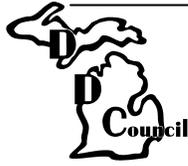


The



Monday Update

February, 2006

Published by the
Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council,
1033 S. Washington, Lansing, MI 48910
www.michigan.gov/ddcouncil

Four mini-grants awarded by DD Council

The DD Council recently announced approval of four RICC-Endorsed Community Mini-Grants.

“RICC” stands for Regional Interagency Consumer Committee. The mini-grants are:

The Center for Civil Justice in Saginaw’s project is “Working Together.” It will insure that Saginaw’s Work Participation Pilot Project accommodates people with disabilities and their families. The project is endorsed by the Saginaw RICC.

The Berrien RICC endorsed a project titled “Disability Experts Lead the Way!” The grantee is Community Connections of Southwestern Michigan. The project will provide training and tools in the areas of accessibility, visitability and usability. They will be presented at public

buildings and agencies, housing commissions, local businesses, etc.

The Arc of Kent County's project is endorsed by the Kent RICC. It is titled "Leading Our Transitions to Adulthood." Young adults and their families will be educated about self-determined transition options.

"Access Flint" is the fourth mini-grant. It is endorsed by the Genesee RICC and the grantee is The Disability Network. "Access Flint" will train people to determine accessibility of public recreation facilities. Grantees will also conduct community outreach about events.

This year marks an increase in the amount of a mini-grant, from a maximum of \$8,000 then to \$12,000 now.

Congratulations to the grantees. Good luck with your projects!

Register to vote, study issues

**It's 2006, so get ready
to get out the vote!**

Every election year is important and next year will be no exception. On Tuesday, Nov. 7, 2006 there will be a state general election. Voters on that day will choose many office holders, from the governor to state legislators to judges and county commissioners.

Candidates for these offices will be chosen during a primary election on Aug. 8. Your city, county, township or village may also be holding spring elections.

How can you be a part of this election year?

First, if you are not registered to vote, do that today. It is very easy. You have to register at least 30 days before an election in order to vote.

Educate candidates

Second, learn about the candidates as they enter the August primary election and plan to talk with them about issues that concern you. It's important that they become very aware of disability issues in this state.

To talk with the candidates, you'll have to study the issues yourself. You'll find most candidates, even those already holding office and running for reelection, are more accessible and willing to listen to voters during an election year. Plan to contact each candidate; you never know who might win the election.

Third, make certain polling places and voting machines in your area are accessible, not only for you, but for other voters with disabilities.

Fourth, consider working at a polling place on election day! This is a great way to become even more involved in the election process and even get paid for your time.

Changes in the process

Much of this activity is the result of the Help America Vote Act of 2002. This was passed as a result of the serious problems in the 2000 presidential election. The act is intended to modernize the election process nationwide. This means major changes in the voting process within the next year and the projects are federally-funded.

The act says, “Improving the accessibility and quantity of polling places, including providing physical access for individuals with disabilities, providing nonvisual access for individuals with visual impairments...”

Michigan’s secretary of state, Terri Lynn Land, is working in response to the act to improve access to polling places. This includes being able to get into a polling place and finding there a voting machine a person with disabilities can use.

Having a useable, accessible voting machine means some people with disabilities will no longer have to tell another person their ballot choices. Instead, they will vote privately and independently.

Assisting the secretary of state with this project is Michigan Protection & Advocacy Service. (P&A). They recruited disability advocates to check accessibility. They found the main problem at polling places was parking. Narrow doorways and door handles were other major problems.

Access is a right

This project is important because every registered voter has the right by law to access his or her polling place. How do you know if your polling place is accessible? You can check on the Internet at www.michigan.gov/vote. There is a lot of other great information at this site, including learning if you're registered to vote, if your polling place is considered accessible, and how to vote by absentee ballot. If you do not have access to a computer and the Internet, you can call your local library where they may have both.

Or you can phone your local (county/city/township) clerk and ask about accessibility. His or her phone number is in the book.

Registering to vote is very easy. You can download the form from www.michigan.gov/vote, or ask your clerk to mail one to you. Other sources of registration forms is your local Michigan Secretary of State office, Michigan Department of Human Services offices, and most Centers for Independent Living. They also have information on getting an absentee ballot.

Absentees must register, too

This is a great way to participate in the election process if you cannot visit the polling place on election day. You do

not need a reason to request an absentee ballot, but you do need to be registered.

There is always a need for poll workers during an election year and having people with disabilities working on the service side of election day would be a great benefit to the community.

As with other election information, your county, city or township clerk's office has information on election day employment.

What is happening in your community?

Disabilities awareness will be raised in state program in March

March is National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. The Council has asked Gov. Granholm to officially declare it in Michigan as well.

To help promote awareness in addition to the Governor's proclamation, a general press release will be issued to the media through the Department of Community Health.

To better promote the month in the media, local programs and activities tied into the event will be mentioned in news releases to be distributed across the state. We need to know what is planned in local communities.

Send us your plans!

Send your Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month plans to the Council so they can be promoted in state and local media.

We can create a news release for your local media and send it to the newspapers and radio and television stations, or give copies to you to distribute yourself. We need your news. Please phone/mail/e-mail/fax your news to Rick Van Horn at the Council office. Contact him at:

Phone: 517-334-7288

Fax: 517-334-7353

Mail: 1033 S. Washington, Lansing, 48910

Email: vanhornr@michigan.gov.

The deadline for getting this local activity information to us is Feb. 10, 2006!

-=Corrie Listenberger Bair=-

The DD Council and staff were saddened to learn that Council member Corrie Listenberger Bair of Edwardsburg passed away Oct. 29 following an extended illness.

Council chair Todd Koopmans and Council member Pam Hall, representing the Council, attended a memorial service in Niles. Koopmans read the Resolution of Condolence that he presented to the Bair family on behalf of the Council.

Resolution of Condolence for **Corrie Listenberger Bair**

Whereas, Corrie Listenberger Bair was appointed to the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council by Governor Engler and served the Council diligently as a member of the Executive Committee, Chairperson of the Housing Work Group; and most recently as Chairperson of the Program Committee; and,

Whereas, Ms. Bair was a good friend, a caring Council member, and a determined fighter for the rights of every person with disabilities, valuing diversity and the dignity of all individuals; and,

Whereas, as an advocate she helped established the Council's Cass County Regional Interagency Consumer Committee, and this Edwardsburg, Michigan resident was a part of planning and development of a local center for independent living; and,

Corrie Bair willingly shared her gift of friendship always with a smile and kind words for everyone that she met; and,

Whereas, Corrie Bair faced her own, personal battles with courage and optimism; and now,

Be it resolved, that we celebrate the life of Corrie Bair, a life that was devoted to a vision of how things could be when we seek the potential in each of us. Ms. Bair held

firm a vision of life that offered no barriers, either physical or attitudinal, for people with disabilities;

Be it further resolved, that we embrace the legacy that Corrie left with each of us to continue advocating so that all individuals are valued for their worth and ability and not judged on preconceived notions; and

Finally be it resolved, that Corrie Listenberger Bair, valued member of the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council, be remembered this day for her victories, her friendship and her service. She is already greatly missed.

Presented to her family with deepest sympathy by the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council, Tuesday, November 1, 2005.

A memorial service was also held for Corrie in East Lansing on Dec. 8.

Council committee and work group meeting minutes

Education Work Group

September 20, 2005

Attendance: Jane Spitzley, Karen Massaro-Mundt, Loreena Parks, Glenn Ashley, Mark McWilliams, Carolyn Das

Phone: Andre Robinson, Marta Hampel

1.) Approval of August 16 Minutes

Loreena moved to approve, Andre seconded. Motion Carried.

2.) Announcements

The US Department of Education has sent information on procedures to help schools serve Katrina victims. IDEA and special education procedures were not addressed.

3.) Work group Workplan for 2005-2006

We have been asked to provide recommendations for specific next steps for implementing the Universal Education policy. Everyone Together and MPAS have sent the following recommendations to the Governor's advisors:

1. The governor should encourage the state Board of Education to adopt a policy of Universal Education.

2. The governor should direct the Department of Education to review existing policies and procedures and conform them to the Universal Education policy. (Including but not limited to the procedure on Least Restrictive Environment.)
 3. The governor should direct the Department to review the Pupil Accounting Manual and other fiscal policies to align them with the Universal Education policy. (Including but not limited to: guidelines for specialized transportation and special education preschool services.)
 4. The governor should include Universal Education as a track at the 2006 Governor's Education Summit.
- The work plan, under Strategy C, was amended to focus on this input.

Mark moved to adopt the workplan as amended. Loreena seconded, and the motion was approved.

4.) Education Summit and Universal Education Advocacy - **Progress and Next Steps**

Meeting date for the core team has been set for October 24.

The facilitator has agreed to work, with contract for later phases subject to progress in the initial phases.

Carolyn asked for recommendations for Core Team members. The team needs to be a maximum of 12 people. Carolyn will have the plan laid out and the detailed budget for the next meeting.

5.) Updates and DD Council letters of comment - IDEA regulations

The DD Council and MPAS both sent in letters of comment. Final federal regulations are expected by the end of the year.

The new state IEP form does not comply with the regulations, so they will need to be changed.

The state regulations on learning disabilities and due process procedures will have to be rewritten.

- State Board of Education and Referent Group report
The UE report is expected to be on the SBOE agenda for October 11, but we do not know yet whether it is on the morning (discussion) or afternoon (decision) agenda.

The seclusion and restraint referent group recommendation is scheduled for the Nov meeting. Expulsion and the code of student conduct is scheduled for the Dec meeting.

Comments will be needed soon on the code of student conduct.

- Detroit Public Schools issues

The new school at Renaissance is still not fully open, and parents are upset about it. Families did not know where to send their kids, and some students wound up riding the bus all day. Some students are displaced. They are having trouble getting records to other schools.

Another meeting will be taking place between the schools and an advocacy coalition.

- Advocacy issues

A preschool inclusion case that lost at the hearing is being appealed to the state review. The child is still in the general ed preschool. The parents are paying for it, so the question for the family now is reimbursement, not placement. The laws and rules are muddled on the issue, so the issue is extremely important in setting a precedent.

Changes in the hearing process will take place effective September, 2006. The two level process will be eliminated.

Education Work Group
October 18, 2005

Attendance: Mark McWilliams, Glenn Ashley, Marta Hampel, Carolyn Das
Phone: Andre Robinson, Jane Reagan, Lauri Stein

6.) Approval of September 20 Minutes (attached)
Minutes were approved by consensus.

7.) Announcements

The Education work group is scheduled to do the program for the council meeting on March 14. The meeting will be at the Hannah Center in East Lansing. After discussion, it was agreed that we would update the council on what is happening with Universal Education, the summit, and IDEA regulations, which should be finalized about that time.

Carolyn suggested that we put dates on all working documents (in a footer if not in title)

8.) 2007-2011 State Plan – Concepts for Projects, brainstorming and discussion

The needs & gaps analysis that is to be used as a basis for developing the state plan was distributed.

Brainstorming led to the following additional ideas:

– **Leadership training and empowering parents on Universal Education (UE) implementation.**

– **Transitions between grade levels.**

Transition is more than from school to adult life. How can we make it easier to make transitions between school levels to keep the inclusion that students have achieved?

– **Help teachers learn to differentiate instruction.**

– **Research and dissemination on effective inclusion (UE) practices that improve student achievement.**

The crush now is highly qualified teachers. The next hot item will be student achievement. Research would help the Council to draw more clearly the link of UE with achievement.

9.) Education Summit and Universal Education Policy Advocacy

- **Progress and Next Steps**

Core planning team is next Monday, Oct 24. We expect to leave that day with the framework of a plan. Expecting a total of 11 people, including the facilitator, recorder, and project manager.

We will be looking at how we seize the moment after the approval of the UE policy, to specific ways to make it happen, put teeth into the policy.

We will look at strategic timing for a Summit, planning an event in the midst of other activities, based on what we need it to do, in context.

Report from the core team will come to the work group.

- 10.) DD Council letters of comment
 - MDE re Referent Group report

Andre moved that the Education Work Group and the DD Council each send a letter to each state board member, the superintendent, director of special education, and Fran Loose who coordinated the Referent Group. The letter will thank them for their support of the policy, congratulate them on their success, and say that we are looking forward to working with them on the next steps. Mark seconded. Motion carried.

Carolyn will draft a letter, and have it reviewed by Marta, Mark, Karen, Glenn and Jane.

Marta suggested inviting Jacque Thompson to meet with the work group and share her insights on practical ways this philosophy can affect department actions.

- 11.) Conflict between State Board and Council meeting dates.

WG members were disappointed that we did not have more council support at the October state board meeting. There were 3 issues related to people with disabilities at this meeting. Visibility at those events goes to the heart of the DD Council mission.

We would like to see a plan in place for Council representatives to attend, and participate in the public comment when there are issues of importance before the board. The state board wants to hear from people with disabilities at the meeting.

We would like the council to look at the state board agenda, and find ways in which the council can change the agenda to fit with the state board agenda when issues are important to do so.

We also ask that the council consider changing the meeting dates beginning next fall.

12.) Next meeting – will be changed from Nov. 15 to Dec 6, due to the conflict with the DD Council and state board meeting. The meeting will still be at the DD Council office from 10 am to noon.

Family Support Work Group
August 17, 2005

Members Present: Audrey Craft, Jackie Igafo-Te'o, Carolyne Allston-Smith, Laura Mahank, Cassandra Montgomery, Tracy Vincent
Guests: Abby Shannon, Tiffiany Leischner, Sheri Boyd, Jim Wargel

Welcome and introductions.

Audrey Craft motioned to approve the July 20, 2005 minutes. Carolyne Allston-Smith seconded. Motion approved.

Announcements

For the upcoming year, the group decided to continue to meet on the 3rd Wednesday of each month from 10:00am – 1:00pm at the DD Council office.

Legislative Updates

No updates to report.

Discussion of “Field Guide to Respite for CMHSP’s.

Audrey Craft from Mental Health Services for Children and Families and Abby Shannon from Michigan Public Health Institute discussed the “Field Guide to Respite for CMHSP’s. There is a separate ‘Field Guide to Respite for Families’ that was reviewed by several groups of parents and other stakeholders along with the Family Support Work Group. The Field Guides are a product of the Real

Choice Respite for Children Grant that was awarded to the Department of Community Health in October 2003. The guide should be completed by October.

There are three sections that were distributed to the group for review and feedback. Comments will be incorporated into the guide.

- Working with Families to Meet Respite Care Needs
- Agency Capacity to Support Quality Respite Services
- Family Satisfaction with Respite Care Services

Review FSWG 2005/2006 Work Plan

Audrey discussed a project that the Department of Community Health/Mental Health Services for Children and Families, Department of Community Health/Children's Special Health Care Services, Department of Education and the Department of Human Services are collaborating on. These departments have been given permission by the Human Service Directors to engage in a strategic planning process that will produce recommendations to assure appropriate screening, assessment, diagnosis and treatment/intervention for children, ages 0-6, with Autism Spectrum Disorder. The recommendations will be conveyed to the Human Services Directors by August 2006. The ASD Work Group has approximately 45 members. There are 11 parent participants on the Workgroup.

There will be quarterly Workgroup meetings. Much of the work will be done in subcommittees who will then make

recommendations to the entire Workgroup for their approval.

The department has asked the Council to support a parent partner in this process who is also a member of the FSWG. The group chose to sponsor Jackie Igafu-Te'o. Jackie will report back to the FSWG on discussions and accomplishments. This will give the FSWG an opportunity to periodically get the information out to parents to increase their understanding of the planning process and eventual outcomes of the process.

This activity will be incorporated in the FSWG's work plan for the upcoming year. Other minor changes were made to the work plan.

Strategic Planning

The group reviewed ideas to be discussed at the August 25 meeting. This will give the opportunity to collaborate with other workgroups/committees to create projects that will have greater impact. Lori Goike, Carolyn Allston-Smith, and Andre Robinson will be attending the meeting on behalf of the FSWG. Some of the ideas for discussion include:

- There is a need for increased dissemination of information on: consumer rights to receive services, evidence based practices, and B-3 services.
- Look at long-term care needs relating to the needs of aging persons with DD and getting information to aging families with person still living at home.

- Look at accessible playground issues/accessible recreational facilities
- Friendly, Family, Unisex bathrooms.

Family Support Work Group

September 21, 2005

Members Present: Audrey Craft, Lori Goike, Paula Bellhorn, Laura Mahank, Carlyne Allston-Smith, Jackie Igafu-Te'o, Tracy Vincent

Welcome and introductions were done.

Audrey Craft motioned to approve the August 17, 2005 minutes. Laura Mahank seconded. Motion approved.

Announcements

- Children's Mental Health Rally - September 28 at noon on the Capitol lawn
- Asperger's Disorder and Autism Seminar - October 25 in Detroit
- Autism's State Conference "Celebrate Michigan's Best Practices" -October 7 from 8:00am – 4:00pm in Mt. Pleasant
- "Taking a Look at Autism" Conference - October 28 & 29 in Okemos

Respite Brochure Distribution

"Respite Care For You and Your Family" brochure will be distributed to the following organizations:

- RICCs

- CILs
- CMHs
- Early-On Coordinators
- Association for Children's Mental Health
- Arcs
- Autism Society Chapters

Audrey will check with her department to see who else the brochures need to be distributed to.

Outcomes for 2006 Family Gathering

- Increased awareness of statewide resources
- Increased family participation in community activities
- Increased family networking opportunities
- Children explore and learn social skills

It was suggested to maintain the Family Gathering on the agenda each month. Tracy will continue to have the Family Gathering as an agenda item each month.

Legislative Updates

FY2005-2006 Department of Community Health Budget document was distributed to members.

A resource for legislative information can be found on the Autism Society of Michigan's website at www.autism-mi.org. Click on ASM Legislative Update.

Discuss Potential Ideas

The Public Policy Committee wants to collaborate with the FSWG on family, friendly, unisex bathrooms issue.

A meeting will be set up with the PPC to discuss this issue further and to possibly turn it into a project.

The Multicultural Committee wants to collaborate with the FSWG on the issue of seniors raising a child or grandchild with disabilities (where do they go for resources, how to outreach, etc.). Tracy will invite Pam Hall to the October FSWG meeting to discuss this issue further.

2005/2006 FSWG Work Plan

The members reviewed and revised the work plan. Tracy will make the revisions and re-send the work plan to the group for final comments. The draft work plan will be presented to the Council November 15.

Update on Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Work Group

Jackie Igafo-Te'o gave the FSWG an update on the ASD Work Group's first meeting. A history of the ASD Work group was given as well as an overview of where the group is headed. The values and goals were identified. The work group's members were given an opportunity to choose which sub-committee they wanted to be on.

A website for the ASD was developed:

www.cenmi.org/ASD.

Health Issues Work Group
Sept. 20, 2005

Members present: RoAnne Chaney, Kathy Reynolds
(phone)

Staff present: Terry Hunt

Minutes approved as distributed.

Members discussed agenda for October 11 DD Council meeting. We will invite for 5-8 minute presentations, the representatives from each of the care coordination project sites plus the project evaluator. This discussion will give the council, RICCs and the sites an overview of how each project plans to coordinate health services and supports in their community.

Members discussed the evolving Faces of Medicaid project to now include the following products/steps for accomplishment:

- 15 minute version with only a few consumers talking about the importance of Medicaid. Existing footage will be used to the extent feasible. Additional footage may need to be taped (images/photos/video tape, etc) and this will be done by professionals. HIWG likely will need to recruit individuals.
- 10 sec. 30 sec 60 sec PSA (as originally planned)
- script (HIWG may assist, but we will purchase a project facilitator's time to draft a script)

- HIWG will serve as the project advisory body
- Field test product with target audience
- Pamphlet to accompany video product

Video must have PWD or family members who currently are receiving, or have in the past received Medicaid services.

Members suggested we invite Message Makers and Linda Potter to our next meeting so we can develop a realistic budget for this project.

Members discussed the work plan and felt the document needed only to be updated. Our strategies remain largely the same. Members suggested perhaps we could draw on grantee information and other materials to develop a care coordination document. This might help satisfy strategy 2 and perhaps part of strategy 3.

Members suggested the grantees reports and other recommendations to be listed on the council's website.

Terry reported on the August 25 meeting at which our work group and PPC discussed importance of consumers and family members to provide feedback to agency and policies. Members concurred reestablishing a means for consumer feedback is important.

Multicultural Committee

Oct. 10, 2005

Present:

Pam Hall; Sophie Baker; Pat McSherry; Terrie Hylton; Mitzi Allen; Andre Robinson (phone); Angela Zamora; Terry Hunt; Theresa Arini (phone); Rick Van Horn.

Call to Order by Hall.

Approval of July's summary minutes. Passed.

Additions to, and approval of, this month's agenda. None. Approved.

Introductions

The Committee welcomed first-timer Pat McSherry from the Eaton RICC (diversity **coordinator**) and **Capitol Area Center for Independent Living**.

Old Business

Attendees agreed retreat was an excellent enterprise. They reviewed the compiled evaluations which also cast the retreat in a positive light. The few drawbacks included the cold meeting rooms, hotel and accessible rooms and entry problems and the speed of delivery of the GM talk.

For meetings in the future, Hunt discussed the benefits of teleconferencing over traveling to Lansing. Of course, for a conference this would not apply.

Hunt also reported that the Committee will become a central part of a RICC effort to beef up their individual work plans and sustain a reenergized commitment to community outreach.

Should the RICC diversity retreat be repeated? Plans should be made to sustain the momentum. Otherwise, its benefits will be lost.

The Committee considered its work plan. A revised plan is due Oct. 14 for Council consideration in November. Changes were made to several "Who is responsible for task?" sections. Committee members will continue to serve on each Council committee and work group.

Hylton suggested adding an activity that would insure that the Committee contact each RICC diversity coordinator. Completion dates for various activities were changed or dropped. Hylton proposed dropping activity #4. In its place as #4 would be item "A" from that activity. Item "B" then would become item "A." It follows then that items "C" and "D" would become items "B" and "C" respectively. Item "E" would become item "D."

Also reflected in the work plan will be: Chairperson Hylton announced an upcoming conference in Detroit, of which she is also the chair. It is a meeting of the National

Association of Multicultural Rehabilitation Concerns next July. The Committee may wish to participate in some way, a presentation or a poster, perhaps.

The work plan will also show the Committee exploring possible participation in next fall's MRS Rehabilitation Conference in Grand Rapids.

In both cases, the Committee should look to the RICC diversity coordinators to contribute by making presentations and attending sessions.

Working with the coordinators will be a major project as reflected in the new plan. Along with regular mailings, that will include local census data and other information, should go a personal contact from a Committee member.

The Committee will also explore collaboration with the Council's Public Policy Committee and Family Support Work Group – since recent project proposals have indicated similar goals and objectives - and these collaborative intentions will appear in the work plan.

New Business

Committee considered 2006 meeting dates. The February meeting will instead be the annual Legislative Event (Feb. 14). It will include setting up the multicultural display board. The July meeting will be a part of the annual Family Gathering (July 11). Otherwise, meetings will take place in Lansing the second Monday of each month, 1 p.m., unless

advised of an exception. (Please note the change from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. for meeting times, starting in January.) The chair will check her schedules and get back to Allen. Meeting dates are due to the Council.

Hylton has suggested developing eight, one-page diversity flyers to correspond with the eight Council meetings in 2006. Topics can be pulled from various sources. Hylton asked each Committee member to come up with topic ideas and resources.

Hylton hopes that eventually that the Committee could develop a program similar to the Department of Civil Rights presentation at the September retreat, but with a strong slant on disabilities and multiculturalism. But first she'd like to develop training sessions and scripts for informational programs and presentations.

The Committee will hold a meeting with RICC diversity coordinators on Monday evening, Dec. 12, the evening before the Council meeting on the 13th. Success stories in a round robin scripted format would be featured.

Old Business

The Committee reviewed an old survey titled "Multicultural Committee: Evaluation and Needs Assessment" that was likely handed out at a past RICC retreat.

Allen showed a copy of “A Transit Toolbox” from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and provided by staff member Tandy Bidinger. Hall will review and respond to Bidinger.

Updates and Announcements

Zamora reminded members about the Cristo Rey annual health fair in Lansing on Sunday the 16th.

McSherry discussed a documentary motion picture he had recently seen about “quad rugby,” played from gladiator wheelchairs. The film is “Murderball,” is rated “R,” and the winner of several film festival competitions. McSherry saw it at Michigan State University and recommends it highly. It is likely in limited circulation and interested viewers may want to also look for the film eventually on DVD

All of the RICC diversity coordinators are on the Committee’s mail list.

Van Horn read a Sept. 9, 2005, letter from Ellen Sugrue Hyman of the Arc Michigan thanking the committee for its input on the Arc’s revised web page. Hyman said “We have decided not to maintain the multicultural page.....we have now changed our direction.....no reflection of the very important work that your committee is doing, but is a direct result of the very limited time and resources that we have.”

Hyman also offered resources to create a web page for the committee with links to important resources. The

Committee would have to maintain the site. Van Horn will contact Hyman with an affirmative regarding the site.

Allen noted that the mother of Bob McConnell, former chair of the Committee, past away recently.

Hall will purchase and send cards to Committee members Vera Graham and Corrie Bair who under the weather.

Van Horn reported that he has been in contact with a member of the Lansing Hmong community. There is no formal community organization, but he said he believed we can interest this person in being a part of our group.

Multicultural Committee

Nov. 14, 2005

Present:

Pam Hall; Pat McSherry (phone); Terrie Hylton; Mitzi Allen; Youself Seegars (phone); Angela Zamora; Mae Golden (phone); Terry Hunt; and Rick Van Horn.

Call to Order by Chairperson Hylton.

Approval of October's minutes. Passed.

Additions to, and approval of, this month's agenda. None. Approved.

Introductions:

Welcome to newcomer Mae Golden from the Disability Network and Genesee County RICC. The Committee welcomed back Youself Seegars from the Wayne County Center for Independent Living and Wayne RICC.

Old Business:

Committee members agree that the Committee is on track regarding its work plan activities and objectives and that the plan, after several minor edits today, is ready for Council review and approval. Committee members who wish a copy of the Council-approved work plan should contact Allen or Van Horn.

Hylton will present the plan to the Council tomorrow, Nov. 15. Allen suggested that the Committee reviewed the work plan at each meeting to make certain its schedules are being observed.

From the work plan, Committee representation on other Council committees and work groups is: T. Arini – Program Committee; P. Hall – Public Policy Committee and Health Issues Work Group; Y. Seegars – Housing; A. Zamora – Education Work Group; M. Allen – Family Support Work Group; and T. Hylton – Transportation Work Group.

Hall would like to see the Committee give a presentation, or at least have a presence and next year's MRS conference and should this be in the work plan?

Also for the plan, Hylton would like to see a presence at the National Association for Multi-cultural Rehabilitation Concerns' (NAMRC) annual conference. Plus the fall Cristo Rey Health Fair in Lansing. These, plus a presentation at the annual RICC retreat, are reflected in the work plan. Also, should the Committee have a presence at the Council retreat in the spring?

Van Horn stated that one major activity for the work plan for 2006 is the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Committee's grant and working with the subsequent grantees. Allen added the Committee also consider what to do with the data that grantees will gather.

New business:

RICC diversity coordinator training. A letter (save the date!) will go out to them announcing the training and details. Terry Hunt will talk up the training concept when he meets regionally with RICC members, because diversity training and outreach are parts of RICC work plans. Hunt will provide the mailing addresses for the coordinators.

Hylton said diversity coordinator training will take place starting at 11 a.m., Wednesday, Jan. 18, 2006, in Lansing. The meeting will include lunch and run until 2 p.m. Allen

will try to get the Hannah Center in East Lansing for the meeting.

Review the General Motors Diversity Training Manual, sent by Maria Cebreco from GM. It is an excellent tool. The survey has many possibilities and can easily be adapted for RICC diversity coordinator training.

The Committee reviewed its 2006 meeting dates. They are: Jan. 9, Feb. 13, March 13, April 10, May 8, June 12, Aug. 14, Sept. 12, Oct. 9, Nov. 13, and Dec. 11. There is no July meeting. The September meeting is to be held on a Tuesday instead of Monday.

Updates and announcements:

Committee members observed the passing on Oct. 29 of Council member Corrie Listenberger Bair of Edwardsburg. Allen announced there will be a memorial service on Dec. 8 at the Edgewood United Church of Christ in East Lansing.

The Committee will send a get-well card to Council and Multicultural Committee member Vera Graham. Hall will provide the card, which will be sent from the Council office.

The Council one-page info sheets and work group/committee brochures are completed and now must be translated. Hylton also wishes to consider other Council publications such as annual reports. Zamora knows

qualified people who can proof the translated materials for accuracy, etc.

Hylton complimented Council staff member Tandy Bidinger on her excellent presentation at the annual MRS conference in Grand Rapids. She discussed the Council and its activities.

New arrival Golden said she did a one-hour presentation on the themes put forth during the September RICC retreat.

Hylton said if members know of any gatherings, seminars, conferences that the Council or Committee should know about for possible participation, let her know.

Van Horn said the Committee's email mail list now has 70 names, and this includes the RICC diversity coordinators.

Hall reported that the Michigan Commission on Services to the Aging will be holding public hearings on senior issues – transportation, nutrition, housing, long-term care, health, independence, scams, employment, and volunteer opportunities. There are six hearings. For a schedule, contact P. Hall at the Office for Services to the Aging.

Hylton said the Metropolitan Detroit Rehabilitation Association is hosting two nationally-known speakers on Feb. 14, 2006.

Public Policy Committee

Oct. 11, 2005

Members Present: Terry Hunt, Marsha Moers, Jacqui Day, Rick VanHorn, Tandy Bidinger, Jane Spitzley, Andre Robinson, Elmer Cerano, Tiffany McIntire, Kathy McGeathy

Motion by Marsha to approve minutes, Jacqui seconded. Minutes were approved with one change in spelling to Jacqui's name.

We reviewed the draft of our amended work plan. The group approved the changes, and it was approved as amended. Elmer made the motion, and Pam seconded it.

We discussed the various sub-groups of the PPC. Rick is organizing the Scholarship and Awards subcommittee. They plan to meet mostly by phone, beginning in January 2006. The first task is to recruit members for the group. One suggestion for the group is to consider funding or organizing Legislative Internships.

The Legislative Event Committee is also forming, and members of PPC have volunteered. The first meeting is planned for November, and it will also be by telephone. The hold the date flyer and invitation for the Legislative Event is being designed, and the flyer will be ready for mailing soon.

Updates:

Wayne RICC held a consumer fair.

Michigan Legislative Update

Medicaid / MI Budget

Consumer Advocates are pleased that Medicaid Dental has been restored for adults, but there is a question if the full program has been restored. The MI Choice program has been budgeted more funds, but we don't know yet what that will be used for. There was also a great deal of discussion about provider taxes for certain services, such as Mental Health but we believe they were not approved. (H.M.O.'s?)

PPC members may want to write a letter thanking legislators for the changes, but they are waiting for more details and answers first.

The increase in Medicaid co-pays is a concern.

Federal Updates:

The change in attitude since hurricane Katrina has been discussed. There is a danger that other social programs will be cut to provide for relief funds. This would hurt one group, to help another. Consumer Advocate Groups are opposed to this strategy. Medicaid is one area cuts have been proposed, and would result in some people losing Medicaid eligibility.

We also discussed the changes at the Supreme Court, with John Roberts as the new Chief Justice. Harriet Miers has been nominated as a justice. A member asked if we had taken positions on the nominees. Recently, we had “signed-on” to a letter expressing concern re: the nomination of Roberts. What is the procedure for this? Should it go through the Executive Committee? Our Rapid Response procedure is what should be used. (A member mentioned columnist George Will’s column re: Supreme Court.)

We plan to ask the MMAP program to come to a future PPC meeting to provide more information on Medicare Part D. C.A.C.I.L. is also planning a workshop on the subject.

Education Updates

IDEA is in the process of being implemented. MI is revising it’s special ed. Rules in response to the change to IDEA. The Education Work Group and M.P.A.S. did comments recently on the changes. The issue of the use of seclusion and restraints was the subject of recent litigation.

Program Committee

Oct. 11, 2005

Present: Members: Theresa Arini, Barbara LeRoy.
Staff: Glenn Ashley, Cheryl Trommater, Tracy Vincent

Issue: Housekeeping: Minutes of the August 9, 2005.

Action: The committee authorized the chair to approve the August minutes.

Issue: Review Dissemination Policy

Action: This needs to go to the full council for approval. Cheryl will circulate this revision by e-mail to committee members before the Council mailing goes out. Changes included:

- Adding "the materials are available in a variety of accessible and alternate formats." Alternate formats will include language issues, font size, reading level, etc.
- Adding reference to specific distribution methods (e.g., via the web, Monday Update, etc.)
- Add prioritizing what we disseminate and in what order.

The policy should go to the November Council meeting for approval. The list of specific equipment will need to be approved by the Executive Committee.

Issue: Final Draft Committee Workplan for FY 2006

Action: Reviewed workplan. Changes made:

- Oversight of Grants: Changed the timeline for revising the Annual Report Forms from November 2005 to March 2006.
- Staff briefing on grant projects: These are now organized by priority area.
- Dissemination of Grant Products:
 - o Added use, design, maintenance and oversight of a grants section on the DD Council's website. This will include (besides the RFP information currently posted):
 - o A page with information and forms for grantees,
 - o A selection of grant products,
 - o The history of the Council's grants, links to grantee websites, etc.)
 - o The committee also discussed the possibility of developing a separate DD Council Resource website that would be contracted out and would not be part of the state government
- Planning For Future Projects: The workplan now includes looking at the grants spending plan twice a year. Question: How does this integrate with the joint effort meeting we had? (Not sure.)
- The workplan includes joint activities with the Multicultural Committee and with the

Transportation Work Group, working on specific projects.

- The December - January discussions of what other groups are doing for the Plan belong in "Review Projects" under project development.
- The need to recruit more committee members is a huge issue. Can we pay a stipend to people we invite to come to the meetings? We need people with disabilities, diversity and people with expertise in all areas of interest.
- Resources Needed: Funds for stipends for non-Council members we recruit for specific representation and/or expertise.
- Activities:
 - o Invitation letter to RICC contacts;
 - o Schedule a joint meeting with the Multicultural Committee to brainstorm on who else to invite to the meetings. Do lunch with MC committee after one of their regular meetings.
 - o Explore organizations that require their employees to do community service.

Cheryl will make the changes to the workplan and get it to Mitzi by October 15.

Issue: Staff Briefing - Council projects on Self-Determination

Action: All but three of the projects for the "Build on Michigan's Self-Determination Initiative" objective are now complete.

- The Enhancement and Expansion grants are disseminating what they've learned and produced to build consumer demand statewide. These projects will be active through next Fall.

- o Allegan CMHS specializes in helping CMH Boards build the structure (moving from services budgets to individual budgets, setting up external fiscal intermediaries and employer agents, etc.) They have been to the UP to consult with CMH agencies and help them set up an external fiduciary and other structural functions.

- o The Arc of Midland operates the Self-Determination Academy for teams from several CMH agencies, each team headed by a self-advocate who wants a more self-determined life.

- Families for Self-Determination:

- o The Web Project at Arcadia Institute in Kalamazoo is completed.

- o FAST-CATS, at Developmental Disabilities Institute at Wayne State, is running through March, supporting several parent groups in the Metro area.

- The initial guardianship projects finished at the end of last fiscal year. An enhancement project, through Washtenaw ACA, is working on special issues in public education and in medical settings. That project will finish in December 2005.
- The contract for Michigan Partners for Freedom has gone into the signature process. They will be putting a team together this month. The project will provide training and information to help mobilize consumer demand for Self-Determination.

Issue: Draft RFP Calendar for FY 2006

Action Members reviewed and approved the draft calendar for submission to the November Council meeting.

Issue: Adjourn

Program Committee

Nov. 15, 2005

Present: Don Trout, Theresa Arini, Fay Wood (Midland)

Staff: Glenn Ashley, Cheryl Trommater, Tracy Vincent

Issue: Welcome, Introductions.

Action: Fay is concerned about Transportation in Midland County. The Program Committee will help connect her with the local RICC, the Transportation Work Group, and Diane Kempen.

Issue: Housekeeping: Minutes of the October 11, 2005 meeting.

Action: The committee asked that the chair be authorized to approve the October 11 minutes.

Issue: Presenting the 2005-2006 Workplan at the DD Council meeting

Action: Theresa will present the workplan to the Council today. At the December meeting we will review the RFP Review Cycle. The boilerplate will need to be revised slightly.

Cheryl will talk about the RFP calendar during the presentation.

Issue: Presenting recommended policies at DD Council meeting

- Policy on Preservation of Grants History; and
- Policy on Dissemination of Council Products & Results.

Action: These are for information, and we are giving them to Council members ahead of time. We would like them to be put on the agenda for the December meeting. Glenn will discuss them during the workplan presentation.

Issue: Presenting report on Program Committee's 2005 achievements at DD Council meeting

Action: Theresa will present the achievements first, then the work plan.

Issue: Program Committee Schedule for 2006

Action: This document is for Committee members' convenience. It breaks out the Work Plan by date, listing the tasks for the committee for each particular meeting.

Issue: Recruiting members and increasing committee participation.

Action: One issue that affects recruiting members is the complexity of the committee's tasks. They are multi-year or multi-topic. Suggestions: contacting the RICCs, local multi-purpose collaborative body, grant writers, MSU people from special institutes, a local community foundation, or a local council person. Especially focus on those that serve specific cultural groups. Theresa will draft letters that can be sent as a follow-up to personal contacts.

We also need to get the phone set up for future meetings.

Issue: RFP Calendar for FY 2005/2006

Action: Cheryl presented information about the RFPs that will be issued this year and the timelines. It includes brief descriptions of the projects, and the amount of funding is available. The dollar amounts and number of years need to be corrected.

Issue: Adjourn

Transportation Work Group

Oct. 10, 2005

Lansing: Diane Kempen, Tandy Bidinger, Andy Havice, Bud Beebe, Kathie Janego, Paul Palmer, Doug Anderson.

Kathy Janego

Kalamazoo: Eric Large, Don Milbeck

Flint: Mae Golden

Wayne: Hank Johnson, Andre Robinson

Lapeer: Helen Mitchell, Mary Ann DiMaggio, Sherry Quillen

1. Welcome, Introductions, Ground Rules

2. Lapeer RICC Issue

Riders are concerned that they are getting charged extra for bringing shopping bags on the buses. They are currently being charged an extra fare for each time that they get on/off the bus while loading or unloading. They are even charging the extra fare if the person has help from another person during the loading/unloading process. The basic fare is \$1.50. (On line-haul or Specialized Services Bus/ Dial-A-Ride?)

We discussed possible strategies. We are thinking this may be an A.D.A. violation, since they seem to be discriminated against based upon their disability. We need to research it. There is an opportunity for riders to

complain about this at an L.A.C. meeting, Helen is on the L.A.C., but is worried that complaining publicly about this could be risky. Their public transit system is short of funds and in danger of closing down. They may seek a millage. Mary Panos and/or Carol Wegher are in charge of Lapeer Transit.

L.T.A. is the transit system. (Lapeer Transit Authority?) We also said that if we are not able to resolve this informally they could write letters to the editor and/or file formal complaints. They could also refuse to sign the accessibility plan. We will fill Terry Hunt in on this issue, and provide Helen with Angel's phone no. at M.D.O.T. Kathie reported that in Ann Arbor and Livingston County, riders must pay extra if they take up an extra seat with their bags.

3. Legislative Update

We will add the legislators from the Transit Caucus to our TWG mailing list along with Leon Drolet, to follow up on the Legislative Day, which was a great success. Over 100 people met with their legislators to discuss transit issues and funding. Follow up letters are planned. Diane also said the U.P. reps. have asked to be added to our list, and to be invited to our annual U.P. meeting.

Federal \$ are on the table for transportation projects in MI but MI legislators have cut the M.D.O.T. budget. (Hank is planning to contact Angela Martin about this?)

4. Success Stories

Detroit is trying to get transfers between the DDOT and SMART systems. The RICC, Disability Task Force and T.R.U. are all working together.

Flint is giving findings from the “Mystery Rider” Program to M.T.A.

Jackson will be having Richel Simon speak at their Transportation Conference.

Lansing The Capital area RICC had a very successful Transit and Multicultural Conference in September.

Livingston County Human Services Collaboration Board has invited the Transportation Coalition to be on it. The question was asked which counties have one? To find out, check with your United Way or County Commissioner.

Kalamazoo Friends of Transit are working on transportation millages, and have a button with their name. They are attending township meetings to do presentation on public transportation and they are trying to create a county-wide system (currently there is a city system) which may turn into a county-wide authority.

5.LAC Issues: Continued

Ontanagan RICC members including Connie applied to be on the L.A.C., and were concerned that they were not picked. MI Protection and Advocacy Services are willing to help, but they need to be called by the people involved to start the process.

Hank Johnson of Detroit pointed out that an L.A.C. may be sued for having less than 50% of members be elderly or have disability (and/ or represent them).

6. New Work Plan

The revised plan was reviewed and approved by the TWG. It will be presented to the full Council for their approval in November. TWG members volunteered to do presentation.

7. New Project Ideas for 2007-2011

Expanded Version of Mystery Riders was one suggestion.

8. Voucher Project Update

Detroit area/ C.L.S. have their P.A.S. (?)

9. Other

CATA/ Lansing L.A.C. is currently involved in rating their services.

Eric suggested that we create a contact list of TWG members for our own use.

We would like to have buttons for the TWG and possibly T-shirts (like the Kalamazoo Friends of Transit) for the TWG. How to pay for? Who would design them? Someone said M.S. Word has these items, and we should be able to find ideas there.

Suggested agenda topic for Nov. meeting:
SMART/Livonia issue.

Transportation Work Group

Nov. 3, 2005

Lansing: Diane Kempen, Paul Miller, Paul Palmer, Tandy Bidinger, Kathy Janego

Baraga: Mick Sheridan, Janel La Plante, Lola Mariacher, David Sereno, Ben Ransom

Traverse City: Renee Louvierre- Mitchell, Bobbi Suter, Tracy Lee Miller, Gene F. (?)

Tuscola: Ralph Moore, Rita Wall, William Stewart, John Bunea, Sue McElroy

Jackson: Monica Salgat, Jim Cyphers, Phil Lancaster

Flint: Mae Golden

Lapeer: Mary Ann Dimaggion, Norma Karus, Sherry Quillen

Wayne: Andre Robinson, Hank Johnson

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Approval of previous meeting minutes: June and Sept. approved, Monica motioned, and Paul Miller seconded the motion.
3. Lapeer RICC: shopping issue continued
Mary Ann Di Maggio: would like to transport full grocery cart of grocery bags on bus, but have had to pay double fares. Fares have gone up, and are now \$1.50 each way.

She complained about this at a board meeting, and was told assistants may be the solution to the problem. Previously, when friends have helped to unload bag, they have been charged extra.

We asked her to get the policy in writing from the Lapeer Transit Board. She will write a written request and ask for it within 10 days. She will also fax a copy of the letter to Helen Mitchell, LAC member. Sherry Quillen wants her name added to the letter.

Next steps: File a complaint with L.A.C. re: Dial- A-Ride policy. Send it to the G.L.T.A. with a copy to the D.D. Council, and M.D.O.T. .

T.C. asked “What is an L.A.C.?” Diane Kempen defined it and stressed that it must be composed of 51% People with disabilities and/or the elderly, or their representatives.

4. TWG Work Plan presentation for 11/15/05 DD Council meeting

Volunteers: Paul Miller, Monica Salgat, Ralph Moore, Diane. Diane and/or Tandy will help prepare presentation with volunteers. This will be done by phone.

5. Planning for December DD Council meeting with Transportation theme: we will have about 2 hours of the meeting. Our theme is Transportation 24/7 in MI. Ideas: Transportation Voucher grantees, mystery rider, and sensitivity training. Land Use, Multicultural outreach to American Indians, New Project. Use Handouts?

6. Other

a. M.R.C./ M.A.R.O. presentation with TWG members Tandy, Kathy, Diane next week. (Renee has volunteered for future public speaking engagements).

b. County Line Issue:

In Traverse City there is a fixed route bus within city limits, and the other counties have Dial-a-Ride, but other counties transit won't work together! There is a transit area authority in Kalkaska and Bay Area. Kalkaska residents need to get outside of county for dr. appointments, jobs, etc. Kalkaska is one of the voucher project sites. Currently in the area they need a drop-off point with shelters due to severe weather, and a shorter wait. There used to be a shelter.

Bay Area Transit Director is Joe De Koenig.

Strategy:

1. Find out who is on the L.A.C. for possible complaint
 2. Find out about the funding source
 3. Gather stories about the needs of residents
 4. Tandy and/or Diane follow-up with Joe De Koenig who is also a member of the Let's Get Moving Coalition
 5. Additional resources: D.H.S./ Medicaid for rides to medical appts. C.M.H. : Person centered plans can include transportation, but must be written down in plan.
- c. Voucher projects are in the following areas: Baraga, Jackson, Antrim-Kalkaska, Shiawassee, Detroit, Muskegon.
- d. Bus Schedules: it is a problem that they are often closed on holidays and other times.
- e. There are free rides available at tourist attractions such as Disney, Las Vegas, California, etc. How is that related to public transit?
- f. O.S.A. is holding a series of statewide meeting, transportation is one of the issues. (Flyer circulated)
- g. Bobbie of B.A.T.A. would like to do a presentation at a future TWG meeting on their transit system. They have various types of transit including in the village, county ride, dial-a-ride, etc. They have some buses running until midnight.