

The



Monday Update

August, 2006

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Governor issues executive order; appoints 21 Council members

The DD Council is operating under a new Executive Order signed by Gov. Jennifer Granholm. Executive Order 2006-12 was signed on Friday, July 21. It replaces the previous Executive Order signed by Gov. James Blanchard.

The Executive Order may be viewed on the state's web site:

If you would like a hard copy, please contact the Council office, 517-334-6123.

The same day - July 21- Gov. Granholm appointed 21 Michigan residents as members of the DD Council. Thirteen of the appointees are new to the Council, while eight are returning members.

The new members are:

Melissa Anderson – Ann Arbor
Jacqueline Day – Lansing
Caryn Pack Ivey – Detroit
Sandra Koski – Pinckney
Randy L. Krause – Barbeau
Robert Lewakowski – Grand Rapids
Patricia Luker – Royal Oak
James McGaugh – Lansing
Paul Palmer – Lansing
Robin Sefton – Ann Arbor
J. Betty Walton – Sawyer
Judith Webb – East Lansing
Duncan O. Wyeth – Holt

Those returning as Council members are:

Theresa Arini – Warren
Elmer Cerano – White Lake
Vera Graham – Midland
Pam Hall – Lansing
Todd Koopmans – Fremont
Barbara LeRoy – Ann Arbor
Jane Reagan – Williamston
Andre Robinson – Detroit

Congratulations on your appointment!

Michigan Civil Rights Initiative headlines November election ballot proposals

Now that the August Michigan primary election is history (did you vote?), we can focus on the Nov. 7 general election.

In addition to all the candidates on the November ballot, there will be some proposals that will require a “yes” or “no” vote. It is a good idea to study these proposals before voting...some of them can be confusing. Monday Update will take a look at several of them before the election. This month is a look at Proposal 06-2.

So far, five proposals may be on the ballot. “May,” because lawsuits and other legal objections can take a proposal off the ballot. The five proposals that may be on the November ballot are:

06-1 – House Joint Resolution Z

06-2 – Michigan Civil Rights Initiative Petition

06-3 – Dove Hunting Referendum

06-4 – Senate Joint Resolution E

06-4 – Educational Funding Guarantee

Proposal 06-2, the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative Petition, is one that could possibly be taken off the ballot – there are lawsuits out there that would do just that if they are successful.

Different words on the ballot

One of the problems, some say, with 06-2 is that the words that are on the ballot are different than the language that will go into the state constitution if the initiative passes. See for yourself. Here is what will be on the ballot:

A PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE STATE CONSTITUTION TO BAN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION PROGRAMS THAT GIVE PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT TO GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS BASED ON THEIR RACE, GENDER, COLOR, ETHNICITY OR NATIONAL ORIGIN FOR PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION OR CONTRACTING PURPOSES.

The language that will go into the Michigan Constitution if the initiative passes is very different. Here is the language that, if the proposal appears on the ballot and passes, that will go in the Constitution:

ARTICLE I, SECTION 26:

Civil Rights.

(1) The University of Michigan, Michigan State University, Wayne State University, and any other public college or university, community college, or school district shall not discriminate against, or grant preferential treatment to, any individual or group on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin in the

operation of public employment, public education, or public contracting.

(2) The state shall not discriminate against, or grant preferential treatment to, any individual or group on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin in the operation of public employment, public education, or public contracting.

(3) For the purposes of this section "state" includes, but is not necessarily limited to, the state itself, any city, county, any public college, university, or community college, school district, or other political subdivision or governmental instrumentality of or within the State of Michigan not included in sub-section 1.

(4) This section does not prohibit action that must be taken to establish or maintain eligibility for any federal program, if ineligibility would result in a loss of federal funds to the state.

(5) Nothing in this section shall be interpreted as prohibiting bona fide qualifications based on sex that are reasonably necessary to the normal operation of public employment, public education, or public contracting.

(6) The remedies available for violations of this section shall be the same, regardless of the injured party's race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin, as are otherwise available for violations of Michigan anti-discrimination law.

(7) This section shall be self-executing. If any part or parts of this section are found to be in conflict with the United States Constitution or federal law, the section shall be implemented to the maximum extent that the United States Constitution and federal law permit. Any provision held invalid shall be severable from the remaining portions of this section.

(8) This section applies only to action taken after the effective date of this section.

(9) This section does not invalidate any court order or consent decree that is in force as of the effective date of this section.

As you can see, this is quite different than the words that will appear on the November ballot. Some people feel this difference can be deceiving.

The proposal was placed on the ballot after enough Michigan voters signed petition sheets. Some people say the petitions were worded in such a way to deceive signers into thinking the initiative was something else. The initiative was challenged in court but the court said it could stay. There are still legal challenges to placement on the ballot.

Started with a lawsuit

The petition was created by the Michigan Civil Right Initiative (MCRI) from Lansing. It was started by Jennifer Gratz from Southgate based on her experiences in applying for college. In 1995, her application to the University of Michigan was turned down. She said it was because the university had a two-track admissions system that gave preference to an applicant based partly on his or her race. Gratz sued the university and the case went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The court agreed with Gratz and struck down the racial preference programs at the university's college of literature, science and arts. Gratz decided to continue changing the preference system for public institutions in Michigan and launched

the campaign to get the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative on the ballot.

There is a lot of opposition to the proposal. Among those opposing it are minority groups such as the NAACP, the Jewish Community Council of Metro Detroit, and the Arab American Anti-Discrimination Committee.

Also opposing the petition is the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). They say the initiative's "broad language will make vulnerable any state-funded program with regard to race, gender, color, ethnicity or national origin as criteria." The ACLU says the initiative is being funded by a "secret group of California millionaires and conservative foundations." The ACLU states that similar initiatives were passed by voters in California and Washington.

Who will be most impacted by the MCRI? The ACLU says, "Women, people of color and minority communities, immigrants, working class citizens....public universities, Michigan businesses."

Would proposition outlaw discrimination?

Under the proposition, if Michigan voters pass it, a potential employer or public school admissions official, for example, cannot discriminate against an applicant. But neither can he or she show any special preference for an applicant just because that applicant happens to be a member of a minority group.

It is not difficult to make the leap from race or gender to disability. Where an employer previously might have valued a job applicant for his or her disability, under Proposal 06-2 the employer must

ignore the disability value when considering the applicant. The proposal may be a big step backward for affirmative action.

The Michigan Civil Right Initiative website says the proposition would only apply to “public education, employment and contracting.” The site says the proposition has been successful in both California and Washington. “Both states have adopted similar initiatives, eliminating preferences based on race, gender, ethnicity, skin color and national origin, and have been successful for almost ten years.”

MCRI says the initiative would not eliminate affirmative action. “Affirmative action (in terms of outreach programs to under-represented groups),” states the MCRI web site, “would be permitted for such classifications as, for instance, “inner city schools” or “rural schools” or other measures of socio-economic disadvantage. What would be prohibited under the MCRI proposal is applying different standards to individuals or groups based on the intrinsic characteristics of race, sex, color, ethnicity or national origin.”

A group of individuals and organizations opposed to MCRI is One United Michigan. This group includes members of Michigan trade unions, such as the United Auto Workers and the AFL-CIO. The NAACP, Michigan Education Association and the National Women’s Political Caucus are among One United Michigan’s membership.

End of outreach programs?

One United Michigan says, among other things, if affirmative action is eliminated in Michigan through passage of Proposition 06-2:

- Outreach programs that encourage minorities and women to enter fields such as police, fire fighting, and engineering or to attend college will be ended;
- No affirmative action goals for contracting or hiring in stand and local governments, and fewer opportunities for minority and women-owned firms to compete with big business; and
- Gender- and minority-based representation on boards and commissions, including advisory boards dealing with corrections, education and public health, will end.

MCRI says that is just not true and, if anything, prohibiting preferential treatment through a state constitutional amendment improves minorities' and women's chances to compete in hiring, education and business opportunities.

The proposition is opposed by the Michigan Nonprofit Association (MNA). On its web site, MNA says non-profit programs that might suffer if the initiative passes are:

- apprenticeship programs;
- fair housing and lending programs;
- support service programs;
- workforce development programs; and
- pre-college and education programs

Another, very vocal opponent of the proposal is By Any Means Necessary (BAMN). They have made their opposition clearly

known. BAMN members were loudly present at two meetings of the Michigan Board of Canvassers when that group was considering the signed petitions to put the proposal on the November ballot.

Objections from BAMN

BAMN went to court to stop the proposal. They were turned down and appealed to the Michigan Supreme Court, which denied BAMN's appeal. The MCRI group celebrated this victory by saying, "In denying the appeal from the radical group By Any Means Necessary, the Michigan Supreme Court has sided with the rule of law over charged political rhetoric. MCRI and the more than 500,000 citizens who signed petitions to qualify MCRI for the ballot, have known for a long time that BAMN's allegations were nothing more than baseless delaying tactics designed to thwart the people's right to petition their government and decide whether to end the use of race and gender special preferences for public education, government employment and state contracting."



BAMN's case was scheduled to have a hearing in Federal District Court on Aug. 17 in Detroit. BAMN's hope was to have an injunction issued to prevent MCRI from going on the ballot. BAMN says on its web site:

"The plaintiffs, who include many prominent elected political leaders of the state and who speak for Michigan's black communities in this case, cite the MCRI's gross violations of the Voting Rights Act, which were a made matter of public record by the Michigan Civil Rights Commission after its six-month investigation into MCRI's racially-targeted voter fraud.

“The plaintiffs argue that the United States Supreme Court emphasized that the Act was an ‘all-inclusive’ ban of any discriminatory practice, however ‘subtle’ that ‘might effectively be employed to deny citizens their right to vote.’”

You can see this is an important topic and deserves your careful consideration before you cast your ballot on Nov. 7.

More election news and views

The recent August primary was history-making. It was the first election in which the new AutoMARK voting machine was available for people who otherwise might have problems casting a ballot.

According to the Secretary of State’s web site:

“For the first time in Michigan history, voters with disabilities could vote at the polls without assistance and in private thanks to new ballot-marking equipment. The AutoMARK equipment acts like an electronic pen for voters with disabilities and was in place at more than 4,200 polling places.



“Ballots were cast with the help of a Braille keypad, foot pedal, magnification and contrast features on the screen, headphones with an audio function and a wand or personal sip/puff tube. Completed ballots were scanned and stored with all other ballots.”

The primary election was seen as an excellent trial run for the new machines because of the small turnout of voters – just 18 percent. This gave election

officials a chance to become familiar with the machines and the needs of voters with disabilities who used them.

If the thought of difficulty voting has kept you away from the polls, you might want to give it a try on Nov. 7. Make certain you register at least 30 days before the election – call your city or township clerk for help – and get out and vote, and try out the AutoMARK machine.

Mason County RICC leader honored with Marrison award

Darrell Myers of Ludington, co-chair of the Mason County Regional Interagency Consumer Committee (RICC), was honored recently for his leadership as a self-advocate and his community work.



Myers was presented with the 2006 Mike Marrison Award during a June meeting of the Western Michigan Community Mental Health Services Board. Marrison, of Ludington, was a former RICC co-chair and advocate for self-determination who died in a traffic accident in 2004. His parents, June and Leland Marrison (left, with Myers), established the award.

Mary Reilly nominated Myers. As quoted in the June 30, 2006 Ludington Daily News, Reilly said

“(Myers) has really taken a leadership role within the Mason County RICC in the last two years.

“Darrell organizes speakers for the RICC and frequently writes to legislators about issues that are pertinent to the RICC or are of personal interest to him. Darrell has attended legislative luncheons in Lansing to meet with lawmakers and discuss matters of local importance. He prepares for the meetings and is ready to meet legislators with challenging questions.”

Reilly also cited Myers’ work in a food distribution program and his community outreach. Equally important, he has become a role model for others and a RICC leader.

Weather cooperates for Council meeting/family gathering

The weather cooperated nicely on July 11 for the Council’s third annual meeting and family gathering...the showers held off until most participants had left. Our Community Includes Everyone was the theme of the meeting hosted by the Council’s Family Support Work Group.



Nearly 200 self-advocates and family members attended the Council’s meeting in the Hawk Island pavilion. They also were able to meet with more than 20 vendors and learn

about services and supports to people with disabilities and their families. The work group organized a variety of activities for kids of all ages. Also on hand to welcome visitors was a fire truck, courtesy of the Lansing Fire Department. The day featured a picnic-style noon meal, complete with burgers, hot dogs and all the trimmings.



Council members and friends also paid tribute to Bud Kraft, Council deputy director, who retired earlier this year. He received a cake and was recognized for his years of advocacy on behalf of people with disabilities.

Council committee and work group meeting minutes

Education Work Group Minutes

June 28, 2006

Attendance: Jane Spitzley, Glenn Ashley, Lauri Stein, Mark McWilliams, Karen Massaro-Mundt, Ros Kirk

Phone: Barbara LeRoy, Jane Reagan

- 1.) Jane S moved to approve the May 24, 2006 minutes. Mark seconded, and the motion carried.
- 2.) Education Summit and Universal Education Policy Advocacy
- Planning for October 12 summit

Carolyn Das has resigned as the Project Manager, and we will need to decide how we move forward with this change in circumstances.

Mark, Karen and Glenn met and brought the recommendation to proceed with an October 12 date for the Summit only if the following are in place by July 15:

- An event organizer.

- An overall facilitator for the work of the Results Teams.

- A lead person for preparing the briefing book.

- The invitee list finalized and invitations ready to be printed.

- A critical mass of Results Team leaders and content area experts.

We have a person in mind for the Organizer, who is experienced and interested.

Mark agreed to be responsible for getting together the briefing book.

We need to know which, if any, of the team leaders and content area experts have been contacted or have agreed to serve.

Lauri moved to postpone the Summit until next spring. Jane R seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Get organizer on board, meet with the workgroup next month, bring a core planning team together, review the design, and plan the steps in detail.

3.) Update on DD Council 2007-2011 plan.

A public hearing will be held tomorrow.

The Education Work Group recommendation for “Minority Family Support to Improve Educational Outcomes” was approved by the Council Executive Committee. It is in the plan.

4.) Review progress on 2005-2006 workplan.

The work group has met and exceeded most of the outcomes.
ATTACHED.

The date done column was completed.

The first item that comes up on the MDE website when searching on UE is the DD Council brochure.

Jane R will invite Nancy Peeler or someone else from MDE to meet with us at the September 27 meeting, about how the Natural Environment part of Early On Redesign is related to Universal Education.

5.) Updates

- Early Childhood Inclusion Project

Ros Kirk made a presentation about the MSU project plans for a conference that has a number of parallels with the Summit, and the suggestion that we coordinate our efforts.

They are also sending a proposal to the ECIC.

- State Board of Education

Seclusion and restraint policy is not on the agenda in the foreseeable future.

- Announcements

Marta Hampel sends her greetings and goodbyes, as she is moving back to Cincinnati soon.

6.) Next meeting date – Wednesday, July 26. At the DD Council office.

Family Support Work Group

June 21, 2006

Members Present: Lori Goike, Laura Mahank, Arlene Ferguson, Tracy Vincent

Welcome and introductions were done.

Lori motioned to approve the May minutes, Laura seconded.
Motion approved.

Announcements

- The recruitment letter was mailed to all of the organizations suggested by members. Arlene will distribute the letter to her network and Tracy will send the letter to ISDs in the fall to distribute to parents. It was also suggested to send the letter to special needs camps.
- Tracy attended the "Celebration of Cultures" event that was put on by the Vistas Nuevas Head Start. The goal of the celebration is to help children and families understand and appreciate all people, all cultures and all traditions. They expected 1500 in attendance. Tracy brought back several handouts to share with members.
- Senator Martha Scott is holding the annual health fair September 23rd at People's Community Services, 8625 Joseph Campau Street, Hamtramck. The theme this year is "Get the Lead Out-Identifying and Preventing Childhood Lead Poisoning."

Projects

- The Family and Supports Coordinator Meetings RFP is in the process of being re-worked. This RFP will have a project startup date of January 1.
- The Families and Individuals Planning their Futures proposed project will be funded by the Council.

Plan for 2006 Family Gathering

Last minute preparations were made. The agenda was finalized and duties were assigned for the day. Vendors have been

confirmed and each will give a 3-5 minute presentation on their organization during the council meeting portion.

Lori is coming July 5 to help stuff goody bags for the children and help wrap the prizes.

Next meeting: July 19, 2006 from 10:00am – 1:00pm at the DD Council office.

Multicultural Committee Meeting Minutes

June 12, 2006

Present:

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

Call to Order: by Chairperson Hylton at 1:10 p.m.

May, 2006's meeting minutes reviewed and approved.

This month's agenda reviewed and approved.

Introductions

Old Business:

A. Outreach Definition/description - What exactly is outreach and how can it be better defined, Hylton asked. Sharp read from a paper describing the Council's concepts on outreach.... "a way of conducting business to ensure that unserved and underserved

individuals and groups are made aware of, understand and have a working knowledge of, programs and services.” The paper will be distributed to the Committee’s mail list with a request for comments.

Hylton said a good example of outreach would be holding RICCs and other locally-sponsored meetings away from the usual meeting sites, giving others a chance to participate.

Baker said ongoing outreach is a chance to make your presence known to minority groups outside the service area. A good method is to attend meetings and events held by the minority groups.

Sharp suggested that the RICCs may be overwhelmed by the requirements of outreach, among many other requirements that may make volunteering not seem all that worthwhile.

Rather than cold calling different groups, she suggested RICCs looking for opportunities to partner with local activities, such as an Urban League back-to-school clothing drive in August.

The RICC contact person could say they, too, are concerned about children having clothes with which to start school and can they help with the drive, even contribute some money. Outreach with disabilities is not a factor...it’s the shared concern about kids and clothing. This type of outreach is not so formal. Hylton said that is a perfect example of outreach.

Day pointed out this outreach is new for a lot of RICCs and with some RICCS, the leadership is spread pretty thin. You can’t dump all of this on just a few volunteers. Any type of outreach, even if it takes the form of entertainment, is good. It’s a start and can be built upon.

Other RICC outreach ideas from Committee members:

- look for community activities to establish a presence;
- discuss problems common to different community groups and RICCs;
- invite community groups to set up displays at RICC events;
- work with public schools to supply information on RICCs – members of local minority groups can certainly be found there;
- check for local minority publications and place a RICC meeting announcements in them or take out an ad;
- write articles for local minority publications;
- find someone who knows the culture and can open doors;
- hold RICC meetings at community groups' sites.

Sharp said it is important that diversity coordinators begin attending Committee meetings by phone.

Hall wondered if diversity coordinators were required to be a part of the Committee. No. Two letters have been sent to coordinators telling the benefits of Committee membership and offering to help with zero responses.

Hylton proposed a separate email Committee meeting notice to coordinators each month that reads in the subject line, "Multicultural meeting – phone in" and in the body of the message, time, date, etc.

B. RICC Leadership Session. Sharp reported that the Committee will present one back-to-back breakout session for diversity coordinators at the RICC Leadership Conference. It will be at the Lansing Center on Sept. 12 and 13. The theme is Self-Determination. Keynoter will be Randy Grace.

C. Second Training for Diversity Coordinators. For RICC diversity coordinators who did not receive the Feb. 1 training, there will be

a second session Aug. 8 at the Hannah Center in East Lansing. Plus, the sessions at the RICC conference will be a follow-up to the first coordinator training sessions.

D. Additions to Committee Diversity Coordinator's Handbook. Robinson reported that Committee member Maria Cebreco pointed out a shortfall in the coordinator's handbook. She felt there should be a Cuban section in the book. Hylton said she asked Cebreco to write the Cuban section and it would be inserted in the handbook.

Hall said there should be a procedure for approving additions to the handbook.

New Business

A. Reviewing Next Work Plan. Deferred until the August meeting. Copies of the plan version "Attachment E" will be mailed to all on the list for August review. The work will be placed under "Old Business" for the August meeting. Changes to the 2007 version of the plan will include names under the "Who" (Is responsible for task?) category.

B. Vistas Nuevas Update. Sharp reported on the event held in Detroit at Clark Park by Headstart. The DD Council was the only organization attending that represented people with disabilities. About 500 children attended with many cultures represented, with lots of entertainment. Many people stopped by the DD Council display for more information.

Review Group for Project. The proposals review session for the Multicultural Committee's grant project – Strengthening Relationships for Diversity - will be held July 17 at 1:30 p.m. in the Council office. Several Committee members offered to serve on the review group.

Hylton asks Committee members to come to the August meeting with some suggested resources for the Committee's resource book. Also please bring specific suggestions for the diversity coordinators' training workshop at the RICC Leadership Conference in September.

Members are encouraged to place items for discussion on each month's meeting agenda.

Updates and Announcements

Baker announced a public hearing at Saginaw Valley State University on "Issues Impacting Women" set for June 14. Contact Baker at Civil Rights for more information.

Hylton announced that on July 14-16 will be the Concert of Colors festival in Detroit. Features ethnic music, food, and crafts. Held at the Fisher Theater on Woodward Avenue.

Adjourned until Aug. 14.

Public Policy Committee

June 6, 2006

Welcome/Introductions

Chair Andre Robinson called the meeting to order at 10:15 am.

Approval of Minutes from 4/11/06 meetings

Jane Reagan moved that the minutes from the April 11, 2006 meeting

be accepted as written. Pam Hall seconded. CARRIED

Federal Updates

a. U.S. Supreme Court

The first case for Justice Alito and Roberts involving affirmative action will be coming before the Supreme Court soon. It is very important to keep up to date on how they vote on these types of issues.

b. Medicaid Part D

c. Deficit Reduction Act

A part of this act could be very detrimental to the healthcare of many individuals. The act requires that individuals must prove they are US citizens. Many elderly people do not have a birth certificate to prove citizenship and would be in jeopardy of losing their Medicaid. The DD Council has been invited to sign on to a letter requesting that the implementation of this provision delayed. Jane Reagan moved that the DD Council sign on to the letter. Jane Spitzley seconded. MOTION CARRIED.

State Updates

a) Long-Term Care

Four long-term care Single Point of Entry (SPE) demonstration sites were announced by the Governor. They are:

Detroit – Detroit Area Agency on the Aging (AAA)

Southwest Michigan – Region IV AAA

Upper Peninsula – U.P. Commission for Area Progress

Western Michigan – HHS Health Options and AAA of Western Michigan

b) SB 838

The DD Council sent a letter to Jennifer Granholm appealing to her to consider the potentially negative impact of passing SB 838. If passed, SB 838 would reduce Medicaid benefits for 19-20 year

olds and could result in family caretakers losing their health insurance coverage. Unfortunately, the Governor signed the bill into law.

c) Other

Due to the alleged mismanagement, the Michigan Legislature is considering turning Detroit Mental Health into an authority. There will be a hearing tomorrow (June 7, 2006)

State Board of Education Update

Universal Education Policy

No Update

Restraints & Seclusion Policies

No Update

Informed Communities Project Update

MDRC received this grant, and UPC received the Speak Out Replication grant.

Next 5 year plan for DD Council

Oral Health Project

Sheila Semler will be making the presentation at the DD Council

meeting on June 13, 2006. This project will involve conducting

forums throughout the state from the U.P to downriver to do a needs

assessment of individuals with developmental disabilities in the

Medicaid oral health plan. The goal is to get stories from individuals

from each legislators district.

AD Hoc Subgroups Scholarships/Awards

The sub-committee has met and developed some initial plans. They would like to have an event this calendar year and would like it to be an event outside of the regular Council meeting. DisAbility Network expressed interest in collaborating with us on this project. Currently, the sub-committee has no funds and is looking for funding and is investigating whether the PPC has any funds they could contribute.

Legislative Event (2007) Planning

It's time to start planning for the 2007 Legislative event. Vendella Collins will be sending out surveys to the RICCs to see what each has done since the last event. There has been a proposal to shorten the legislative event to 12-1pm, which seems to be the time most of the legislators attend. The consensus of this committee is that shortening the time of the event would defeat the entire purpose of the day; RICCs meeting and mingling with their legislators. If the event is reduced to one hour many of the RICCs that travel long distances to participate may choose to stay home. We should build on the success of last year's event and keep the momentum going. The time period to meet with legislators should be no shorter than two hours. The first sub-committee meeting to begin working on planning this event will be scheduled after the July 11th DD Council meeting.

Next meeting agenda item suggestions

- Leadership update, invite Melinda Haus .

- Invite Mark McWilliams regarding State Board of Education update.
- Invite Steve Betterly to come speak on Michigan's plan for disaster preparedness for PWD.
-

The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 pm.

Health Issues Work Group

June 20, 2006

Members Present:

Jacqui Day

Guests Present:

Linda Potter – Phone

Bonnie Sembler

Staff Present:

Terry Hunt – Phone

Dee Florence

In the absence of Chair Arini, Jacqui Day volunteered to Chair the meeting. Jacqui called the meeting to order at 1:35 pm.

Minutes

Jacqui Day reviewed the May HIWG minutes and offered no changes.

Work Group Meeting Schedule

It's time to schedule the work group meeting for the next fiscal year. Terry Hunt inquired whether the group wants to keep the

third Tuesday of the month for the next year's schedule. Jacqui Day express that the third Tuesday works well for her. We will check with other members regarding availability for that time.

Faces of Medicaid

A day of shooting has been completed. Six individuals were scheduled but only three showed up. The first shoot was with a woman and her children. Both Linda and Bonnie thought that this was a good shoot.

The next shoot involved an individual who had difficulty speaking clearly, so someone who could help with the interpretation accompanied him. Unfortunately, the individual being filmed didn't talk much; maybe it just wasn't his thing.

The last person filmed was very articulate. Bonnie feels that part of what she said could be part of the narration of the piece.

Linda Potter said the physician suggested by Paul Shaheen would be glad to be a part of the filming but he isn't available until July 9th. Another prospect is an individual who has left the nursing home and now has his own place. Linda will be meeting with him tomorrow.

We are still looking for a family on Medicaid that has both parents in the home. This family doesn't have to have anyone with disabilities.

Jacqui Day suggested contacting St Vincent for a family. Also, she mentioned that Dr. Barry Saltman of the Care Free Clinic would be someone good to contact. He may have a family he can refer.

So far, all the individuals filmed are African American. To avoid any stereotypes, we need more diversity.

Linda Potter has just received the transcript of the first shoot and will be going over it.

Bonnie Sembler is concerned about the time frame. She wants us to move ahead ASAP so that they can start putting something together. All agree.

Status of Work Group Oral Health Proposal

The Council Executive Committee will meet in the near future to finalize funding decisions.

Status of Care Coordination Project

Initially, a meeting was scheduled to meet with project staff in June, but due to unexpected scheduling conflicts it had to be postponed. Currently, we are attempting to schedule a July meeting but are waiting to hear back from the coordinators.

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

Friday, July 7th 10:00 am – Noon, a joint meeting is scheduled with Public Policy Committee to develop questions for the candidate forum. Below is a list of questions/issues that we came up with during this meeting.

What can be done about the difficulty of finding providers?

Larger co-pays can create a problem due to individuals having a low or no discretionary money. Having to pay a \$50 co-pay to go to the hospital would keep many from seeking that medical care because they don't have \$50 of disposable income to pay the co-pay. Is anything being done about this?

Nursing homes and civil rights

Sec of State – accessibility/accommodations voting site

Sec of State – why can't there be a universal policy to register to vote and absentee ballot

US Senate – Budget Reconciliation Act

Governor – What will you do to simplify the reimbursement process so that providers will get paid in a timely fashion?

P&A, The ARC and DD Council use Washington resources to create questions.

The League of Women Voters is confirmed to be moderators for forum.

Status of Work Plan

The work plan is on track.

August 25 meeting with Council Committee and Work Group Leadership

The goal of this meeting is to increase consumer leverage in evaluating services and supports. How do we move this along?

Work Group Membership

The members were asked for suggestions on any new work group members.

Meeting adjourned 2:20pm.

Transportation Work Group

6/08/06

PRESENT:

Diane Kempen, Pam Hall, JoAnn Lucas, Jim Cyphers, Phil Lancaster, Brenda Bobor Cynthia Mayhew, MaLissa Schutt, Tandy Bidinger, Dee Florence

VIA PHONE:

***Flint:* Mae Golden, Gordon Siwula, Charlene Lizotte, and Stephanie Wills**

Battle Creek: **Michelle McGowen**

Detroit: **Hank Johnson, Andre Robinson, +4 others**

UP: **Mick Sheridan, Ben Ransom, Lola Mariacher, Janel LaPlante, and David Serenok Sue Meyer**

Welcome and Introductions

JoAnn Lucas moved that the May 11, 2006 minutes be accepted. Pam Hall seconded.

New Business

Legislative Update

- a. Safetea-Lu money is available to Michigan for transportation but state must match funds. Fortunately, the stat came up with the matching funds by creating jobs for road construction.

- b. ***MI Transportation Budget Update:***

Chair Diane Kempen testified at one of the budget hearings regarding the importance of passing the transportation budget the Governor requested. Unfortunately, the Appropriations Committee did not vote that way.

c. Traverse City Taxi Cab Issue

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

Old Business

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

MDOT Letter Action

The letter to Kirk Steudle, the new MDOT Director suggesting that he encourage Governor Granholm to locate funds in the state budget, so that Michigan can receive matching federal dollars for our transit systems was sent out.

Detroit Fare Increase: The City of Detroit was considering raising fares for individuals with disabilities from free to 75¢ one way, while still charging no fare for seniors. After hearing a tremendous outcry from both the disabled and senior community, the City of Detroit has decided to charge a fare of .50¢ across the board for both seniors and individuals with disabilities. Individuals may also purchase a monthly pass for \$17.

Representative Marie Donigan:

Due to Representative Donigan's outstanding work on behalf of public transportation the TWG decided to present her a certificate praising and honoring her hard work promoting public transportation. The TWG thought this would be a great media opportunity to bring attention to the public transportation issue if the certificate was presented by the local RICC at one of Rep. Donigan's campaign events in her home district.

Summer "Traveling Meeting"

This year's meeting is scheduled for August 3, 2006 in Escanaba at Bay College. The Delta RICC has volunteered to host this year's "traveling meeting". It will be a combination RICC regional meeting and transportation work group meeting, with ½ the day being the regional meeting and ½ the day being TWG meeting. Final details are in the process of being completed. The UP RICCs will be inviting their legislators to attend.

DD Council Retreat (New Project Proposals)

The date to present the proposals has been changed to June 13, 2006. May Golden and Charlene Lizotte will give the presentation on millages, Diane Kempen and Doug Anderson will make the presentation on the brokerage proposal.

Success Stories

Detroit: *A RICC member who is enrolled in the voucher program was able to attend their family reunion using a voucher.*

Genesee: *The Genesee RICC participated in the Easter Seals Project Action conference in Washington D.C. The RICC is currently providing training to transition students from riding special services transit to riding regular busses.*

Jackson: *The Jackson voucher program has 26 individuals enrolled in the program. Many riders say this is a lifeboat so they can get out.*

Copper Country: Currently there are 20 individuals enrolled in the voucher program. The mental health board is very excited about the program. One of the members saved up her mileage and took a trip to Wisconsin to visit family she hadn't seen in 15 years. The local newspaper did a great article highlighting the voucher program along with featuring the story of the visit to Wisconsin.