI necessitates a redesignation of the Client Assistance Program as outlined by federal law. The Governor has determined there exists good cause to redesignate the Client Assistance Program to the DLP of CLASI, and with this letter provides notice to United Cerebral Palsy of Delaware, Inc., the Department of Health and Social Services, the Department of Labor (State Agency of Vocational Rehabilitation), the Division for the Visually Impaired, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, the Statewide Independent Living Council, and the Protection and Advocacy system for people with disabilities, as required under federal law of the redesignation of the Client Assistance Program to the DLP of CLASI.

CLASI, Vocational Rehabilitation Advisory Council for DVI, State Rehabilitation Council for DVR, the State Independent Living Council, and the public have least

30 days from receipt of the notice of proposed redesignation to respond to the Governor and that the response must be in writing.

The estimated effective date of the proposed redesignation is July 16, 2022.

Public Hearing Schedule

Thursday, June 23, 2022 at 10:00 AM

Thursday, June 30, 2022 at 2:30 PM

Hearings will be available in-person and by video conference at the following location:

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

Delaware Department of Labor, Fox Valley Annex
Harold Stafford Training Center
19 E. Lea Blvd
Wilmington, DE 19802

Hearings will also be simultaneously broadcast to the public via video conference at the following locations:

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

Blue Hen Corporate Center
655 S. Bay Road, Suite 2H
Dover, DE 19901

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

8 Georgetown Plaza
Suite 2
Georgetown, DE 19947

Hearings may also be attended virtually on by pre-registering at the following links.

June 23, 2022 meeting:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMrceytrj0qGtAxMq_6k4kgh-KIEgNQLdUU

June 30, 2022 meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcqdu-uqD0tGtOiGMXfIPxni7yZ9LYKY2wH>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

The purpose of the hearings is to receive comments from all interested persons regarding the re-designation of the Client Assistance Program (CAP) from United Cerebral Palsy of Delaware, Inc. (UCP) to the Community Legal Aid Society, Inc., the designated Protection and Advocacy Agency of Delaware (CLASI).

Persons wishing to comment on the proposed action of the Governor may appear at the scheduled public hearing(s). Those choosing to submit written, phone, fax, or email comments may be submitted to:

CAP Redesignation

EMAIL – InfoDVI@delaware.gov

MAIL - Division for the Visually Impaired, 1901 North DuPont Highway, Biggs Building, New Castle, DE 19720

PHONE – (302) 255-9800

FAX – (302) 255-9388

Written or oral submissions must be received by the Division for the Visually Impaired on or before July 13, 2022.

Copies of this notice will also be mailed to members of the public upon request.

Notice:

People with disabilities who require accommodations or assistance at the hearing should notify:

Emmy Backer, Communications Specialist at DOL_DVR@delaware.gov