

## Questions asked at the August 27 RICC Teleconference regarding the new self-advocacy network

Q If some RICCs were not self-advocacy groups, why were they funded?

A Our current 5 year plan was designed to help strengthen RICCs so those that were not self-advocacy groups, could become self-advocacy groups.

To expand upon that answer given at the teleconference, new resources created in the council's 5 year plan included:

- regional coordinators to more directly assist RICCs;
- a menu of various training options;
- new training designed for RICCs on critical issues such as community organizing, self-advocacy, self-determination, leadership development, etc.

Q How can RICCs join the new system.

A At the teleconference, I responded that I did not know how the new system would work.

The council recently sent an e-mail Save-the-Date flyer. This flyer announces that sessions are scheduled for October 30 and 31 for adults with developmental disabilities to learn more about the new system and being part of it. (You only need to attend one of the two sessions.) We want as many people as possible to participate.

Q Why didn't Terry talk about the new system when he met with the RICC?

A I knew I had limited time at these meetings so I focused on helping RICCs draft their FY '16 Plan for Change and budget.

In reflecting on the need for discussion about upcoming changes and as we had more experience with the length of time needed for these meetings, I added discussion about the new system in my meetings with RICCs.

Q Will there be help for RICCs to apply to the new system?

A While I don't know what the new system/structure will be, I believe there will be assistance for groups.

Following the teleconference, the council announced the October 30 and 31 sessions. At these sessions, participants can learn about and/or suggest supports that groups may need to be part of the new system.

Q How will local advocacy be impacted?

A. We want local advocacy to be strengthened under the new system. As an additional comment, I see this change as an empowering opportunity to take self-advocacy to the next level.

Q Will there be lag time between the current system ending and a new system starting.

A At the teleconference I said I did not know the answer to this question.

After giving this further thought, there may be lag time with the start of up of the new system.

Q Will the RICC teleconference and legislative event continue?

A. RICC teleconferences will end with the old system but I said I did not know about the legislative event in the new system.

After further thought, I believe the legislative event may continue.

Q Can there be future teleconferences that help answer questions and describe how the new system will work

A. Yes, we will provide information as it becomes available and talk about the new system at future teleconferences.

While we will have information at teleconferences, attending the October sessions will give participants the best way to learn about and participate in the design of the new system.

Q Should RICCs begin to fund raise to support RICC activities in the future.

A. At the teleconference I recommended that RICCs stay focused on their work plan so RICCs are in the best position to transition to the new system.

At this point I want to offer further information about my comment at the teleconference.

Yes, RICCs can fund raise, but I have the following concerns or issues the RICC should consider if it does choose to fund raise.

1. Most RICCs say they don't have enough people to help the RICC do its work. Each RICC has a Plan for Change that requires a team of people to continually work to accomplish the plan. If members are additionally involved in fund raising

projects, I am concerned that may reduce their time to help with the RICC's advocacy work.

2. No RICC funds can be used for fund raising expenses.

3. Michigan Department of Health and Human Services accounting staff report that if a RICC fund raises, any amount raised is subject to an increase in the RICC's in-kind match requirement. If the RICC raises funds, the RICC's Fiscal Agent will need to revise and submit a new Program Budget Summary form to the council office for approval. The Fiscal Agent will need to account for the additional funds raised and the new match amount in subsequent Financial Status Reports (FSRs).

If the RICC plans to fund raise, talk to your Fiscal Agent to be sure they are willing to take this on this additional work.

Comments from teleconference participants.

Delta already is directed by people with disabilities and we are concerned current momentum will be lost if it has to change to a new system.

Public policy advocacy may not continue at the same level during the transition.

I think this change provides an opportunity for growth.