

The



Monday Update

September - October, 2006

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November ballot update: Proposal 06-2 will stay on the ballot

Ballot Proposal 0602 – the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative Petition – will stay on the ballot, as of this writing. A challenge to the proposal from the group By Any Means Necessary (BAMN) in August was denied by a federal judge.

The judge agreed with BAMN's challenge that the proposition was wrong, but added that the proposal, rather than affecting just African Americans, would affect all other racial groups as well. So, it will stay on the ballot. BAMN may appeal this decision.

See the last Monday Update for an in depth look at Proposal 06-2.

Have you registered to vote yet? Do you need help? Call the DD Council at 517-334-7288.

Next on our list: Ballot Proposal 06-1 – House Joint Resolution Z

The first proposal on the Nov. 7 ballot is 06-1, House Joint Resolution Z. This is the way the proposal will read on the ballot:

PROPOSAL 06-1

A PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO REQUIRE THAT MONEY HELD IN CONSERVATION AND RECREATION FUNDS CAN ONLY BE USED FOR THEIR INTENDED PURPOSES

The proposed constitutional amendment would:

- Create a Conservation and Recreation Legacy Fund within the Constitution and establish existing conservation and recreation accounts as components of the fund.
- Use current funding sources such as state park entrance and camping fees; snowmobile, ORV and boating registration fees; hunting and fishing license fees; taxes and other revenues to fund accounts.
- Establish the current Game and Fish Protection Fund and the Nongame Fish and Wildlife Fund within the Constitution.
- Provide that money held in Funds can only be used for specific purposes related to conservation and recreation and cannot be used for any purpose other than those intended.

Should this proposal be adopted?

Yes

No

Today, money earned from state park fees and recreation licenses and charges can be spent by the Legislature on things besides state recreation and conservation. If this proposal passes, that money will be used only for

such things as maintaining state parks and protecting wildlife, parks and preserves.

What do you think? Is this issue of interest to you? Will you study more about it?

How about another ballot proposal? Proposal 06-3

This proposal involves hunting mourning doves in Michigan. It is also a referendum, because it is already legal to hunt mourning doves in southern Michigan. This proposal puts that law before you, the voters, to decide if hunting should continue.

The proposal will read like this on your ballot:

PROPOSAL 06-3

A REFERENDUM ON PUBLIC ACT 160 OF 2004 – AN ACT TO ALLOW THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A HUNTING SEASON FOR MOURNING DOVES

Public Act 160 of 2004 would:

- Authorize the Natural Resources Commission to establish a hunting season for mourning doves.
- Require a mourning dove hunter to have a small game license and a \$2.00 mourning dove stamp.
- Stipulate that revenue from the stamp must be split evenly between the Game and Fish Protection Fund and the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund.
- Require the Department of Natural Resources to address responsible mourning dove hunting; management practices for the propagation of mourning doves; and participation in mourning dove hunting by youth, the elderly and the disabled in the Department's annual hunting guide.

Should this law be approved?

Yes

No

That's pretty clear, except for the thoughtless language in the last sentence; "...the disabled..."

Michigan United Conservation Clubs and many other organizations say to vote "yes" on this proposal. Their members are concerned that elimination of dove hunting will lead to other wildlife hunting seasons being cancelled and want to reinforce the existing law. They also say there is a financial benefit to keeping the dove hunting season through hunting license sales and travel and lodging costs. The present hunting season is 60 days each year.

Two sides to the issue

On the other side, a group called the Songbird Protection Coalition says there is no financial advantage to hunting doves and voters should cast a "no" vote. At a website titled Save The Doves, the coalition points out that dove hunting will not attract new hunters, nor encourage present hunters to spend more money. In fact, says the coalition, people who like to watch wildlife put more money into Michigan's economy than people who hunt the wildlife.

The latest in Council grants awards include personal stories

In 2006, the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council has so far awarded six grants and three RICC-Endorsed Community Mini-Grants. Start date for all grants is expected to be Oct. 1.

In the regular category, the grants and winners are:

"Speak Out" Replication, awarded to UCP Michigan, is a two-year project. Its objective is to simulate successful Council projects that train and support people with developmental disabilities in public speaking, so that

they can share their personal stories. The stories will look at advocacy issues from a personal standpoint. These stories will provide an opportunity for people to be at the table when decisions are being made, and allow their voices to be heard by policy makers and the general community.

Among the outcomes will be improved services through Council efforts to have people's voices heard, and the creation of new community collaborations.

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Also awarded to UCP Michigan was the grant **All Aboard! Transportation Policy 101**. The objective of All Aboard! Is to increase public involvement in public transportation to improve it.

Grant activities are intended to make Local Advisory Councils customer-friendly, so that its members make an impact. Local groups, such as RICCs, need education and empowerment to be effective advocates. With increased and effective consumer involvement, public transportation may be expanded and improved. In addition, another goal is to improve safety for transit users, including getting to and from the bus.

The grant project runs for three years. Outcomes for All Aboard! Include more public input for public transportation, especially from people with disabilities, and improved convenience and safety for riders.

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The grant **Strengthening Relationships for Diversity** was awarded to The Arc Michigan. The purpose of this two-year program is to seek out people from diverse communities who are not participating in Council activities and ask several questions: What are their needs? Where do they now get their needs for advocacy and other services met? What do they know about the DD Council, RICCs and related groups/activities? How can we successfully link them to the Council and its related groups and activities?

To answer these questions, the grantee will, as a major activity, select one of the five major racial/ethnic communities in the state, identify its informal

leaders and ask them to hold “house parties.” The leaders will invite their friends, family members, co-workers, neighbors and other members of the community who do not currently participate in Council-related groups and activities. A series of the questions will provide data that will appear in an annual report and analysis.

Outcomes include a report that will identify the needs in a diverse community and the barriers to participation in the developmental disabilities planning process.

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Disability Advocates of Kent County have been awarded the grant for **Alliance with the Construction Industry**, a two-year project. The alliances will be between accessibility advocates and construction industry trade associations such as the Michigan Home Builders Association as well as unions representing the construction trades, architects’ associations, Realtors, educators and other appropriate organizations.

Information, understanding, cooperation to increase the availability of accessible housing will result. The project will develop recommendations for potential legislation or code amendments, as well as developing a certification program for homes. It will also identify supportive construction industry professionals and develop an information package on accessibility.

Included in the expected outcomes is the number of people with disabilities who have homes of their choice through Council efforts, plus the number of communities that have information about how to increase the availability of affordable housing for people with disabilities.

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Informed Communities on Public Policy was awarded to Michigan Disability Rights Coalition. Its purpose is to provide consumers, in a series of forums, with expert knowledge to understand and take action upon the many changes that are happening with disability issues. The scope of information is local, state and national.

Preceding the forums will be a survey for topics of interest from which the agenda will be drawn. Providing the forums’ information will be experts in

the fields of interest, such as Medicaid, housing, and access to services. Included will be letter-writing campaigns to legislators with follow-up.

In the list of outcomes are opportunities for consumers and family members to acquire information of interest and become more active in directly contacting policymakers.

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Evaluation of Parent Networks was awarded to Wayne State University's Center for Urban Studies. The effectiveness of the Parent Network strategy will be evaluated. Focus will be on increasing parent demand for school inclusion and the impact in terms of system change at the local and state levels.

An evaluation report will be prepared that allows the Council and other stakeholders to compare outcomes of different approaches used in different communities. The report will be able to be distributed to those interested in developing parent inclusion networks.

Outcomes for the two-year project include a database assessing effectiveness of Council strategy for building parent demand.

RICC-Endorsed Community Mini-Grants went to:

- Disability Advocates of Kent County for **Project Cool**. This is a paid summer employment mentoring program.
- The Arcadia Institute in Kalamazoo for the **Community Breakthrough Project**. The project intends to open more doors, for people with developmental disabilities, to community agencies that serve the general population.
- The Disability Network of Flint for **Livable Community**. This is a program to increase physical activity for people with and without developmental disabilities in Genesee County.

RICC Leadership Conference was a self-determination success

After reading all the evaluation sheets from those that attended the annual Regional Interagency Consumer Committee (RICC) Leadership Development Conference, it's clear the Sept. 12 – 13 event was a success.

Theme for the two-day conference was Self-Determination: Choices for Independence in the Community. People listened, learned and networked through a variety of presentations and workshop built around realizing self-determination.

High points of the eighth annual RICC conference at the Lansing Center included award-winning motivational speaker Randy Graise whose great sense of humor and style implored listeners to choose their own paths and not be discouraged in seeking independence as a way of life. Speaking to the values of self-determination was Pat Carver of the Council-sponsored Michigan Partners for Freedom.



Terrie Hylton, chair of the Council's Multicultural Committee, led a workshop for RICC diversity coordinators. Key elements of outreach, demographics, and building community partnerships were reviewed.



Another well-received session was Starting My Own Business. The audience heard from consumers about their business experiences. The presentation featured Kathryn Holli Young from the Livingston RICC, Bob Besser of the Allegan CMH, and Autumn and Marcia DeWild from the Ottawa RICC.

More than 170 people attended the conference. It offered the products and services of 14 vendors. Four RICCs presented displays featuring their activities.



The conference's planning committee consisted of: Dee Florence, Pam Hall, Terry Hunt, Terrie Hylton, Kathy Janego, Kathy McGeathy, Dan Moran, Andre Robinson, Mitzi Allen Sharp, and Don Trout.

Investing in Ability Month is here!

October, 2006, is, by a proclamation of the Governor, Investing in Ability Month in Michigan.

The proclamation reads:

On behalf of the citizens of Michigan, I, Governor Jennifer M. Granholm, do hereby proclaim October, 2006, as

Investing in Ability Month

Whereas, The vitality and diversity of the people of Michigan have made this state a leader in business and employment opportunities by blending the talents and skills of all Michigan citizens and allowing each individual to achieve success in the workplace; and,

Whereas, Through the hard work and dedication of citizens with disabilities throughout this state, individuals have greater access to opportunities in the workplace where their talents and abilities are recognized and rewarded, and,

Whereas, Many public and private disability organizations in Michigan have promoted Investing in Ability activities for the past 18 years to increase

accessibility to the workplace and shatter stereotypes with create barriers to employment; and,

Whereas, A growing number of Michigan employers are recognizing the abilities of people with disabilities and demonstrating that employing persons with disabilities makes good business sense, and,

Whereas, Many activities and events will be conducted in October to advance the “Investing in Ability” theme to promote the employment of people with disabilities and encourage employers to focus on people’s abilities, and, now therefore be it,

Resolved, That I, Jennifer M. Granholm, Governor of the State of Michigan, do hereby proclaim October 2006, as Investing in Ability Month in Michigan, and encourage all citizens of the Great Lakes State to recognize the great contributions made by people with disabilities.

Advocacy organizations around the state will observe Investing in Ability Month in Michigan in their own fashion.

One example is The Disability Network in Flint. According to Mae Golden, TDN will again hold its Employer/Employee Recognition and Awards Luncheon on Oct. 13.

Two types of awards are presented: “Innovative Employer of the Year,” and “Innovative Employee of the Year.” Golden says the luncheon is held to “celebrate all that has occurred in the employment of people with disabilities.”

The program calls for recognition to an employer who provides accommodations for an employee with disabilities. “Employee recognition is given to a worker who is an outstanding job performer and happens to have a disability.”

Meanwhile, on the other side of the state, Disability Advocates of Kent County has ability awareness as part of its 25th anniversary. DAKC is holding an anniversary celebration at DeVos Place on Oct. 16. Featured speaker is noted advocate John Hockenberry. The well-known Hockenberry, of NBC, MSNBC, and public radio fame, and author, will include employment of people with disabilities in his keynote address.

DAKC, in emphasizing independent living options for persons with disabilities for 25 years, has made ability awareness a part of its mission. DAKC's website - - features access to Social Security's Red Book, a summary guide to employment support for individuals with disabilities. Disability Advocates of Kent County also offers web access to Social Security's Work Incentives program.

For more information on October activities at DAKC, contact them at 616-949-1100.

Another look at guardianship

At the September RICC Self-Determination Conference (see article above), an issue that could be heard in a number of sessions and discussions was that of guardianship. Conference attendees noted more than a few times that a guardian is usually a roadblock on the path to self-determination. Others declared there are circumstances in a person's life where a guardian is the best option.

There are any number of consumers and senior citizens who have guardians. This is in spite of the fact that many consumers, seniors, and advocates alike have for many years opposed guardianship as a barrier to actual self-determination. Other consumers and their families have found the presence of a guardian to offer the best formula for day-to-day living.

This is a legal question in every state and county and while a person may choose to have a guardian, often the court of law may make that decision. But many courts realize that there are alternatives to guardianship that help insure dignity and a place in the community. There was a time when institutions were at the top of the courts' lists, and not so long ago. Back then, people with disabilities were gathered together and isolated from the community, with no regard for their rights as American citizens. Family members and courts decided what was best for them.

What is a guardian? One of the Internet encyclopedias – Wikipedia – defines it as “a person who has the legal authority (and the corresponding duty) to care for the personal and property interests of another person....” Wikipedia goes on to say, “Usually, a person has the status of guardian

because the ward is incapable of caring for his or her own interests due to infancy, incapacity, or disability.”

That’s where the problem starts and continues on into Michigan compiled laws (MCL) regarding appointing guardians. An example might be MCL 330.1602, “(1)Guardianship for individuals with developmental disability shall be utilized only as necessary to promote and protect the well-being of the individual...(and) shall be designed to encourage the development of maximum self-reliance and independence in the individual;...”

The law requires person-centered planning and an allowance for partial guardianship in certain circumstances where decision-making is difficult. That is because while it is important that a person make his or her own life decisions, almost every person can always use some help and advice.

It’s been only about 35 years since the legal focus began shifting to community-based supports, due process, recognition of preferences and the value to both the community and the individual of a life of self-determination.

Today advocates and policymakers in most states look for other ways to provide fair and reliable methods of legally making decisions. These methods usually work because they involve family members and eliminate the need for a person to become another person’s guardian.

The Council’s stand on guardianship is clear. It was only a few years ago – 2003 to be exact – that the DD Council began a grant project designed to reduce “guardianship for people with disabilities and senior citizens in Michigan.” The project was titled Prevent Guardianship and ended last year.

This project targeted people with disabilities and seniors, the courts, families and service providers to learn about “the restrictive use of guardianship” and establish “more flexible alternatives for solving the problems guardianship is intended to address.”

Among the outcomes were how-to materials supporting “citizens’ ability to make decisions and control their own lives...” The project also intended to improve understanding the need to avoid guardianship whenever possible.

The project was termed a success. It helped convince key people at the Michigan Department of Community Health that guardianship creates serious barriers to self-determination. Prevent Guardianship also helped state courts and a number of agencies change their policies and practices on guardianship and consent. The grant project also created new ways of looking at how schools handle guardianship.

Prevent Guardianship grantees were in great demand for training sessions. The group also provided informational materials and technical assistance, published a training manual and helped local agencies look at, and change if necessary, their policies relating to guardianship.

A current Council grant project – Michigan Partners for Freedom – lists as one of its activities the creation of teams of self-advocates and others “with expertise on reducing the use of guardianship.”

Enhance Self-Determination Capacity and Mobilize Consumer Demand, a Council grant project that ends next year, also assembles “dissemination” teams across the state that will include people with “expertise on minimizing the use of guardianship.”

Council committee and work group meeting minutes

Family Support Work Group

Aug. 16, 2006

Members Present: Lori Goike, Audrey Craft, Pam Sinnott, Carolyn Allston, Tracy Vincent

Guests: Barb Monroe, Office for Young Children

Welcome and introductions were done.

Audrey motioned to approve the July minutes, Lori seconded. Motion approved.

Announcements

- Community Living Services is participating in coordinating the Evening with Friends Fundraiser September 14 at Laurel Park Manor in Livonia. For more information, contact Pam Sinnott at 734-722-4899.
- The FSWG meeting will be from 10:00am – 12:00pm starting in January 2007.

Respite Discussion with Office for Young Children (OYC)

Barb Monroe attended our meeting to discuss what OYC does and how the FSWG can collaborate with them on linking families with day care providers that provide care for children with disabilities. OYC is part of Ingham County Health Department and the 4 C's. They are a childcare referral service that covers Ingham, Clinton, Eaton and Shiawassee Counties. The 4 C's covers the entire state of Michigan. A staff person is assigned to each county. They provide training to childcare/relative aide providers that include classes on children with special needs. They provide reimbursement for relative aide providers for the food program.

Some daycare providers don't know how to provide care for children with special needs, or they have preconceived notions, or are afraid. The OYC offer trainings, Inclusive Childcare 123 and Infant/Toddler ABC. The training schedule can be found on their website, <http://www.ingham.org/HD/OYC/>.

They are in the process of gathering information from providers so when a parent calls they can link them with providers that offer care for children with special needs.

We will continue discussions with OYC to see how we can be of assistance to them.

2006-2007 Work Plan

The group discussed new strategies and activities to include in our 2007 work plan. Suggestions included:

- Contacting PACs and attend their meetings to distribute information
- Attend meetings of other agencies to make personal connections and get our faces out there.

- Have a meeting evaluation at the end of each FSWG meeting to see if people felt it was productive or what we could do different
- Orient all new members (how we operate, what we have accomplished, what are goals are, etc.)
- Develop a needs assessment to find out what parents' needs are
- Feedback from families in the state on what the focus of the FSWG should be

Tracy will incorporate comments/suggestions in the work plan and distribute it to members by email.

Next meeting: September 20 from 10:00am – 1:00pm at the DD Council office.

Multicultural Committee

Aug. 14, 2006

Present:

Terrie Hylton (chair, phone); Rick Van Horn; Mitzi Allen; Mae Golden; Alicia Vasquez; Andre Robinson (phone), Jacque Day; Sophie Baker; Patrick McSherry; Rosalind Lee(phone).

Call to Order: by Chairperson Hylton at 1:15 p.m.

June, 2006's meeting minutes reviewed and approved, with a correction from Hylton: on the last page, last item: the Concert of Colors....was held at the "Max" Theater, rather than the "Fisher" Theater.

This month's agenda reviewed and approved with additions: Allen wanted to add discussion of an article, "Uplift Our Youth Foundation" under New Business; Hylton on international volunteerism; McSherry on puppets.

Introductions:

Old Business:

A. Allen reported on the Family Gathering...excellent weather and good food. About 200 showed up. At least 10 information booths were set up. Hylton liked the information booths. McSherry appreciated the booth that provided information on parenting – the Parent Support Network. Baker liked the presentations. Gonzalz suggested there be two food lines next year. Allen said that was not possible, in order to monitor food consumption to make sure there was enough. When Day finally got to the food, it was gone.

B. Results of Multicultural Project review - The Committee's grant - Strengthening Relationships for Diversity – was awarded to the Arc Michigan. The project begins Oct. 1. The Committee would like to contact the Arc with some suggestions. For example, there are no minorities on the Arc's board.

C. Repeat training for the Diversity Coordinators – Did not take place. Reschedule. Should the session be held in the Upper Peninsula?

D. Second Coordinator Training – The Diversity Coordinator is just the main person responsible in the RICC for outreach. Everyone has some responsibility. Call the Sept. 12 workshop “Strategies for Diversity Outreach”? Need a definition of “outreach.”

E. Work Plan 2007 - Allen said the plan needs to be reviewed carefully and wants diversity coordinator training added to the plan for next year. Committee membership needs to interact more with other work groups and committees.....so that outreach and striving for diversity become a way of life for the council. Most Committee members have been assigned work groups and committee whose meetings they are to attend, but little of this is being done. It needs to be, and the importance of it described in the 2007 Committee work plan.

Hylton said the series of article – Diversity Focus – needs to be added to the plan as well. Hylton said to review the plan, especially for each member's responsibilities, and respond to Allen with comments by Aug. 18.

Also, the Diversity Coordinator concept and activities should be added to the plan, as well as any RICC project outreach approval.

New Business:

More outreach stuff....Allen said Council staff member Tracy Vincent was checking with other DD councils to learn what they are doing regarding outreach in their states. She has heard back from 15 councils and reports that some of them have extensive programs. Allen will provide a review at a later meeting.

Cristo Rey Health Fair.....Allen reported that Lansing's Cristo Rey Community Center is hosting its seventh annual health fair in Lansing. The date is Sunday, Oct. 15, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Includes a free health screening and is very popular. Council has had an outreach booth there for the past three years. Committee agreed to again have a booth. Day agreed to staff it. Other volunteers are needed.

Allen discussed an article in the Lansing State Journal about "Uplift Our Youth Foundation." It is accepting applications for grants from non-profits to "promote and support projects, programs and activities that enhance educational, career, cultural and life opportunities for youth, especially youth of color, from ages birth to 17." Applications for the grants are due by Sept. 15.

The grants are open to those in the three counties surrounding Lansing. Allen believes this is an excellent opportunity for the Council and the Committee...and perhaps link up with the Family Support Work Group. Day suggested teaming with the Center for Creative Leadership. Allen said the opportunity will be discussed at the Aug. 17th Council staff meeting.

Updates and announcements:

Hylton reported that the Detroit conference for the National Association for Multicultural Rehabilitation Concerns went very well. For that conference, Hylton did a workshop on volunteerism, specifically Volunteers for Peace. She discussed the program with the Committee. Hylton said she has participated in some of the overseas volunteer programs.

McSherry is looking for volunteers to assist with a puppeteer that advocates for disability awareness.

Golden said the Disability Network is hosting its first annual celebrity auction. Kasey Kahne, a race car driver, is guest of honor.

Baker announced a new commissioner appointed to the Michigan Civil Rights Commission. He is Mike Zelle, president of the Disability Network in Flint. He is the first person with a disability on the commission.

Allen announced that the DD Council is up to full strength with 21 members, including Day as a new member and Robinson reappointed.

Public Policy Committee

July 7, 2006

Present

Pam Hall, Andre Robinson, Rick Van Horn, Jane Spitzley, Terry Hunt, Jacqui Day, Mary Marin, Tandy Biding, Dee Florence

Via Phone

Elmer Cerano, Jane Reagan, Theresa Arini, Judy Cerano

Welcome/Introductions

Chair Andre Robinson called the meeting to order at 10:07 am.

Approval of Minutes from 4/11/06 meetings

Jane Reagan moved that the minutes from the June 7, 2006 meeting be accepted as written. Elmer Cerano seconded. CARRIED

Candidates Forum for October DDC Meeting

The October DDC meeting will have a health issues theme and the HIWG decided to hold a Candidates Forum as part of the meeting. Terry Hunt reported to the Committee that the League of Women Voters will moderate the forum. Terry stated that it is very likely that there will be many candidates who will send a substitute in their place rather than making a personal appearance. His question to the Committee was whether the Council should allow candidates to send substitutes in their place. Considering the likelihood of the actual candidate making a personal appearance in October is somewhat

unlikely, the Committee was in favor of permitting substitutes. The Committee also recommended that the candidates should receive questions in advance. The League will assist in framing the questions.

Federal Updates

a. Medicare Part D

The deadline has been extended for those affected by Hurricane Katrina but not any other individuals. As of today's date, anyone signing up late will be charged a penalty.

b. Deficit Reduction Act

The act requires that individuals must prove they are US citizens to qualify for Medicaid. A part of this act could be very detrimental to the healthcare of many individuals. Some elderly people do not have a birth certificate to prove citizenship and could be in jeopardy of losing their Medicaid. The Committee decided that a letter will be sent to federal and state officials stating that the fee to obtain the birth certificate should be waived and assistance in obtaining it should be provided.

State Updates

a) Long-Term Care

Mike Head has been appointed Director of the new office of long-term care and supports (within DCH).

b) SB 838

The DD Council has received a response to the letter sent to Governor Jennifer Granholm appealing to her to consider the potentially negative impact of passing SB 838.

State Board of Education Update

Universal Education Policy

At this point in time, the Board is focusing on universal standards for graduation.

Next 5 year plan for DD Council

Oral Health Project

The Oral Health Project has been approved by the Council for funding. No date has been sent to release the RFP.

AD Hoc Subgroups

Scholarships/Awards

The sub-committee has met and developed some initial plans. They would like to have an event this calendar year.

Legislative Event (2007) Planning

It's time to start planning for the 2007 Legislative event by scheduling PPC subcommittee meetings. Meetings will be held once a month until the event. Andre Robinson, Judy Cerano, Jane Reagan and Jacqui Day all volunteered to be on the sub-committee.

Revised/New Work Plan

Next month's meeting will involve creating a work plan for FY 07.

Other

It is time to create our PPC meeting schedule for FY '07. The members of the Committee decided that having the meeting right before the DD Council meeting on the second Tuesday of each month works best for the vast majority of individuals. (On non Council meeting days we will meet later).

Wayne Co. Community Mental Health

The Mental Health Board in Wayne County is comprised of 12 individuals; six appointed by the Mayor and six appointed by the County. Unfortunately, this often creates a split Board when deciding on issues resulting in a deadlock. The Legislature is considering turning Wayne County's current system into a Public Authority. The City of Detroit is in favor of creating an Authority, while the County is not. Acting Director Richard Visingardi has written a plan to restructure the system. Elmer Cerano reported that, in his opinion, it is a good plan. Wayne Co. Community Mental Health has a budget of over \$500 million dollar per year. The PPC will work with the Wayne Co. RICC to make sure the Committee is getting and sending the correct information.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:52 am

Health Issues Work Group

July 18, 2006

Members Present:

Karen Massaro-Mundt - *Phone*

Pam Hall

RoAnne Chaney

Guests Present:

Linda Potter – Phone

Erin Littner – Message Makers

Staff Present:

Terry Hunt

Dee Florence

In the absence of Chair Arini, Massaro-Mundt volunteered to Chair the meeting. Karen called the meeting to order at 1:35 pm.

Minutes

Pam Hall moved that the June HIWG minutes be approved as presented. RoAnne Chaney seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Work Group Meeting Schedule

It's time to schedule the work group meetings for the next fiscal year. Terry Hunt reported that upon checking with several HIWG members it seems that most members feel this day and time (3rd Tuesday of the month, 1:30-3:00) works best for their schedule.

Faces of Medicaid

Another taping is scheduled for tomorrow. The individuals being taped are:

A young man who had been involved in a driving accident, he used Medicaid after his accident for medical services and now own his own business.

A women with three children, she uses Medicaid for medical visits and medication for her daughter's asthma.

A family with six children who use Medicaid for medical services.

A family who uses Medicaid for their eight-month old.

Linda Potter said the physician suggested by Paul Shaheen would be glad to be interviewed but she has been unable to coordinate their schedules for a filming date. Linda said the physician would discuss policy issues and Medicaid considerations from the Clinician's perspective.

Linda further reported that unfortunately, two of the three segments that were previously filmed did not come out. However, the video of Sarah Harrison, an elderly woman who uses Medicaid for medical services and direct care, was very well spoken. The possibility exists that we may be able to use her instead of a narrator for the film.

After the filming tomorrow and having all the footage in, Linda will be better suited to give us a deadline date. Once filming is completed the process should move quickly.

Status of Work Group Oral Health Proposal

Terry reported that the proposal has been accepted by the Council and is in line for funding. No date has been set yet for when the RFP will be coming out.

Status of Care Coordination Project

There are two groups that have actively started to recruit, but recruitment is progressing slowly. The question was brought up whether they were recruiting in the right places. RoAnne Chaney volunteered to be a resource for the project staff. Terry will relay this offer to Cheryl and Dave Branding.

Planning for Oct. 10 DD Council meeting (candidate forum)

The *League of Women Voters* has a list of suggestions (guidelines) for conducting the forum. The HIWG reviewed the guidelines and made the following changes:

Have candidates from the Democratic and Republican parties only.

Attempt to get candidates for the forum, but permit substitutes.

Members discussed whether to give the candidates a “heads up” on likely issues to be discussed. Members decided we should give this information in advance.

Karen Massaro-Mundt will send the booklet they created to give the candidates before their forum.

Listed below is the breakdown of time that the candidates will be allotted.

Governor	40 minutes
Senate	40 minutes
Attorney General	20 minutes
Sec. Of State	20 minutes

Status of Work Plan

The work plan needs some revision for FY '06-'07, such as updating WHO will be doing what, adding the Oral Health Project and the activities relating to the project, etc.

August 25 meeting with Council Committee and Work Group Leadership

The goal of this meeting is to increase consumer leverage in evaluating services and supports. The HIWG wants to hear from people using services. Keep on Agenda.

Work Group Membership

The members are aware of the need to increase the number of members, especially consumers.

Transportation Work Group

July 13, 2006

PRESENT:

Diane Kempen, Kathy Janego, Aaron Borton, Sharen Blowers, Paul Miller, Tandy Bidinger, Dee Florence, JoAnn Lucas

VIA PHONE:

Genesee: Charlene Lizotte, Christine Hodgson, Gary Conway, Gordon Siwula, Carl Fenner, Mae Golden

Tuscola: Rita Walls

Kalamazoo: Don Milbeck

Detroit: Hank Johnson, Sarah Gliesher

Traverse City: Renee Louvierre-Mitchell, John Filley, Michelle Goetz Grahl, Gene Fox, Judy Brower, Anne Hill

Eastern UP: Jodi Tippett, John Bronicheski, Charlene Klip, Robert Landreville

Welcome and Introductions

Sharen Blowers requested that the minutes be amended as shown

Old Business

L.A.C: *The Capitol Area RICC attended the June Capitol Area Transit Authority (CATA) LAC meeting. Paul Miller made the request that CATA provide public transportation (Spec-tran) to people with disabilities on holidays. Sharen Blowers from CATA responded that at this point in time, due to the high gas prices and the large increase in ridership, it is unlikely the Board would agree to this service. Other considerations are if holiday transportation is made available for individuals with disabilities it would also have to be offered to the general public. Also, this would create service requirement to have dispatchers, mechanics, etc. on duty on the holiday, which would greatly increase expenses. Sharen, did however, say she would present this request to CATA management for their consideration. The TWG feels these are not valid considerations, especially the sentiment that CATA would have to offer holiday rides to the general public if provided to individuals with disabilities. Sophie Baker from the Department of Civil Rights will be invited to a future TWG meeting to clarify the rights of individuals with disabilities regarding public transportation.*

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Renee Louvierre-Mitchell requested that the minutes be amended as shown.

a. Traverse City Taxi Cab Issue

In Traverse City if an individual call for a taxi and has a bike that they would like transported with them the taxi driver would charge a \$5 fee to transport the bike. ~~A driver applied~~ the \$5 fee to an individuals who has a wheelchair. Currently, Traverse City is in the process of changing this as it is against the ADA.

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JoAnn Lucas moved that the June 8, 2006 minutes be accepted as amended. Mae Golden seconded.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

State

MI Transportation Budget Update:

An appropriations conference committee meeting was held to finalize the MDOT budget. We are waiting for the update on the outcome. The House and Senate each created difference versions of the budget resulting in the need for the joint conference committee meeting. The House version is the one that public transportation advocates seem to prefer.

Federal

DD Act Funding

The appropriation budget under the DD Act is requesting \$84.5 million, if passed this would slightly increase the amount of funds each DD Council would receive. A letter is being sent to key Michigan legislators asking them to support the \$84.5 million appropriation budget.

LAC Issues

Traverse City Taxi Cab Issue

In Traverse City, if an individual calls for a taxi and has a bike that they would like transported with them the taxi driver would charge a \$5 fee to transport the bike. A driver applied this \$5 fee to an individual who has a wheelchair that they wished to transport. The Traverse City RICC contacted the manager of the taxi company to determine whether this was the policy of the company to charge a \$5 fee for transporting a wheelchair.

The manager indicated that this is not company policy and that it is against the ADA. He said he would have a staff meeting and remind the drivers that it is against the ADA to charge anyone for transporting their wheelchair and to NEVER charge a fee for transporting the wheelchair.

CATA Holiday Issue Update

Sharen Blowers presented to CATA management the Capitol Area RICC's request to have CATA provide public transportation (Spec-tran) to people with disabilities on holidays. She said she was unsure whether management will send the issue to the Board.

Final Plans for UP meeting 8/03/06 (Escanaba)

This will be the same as any other TWG meeting with the exception of the actual meeting taking place in the UP. Teleconference sites will be able to call in as usual and those who wish may come to the Lansing office to participate in the teleconference. The UP RICCs have invited the legislators from their area to attend. A few have RSVP'd already.

Revised Work Plan

It is time to revise the TWG work plan for the next fiscal year. A copy of the current work plan will be emailed to all TWG members. Once received each individual is asked to review the plan to determine what has been completed, what needs to be completed, and/or added. Please send all comments to Tandy Bidinger at BidingerT@michigan.gob.

T-Shirt Design for TWG

Charlene Lizotte from the Genesee RICC created a logo design for the TWG to use. The goal behind the creation of a logo is to have T-shirts made for the TWG; the only obstacle is funding. Douglas Anderson, Managing Director, NORTHFIELD'S HUMAN SERVICES, *THE PEOPLE'S EXPRESS* offered to cover the expenses of having the T-shirts made.

RICC Transportation Coordinator Role

Terry Hunt presented the Transportation Coordinators Roles and Responsibilities (job description) as included in the 2007 RICC Certification packet. He explained that all RICCs are required to have a Transportation Coordinator as this is a vital link between the DD Council and the RICC. Terry gave the example of polling place access. Numerous transit providers throughout the state are providing a free ride on Election Day to polling sites for anyone who presents a voter registration card. Through the

Transportation Coordinator it is possible for the TWG to contact each RICC and ask them to inquire whether their local transit provider is offering this service. If not, the RICC can then request that this service be provided. If the transit provider is offering this service the RICC can let their RICC members and others in the community know this benefit is available.

OTHER

Representative Marie Donigan

All awards presented by the DD Council must go through the Awards Committee; therefore the TWG will not be able to present a certificate to Representative Donigan. The request for this award must be presented to the Awards Committee and they will make the final determination.

Success Stories

Kalamazoo: *Don Milbeck announced that he was in a metro van that had a very aware driver whose quick reflexes kept them from being involved in an accident.*

Detroit: A victory has been won for those with disabilities in the Detroit area. Individuals with disabilities can get a 30-day unlimited ride bus pass for \$17.

Genesee: *The Genesee RICC held a Legislative Breakfast, which included a transportation presentation. Senator Cherry attended and is very interested in the transportation issue and said she would help in any way possible.*

Capitol Area: *Paul Miller stated that C.A.T.A. has provided him transportation to his polling location for the past two years and it has worked very well.*

State: Members of the TWG gave a presentation at the ARC conference in June. This was the first time a presentation on transportation was on the agenda for an ARC conference.