

The



Monday Update

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Restraint and seclusion in school: are state guidelines enough?

After years of information gathering and debate, the Michigan State Board of Education (SBE) issued a set of guidelines, Supporting Student Behavior: Standards for the Emergency Use of Seclusion and Restraint last December. These guidelines replaced a 1990s policy called adverse intervention. About 60 stakeholders sat down and wrote the seclusion and restraint guidelines.

The stakeholders recommended that the guidelines be made into law but that recommendation was taken out of the final version of the guidelines and has not been addressed since.

SBE believes that while not perfect, the guidelines provide “a start toward the reduction or elimination of such dangerous practices,” according to SBE’s 2006 yearend policies review.

Each Michigan school district is required to “implement a system of school-wide positive behavior support (PBS) strategies.” This policy will provide methods to “support appropriate behavior, to promote safety, and to

discourage violations of a school's Student Code of Conduct." The guidelines apply to all students.

A last resort

The document says restraint or seclusion of a student should be used only as a last resort. Personnel must be trained in conflict resolution, social skills, safety considerations, and de-escalation techniques.

Others must be trained in handling emergency situations that include identifying student behavior that might trigger such a situation and monitoring physical signs of stress.

The guidelines define seclusion as "confinement of a student in a room or other space from which the student is physically prevented from leaving and which provides for continuous adult observation of the student."

Secluding a student may never be used as a matter of convenience or as a substitute for adequate staffing or staff training.

Other elements in the seclusion section of the guidelines discuss the difference between seclusion and a timeout (the latter is not physically confining).

A student in elementary school may not be secluded for more than 15 minutes. For older students, the limit is 20 minutes.

Some definitions

As for restraint, it is a last resort and there are three types, say the standards document. They are: physical, chemical, and mechanical. The first, according to the guidelines, "involves direct physical contact that prevents or significantly restricts a student's movement."

"Chemical restraint," say the guidelines, "is the administration of medication for the purpose of restraint. Chemical restraint does not apply to medication prescribed by, and administered in accordance with, the directions of a physician."

What is mechanical restraint? It's "the use of any device or material attached to or adjacent to a student's body that restricts normal freedom of movement and which cannot be easily removed by a student."

There is a wide variety of opinions about the guidelines. At one end are people who want a state law prohibiting both seclusion and restraint. At the other end are those who believe schools should be able to write their own rules regarding seclusion and restraint.

What do you believe?

Michigan Protection and Advocacy Service, Inc. (P&A), a sister organization of the DD Council, is very much in favor of completely outlawing seclusion and restraint.

If that's not possible at this time, says P&A's Mark McWilliams, at least pass a law with specific details on how seclusion and restraint are to be administered. "The SBE's policy should not be voluntary," he says.

"We also propose that there should be reviews of each schools training, seclusion and restraint data.

"We believe that seclusion is basically coercion and may be harmful. Plus, it has no demonstrated educational value."

As for restraint, McWilliams says that if it is used at all, it should be for "unforeseen emergencies that might otherwise be harmful to the student or others."

More education news

Early Childhood Inclusion Mini Summit a solid hit with parents

The Early Childhood Inclusion Mini Summit held in Lansing April 23 offered parents of children with special needs and other advocates a variety of information designed to educate and increase demand for inclusion in Michigan's schools.

The daylong gathering was the high point of a three-year DD Council grant, according to the project's director, Esther Onaga of Michigan State University. The project, Early Childhood Inclusion, promoted inclusion in typical community pre-school settings. Over the three years the grantee, Michigan State University, promoted change by information gathering, identifying barriers, and extolling the many benefits of pre-school inclusion.

According to Onaga, the one-day mini summit described the state of inclusion currently in Michigan, discussed classroom best practices, and provided a networking opportunity for parents and educators.

Onaga said the only section of the conference missing was an opportunity to hear from experts in the education bureaucracy who were to address the financial processes of funding inclusive education programs. "Hopefully, we'll be able to get the word out on this important element in the future."

Early childhood inclusion programs can be found in pockets around the state, says Onaga, The Council grant and the mini-summit were intended to help create both demand and understanding for including kids with disabilities in community pre-school programs.

More than 130 attended the conference. For parents, sessions provided information on their rights and roles in the inclusion process as well as possibilities for the future and networking opportunities. For educators, it was an opportunity to learn strategies and classroom practices, "and believing in the goodness of children."

Genesee County's RICC-Endorsed Mini-Grants yield great results

What is "mini" about a mini-grant? In this case, not much.

In the last two years, The Disability Network in Flint has seen two \$12,000 RICC-endorsed mini-grants turn into a large, countywide series of transportation and recreation accessibility projects.

But it goes well beyond the county's borders and today the Network is recognized as a resource for statewide change, thanks to excellent outreach and hard work by consumers and advocates alike.

It's an amazing story that demonstrates the power of advocacy and the right amount of leadership at the right time. It raised public awareness of the needs of people with disabilities at the same time it provided people with disabilities the skills and knowledge that go beyond working on accessibility issues.

According to Luke Zelley of The Disability Network, it all began last year with a RICC endorsed mini-grant – Access Flint - designed to increase recreational opportunities for people with developmental disabilities in Genesee County. This involved looking at seven recreational facilities for accessibility and ease of use. Among them were Kearsley City Park, a local arena, and the Sloan Museum and nearby Buick Gallery.

Zelley says part of the mini-grant activity was to provide training to consumers, advocates and recreation providers on how to assess the accessibility of such a place. He adds that “we started with the parking lot and went from there to everything else: bathrooms and services, seating, large print, listening devices. What are the barriers?” Project leader was the Network's ADA Coordinator Gary Kidd.

In order to be successful, the grantees quickly learned two important things: there must be collaboration – a review of a place's accessibility and plans for change cannot be accomplished unless there is a buy-in from the facility's management; and even if a facility is accessible, chances are very good the staff needs some awareness training. “Many times, our volunteers were treated rudely and inappropriately due to a lack of awareness.”

In situations where collaboration existed, the facilities' management asked the grantees to look at other areas within their developments and made changes as a result of the audits.

Health and vitality

“Access Flint's” strong community collaborations and successful outcomes attracted the attention of the Ruth Mott Foundation, a family foundation based in Flint. The Foundation “promotes community vitality through

support of programs focused on arts, beautification and health promotion,” according to its website.



Project grantees and volunteers inspect Flint’s sidewalks for accessibility.

What especially interested the Ruth Mott Foundation about the mini-grant’s look at the recreational facilities was: even if the facility is accessible, what if people with disabilities cannot get to the facility to use it? The issue there is accessibility and usefulness of transit means such as sidewalks, streets, trails, public transportation – any method by which a county resident can get to a recreation site, or anywhere for that matter.

The “Access Flint” trained volunteers were connected to the Safe Routes to School program, another Ruth Mott Foundation grantee, to assist with accessibility audits of sidewalks around Flint.

As a result, the Ruth Mott Foundation awarded The Disability Network a \$110,000 grant to examine this issue over two years. The task: create a coalition to learn who the local transportation policymakers are, how local public transportation access policies are developed and promote accessible public transportation policies (curb cuts, sidewalks, trails, bike paths, etc). This supports the foundation’s interests in improving a community’s health through active living.

Later in the year the Network was awarded another DD Council RICC-endorsed mini-grant, a second project, this one called “Livable Communities”. This grant supports the Ruth Mott foundation-financed activity and gets even more people with developmental disabilities involved in accessible, community-wide transportation advocacy. Zelle explained that while the DD Council and Ruth Mott Foundation grants benefit the health of people with disabilities through accessible transportation policies, accessibility benefits all residents.

But the Network and mini-grant grantees were not finished being recognized for their excellent work. Zellely says the Genesee Metropolitan Planning Commission and Mass Transportation Authority came to the group asked it to review county bus stops for accessibility.

Looking at the bus stops

This easily ties in with the grantees' auditing skills and their look at



Limited access? A Flint street without curb cuts forces power wheelchair user to cross street via business drives to access sidewalks.

community sidewalks as means of accessible transportation. The result of this interest was a \$25,000 grant to the Network and its teams of trained volunteers. The task: audit 100 bus stops.

Finally, Zellely says project caught the attention of AT&T (formerly

SBC). AT&T awarded the "Access Flint" project with a generous grant to be used for project technology, training, communications and website.

Zellely reports that as the result of all of the activity (i.e. auditing recreation facilities, sidewalks and bus stops, building a strong and

diverse coalition and examining public policies), the Genesee Metropolitan Planning Commission implemented a policy change in February.

All of this started with a single RICC-endorsed \$12,000 mini-grant based on the common opinion that many of the social and leisure facilities in the county were not accessible. Why even go?

End of a successful story? Not by any means.

Zellely reports that last December the Ruth Mott Foundation and the National Coalition for Complete Streets approached The Disability Network to lead another accessible transportation policy project, this one worth

\$175,000. The work: collaborate with national experts to bring policy and training resources to the Genesee Metropolitan Planning Commission, create national best practices and target 17 other local government agencies in Genesee County with transportation policies.

The Network was awarded the grant April 1. Quite an acknowledgement of the grantees' success in promoting successful policy change in the community.

A full plate? Not quite

The Michigan Department of Transportation has a \$1,900,000 federally-funded project called "Safe Routes to Schools" to ensure children's transportation routes to and from school are safe for walking or biking.

As a result of the audits and advocacy efforts earlier in Flint by trained "Access Flint" volunteers, the "Safe Routes to Schools" program changed their auditing survey, tools, policies and practices to include people with disabilities.

Zelley says, "They recognized the value of having people with disabilities as part of the process and changed their statewide program to make certain people with disabilities are front and center during these audits." MDOT naturally asked the Network and its volunteers to participate in an advisory role in the "Safe Routes" program.

Zelley says all of these activities and successes are due to the initial funding of the first RICC-Endorsed Mini-Grant and the advocacy skills of the 18 staff and volunteers who directly worked on these projects. This community attention, recognition of the need for changes and the resulting projects has exceeded their expectations and, says Zelley, changed the course of The Disability Network, staff, volunteers and self-advocates.

"The most significant accomplishment is the huge increase in number and skills of advocates with disabilities, plus their understanding of value of collaboration and how to work with like-minded partners for systems change policy."

A final thought: Zelley observes how embracing the independent living philosophy of "Nothing About Us Without Us" plays into systems change.

“The community – museums, sports arenas, park departments, transportation providers, foundations, corporations and policy makers – are making decisions all the time.

“People with disabilities need to be at the table when decisions are being made. It is up to us to be there and make a difference. And sometimes, when the collaborations and strategies are in place – all you have to do is have the courage to show up and ask.

More about this series of grants and the value of collaboration is available. Contact Zelly at The Disability Network, 810-742-1800 x319. Email him at lukez@disnetwork.org.

DD Council work group and committee meeting minutes

Multicultural Committee

March 12, 2007

Present:

Terrie Hylton (chair); Preethy Samuel; Jacqueline Day; Rick Van Horn; Yasmina Bouraoui; Sophie Baker; Patrick McSherry; Caryn Ivey (phone); Pam Hall; James Gulley; Mitzi Allen; Al Flores, Dee Florence; Tracy Vincent; Becky Arenas (phone); Olga Torres (phone).

Call to Order: by P. Hall at 1:05 p.m.

Following introductions, Al Flores from the Michigan Department of Civil Rights, spoke. He spoke on two training programs offered by Civil Rights, “Building Cultural Competency,” and “Hate Crime 101.” Sessions have been held around the state. Flores offered the training to the Council, service providers and Regional Interagency Consumer Committees (RICCs).

“Building Cultural Competence” is a four-hour program. Among the topics covered are biases, demographics, religion and ethnic protocols. “Hate

Crime 101” is two hours and offers training in how to identify a hate crime and understanding the importance of hate crime laws.

Committee members said people with disabilities are not included as an element of the hate crime training program. Those with disabilities may have problems attending the training sessions at sites around the state because of possible accessibility difficulties.

Flores also announced the 2007 MI Conference on Hate Crimes, Sept. 6 at the MSU Kellogg Center. It is free. For more, call 517-241-4319.

Approval of February’s meeting minutes. Approved.

Approval of the March meeting agenda. Approved.

Old Business

A. S. Baker provided the Diversity Focus article for inclusion with the March Council meeting announcement mailing. For April’s announcement, P. Hall will do an article on transportation.

B. Van Horn said he and Baker will attempt to convert the Committee’s current work plan into a simpler, easier-to-read format. The format was created by Council staff. The Committee’s work plan conversion is a trial run for the suggested format. If it is successful, other Council committees and work groups will adopt the format.

After the conversion, the new version will be considered by the Committee at the April meeting.

C. Adelante Magazine...should the Committee advertise in it? Allen outlined options for placing ads or articles in this Ingham County publication. Both ads and articles have a cost.

Allen said a one and a half page article for the quarterly publication is \$500. Ad costs were not available. Should the Committee suggest to RICCs to use their outreach money for such ads? Adelante seems to have a limited distribution, so that idea does not compute.

Allen will contact other organizations around the state that work with the Council and find out what publications they know of that might be useful for such an ad campaign, and report back to the Committee.

New Business

A. Hylton addressed next steps of the Committee. She discussed creating the Council and Committee as “brands” (as in “branding”) where people know to go for, say, support, or advocacy.

In planning for next year, telling people who the Committee is and what it does.....get the word out....to help the diversity coordinators and RICCs get the word out. Day agrees and has experiences in her RICC educating members on what the Council and Committee are about. Are RICC brochures the answer? Put individual RICC stickers on existing Council brochures?

Hylton suggested developing boilerplate materials (such as laminated copies of items from the Committee’s display board for development of an individual RICC’s own display) for diversity coordinators and the RICCs. The Committee members agreed...such action would help support the coordinators, who can often become overwhelmed.

Arenas said it is important that the Council name appear on all RICC publications so readers of those publications can make the connection.

Baker would like to see the Committee develop a public service announcement. Hylton said that could be done through communications/advertising departments at MSU and Lansing Community College. Arenas said one was recently done for The Arc.

Hall suggested considering a change of the Committee’s name. Hylton said the Committee’s name best describes its activity in a culturally-diverse county such as Wayne. Day said there are more important items that should take up the Committee’s time, at least for the time being.

Bouraoui said the Committee shouldn’t expect all counties to be like Wayne, thus the expectations of the Committee for less diverse counties – Ogemaw was the example – for successful outreach should be less. The Committee agreed, and said outreach efforts, at least, should be made

since the Census shows there are diverse groups in every Michigan county.

Hall said the Committee speaks to different issues other than multiculturalism.

Baker wanted to know what the response has been to the Committee promoting itself as a outreach resource. Consensus was...not much. Should a survey be conducted? Or, maybe Committee members should go to RICC meeting and find out for themselves. Van Horn suggested moving Committee meetings to other locations, which is a true commitment to outreach that might produce results, but also requires some extra effort on the part of Committee members. Allen agreed.

He also mentioned the success of the Detroit Project 360 to families with members with disabilities, an effort from the Developmental Disabilities Institute and the Council; this is a project that the Committee could at least copy its successful outreach practices. Samuel is a part of this project for DDI and agrees its methods could be adapted to Committee outreach efforts.

Day suggested a brochure from the Committee but was advised that one already exists. All members agreed they should attend more RICC meetings to encourage outreach. Same for Council members.

B. Allen reported on the Poster Committee's meeting the previous week. The poster will be used for outreach. Samples were posted around the meeting room for the Committee to see. At the Poster Committee meeting, October was targeted as a completion date for poster design and distribution. Hopefully, the poster will be printed in different languages. Targets for distribution include social agencies, political groups, educational organizations, doctor's offices, and RICCs.

C. Allen discussed the April 11 Council Collaboration Meeting. Invitations went to Council members, committee and work group members and other interested parties. The Committee would like to work with the other work groups and committees on projects and outreach. Site for the meeting on the 11th is Resource One Credit Union at the corner of Lake Lansing Road and I-127 in Lansing. Time is 9:30 a.m. to 12:30.

D. Hylton suggested that people with disabilities should participate in the annual Michigan State Fair's arts activities and competition. Included are painting, photography, Christmas tree decoration and other forms of art. They have a young people's section, a mature people's section, etc. She asked that a Committee member look into this to find out what opportunities might be available for people with disabilities.

There is also an art opportunity through a Syracuse, NY group that produces a calendar. Bouraoui will investigate this element.

Hylton announced she is looking for a replacement for herself to attend the RICC regional meeting in Marquette on April 3. However, Hylton said to consider her as an attendee of the last resort.

Congratulations to J. Day on her appointment as a Council member. She added there still are openings on the Council. This a chance to make the Council more diverse. See Allen for qualifications.

McSherry announced the annual Walk n' Roll fund-raiser at Holt High School on March 24.

Van Horn announced that March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month and pointed to the Governor's proclamation on the Council conference room wall as evidence.

Family Support Work Group

February 21, 2007

Members Present: David Martin, Lori Goike
Via Phone: Carolyn Allston-Smith, Judy Cerano, Audrey Craft
Staff: Tracy Vincent, Vendella Collins, Yasmina Bouraoui

Audrey Craft motioned to approve the January 17 minutes, David Martin seconded. Motion approved.

Judy Cerano gave an update on the Did You Know? project. The next family and support coordinator meetings are April 5, 2007 and April 19,

2007 at Sacred Heart Seminary in Detroit. These meetings will focus on family experiences with the Detroit CMH.

Futures Planning

Lori Goike wanted an update on the Families and Individuals Planning for their Futures project. This project was approved by the council. The group will continue to revisit this item.

Review of addresses/organizations to send the survey

Lori will set up a date for an ad hoc meeting with members who can contribute a list of organizations to send the survey to. We are asking these organizations to send the surveys to parents they are involved with. By March 21, the list will be finalized and the surveys will be printed.

Judy will distribute the surveys at the April 5th and April 19th family and supports coordinator meetings. Lori will distribute the surveys at the Early On Conference in April.

Lori will talk to Jackie about putting the survey on organization's websites she maintains.

Parents will have until April 30th to respond to the surveys. The surveys will be given to Jackie to tally that needs to be completed by June. At the June and July FSWG meetings, the group will focus on developing activities based on the input received from the surveys. The 2007-2008 work plan needs to be completed by August 15th.

Discussion of project ideas for April 11th collaborative meeting

The council is holding a meeting to discuss the future of council advocacy. Council members and work group/committee leaders will talk about future grants, systems change and the next five-year strategic state plan. It's an opportunity to provide input that will help shape future council activities. We encourage members to attend that have ideas to share. The meeting starts at 9:30am at the Option One Credit Union in East Lansing.

July 10th Council Meeting

The July 10th Council meeting will focus on families and the FSWG will create the agenda for that day. The agenda will be shaped around meeting the needs of families. Some ideas for presentations include:

Family Support Network – Randy Krause
Family Support Subsidy – Sheri Falvay
MI Alliance for Families Project
Respite Coalition – Pam Sinnott
Medicaid Policy related to Respite – Deb Ziegler or Judy Webb
Respite – Judy Wagner from LAP Respite
Family to Family Project – Lisa Gordon
Did You Know Project – Judy Cerano
Office of Young Children – Barb Monroe
Early On – Mischele McManus
Fatherhood Initiatives

Work Plan

The group reviewed activity dates to make sure we are on track. An activity that was added was to receive quarterly updates from organizations that serve families. We will be contacting several organizations to distribute the surveys and it is important to keep ongoing communication with them. We will invite them to give updates at our FSWG meetings.

It was suggested to have a one-day conference on issues that affect families and what their needs are. The group will explore this option further.

Transportation Work Group

March 8, 2007

PRESENT : Diane Kempen, Paul Palmer, Jacqui Day, JoAnn Lucas, MaLissa Schutt, Pam Hall, Sharen Blowers, Doug Anderson

Guests

Carissa McQuiston, Paul Hershkowitz,

Staff

Tandy Bidinger, Dee Florence

VIA PHONE:

Muskegon: Karen Wynne, Frank Minor, Mary Mitchell
Armor

Midland Vera Graham

Kalamazoo:

Battle Creek: Lori Lake, Penny Campbell, Carol Berge
Washtenaw: Erin McMahon, Robin Sefton, Scott Morrison
Genesee; Mae Golden, Gorden Siwula, Carl Fenner

Wayne Co.: Hank Johnson, Tommy Meadows,
Ontonagon: Keith Paulson, Sue Ernest, Joe Miller, Dale
Kempen

Eastern UP: Kori Horrom., Gregor Krause, Jon Bronicheski
Baraga: Ben Ransom, Janel LaPlante, Mick Sheridan,
Carl Mantila, James Cook

Huron: Veronica Albin, Louis Stearns, Anthony
Fallena

Approval of Minutes

JoAnn Lucas moved that the February 2007 minutes be approved as presented. Jacqui Day seconded.

Legislative Update

Federal

There is a new program entitled "New Freedom" which allocates federal dollars for transportation providers to work on coordination of transportation in each area: counties, townships, etc.

State

The budget is the big issue at this time. Each day the deficit gets larger and larger. It's time to contact your legislators and ask them to stop partisan squabbling and come up a new budget. There needs to be a combination of cuts along with a tax increase, according to the Governor.

Individuals should attend relevant committee hearings and give testimony whenever possible. If you are unable to attend, you can send your written comments to the Committee holding the hearing, and they will consider them.

T-Shirt Update

Consumers will be asked to pay \$2 to receive a T-shirt and professionals will be asked to pay \$10. Checks need to be made out to "Northfield Human Services" and mailed to the DD Council Office. The DD Council address is: 1033 S. Washington Ave., Lansing, MI 48909, attn: Dee Florence.

April DD Council Transportation Themed Meeting

There will be two or three hours available at the April DD Council meeting to present on transportation topics. It is very important that all presentations are presented so that those with cognitive disabilities can understand. The following ideas were suggested as speakers.

- CCL give a presentation on how to work with advocates.
 - o What is leadership? (teach something practical and how to use it)
 - o Make it interactive
- Glenn Ashley could give a presentation on the new project created by the TWG, "All aboard, Transportation Advocacy 101."
- Voucher Grantee Update
 - o How they've grown
 - o Obstacles/how they were overcome
 - o Success stories

LAC Updates

LIVINGSTON

Doug Anderson reported that they have decided to bring in two new specialized service providers.

BATTLE CREEK

RICC Chair, Lori Lake is a member of the LAC. However, the LAC only has two meetings a year. The TWG suggested that the RICC members ask the LAC to have more meetings.

HURON

Newly elected Representative Terry Brown used to sit on the LAC. However, since he was elected, due to scheduling conflicts, he no longer sits on the LAC. The transit heads want Rep. Brown back on the LAC and are trying to coordinate schedules to make this happen.

APRIL 11, 2007 COLLABORATION MEETING

This meeting will be held at the Option One Credit Union in Lansing. It will be a networking meeting between all the committees and work groups giving them an opportunity to interact with one another. Leaders from all Work Groups and Committees will be invited.

MDOT State Long-Range Transportation Plan

Speaker Paul Hershkowitz gave a presentation on MDOT's Long-Range Transportation Plan. This plan will establish a vision and policy framework for Michigan's transportation system through the year 2030. Starting in April the proposed plan will be posted on MDOT's website. Consumers are asked to read over the plan and submit comments. Please read, review, and comment on the plan at www.michigan.gov/slrp.

Success Stories

Capitol Area: *Paul Palmer attended the Public Policy Summit in Washington DC.* He used public transportation (the subway) while there to get from the airport to his hotel and then from his hotel to the site of the conference. Someone on his plane told him what line to take to get to downtown DC and to his hotel. Paul said it was a good way to get around but there was no accessible seating or tie downs.

Paul also announced that he has submitted his name to part of the Capitol Area Transit Authority's Board of Directors.

Jacqui Day reported that LAC member Todd Tennis, is a newly elected County Commissioner. This is great news as Todd is greatly involved with transportation issues through the "Lets Get Moving Coalition".

Genesee: Mae Golden also attended the Public Policy Summit in Washington DC. She had numerous opportunities to speak with the legislators from Michigan about issues that affect people with disabilities.

Livingston: Milan Transit was about to go out of business. However, Northfield Human Services contacted MDOT and made arrangements to take over the services previously provided by Milan Transit.

Teleconference Rules:

All RICCs are encouraged to participate in the TWG teleconference. Due to the large number of individuals interested in calling in, and the limited funding allocated to the TWG, ground rules have been set. They are as follows:

- The Teleconference site must be at a public place.
- There should be at least two consumers participating in the call.

- RICCs must RSVP in advance so that meeting materials can be sent to you in before the meeting, and that we can let others from your area know where the phone site is.

Public Policy Committee

March 13, 2007

Present

Andre Robinson, Jacqui Day, Paul Palmer, Theresa Squires, Melinda Haus-Johnson, Judy Webb, Pam Hall, Tandy Bidiger, Dee Florence, Terry Hunt, Cynthia Farrell, Rob Lewakowski, Vendella Collins, Frank Lynn, Jane Reagan

Welcome/Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 am.

Approval of Minutes from November meetings

Paul Palmer moved that the minutes from the January meeting be accepted. Judy Webb seconded. CARRIED.

State Updates

The state is experiencing a budget crisis. Everyday the budget deficit goes unresolved the State gets further and further in debt.

Legislation has been proposed if a department goes over budget the Department Director and Fiscal Agent will be jailed.

ACTION ALERT: Communicate with your legislators. Let them know what cuts to services would mean to you and your quality of life. If you are willing to pay a small tax increase for quality of life, let them know.

Public Policy Seminar D.C.

DD Council staff, Terry Hunt, Council member, Paul Palmer and Genesee RICC member, Mae Golden attended the 2007 Disability Public Policy Seminar in Washington D.C. A fact sheet on numerous issues was distributed and is an excellent source of information and will be distributed to all.

However, everyone was surprised that transportation was not one of the issues highlighted.

April 11, 2007 Networking/Collaboration Meeting

A meeting has been planned for April 11, 2007 for all work groups and committees. Leaders and members are encouraged to attend. This will be an opportunity for the groups to learn about common elements from existing committee and workgroup projects. Then brainstorm how they can collaborate. (on advocacy and/or future projects)

Legislative Event Debrief/future Plans

Over 75 legislators and 200 RICC members attended. Evaluations are being sent out to the legislators to gather their input.

From the RICC evaluations received and in our discussion, logistics seem to be the biggest problem encountered. The best time for the legislators to attend our event is 11:00 am – 1:00 pm. However, not serving food served until after 1:00 is a problem for people with diabetes and other health issues. Overall, the event received good ratings.

Health Issues Work Group

Jan. 16, 2007

Members present: Jacqui Day, Judy Webb

Members via phone: Linda Potter, Shelia Semler, Yvonne Fleener

Staff: Terry Hunt, Dee Florence,

The minutes from the December 2006 meeting were accepted as presented.

Status of Faces of Medicaid Project

The newest revision is 12 minutes long, which is still too long. Linda Potter went over the script and made revisions to shorten the piece.

The project still needs a name.

Status of MI Oral Health Needs RFP

The RFP is out. Terry Hunt will double check to see if Shelia Semler has forwarded the RFP out to the Oral Health Coalition. Please let us know if you know of anyone we should send the RFP to.

The “Bidders Conference” for this RFP will be February 7, 2007 in the DD Council conference room at 1:30 pm.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 Dave Branding will be at the next meeting to report the status of the project.

Status of Work Plan

Everything is progressing along nicely.

Direction and Focus of HIWG

A discussion was held as whether the group is partnering with all allies possible. It is extremely important that we do not duplicate anything that is already being worked on by anyone else. Yvonne Flenner is creating a chart of allies to see who is working on what.

Currently, the work plan is looking at things long-term. Do we need to incorporate short-term goals? The HIWG needs to create a process of where they want to go.

Health Issues Work Group

Feb. 20, 2007

Members present: Jacqui Day, Dave Branding, Judy Webb, Sheila Semler, Roanne Cheney, Donna Morris, Patrick Baker, Mary Marin, Pam Hall, Yvonne Fleener, Paul Shaheen

Members via phone: Theresa Arini, Dawn Robarsh, Brandy Hagaman

Staff: Terry Hunt, Dee Florence,

The minutes from the January 2007 meeting were accepted as presented.

Status of Care Coordination Project

A report was given from the three local sites; Washtenaw, Kalamazoo, and Bay-Arenac.

Washtenaw

There are currently 18 participants in the project and the goal is to have 50 by the end of the project. After an in-depth discussion with each individual a health care coordination plan was created for each person.

Partnering with the Extension office, the project will be holding classes on health topics at the local recreation center. The first class will be about diabetes. It will give an overview of the disease, discuss ways to control diabetes, describe how certain foods will affect blood sugar, etc.

Kalamazoo

There are currently 15 participants, 48 individuals in the “healthy lifestyles” class, and 36 participating receiving coordinated dental services. The project is working with the RICC to teach healthy lifestyles. All participants have gotten a health care binder and created a health care coordination plan.

The project has established a great working relationship with the “Health Plan of Michigan” and will be hosting a health fair in March.

Bay-Arenac

There are 50 individuals participating in the project. A health care coordination tool kit has been developed. It contains an owner’s guide and a CD with valuable medical information and forms. The project has worked with all participating individuals and created a health care coordination plan using the information and forms found in the toolkit.

Overview of the project from project evaluator

Most individuals participating in the project already have primary care physicians. The ethnic makeup of those participating in the project is as follows:

White 85%

Black 11%

Native 4%
American

State Budget Update

Peter Burdell from Weiner and Associates addressed the group describing the status of the State budget and several of the proposed solutions. Many lawmakers support budget cuts along with raising taxes, while other only want to see budget cuts. With the large budget deficit, it would be impossible to preserve current services if only budget cuts were made without also raising taxes. It is very important to contact your legislators and tell them that you are willing to pay for a better quality of life in Michigan.

Status of Oral Health Project

A bidders conference was held February 7, 2007 with several individuals participating. There seems to be great interest in this project. Cheryl has received more calls than she anticipated asking for further information concerning this grant.

Medicaid: Our Neighbors, Our Community

The DVD was reviewed and numerous edits were suggested. A discussion was held as to the best way to list resources to obtain further information on Medicaid.

Next meeting Tuesday, March 20, 2007 from 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm at the DD Council office.

Education Work Group

March 28, 2007

Attendance: Karen Massaro-Mundt, Jane Spitzley, Glenn Ashley, Patt Clement, Yasmina Bouraoui, Rick Van Horn
Phone: Stacey Diekevers, Andre Robinson, Sandee Koski

1.) Stacey moved to accept the February 28, 2007 minutes. Jane S. seconded, and the motion carried.

2.) Universal Education Mini-Summits

2a.) Transition summit – Arc of Kent County

Patt reports that they are revising their plans to cover the changes requested at last month's workgroup meeting.

It will be held September 15 or 22 at Kent ISD. They should have that confirmed in a couple weeks.

The ISD is covering all meeting room costs, and they hope to have additional funds from the Transitions Coordinators.

The Arc of St. Clair had a conference on transition last weekend, and are willing to assist as needed.

2b.) Early Childhood Inclusion Summit – MSU

The summit will be at Lansing Community College West Campus on Monday, April 23.

3.) Advise Council on Education Issues

3a.) Accessibility of meetings

The St. Clair RICC members still say that they have trouble understanding what is going on at the meetings.

We need to keep these issues in mind for our May 8 Council meeting presentations. We want color-coded handouts to help people follow along.

4.) Presentation at the May DD Council meeting on May 8.

The Education workgroup is responsible for the program portion of the Council meeting.

Esther can talk about Early Childhood Inclusion, the Summit, and about the results of the grant. Rick will confirm her presentation time, and discuss elements of making presentations more understandable.

Mark may be able to find someone to come talk about the hot policy issues. No Child Left Behind reauthorization is a big topic, but is nearly impossible to explain.

Everyone Together will provide information about what they are doing, sustainability, and a report from Stephanie about the evaluation. The RICCs could be informed about the networks, given contact information, and how they can build relationships with the network in their community.

Their website is EveryoneTogether.org

Universal Design for Learning is another possible presentation. It uses a broad range of presentation styles to helping students learn in their

preferred way. Jeff Diedrich is director of Michigan's Integrated Technology Support. Their organization recently changed their name. A report on the Universal Education referent group. Several workgroup members were on the group. The group wrote the policy framework, which was adopted by the State Board in Nov, 2005. It was presented, along with strategies for implementation, at the May 2006 Council meeting, and nothing has been done. It has not really been distributed.

We could give large quantities for people to take them back to their communities. It is hard to get. We could develop talking points, based on recommendations from last year's Council meeting. The Call to Action document could be simplified to make the Talking Points. Sandee will talk with her contacts at MDE to find out if they have quantities of copies available.

We could get it printed from the Workgroup budget if money is available. Glenn will email copies of the materials from last year's meeting to Yasmina and Rick to distribute to the work group.

Stacey could include this with the ET presentation, and have it go back and forth with Karen.

???Hot Policy Issues. (No Child Left Behind and New Education Rules.) Rick will call Mark to see if he has someone to do it. Maggie at Arc Kent could be a backup. She is on SEAC. It would be brief announcement, a warning that comment time is coming and will need a quick response. A handout could be part of the presentation. It would include who and how to contact people to get more information.

Link between presentations can be made by the staff person who serves as MC.

All speakers explain things they are doing to make presentations easier to understand as they roll out those methods.

Handout on Making Presentations Easier to Understand. Glenn will put together the handout, and bring it to the next workgroup meeting for suggestions.

The agenda we will request:

11:00 Everyone Together – Stacey Diekevers

11:25 Call to Action: Moving Ahead on Universal Education – Stacey Diekevers, Karen Massaro-Mundt, and Sandee Koski.

12:00 Lunch

- 1:00 Call for Action Talking Points
- 1:15 ???Hot Policy Issues – to be determined
- 1:30 Early Childhood Inclusion – Esther Onaga
- 2:00 Discussion of Our Goal: Making Presentations Easier to Understand – Karen Massaro-Mundt.
- 2:30 End of Program

Staff will make adjustments in times as needed to accommodate the rest of the day's agenda.

5.) Collaboration with Grantees
No report scheduled this month.

6.) Tracking of Policy Issues

6a.) Federal issues

The Disability Policy Seminar report includes information about the NCLB and Higher Education Act. It was sent out with the Monday Update

6b.) State legislature

No report.

6c.) Michigan Department of Education

The administrative rules are being revised during the next year. The first wave for public comment are expected in June. Families tend to get less information during the summer because school is out, so we need to make sure to get the information out.

6d.) State Board of Education

The task force on pre-service, teacher education requirement has been convened. It is mostly university people, with one parent. They do not see people with disabilities as an important issue. They are supposed to come back with recommendations on May 8

6e.) Detroit Public Schools issues

Andre has been keeping track of this item. They plan to close or consolidate 34 schools. It previously was 50 schools, but some have been taken off the list.

6f.) Other issues

Patt was at meeting with another DDC grant with Tony Wong on diversity. The Arc of Kent is doing the west side of the state under the diversity grant. The Sparta Area Migrant Council is very interested in education issues. Children needing SE services may move in the 30 day period that schools have to do assessments. This keeps kids out of appropriate services. This issue needs to be followed. The West Michigan Inclusion Network could help with some issues. Advocates that speak Spanish are needed.

Sandee reported that the Michigan Alliance for Families is working on helping families understand IEP issues. Direct advocacy will not be part of that grant. Regional parent mentors will need to refer the parent to local resources. She will report on the Alliance at the next workgroup meeting. Sandee works in the same office as Tony Wong, and will be able to coordinate efforts.

Sandee has set a date with Stacey and WIN for presentations about the IEP.

The Project Perform is merging into the Michigan Alliance for Families.

7.) Announcements

Membership list will be sent to members to update contact information, and to identify active members of the workgroup as separate from the mailing list

Patt announced that Wayne State DDI is having a symposium for postsecondary education for students with cognitive impairments. First planning meeting is Wed. April 4 at Holiday Inn Express in Brighton from 1 to 4 pm. Glenn will try to attend.

8.) Andre move to adjourn. Stacey seconded, and the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 12:02 pm