

The



Monday Update

March 2007

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Andre K. Robinson is new Council chairperson

Andre K. Robinson of Detroit is the new chairperson of the Michigan DD Council.

He succeeds Todd Koopmans in the position. Robinson was appointed to the Council to represent primary consumers for a term expiring in 2009. He has been on the council since 2002. The Detroit resident is currently a member of the Executive and Multicultural Committees, and the Education Work Groups. Robinson also chairs the Public Policy Committee.

Koopmans will remain on the Council and continue his advocacy work. He has served on the Council since 1996 and was appointed chair in 2002.

Robinson served as Council vice-chair prior to his recent appointment. Succeeding him as vice-chair is Robin T. Sefton of Ann Arbor. She was appointed to the Council last year to represent individuals with developmental disabilities for a term expiring September 2008. Currently Robin is a member of the Public Policy Committee.

Great turnout for the 8th Annual Legislative Reception

The DD Council 8th Annual Legislative Reception, held Feb. 13 at the Radisson Hotel in Lansing, featured perhaps the best turnout of Regional Interagency Consumer Coordinator (RICC) members and their legislative representatives ever.

More than 200 members of RICCs from around the state met for two hours with 75 state and federal lawmakers and their representatives over issues of major concern to people with disabilities.

Also attending were many DD Council members. A Council meeting was held following the reception.

Starting the day off was noted political commentator Bill Ballenger. He spoke to the RICC members about the importance of communicating with lawmakers and following the key political issues throughout the year.

Also on the agenda were comments by new Council chair Andre K. Robinson. He reminded the group to “keep the pressure on” legislators throughout the year by staying in touch. A representative from Sen. John Gleason’s office encouraged RICC members to learn more about the Legislature’s Disability Caucus. Glenn Ashley of UCP Michigan discussed the Council grant, Our Stories, Our Voices.

Activities highlight March as Awareness Month

People in Wayne County are busy observing this year’s version of Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in March. Activities in Wayne County include:

- a. Community Living Services (CLS) reports that both its offices – Wayne and Oakland Counties – are generating success stories to send to local media. This includes news releases telling what people are doing in their

lives, plus a big educational article on self-determination and how it works. One article will feature a drummer with disabilities who plays in a local rock band. Area Chambers of Commerce will also receive stories about people in their communities.

This year's CLS media blitz will also include featuring the progress made in the last 20 years, such as closing most institutions, and what's in the future. CLS provides supports and services to 2,500 people. It has offices in Wayne and Oakland Counties.

b. At the Pentecostal House of God at 6495 W. Warren in Detroit, its Special Needs Ministry is holding "Celebration Sunday" open house on March 18.

The purpose of the day, according to organizer Celena Barnes, is to "celebrate the gifts and talents of people with disabilities and their families.

Among the attractions will be information and resources provided by a number of organizations and agencies, including assistive technology, self-advocacy, and financial support.

The open house is from 3:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The church's telephone number is 313-895-7464.

c. Always an active organization, the Wayne RICC is planning a full agenda for Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. For example, they are sponsoring the Detroit People for Self-Advocacy Group. That takes place March 9 and March 23 at the Arc. Those attending will look at a variety of issues, from transportation to working with the local CMH.

This group is also sponsoring the annual town hall meeting with State Senator Hansen Clarke. Sponsors are the Arc Detroit, People First of Detroit, and Wayne RICC, through a grant by the Council. This is March 16 from noon to 2 p.m. at the Arc Detroit. More than 150 people are expected. The session consists of give-and-take dialogue with Sen. Clarke.

The address of the Arc Detroit is 51 W. Hancock in Detroit.

d. On March 7 at the Arc Detroit is futures planning for people with developmental disabilities and their families. This is sponsored by the Arc Detroit's Parent Outreach Project. This session will look at developing estates, wills, durable power of attorney, and such. An attorney, Lisa Piercey Lepine, associate director of the Arc Macomb.

e. The Arc Detroit also holds its monthly dance on March 16. A music appreciation class will be held at the same time. Time is 6 p.m. to 8:45. Sponsors are UAW-160 and United Way of Southeast Michigan.

f. For the entire month of March, the Arc Coalition of Wayne County is sponsoring Storytelling Time. This project sends qualified self-advocates, parents, and professionals into area elementary schools to read several topical books in first, second and third grade classes. The purpose is to tell kids about the many similarities between kids with disabilities and kids without disabilities.

The coalition has been conducting this outreach for more than five years. Books read in the classes are "Don't Call Me Special – A First Look At Disabilities," and "What's Wrong With Timmy?" The project also donates three books on disabilities to each school's library.

g. Preparations are underway in March for two meetings - April 5 and April 19 - jointly produced by the Developmental Disabilities Institute at Wayne State University and DD Council. It is the Council grant Did You Know, and the meetings will be conducted by the Wayne RICC. They will be held at Sacred Heart Major Seminary. The gatherings are for people with disabilities, family members, and supports coordinators. Topic of the day-long meetings is: what is available from the Detroit-Wayne County community mental health system and what is expected from them? Time is 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Sacred Heart is located at 2701 W. Chicago in Detroit.

More information may be had by calling Wayne RICC member Barbara Lea Jones at the Arc Detroit – 1-313-831-0202.

h. At UCP Michigan in Lansing, they'll be busy in March getting ready for their seventh annual essay contest. This is for students in grades six through eight.

This year's theme is *We're More Alike*. The contest is open to kids with disabilities and friends and family members of someone with a disability. There are great prizes and essays should be 500 words or less. The deadline for the contest is April 27, 2007.

All the information on *We're More Alike* is available at UCP Michigan, 1-517-203-1200.

Fiscal Intermediary is key to sound money practices

In the last issue of Monday Update, there was an article on budgets; why they are important to you and how to get one.

The budget article was a follow up to the first (of three) article that highlighted the independent supports coordinator, which is another tool you may use to move towards greater self-determination.

This third article is about the fiscal intermediary. This is a good term for the Random House/Webster's Dictionary. "Fiscal" is defined as "pertaining to financial matters in general." The also dictionary says "intermediary" means "a go-between or mediator."

So a fiscal intermediary is a person who is a go-between who handles money.

This may be a person whose help you can use...if you choose. If you want control over your life and your services you must ask your local board for self-determination. Ask for the self-determination coordinator, or the person in charge of self-determination.

After you identify a budget, another of the tools for self-determination is a fiscal intermediary. He or she will help guide and direct your Medicaid dollars.

The fiscal intermediary has a contract with your Community Mental Health Services Program (CMHSP). Often a CMHSP will have only one or two intermediaries to serve each person with disabilities who has selected self-determination in that area.

These intermediaries must support the principles of self-determination and be qualified to conduct business proceedings on your behalf. They have to answer to the CMHSP or its subcontractor agency that keeps track of them to make sure these intermediaries conduct themselves in a business-like manner in your best interest.

The intermediary is paid by the agency for fiscal services provided to you. To protect you, the intermediary must be insured against tax or other legal problems.

Choosing a fiscal intermediary will be one of the most important decisions you will make as you start down the path of becoming the employer of your own staff.

What do they do?

What does the intermediary do? Among his or her duties for you are:

- Pay wages to your providers of services or your employees insure all appropriate taxes and insurance. Examples would be your employees Social Security and unemployment, which are withheld and paid.
- Keep track of all the paperwork needed to maintain the financial parts of your life. This includes forms and information documents.
- Make sure you sign all needed financial forms and documents.
- Perform background checks on people you hire for services and supports.
- Help your supports coordinator with financial information and paperwork.

- Manage the dollars identified in your budget. Make certain you and Help create new budgets for you. Make certain you the CMHSP know where the money has gone and for what purposes.

- Keep you up to date on your financial situation....what bills have been paid, how much money do you have in the bank, etc. Provide you with a monthly report and an annual report.

- Help you direct the dollars to the service providers you choose, or allow you to your own staff.

Sound pretty good? Or is the idea of having someone help you with your finances not interesting. Some people with disabilities choose not to have a fiscal intermediary, but many others go in the opposite direction and select this tool in their quest for self-determination.

Contacts

Your CMHSP or its agency has a person designated as a self-determination coordinator. Or, if you would rather, you may wish to get in touch with Michigan Partners for Freedom (a grant project supported by the Council). Contact the project coordinator, Tammy Finn, at the Arc Michigan in Lansing. Write to her at:

Michigan Partners for Freedom
The Arc Michigan
1325 S. Washington Ave.
Lansing, MI 48910

Finn's toll-free telephone number is 1-800-292-7851, ext. 106. Her email is tammy@arcmi.org

DD Network partners....MPAS

Michigan Protection & Advocacy Service, Inc., (MPAS) is a close partner organization of the Michigan DD Council. Each shares the a federal government mandate through the Administration on Developmental Disabilities, along with their sister organization, the Developmental Disabilities Institute.

MPAS has three offices: Lansing, Livonia, and Marquette. Elmer Cerano is the executive director. Services provided are information and referral, technical assistance, and legal representation.

The service has different funding for outreach to different populations, including people with mental illness and those with HIV and AIDS. There are 53 staff members who work with issues ranging from discrimination in education, employment and housing, to abuse and neglect and Medicaid.

Eight of the staff are attorneys that handle litigation issues. Cerano points out that before a situation gets to the courtroom/lawsuit stage, there is a long process to try to resolve the problem in other ways. A case that is selected for litigation has to have legal merit and an impact on more than just one person. Before a case lands on an attorney's desk, it travels through the office's information and referral section and on to individual advocates who try to mediate the problem. Cerano says that filing a lawsuit is an indication that the rest of the system failed, "but we never hesitate to litigate when we need to."

MPAS also provides training session on a variety of topics to other advocacy agencies and groups.

Looking at the big picture

The organization's planning calls for looking at the big picture when it comes to concerns, rather than focusing on a single case or issue. By spreading the limited dollars available across a variety of issues, MPAS can have more of an impact than taking case after case of a single issue. A good measure of success, says Cerano, is to answer positively "who's life changed because of what we did?"

Director Cerano says most activities around Protection and Advocacy for People with Developmental Disabilities (PADD) have to do with education. He says the organization finds that educational problems usually relate to problems in other areas.

An example: at age 18 kids with disabilities aren't in classrooms with children their own age because others that age have since left school. Are there better ways of using entitlement dollars?

- between ages 18 and 26 in Michigan

- for kids with disabilities (and no longer eligible for special education)
- to have better outcomes for employment?

Another angle on education observed by MPAS is the use of seclusion and restraint. After calling for a total ban on this, Cerano says MPAS saw that such a ban is not the answer. “Now,” he relates, “instead of restraining a kid, the teacher is just calling the police,” and the child becomes lost in the criminal justice system. MPAS is among those advocacy groups looking for other ways of protecting students with disabilities.

Cerano says this leads to another key issue: the number of children with developmental disabilities in juvenile correctional facilities. “They are receiving no education nor mental health services. There’s been a change; before, people with disabilities would wind up in the criminal justice system, true. Now, they are there because of their disabilities.”

One of the solutions is to make certain schools are serious about educating all kids, and educating them in the least restrictive environment.

Into the system

For adults with developmental disabilities, they may wind up in the criminal justice system because there are no other appropriate services available to prevent that.

Cerano says another major issue for MPAS is institutionalization. “What we don’t understand is why, after de-institutionalizing thousands of people in the state, there are still 160 at Mt. Pleasant?”

“There is movement at the Mt. Pleasant facility; people go in one door and out the other. We at MPAS wonder why people have to go there in the first place. If people can receive services once they leave Mt. Pleasant, why could they have received those services before they went in? The community mental health system is sending people there because the facility is still there.

“MPAS suggests they close the front door at Mt. Pleasant, first. Then, we recommend that person-centered plans be done with independent facilitators. Putting these plans in place then would avoid any need for institutionalization.”

It's important that people have access to the service. MPAS promotes itself through posters and information sheets as well as its website (www.mpas.org). It also has a convenient toll-free number for each office:

Lansing – 1-800-288-5923

Livonia – 1-800-414-3956

Marquette – 1-866-928-5910

The service also uses media relations as an advocacy tool. It is a registered lobbyist but lobbies with non-federal funds to educate policymakers at both the state and federal levels on issues that affect the population MPAS represents.

The agency began in Michigan some 25 years ago as an Arc Michigan advisory committee with one advocate and one attorney. Today it provides assistance and advocacy in programs ranging from beneficiaries of Social Security to traumatic brain injury to assistive technology.

Council work group and committee meeting minutes

Multicultural Committee

Jan. 8, 2007

Present:

Terrie Hylton (chair - phone); Tony Wong; Mae Golden (phone); Jacqueline Day; Rick Van Horn; Patrick McSherry; Pam Hall (phone); Sophie Baker; Mitzi Allen; Andre Robinson (phone); Duncan Wyeth; Terry Hunt.

Call to Order: by Chairperson Hylton at 1:05 p.m.

Introductions and approval of January's minutes (thanks to McSherry for supply notes for the minutes) and February's agenda.

Old Business

Hylton asked about statewide conferences that might include developmental disabilities issues and programs. Van Horn will do some research on this subject, results of which will be added to the Committee database.

A. Hylton reminded Diversity Focus article contributors to have their articles into Allen several months in advance of the publication date. She added that the schedule of article topics and contributors is posted in the December meeting minutes of the Committee.

There are no articles required for June or August, 2007, because there are no Council meetings those months.

B. RICC Certification Program update. Hylton explained the purpose of the certification program and the Committee's desire to make certain each RICC is including outreach in its plans for the coming year, in order to assist the RICCs with outreach programs and support the diversity coordinators. Hunt said any proposed changes to the program for this year have not been finalized. The work plans are still being reviewed, but Hunt will share those plans that have so far been approved.

Hylton will draft a letter to the RICCs offering the Committee's help in 2007's diversity outreach efforts.

He sees RICC outreach as part of the fabric of the organization's program, rather than a separate entity. This is reflected in the new work plans from the RICCs, which are required to state how the group will incorporate outreach as part its overall plan, rather than having a separate outreach plan itself. Stand-alone cultural functions and programs will not be funded this year.

For example, Hunt said, RICC members may be involved in local transportation issues. While advocating for better services for people with disabilities, they should also campaign for improved services to the community's minority members. Golden pointed out that outreach must definitely be stated in the RICC's overall work plan.

C. McSherry discussed Michigan State University's Global Festival and his idea that perhaps the Committee should consider some type of

participation. According to the festival's website, its goal is "to foster understanding between the Michigan State University International community and the Greater Lansing area." Featured are exhibits, games, performances, demonstrations, cuisine and a gift shop. It takes place one day from noon to 5 p.m. and is held at the MSU Union. Admission is free.

The festival is held in the fall. Last year was Nov. 19. Its web address is: www.oiss.msu.edu/globalfest. McSherry sees the Committee making festival participants aware of Committee activities, including RICCs and resources. He thinks the Committee should have a table there and would be most welcome.

Wyeth said the Committee could always partner with the campus Resource Center for People with Disabilities (RCPD) or the Council for Students with Disabilities (CSD). Wyeth believes such an activity would raise the awareness of the Council to students from different cultural and racial backgrounds. McSherry will follow through on contacting festival officials, plus the CSD and RCPD. Wyeth suggested he, Wong and McSherry might attend a Sunday CSD meeting and be a part of the program.

Hylton extended a special thanks to Golden (Flint) and Baker (Grand Rapids) for their diversity contributions at the recent RICC regional meetings. Golden reported a successful talk at the Flint meeting. McSherry will speak to outreach issues at the Jan. 10 regional meeting in Lansing.

Upcoming RICC regional meetings are: Jan. 25 in Mt. Pleasant at Mid-Michigan Industries, Feb. 7 in Gaylord at the LPD Training Center, and April 3 in Marquette at Northern Michigan University. Wyeth will present at Mt. Pleasant. Wong may be able to go to one of those two remaining sessions and Hylton will cover whichever one is left. Wyeth suggested contact local tribal representatives in conjunction with the Marquette regional meeting. Day noted there may be resources at NMU as well.

New Business

Golden provided additional sources for the Committee's resource file, the Resource Center in Genesee County.

Wyeth said the Michigan Rehab Conference is in Grand Rapids this year, Oct. 24-26 at the DeVos Center. October is also Investing in Ability Month. Thus, the official title of the conference is "Investing In Ability."

Wyeth feels this would be a good setting for a Multicultural Committee workshop....investing in ability from a diversity perspective.

Wyeth also commented on the selection of disability posters that is available. He suggested the Committee doing a diversity poster that would feature individuals with visible and non-visible disabilities representing the various cultures in the state. "Michigan Celebrates Diversity." Going to various minority organizations with the idea might elicit funding for the project. Wyeth said he has never seen such a poster. "Inclusion Celebrates Diversity."

Committee members agreed this would be a good project. Allen will hold a meeting, and will invite those attending this Committee meeting, to discuss the poster project. The meeting will be held at the Council office on Feb. 9, 10 a.m. The meeting will discuss resources, potential partners, and possible costs. Golden, Wyeth, Wong, and Baker expressed interest in serving on the new committee.

Wyeth proposed a letter to the Michigan Black Caucus of the Legislature over Hylton's signature. The letter would invite caucus members to the Council's Legislative Reception on Feb. 13. Allen will generate a letter. Hylton will also ask to be placed on the caucus agenda for one of their meetings.

Updates and announcements.

Allen said the new RICC-endorsed mini-grant RFP is out, as is the RFP for Oral Health Needs Assessment for People with Developmental Disabilities. Encourage qualified parties to apply for these 2007 grants.

Wong passed out a new brochure for the Michigan Work Incentives Planning and Assistance Program (WIPA). Copies are available from The Arc Michigan....1-800-292-7851.

Adjourn at 2:27 p.m.

Family Support Work Group
Dec. 20, 2006

Members Present: Lori Goike, Audrey Craft, Pamela Sinnott, Adjart Ogunyemi, David Martin, Jackie Igafo-Teo. Via Phone: Randy Krause, Vera Graham. Staff: Dee Florence. Guest: Judy Cerano.

Welcome and introductions.

Approval of the Minutes

David Martin's name was accidentally omitted from the minutes and they should be amended to include his name.

Judy Cerano moved that the November 15, 2006 minutes be approved as amended. Audrey Craft seconded. CARRIED.

Futures Planning Project

A few months ago the Family Support Work Group (FSWG) was looking into developing a futures planning project. The project has been on the back burner and needs to be revived. Tracy Vincent has the information that was gathered so the FSWG will wait for her return to advance the project.

Lori Goike discussed a program that Merrill Lynch has, "Preparing for Your Disabled Child's Financial Security." (material was passed around) Lori spoke to a representative from Merrill Lynch and they give seminars free of charge, which includes bringing a special needs attorney, which explains in detail their program. The question was raised whether the Merrill Lynch program encourages "self-determination"?

211 System

David Martin gave an in-depth power point presentation on the 211 system in Michigan. The 211 system is a national telephone number for access to health & human services referrals and volunteer opportunities. Currently 66% of Michigan's population is covered by the 211 System. Following is a list of counties in Michigan currently covered.

Calhoun

Kalamazoo

Kent

Jackson

Muskegon

Oceana
Ottawa
Macomb
Oakland
Wayne
Livingston
Monroe
Washtenaw
All 15 counties in the UP

Parent Survey

A survey has been developed by the FSWG to gather information on the needs of the families we represent. The survey will be distributed at conferences throughout the coming year.

New Member Orientation

The FSWG would like to develop a new member orientation packet. Audrey Craft suggested that a sub-committee be formed to determine the details of the materials needed, how orientation will take place, etc. David Martin, Audrey Craft and Lori Goike volunteered to be on the sub-committee.

Other

Watch Me Grow Calendar

The MSU Extension office has put out the 2007-2008 Watch Me Grow-Healthy, Happy and Strong! Calendar. This is an informative calendar, which promotes the health and well being of families. The calendar provides activities and tips for parents on health, safety, nutrition and parenting. Vendella Collins suggested that the FSWG order calendars to distribute to families. Discussion was held regarding ordering the calendar but the group stalled on how to distribute them. Considering that numerous other agencies and organization will probably distribute them also it was decided not to order the calendar.

MI Council for Exceptional Children Conference

The MI Council for Exceptional Children Conference would be a great networking opportunity for the FSWG to attract new members. Judy Cerano suggested that the DD Council have a booth at the conference with the emphasis on the family support work group. Audrey Craft volunteered to make contact to determine how to get a booth.

Autism Planning Work Group Update

Audrey Craft gave an update on the progress of the Autism Work Group. You can access further information at www.cenmi.org/asd.

Below is a synopsis of the purpose of the workgroup:

The Autism Planning Workgroup is a statewide initiative aimed at addressing the needs of children 0-6 with autism and their families. On June 20, 2005, Michigan's Human Services Directors gave approval for representatives from the Departments of Community Health, Education and Human Services to collaborate with parents of children with autism, advocacy groups and experts, to engage in a planning process that will address the needs of children 0-6 with autism and their families.

Families" & Supports Coordinators" Meetings Project

Judy Cerano described the status of this grant project. The project will inform families and support coordinators about DCH policies and initiatives, practices, promising practices and strategies for achieving desired services, supports, and outcomes. An advisory board has been established with the FSWG to having a representative on the board. The RICCs will be involved as well. The project will be in Kalamazoo, Traverse City, Copper Country, and Detroit. We want families to maximize their use of the full array of services and supports that will lead to great self directed lives.

Life Span Respite Act

The Life Span Respite Act has passed the House and Senate and is awaiting the President's signature. This act targets money for research at the genetics level.

Health Issues Work Group

Dec. 19, 2006

Members present: Jacqui Day, Judy Webb, Pam Hall, Yvonne Flenner, Roanne Chaney

Members via phone: Linda Potter, Shelia Semler, Dawn Robarge

Staff: Terry Hunt, Dee Florence,

The minutes from the November 21, 2006 meeting were accepted as presented.

Status of Faces of Medicaid Project

Another script revision was presented to the group. A name is still needed for the video. Following is a list of suggestions from the group:

- "Real Faces of Medicaid"
- "Embracing the Faces of Medicaid"
- "Medicaid in Our Lives"
- "The People of Medicaid"
- "Medicaid Making a Difference in the Lives of Michigan Citizens"

Status of MI Oral Health Needs RFP

The RFP for this project is almost complete and should be coming out by the end of the month. The bidders conference will be February 7th and the deadline for the receipt of proposals is April 12th. Further discussion ensued regarding the details of the RFP.

Status of Care Coordination Project

There is no update available at this time but the grantees will be invited to the next meeting to give an update.

PPC & HIWG Collaboration

There are many issues that both the Public Policy Committee and the Health Issues Work Group are working on. A meeting is being planned between the leadership of both groups to come together and discuss how the groups collaborate on like issues.

Work Group Membership

A discussion was held as to suggestions to increase the number of member to the Health Issues Work Group. Members will contact groups and associations that have common goals with us and invite them to attend meetings.

Talking Points for the Legislative Reception

The 2007 Legislative reception will be February 13, 2007. When talking to legislators it is important to put together arguments they can buy. The

talking points regarding health issues were revised for the event. Below is the final draft.

The Issue: Health

Medicaid is an essential health insurance program for most people with disabilities.

Medicaid cuts hurt and deny us important services. Medicaid's per person spending has grown at a slower rate than any other health insurance, although it has the largest "return on investment".

ACTION NEEDED on Health

Tell your legislator:

- *Please* no more cuts to Medicaid, especially the optional services, such as dental.
- Make sure your legislator knows how Medicaid affects your life (Home Help, dental, prescription medications, Assistive Technology).
- Tell your legislator how your life would change if you didn't have Medicaid.
- Explain to your legislator how having to pay co-pays can keep you from seeing a doctor because you may not have the money to pay the cop-pay.

Housing Work Group

Feb. 8, 2007

MEMBERS PRESENT: Paul Ecklund DRC, Sue Hart TDN-Flint, Chris Hodgson TDN-Flint, Carl Fenner TDN-Flint, Frank Lynn DAKC, Nelsong Grit MDRC, Pam Sinott Community Living Services of Wayne County, Salli Christenson, Cheryl Trommater MI DD Council, Jacqui Day MI DD Council, Paul Palmer MI DD Council, Vera Graham Midland DD Council

DISABILITY NETWORK - MICHIGAN:

- Housing workshop on 3/1/07 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, is intended for CIL staff and staff from other Disability Organizations that work on housing for people with disabilities

MDRC FINDING OUR WAY HOME STEERING COMMITTEE:

- Nelson collaborated with the Michigan Homeownership Coalition, ARC of Midland, and other housing partners on a workshop in Midland regarding people with disabilities buying their own home.

ZERO STEP ACROSS MICHIGAN (ZSAM):

- The ZSAM grantees are working on various activities such as working with the code commission on establishing a set of standards regarding universal design.

IHDA PA 182 TRAININGS:

- Sue has talked to Catherine Costello from MSHDA regarding the trainings and it is still up in the air regarding any funding for us to attend.

MICHIGAN CONFERENCE ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING:

- Paul has set up a conference call on 2//15/07 with all the people involved in participating in the training.

CORRIE BAIR BUILDING INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES AWARD:

- The group decided that the Committee should decide who would receive the award according to the criteria we agreed upon. Sue has been receiving the nomination forms and she will forward them to the members of the committee that are Cheryl Trommatter, Linda Potter, and Mae Golden. They will get tother through phone, e-mail, etc, and make their decision by 2/15/07. Sue will then gather all the information and give it to the MCOAH for them to add to their awards booklet that they start working on in March 2007.

MI RICC LEGISLATIVE DAY:

- 2/13/07 11:00 am at the Radisson Hotel in Lansing.

MICHIGAN HOUSING TRUST FUND:

Registration Information

To participate via conference call, please click the link to register.

To register by phone, call 1-800-403-3303 x201, ask for Wendy Simmer.

The rate for the call is \$.29/minute plus a \$6.00 registration fee or

approximately \$35.00 for the 90-minute call. Need Customer Support?

Contact 1-800-974-2166

To participate via FREE webcast, please click the link below to register.

Wednesday February 14, 2007:

State Housing Trust Funds and Supportive Housing.

Time: 3-4pm ET

http://app.topica.com/banners/template_content/13804/51930/1314587/img
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MSHDA PUBLIC HEARING:

- 2/28/07 at 9:00 am at MSHDA office in Lansing
- Sue Hart will call Tai from DN-M to discuss possible get active campaign.

Sue will also e-mail information on the hearing in an attempt to get a lot of people with disabilities there. Nelson said there was only him at one last year so the group thought we need to show up if possible.

Program Committee

Jan. 9, 2007

Present: Barbara Leroy, Theresa Arini, Don Trout, Fred Sharp, Randy Krause, Glenn Ashley, Barbara LeRoy, Carolyn LeJuste, Mary Sharp, Sandie Koskie

Staff: Rick Van Horn, Cheryl Trommater

Issue: Welcome, Introductions.

Action: N.A.

Issue: Housekeeping: Minutes of the December 12, 2006 meeting.

Action: Don Trout moved, Randy Krause seconded to approve the December 12 minutes. Motion carried.

Issue: Legislative Reception

Action: Dee Florence gave an update on the plans for the February 13 Legislative Reception. It will be held at the Radisson.

Issue: 2012 DD State Plan

Action: For the next 5-year plan, we will be doing a major outreach and data gathering effort. Terry Hunt and Cheryl have been working on ways to build on the Disability Voice Town Hall Forums for identifying issues. However, the information currently produced by the forums does not meet the Council's needs for planning. When this was brought up, other organizations felt their planning needs were not being met either.

Mary Sharp is on the SILC board and on the committee that is responsible for the State IL Plan. She feels that even though it meets the federal requirements for SILC, it needs more demographics and information that is useful for planning, real objectives for action and legislative advocacy. The SILC IL Plan is due in 2007.

The Council needs reports that give us specifics on what the Council can address in our activities. We want data compiled and analyzed on unmet needs, possible responses to address problems. The information will be used to help plan future Council grants. The Council also needs the voices of people with developmental disabilities, particularly intellectual disabilities to be heard, to prevent their voice being lost in disability advocacy.

It is very important to keep the Town Hall aspect, to be able to use the stories for advocacy efforts. Hard data has been difficult to obtain, and is not well addressed in current needs assessments.

The Council is looking at putting money in at the front end to kick-start the redesign the process with Disability Voice, to structure it so it is more consistent and generates the information people need. This would be separate from the 2008-2009 grant for the Council planning process.

This issue needs to be a topic regularly at the Program Committee. At the next meeting we will discuss how our State Plan is developed.

Issue: Staff Report on Grant Projects.

Information: The Voucher projects were discussed, and an information sheet was distributed. Even though some had very slow starts, other had fast starts, they are all serving near the maximum that their funding will allow. They are all working on sustainability.

Early Childhood Inclusion. Fred brought up the importance of nutrition in addressing early childhood obesity and development. The project is focusing on policy issues that are barriers to inclusion in pre-school programs, such as the way programs are funded, and teacher certification requirements.

Several committee members felt it is important to promote inclusion in extra-curricular and recreation activities. This could be considered for future grant projects.

In one community the Arc formed a pre-school for all children, but did not advertise that it is for disabilities. This was started about 5 years ago. It would be interesting to see how it is working now.

Issue: Updates

Preservation and Dissemination of grant history and products: The equipment request was being put together over the holidays.

PPR (Program Performance Report) was sent to Washington on time, on Dec. 22.

The Council's will be ready about April.

Budget – the \$5000 for dissemination of results that is currently in the spending plan. The funds would be for the cost of reproducing and sending out materials.

The RFPs for the Oral Health Needs Assessment and the Annual Report RICC-Endorsed Community Mini-Grants have been posted on the website and are available by request from the Council office.