

The



Monday Update

March, 2006

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RICC Diversity Coordinator Training provided by Multicultural Committee

A day of training in community outreach was offered to RICC diversity coordinators in February and 25 coordinators took advantage of the opportunity. The training workshop lasted a day and was sponsored by the DD Council's Multicultural Committee.

Last year, each RICC was asked to appoint a diversity coordinator. Duties of a coordinator include community outreach projects and programs, as well as making certain multicultural outreach is part of the RICC's annual certification work plan.

The Multicultural Committee held the Feb. 1 workshop to help coordinators learn the different elements of outreach to minorities in their respective communities and give them tools with which to work.

The training was led by the Multicultural Committee chairperson, Terrie Hylton. The group also heard from Sophie Baker of the Michigan Department of Civil Rights, and Douglas Chung, president of the Asian Center at Grand Valley State University.

Coordinators also took a self-assessment survey to learn where they stood in terms of recognizing and accepting cultural and racial differences. Also on the agenda were:

the purpose of the Council's Multicultural Committee
role and responsibilities of the diversity coordinator
the demographics of each county – just who lives in your community?

Coordinators took a diversity pledge to set a positive example for their RICCs, speak out against prejudice and discrimination, and work to make the RICCs more diverse.

Training foundations

The foundation of the training was a complete and useful training notebook that coordinators took home with them to help continue their community outreach. Coordinators who were not able to attend were sent the workbook.

The Multicultural Committee intends to follow up during the summer with additional support and training.

Kids with disabilities and the juvenile court system – get at the solutions early

Is it true that kids with disabilities may receive exceptional treatment in the juvenile court systems of this state?

Of course there have been studies on the subject in a variety of ranges. Studies at Northwestern University show, for example, that children with learning disabilities “.....are more likely to develop severe delinquent behaviors than are their non-disabled peers,” and, because of that, wind up more often in juvenile court.

The basic problem, like many others, begins in school. Schools in Michigan are not identifying behavioral problems related to disabilities soon enough. Instead of providing supports, kids with disabilities-related behavioral problems are then expelled from the school system and wind up in another....the juvenile justice system. This can be a very short trip.

Many children with disabilities by this time are on a road of no return; one that may include jail time and may not include a return to school....ever. Once a child with disabilities enters the justice system, it is unlikely he or

she will find any sort of supports or understand among the authorities. By then it may be too late in spite of the fact that the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) entitles eligible youth to special education services in juvenile and adult corrections. How many kids with disabilities in the juvenile court system are able to take advantage of educational services offered by the system?

Also, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires that public entities, including detention facilities and prisons, provide accommodations in programs and services for individuals with disabilities. This includes education programs.

P & A on the job

It is at this point agencies such as the DD Council's sister agency, Michigan Protection & Advocacy Services, enters the picture when the system is sued on behalf of a student who fell through the cracks.

But it's not happening. According to the Clearinghouse on Disabilities and Gifted Education, the number of law suits during the past 20 years in this area suggests that in many states, the court and jail systems have provided poor services for people with disabilities. National studies reported by the clearinghouse show that while almost 90 percent of correctional facilities have programs to help kids and adults with disabilities, only about 75 percent of them have the programs up and running.

According to the U.S. Department of Education, about 10 percent of school-age kids have disabilities. A clearinghouse estimate of the number of children in juvenile justice systems around the country is 33 percent.

Providing useful services to young people in a corrections system means communicating with the kid's school, developing assessment programs that work, and providing good special education and related services.

One irony of this shortfall in the system, like many others that need change, is that it is less costly in terms of dollars to have a school program in place to address behavior, than it is to lock up a person with a disability and have the state pay 100 percent of his or her care, which can be as much as \$500 a day. Working with the school, the child's family, supports agencies, and the community to identify and support kids with disabilities who are at risk costs less and may help the child become a productive member of society rather than a castoff.

For more information on this subject, contact Michigan Protection & Advocacy Services at 1-800-288-5923.

Legislative Reception...very well attended and very well received

The DD Council held its Seventh Annual Legislative Reception on Valentine's Day and it was a hit!

More than 250 people packed the ballroom of Lansing's Radisson Hotel to mix, mingle and exchange ideas with state policymakers. The state's RICCs were well represented, with members coming from as far away as Ontonagon, Houghton, Escanaba, Baraga, Rudyard, and Sault Ste. Marie.

Over 70 legislators or their aides attended. The purpose of the two-hour reception is to give RICCs members an opportunity to meet face-to-face with legislators and discuss issues of interest to both parties. Topics heard at various tables in the ballroom include public transportation, Medicaid and the basic legislative process.

The program included an afternoon session. The reception began at 11 a.m. with the featured speaker, Tim Skubick, telling RICCs members they must become involved in the voting process in their communities if they want to see change. Skubick is the senior capital journalist and hosts the public television program on Michigan politics, "Off The Record."



Senior capitol news correspondent Tim Skubick interviews Phil Lancaster from the Jackson RICC during the annual Legislative Reception.

Skubick also led off the afternoon's Council session by asking RICC members what they learned by talking with their legislators. Also on the agenda were members of the League of Women Voters discussing local election and voting resources. Kyle DuBuc told the RICC members that everyone has the right to register and vote. To learn about accessibility of voting places, voting registration, getting

help in the voting booth on election day, a person should contact their city or township clerk's office.

The reception was organized by a DD Council subcommittee. Members are: Jane Spitzley, Elmer Cerano, Andre Robinson, Jacque Day, Jane Reagan, Pam Hall, Todd Koopmans, and Marsha Moers.

March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month! What's going on?

Just a reminder that March is National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. At the request of the DD Council, Gov. Granholm has designated March as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in Michigan.

The certificate of proclamation, signed by the Governor, reads:

On behalf of the citizens of Michigan, I, Governor Jennifer M. Granholm hereby proclaim March 2006, as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month.

Whereas, Developmental disabilities affect more than 188,000 Michigan children and adults in every county across our state; and,

Whereas, People with developmental disabilities make up nearly two percent of the state's population; and,

Whereas, Every person, regardless of ability, has valuable strengths, infinite capacity to learn, and the potential to make important contributions to their local communities; and,

Whereas, People with developmental disabilities in Michigan share with the state's other ten million residents the right to live life as they choose in their education, jobs, recreation, and homes; and,

Whereas, Families of people with developmental disabilities deserve our admiration and recognition for their caring commitment and ongoing support that are both essential to an independent and productive life; and,

Whereas, Celebrating the abilities and contributions of people with developmental disabilities can only serve to enrich the communities of Michigan and enhance our diversity; and now therefore be it,

Resolved, That I, Jennifer M. Granholm, Governor of the State of Michigan, do hereby proclaim March 2006, as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in Michigan.

Among the activities during the month is an employment awareness night in Owosso. The event takes place Tuesday, March 21 and is sponsored by the Shiawassee RICC and the DD Council. Among the featured speakers

during the evening will be the president of the Shiawassee Regional Chamber of Commerce, who will address employment opportunities in the community. Time is 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at The Arc Shiawassee. Linda Morovitz, RICC chair, has more information at 989-723-7377.

In Muskegon, the Arc is sponsoring its annual “March for the Arc” 5K walk/run on March 25. The event is sponsored by the local newspaper and several other businesses and is in its 11th year. Prizes will be awarded for top run finishers. Proceeds from the event are used for Arc/Muskegon projects and programs. For more, the Arc/Muskegon’s phone number is 231-777-3507.

A number of projects

The Lenawee RICC, in cooperation with Community Connections and Adrian College, will be busy during March with a number of projects to observe this special month. One is a T-shirt design contest put on by the college, for which the RICC will be providing judges. The theme of the contest will be Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month.

Also as part of the celebration, Adrian College will be welcoming Julliette Rizzo, Miss Wheelchair USA on March 21. She will speak at a college symposium. The RICC and Community Connections will provide transportation and assistance for this special guest.

For more on these activities, contact Mark Rupp or Scott Whitehouse at Community Connections, 517-266-8484.

Community Health's annual conference coming up in April

MDCH's 22nd Annual Developmental Disabilities Conference will be held April 26 and 27 at the Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center in East Lansing.

The conference will focus on issues related to health care, social, community, and educational services that are of critical importance to the future of people with developmental disabilities.

Accreditation is available and certificates will be presented. Registration deadline is April 18. For more information, call the Office of Continuing Medical Education at MSU/Kalamazoo Center for Medical Studies at 269-337-4611.

Council committee and work group meeting minutes

Education Work Group

Dec. 6, 2005

Attendance: Glenn Ashley, Carolyn Das, Todd Koopmans, Jane Spitzley, Marta Hampel, Karen Massaro-Mundt, Stefanie Kujaczynski, Mark McWilliams, Cheryl Trommater

Phone: Andre Robinson, Jane Reagan, Lauri Stein

1.) Approval of October 18 Minutes (attached)
Minutes were approved by consensus.

2.) Announcements

The federal Dept. of Education has required (for the first time) that every state office submit state performance targets that meet a long list of criteria. They must be submitted by Dec. 2. The MDE targets are on the web site, 140+ pages long. Three items of interest are the targets for overrepresentation of minorities, LRE, and graduation rates.

Jane will send the announcement, with the link, to Glenn for distribution.

Achieving Everyone Together conferences will be held April 27, 28, and 29, in three sites. The most recent ET newsletter has just been mailed.

- 3.) 2007-2011 State Plan – Tentative decisions on projects to pursue. (see October minutes, and Needs/Gaps Analysis)

Carolyn suggested having a whole meeting around it. January 24, from 1 to 3 pm was selected.

Jane suggested sending comments to Glenn and Karen ahead of time.

Everyone needs to send their top 3 issues to Glenn, which will be used as the starting point for the discussion. Glenn will send out a reminder note.

- 4.) Review of Project Specifications for the “Evaluation of Parent Inclusion Networks” RFP – Cheryl Trommater

The work group made a number of specific suggestions for changes to the project specs. The major changes were to make it more clear that the evaluation needs to make use of data and information that is already being collected by the project.

Cheryl asked that work group members look over the criteria, how they are weighted, and if we have everything we need, and send comments to Cheryl.

- 5.) Education Summit and Universal Education Policy Advocacy

- Report on Core Team meetings, including recommended next steps.

Carolyn presented the report (attached) from the team. It included specific recommendations for the purpose, design, structure of the day, and follow-up.

Carolyn moved to accept the recommendations of the Core Team, including a March 21 date, at the Lansing Community College West Campus location, and the follow-up activities and celebration. Mark seconded, and the motion was approved.

The Governor's Education Summit is March 27.

Jane reminded us to send out copies of the reports.

6.) Updates

- State Board of Education agenda is not posted yet. Consideration of High School standards is expected to be on the agenda. Standards for professional development and teacher training may follow. The ones proposed this past summer included training on differentiating instruction. We need to continue to push for Universal Education to be implemented.
- Detroit Public Schools issues. Another meeting is scheduled on the consolidation of the center-based schools. The local ET network, with MPAS is providing training for parents on inclusion.
- **DD Council letter to MDE re Referent Group report – draft letter is still being prepared.**
- Early Childhood Inclusion information was distributed. They were prepared by the MSU Early Childhood Inclusion Projects. The brochure needed to have the

Everyone Together website listed in the links.

Stefanie is now attending the work group, representing the Early Childhood office at MDE.

- Accessible Meetings. At the last DD Council meeting, the chairperson appointed a committee to develop guidelines for making meetings more accessible. The committee is meeting this afternoon. The workgroup expressed its appreciation to Todd for appointing the committee.

7.) Next regular meeting – January 17, 2006

A special meeting will be held on January 24, from 1 to 3 pm, to consider plan recommendations for the DD Council 2007-2011 state plan.

Supplemental Notes from the meeting.

Suggestions for changes to the project specs for "Evaluation of Parent Inclusion Networks."

Changes in Activities section

B1. Add - based primarily on the outcomes, indicators, and data collected so far.

B2. Expand - Analyze the effectiveness of creating a set of networks and providing TA, compared to other approaches to getting school inclusion as the norm.

B6 should be earlier, even in B1?

- B5. add – state level ET project coordinators. The evaluation needs to get the information and assessment of the project coordinators, in terms of what has been effective, what has led to system change, and increase in student inclusion.
- B5. also add state level education personnel. Interview protocols could be more with B1.
- B7. The question of existing data needs more exploration.
- E. Reports need to identify unsuccessful strategies also.

Eligible applicants

Experience in looking at social justice issues and system change over the long term.

Understanding of disability culture/issues in context of social systems.

A4. change last word from “coalitions” to “networks”.

Accessible meeting issues

- Not just accommodations for distribution of information, but also for people to participate and provide feedback to the council.
- It is important to be truly responsive and empowering for people, not just meeting the requirements of the ADA.

- Some people have never been accommodated, so they don't know what to ask for. We need to be proactive, not just responding to requests.

Family Support Work Group

Jan. 18, 2006

Members Present: Audrey Craft, Laura Mahank, Lori Goike, Jackie Igafo-Te'o,Carolynne Allston-Smith, Pam Sinnott, Tracy Vincent

Guests: Pam Hall, Terrie Hylton, Mitzi Allen

Welcome and introductions were done.

Audrey Craft motioned to approve the September 21, 2005 minutes. Jackie Igafo-Te'o seconded. Motion approved.

Announcements/Legislative Updates

- Wiener Associates Year-End Legislative Report 2005 was distributed to members
- Reinventing Rehabilitation in a Diverse World: Achieving Professional Excellence National Training Conference July 19-23, 2006. They are looking for proposals and presenters for this conference.
- MI Respite Coalition is seeking new members. The next meeting is February 17 from 10:00am – 2:00pm at the Okemos Senior Center. Please contact Pam Sinnott at psinnott@comlivserv.com.

- ASD Workgroup Update: Jackie distributed a draft copy of Child Welfare Practice Classification System. They are establishing categories of acceptable practices. Their next subcommittee meeting is January 23, 2006, and at that meeting they will produce a spreadsheet of examples of what meets the category criteria and why it meets/does not meet the criteria.

Discuss Seniors Raising Children/Grandchildren with Disabilities

Pam Hall, Terrie Hylton and Mitzi Allen from the Multicultural Committee joined the meeting to discuss the issue of seniors raising children/grandchildren with disabilities and how this issue may turn into a project idea.

If something happened to the parent/guardian of a child with a disability, what happens to that child? Pam brought in a book called *Moving on without parents: (planning, transitions, and sources of support for middle-aged and older adults with intellectual disability)* by Christine Bigby. The book explains why it is important to plan for the future. Some questions the book addresses are: Do parents plan for the future of their middle-aged child with intellectual disability who has remained living at home with them? What is the nature of their plans? Are plans implemented? What is the effect of plans in the short and longer term?

It is important that families know how to plan for the future. Where can they go for help? What services/supports are available in their community? This is a huge need and affects all cultures. Ideas that come out of the discussion follow:

- Problem solving for families/referral systems/workshops/presentations
- Target 55+ years
- Focus on 4-5 regional meetings across the State
Provide toolkit/resources (various languages)
- Awareness/education on planning for the future for parents/grandparents
- Track people that attended the meetings throughout the year to see how they are doing. Contact every six months for one year follow-up.
- Outreach to all cultures
- Target to families that have a child/adult with a disability in the family
- Food specific to various cultures
- Transportation/stipends/gifts provided

Something similar was done years ago called Family Support Minority Outreach Project. The FSWG will look into this to see if it is something that we want to build from.

Next meeting: February 15 from 10:00am – 1:00pm.

Health Issues Work Group

Dec. 8, 2005

Members present: Theresa Arini, Karen Massaro-Mundt and Kathy McGeathy

Staff present: Terry Hunt

Guests present : Linda Potter, Ed Glazer and Bonnie Sumbler

Members discussed current footage and felt some individuals should be considered for our next taping, but they need to be recorded again and supported in a different way to tell their story. Linda suggested we:

- have an array of broad Medicaid service areas reflected in the people we use.
- distribute our product in collaboration with the medical community, e.g. doctors, hospitals, etc.
- use media to jump start awareness of our efforts, perhaps we could piggy-back on an existing “month” or other initiative. Any press conference needs to be handled by a grantee to expedite the process.

Members discussed whether we use open or closed captioning and decided to use closed captioning. The cost for this is not part of the current proposal so Message Maker will submit a revised proposal to cover cost for closed captioning plus transcription of the raw footage which will be used in the final product and for closed captioning.

Members suggested that involvement with the DD Council and its RICC network be included in this project’s

products, such as listing in the credits and /or on paper such as a flyer.

Members discussed other potential financial partners: Medicaid, the Parent Participation Project, Medicaid infrastructure grant.

DDC will handle cost of distribution and grantee will develop promotional material to be included with the distribution.

Message Makers will need a digital file of all contributors logo.

Next steps:

- Terry will follow up with Mary Marin, Paul Reinhart and Mike Head regarding potential financial partnership.
- Linda will review information discussed today and determine cost for UCP's involvement.
- Terry will work with Vendella regarding purchase order details and signature on the Message Maker contract.
- Terry will work with Linda to get word out to network regarding persons needed for video.
- Message Makers will develop and submit a revised proposal.

Housing Work Group

Jan. 9, 2006

Attendees:

Andrea Faes, Rep. Wenke's aide,
Erin Clark, Sandy Lewis, MACIL lobbyists,
Sue Hart, MACIL Housing Visitability Chairperson,
Paul Ecklund, Disability Resource Center, Chris
Sherburn, builder,
Darryl Domke, Michigan Homeownership Coalition,
Frank Lynn, Disability Advocates of Kent County,
Glenn Ashley, Michigan Developmental Disabilities
Council,
Sue Eby, Michigan Department of Community Health,
Aimee Sterk, Michigan Disability Rights Coalition,
Diane Bright, Access Answers, Al Walker, Disability
Connections,

Susan Fitzmaurice and Gary Filiak, Dearborn Commission
on Disability Concerns,

Connie Hinton, Community Connections, Greg Lam,
Lakeshore CIL

A. Advantages of Visitability

- In addition to those identified previously from sources such as Concrete Change, other advantages to the building industry were identified.
- Cost effectiveness of visitability, market should demand it
- Ability to offer options and bring in more revenue
- Need to collect other information about the advantages.

B. Information about the Inclusive Home Design Act, HB 4138

- HB 4138 has been introduced. It is in the Local Government and Urban Policy Committee. Representative Stakoe is chair of Committee. Andrea Faes is working on contacting him to get a hearing and the possibility of moving the bill out of the committee.
- Potential allies and supporters of visitability were identified.
- February 14, 2006 is the RICC legislative reception in Lansing at the Radisson Hotel where RICC members could possibly discuss the legislation with their representatives.
- Fewer legislative session dates this year because it is an election year and everybody is up for election

C. 2006 Michigan Affordable Housing Conference:

- Two presentations by us: Sue - visitability and Daryl - universal design
- Conference is a chance to educate about HB 4138, universal design, and visitability
- Unanimous vote by group to request that the DD Council use Housing Work Group funds for an exhibit at the Conference, which costs \$500.00
- Sue Eby discussed scholarship availability for attending and said that each organization can only have 2 scholarships
- The group came up with a title for the workshop on visitability which is: Inclusive Home Design Act (IHDA): What's in it for you?

D. Action steps:

- Sue will e-mail notes of meeting to MACIL Housing group
- Glenn will e-mail notes of meeting to DD Council Housing WG.
- Sue and Paul will discuss using Get Active software with MACIL and MDRC
- Diane Bright will send info. on cost effectiveness of visitability and market demand.
- Susan Fitzmaurice will e-mail letter from Council of Mayors supporting visitability.
- People are encouraged to send information on the advantages of visitability to Sue Hart.

E. Date for next meeting/teleconference:

- Tuesday, January 10, Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council meeting, with program on Housing, at the Hannah Community Center in East Lansing.
- Thursday, February 9th at 1:00 PM is next scheduled MACIL Housing teleconference.
- Meeting on DD Council Housing recommendations for the Council's 5 year state plan – to be determined.
- Meeting of disability advocates at the Housing Conference.

Multicultural Committee

Jan. 9, 2006

Present:

Pam Hall; Pat McSherry; Terrie Hylton; Mitzi Allen; Mae Golden; Douglas Chung (phone); Maria Cebreco (phone); Laurie White (phone); Rhonda Ciereman (phone); Sandy Kotecki (phone); Jacqui Day; Sophie Baker; and Rick Van Horn.

Call to Order by Chairperson Hylton.

December, 2005's meeting minutes were not available for review.

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

Introductions:

Welcome to newcomers White, Ciereman, Kotecki and Day.

Old Business:

The Committee discussed the RICC Diversity Coordinator Workshop on Feb. 1, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Hylton produced a draft of the 75-page training manual and provided members with its

- table of contents (tentative agenda)
- introduction
- Diversity Outreach Contact Person Job Description

The packet will also include Council info sheets and a survey (use the one from General Motors), and census info on respective counties and major towns within along with a map, resources on outreach strategies, identification of groups, a diversity pledge, a list of other coordinators, preparing the annual RICC certification work plan, "Successful Approaches for Building Cultural Competence in Human Service and Advocacy Organizations," by Sharonlyn Harrison, a definition of outreach.

Hylton would like to have a second diversity coordinator meeting during 2006. This was the first year that RICCs must name a diversity coordinator, along with a transportation liaison. There is no time limit on the term of a RICC chair.

Other suggestions for the training packet might include: establishment of a calendar of events; the original instructions for appointing a diversity coordinator that was sent to RICCs in their certification packets. In some cases,

people appointed as diversity coordinator still are not aware of that development. McSherry, diversity coordinator for the Eaton RICC, has been to only one RICC meeting.

Hylton presented a workshop agenda:

- Continental breakfast
- Introductions
- Workshop covering roles and responsibilities and discussion of what is the - Council-RICC relationship; position on inclusion; what is the Committee. These will be presented by a member of the Committee
- GM's self-assessment survey
- Outreach strategies
- Lunch
- Prepare for annual certification
- Review demographics and census
- Discuss several identified groups (Asians, Arabs, etc.), a baseline of broad information. Chung will speak to Asian populations, Hall on religion, Golden on GLBT, and White on European.
- Community resources - churches, cultural centers, etc.
- Diversity pledge

Next steps and the next gathering (July?) and what can we do for you

Some RICCs already have a history of outreach, such as dinners and other programs. The difference now is that the Council has a set of expectations for community outreach to minorities. We must remember that all RICC members

are volunteers. Coordinators will report to the Committee on the year's outreach activities.

Hylton suggested that, ideally, coordinators are the diversity consciencness of their particular RICC, and the outreach person, cheerleader for inclusion, and public relations and publications person. A coordinator job description will be included in the packet.

Committee's Work Plan. Work proceeds as scheduled.

Legislative Reception and Council meeting on Feb. 14.

Angie Zamora provided the first in a series of diversity-related articles – Diversity Focus - that will be mailed with each Council meeting notice. The topic of each article will correspond with the main theme of the particular Council meeting whose notice will contain the article itself.

Zamora's article was on the Fair Housing Act and it was mailed to Council members along with the notice of the January meeting. Main topic for the January Council meeting was housing.

Other article contributors include Hylton, Hall and Allen.

New Business

Members of the Committee will attend a Jan. 18 (12:30) meeting of the Council's Family Support Work Group to discuss the Committee/work group

joint project on grandparents raising grandchildren.

Allen said the Council is seeking a potential new member who is Arab-American.

Adjourn

Program Committee

Jan. 10, 2006

Present: Theresa Arini (phone), Barbara Leroy,
Melissa Anderson

Staff: Glenn Ashley, Cheryl Trommater,
Tracy Vincent

Guest: Tammy Finn

Issue: Welcome, Introductions.

Action: N.A.

Issue: Housekeeping: Minutes of the December 13, 2005 meeting.

Action: The committee approved the December 13 minutes by consensus.

Issue: RFP Program Specifications

Action: Informed Communities: Members' proposed changes were made in the document.

Action: "Speak Out" Replication

Members' Proposed changes were made in the document. The major changes were to add language to assure that people with the highest support needs, including people with cognitive disabilities are served by the project.

Action: Revised timelines for RICC mini-grants. Glenn suggested changing proposal due dates from Monday to Tuesday (Proposal due to RICC: April 4 and Proposal due to Council: April 18). Allows people to work on their proposal to finish over the weekend then make copies and send them out when they return to the office.

Issue: 5-Year Cycle For Reviewing the Grants Program

Action: This item was included on the agenda by mistake.

Issue: Grantee Presentation: Michigan Partners for Freedom (MPF)

Action: Tammy Finn reported on the activities of this grant project. She is doing a PowerPoint presentation at the Self Determination Leadership meeting through DCH today. Currently, they have three community trainings scheduled and are still developing training materials. The communities include Genesee County, Benzie County, and

Mason/Lake/Oceana Counties. These three six-hour trainings will be implemented by the end of March. The goal this year is to identify 8-10 communities in Michigan where they can do training and consultation to create demand for Self Determination and offer technical assistance to families, organizations, consumers, etc. The project will help people to understand the tools of Self Determination and what that can mean in their lives. Michigan Partners for Freedom meets monthly.

Program Committee members suggested contacting RICCs to sponsor and help coordinate the trainings. Possibly set up a presentation to the RICCs so they can get involved. Possibly put it on the agenda for a Council meeting. The goal of the project is to keep linking communities and provide a number they can call to coordinate getting information to families. MPF also identifies a couple local champions in each community and provides them with a train-the-trainer program. They are developing a proposal to submit for a new funding source.

- Issue:** Recruit Diverse Committee Membership
- Review draft letter to RICC leaders
 - Discuss other areas of recruitment

Action: The letter will be sent to RICC leadership. Members said the letter is clear. Another letter is going to be drafted by Theresa Arini to other advocacy groups so that people with developmental disabilities will be reached directly.

Issue: Updates - RFPs

Action: The RFP for Evaluation of *Everyone Together* is posted on the Council's web site. The RFP calendar will be on the DD Council website soon

Issue: Adjourn

Action: Meeting was adjourned at 10:30

Transportation Work Group

Jan. 12, 2006

PRESENT: Katrina Maxell, Dave Links, Katherine Janego, Doug Anderson, Tandy Bidinger, Diane Kempen, Pam Hall, Karen Webster

VIA PHONE: Mae Golden, Gordon Siwula, Chris Hedgren, Charlene Lizotte, Tiffany McIntier

Legislative Updates:

Discussed federal issues and funding as relates to transportation. Discussion centered on cuts in Medicaid and other programs and the disconnect in

that when legislators are talking about programs like Medicaid, senior health issues and education they need to be reminded that they are talking about transportation because without transportation there are no health programs. If people can't get to the doctor, well . . .

On the state level discussion centered on the 2/14 legislative reception, status of MDOT and the effect of the funding cuts and staff cutbacks. We want to invite the federal and the state legislators to the 2/14 event. Senators Levin and Stabenow usually send their staff.

Specifically, since Sen. Johnson (R-Troy) chairs the Senate Transportation Appropriations Committee we asked Karen Webster from the SW region of the state to be sure that she's invited to the reception. Additionally, we discussed sending a separate letter to Sen. Johnson asking her to attend.

Additionally, we want freshman representatives Marie Donigan (D-Royal Oak) and Rep. Jerry Kooiman (R-Grand Rapids) to get a personal invitation to the reception. Rep. Donigan and Rep. Kooiman formed the legislative Transportation Caucus in October.

12/13 Council Presentation Review

We debriefed on our presentation to the Council on 12/13. Some negative comments were received that handouts were lacking. A conscious decision was made to minimize handouts and to use an open forum/discussion format. We measure our success in consumer response to the issues discussed. We think we did well.

Success Stories

Pam Hall shared that UCP has completed a study for Services to the Aging looking at gaps in service. Questions centered on "what is a gap?"

Ontonagon shared that Connie Juopperi, who had applied to serve on the Ontran LAC and was originally denied a chance to serve is now on the LAC and her first meeting with the group is next month. We look forward to Connie's report on that meeting.

Pam Hall reported that among the ten resolutions submitted to the president from the White House Conference on Aging, transportation was listed.

Rita Wall from Caro (Tuscola site) is on the Somebody Express LAC and will report on her first meeting at our next TWG meeting.

Flint (Mae Golden) reported that the Flint Journal has been running articles on the transit system.

RICC Issues/Updates

New information is not available about the LaPeer issue. Discussion centered on door-to-door service versus curb-to-curb service. The Federal Transportation Association has changed it's wording to "Origin to destination."

Public Policy Committee

Jan. 10, 2006

Members Present

Marsha Moers, Rick Van Horn, Jane Spitzley, Terry Hunt, Jacqui Day, Dee Florence, Tandy Bidinger, Pam Hall, Todd Koopmans, Marsha DeWild

Co-Chair Jane Spitzley called the meeting to order at 8:45 am.

Motion by Pam Hall to approve minutes, Marsha Moers seconded

Rick Van Horn announced that he is still looking for interested parties to join the Scholarship & Awards Committee.

Jacqui Day's "personal story" was discussed. Pam Hall informed the Committee that individuals are eligible for 3 medical holds per year to keep utilities from being shut off. Individuals need to contact the Michigan Public Service Commission as well as their power companies to make sure the necessary paperwork is in place. Pam further suggested that individuals contact their power companies as soon as they realize they will have a problem paying their bill. Try to work something out with the power company but if you are unable to resolve this you may contact Pam Hall for assistance. Pam will be forwarding a fact sheet to Tandy that will then go out to all the RICCs.

Legislative Updates Michigan

See Healthy Smiles – on ARC website

Governor Granholm has called a special election to fill Virg Benero's Senate seat. If you are in Senate District 23, make sure you vote in the primary on February 21, 2006. And of course, make sure you turn out to vote on the special Election Day of March 14, 2006.

Federal

Supreme Court Appointment

Samuel Alito's Supreme Court confirmation hearings are going to be a hotly contested battle. This appointment is extremely important because it will be replacing Sandra Day O'Connor, who was often the swing vote on many Supreme Court decisions. Samuel Alito has been an Appeals Court judge for many years so each decision/ruling he has made is being examined. Pam Hall suggested that the Committee send a letter to Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow expressing our concern over Judge Alito's past court decisions. Marsha Moers also encouraged individuals to make calls themselves.

Federal Budget

The House and Senate have passed different versions of the federal budget. Now the budget will go to Committee, in late January when Congress reconvenes, in order for a compromise version to be worked out. This gives us all an opportunity to contact our Legislators and express our distaste for all the cuts in the budget to the social programs that benefit individuals with poverty and disabilities.

Legislative Event

- There will be a DD Council meeting following the Legislative Reception, please plan on attending.
- Tim Skubik will be the guest speaker. He will be speaking at both the reception and the DD Council meeting.
- All RICC and DD Council members may attend.
- Due to the growing number of individuals attending only work group leaders are allowed to attend (unless they are also Council/RICC members).
- PPC members will wear red, white, and blue so that they stand out in the group, and to fit with our patriotic theme.
- Keep focus on political process.
- Basic concept of the Event is this is the beginning of a campaign
- Make legislators come to us and sell themselves
- Talking points being completed
- Cover letter will stress that this is the beginning of a campaign and work begins 2/14 and lasts all election year.
- Buttons are being created stressing that "our votes count".
- Follow up - schedule monthly meeting with legislators, Mayors, etc.

Education Update

Things are moving ahead with the Summit.

Informed Communities Specifications for RFP
It is almost ready to go. This will be your last opportunity to comment. We have received comments that it is not clear enough, not specific enough. It is being revised to clarify that this project is "statewide".

Suggestions for future meeting Agendas

- Invite MRS to meeting to discuss concerns, re: employment services
- Follow-up on Legislative Event
- Invite Sheila Semler to April meeting to discuss "dental issue"
- Create calendar of legislative advocacy activities

Next Meeting

March 14, 2006, at 8:30 am at the Hannah Community Center.