



January 13, 2012

RTC Receives \$1 Million Grant to Study Publicly-Funded Supports for People with Disabilities

More than a million Americans with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) receive publically-funded support services. The majority (58%) live in the home of a family member, while 31% live in residential facilities or with host/foster families and 9% live in homes of their own. With the continuing shift toward community living, there's a need for federal and state agencies to better understand the current status and emerging trends in supporting individuals with IDD who are living in their own home or with family members, as well as supports targeting the family members rather than the individual. These are the areas that will be explored in a new collaborative project housed at the Institute's Research and Training Center on Community Living (RTC) titled the Supporting Individuals and Families Information Systems Project.

Over the next five years the RTC, collaborating with the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services and the Human Services Research Institute, will establish and refine a comprehensive program of annual data collection and longitudinal data analysis, policy studies, and broad-based dissemination to better understand and promote effective supports for families and for individuals who direct their own support. Funded by the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the project is directed by Sherri Larson and Amy Hewitt at the RTC and builds on its Residential Information Systems Project that has tracked the status and trends in residential supports for people with IDD since 1977.

"We need reliable annual national information about the supports families need and get. This project gives us a chance to develop a system to collect, analyze, and report that information," says Sherri. Specific activities of the new project will include developing and implementing a data collection process and instrumentation to gather national and state-by-state data about in-home supports for families and individuals with IDD; conducting annual supplemental studies of existing data sets, including the National Core Indicators, or special surveys on service outcomes, trends, and innovations; and sharing findings nationwide. A national advisory team will help identify the actual data elements that the researchers collect. They will begin by gathering ages of people with disabilities living with family members, the funding sources for programs providing support to families, and the number of families receiving family-directed dollars. Project data will compare and contrast the cost and nature of services that target the person with IDD versus those targeting the family members with whom they live, and the cost and nature of services for children versus services for adults with IDD. "This project will provide a stable source of information to federal and state policymakers on supports and services for families who live with adults and children with IDD," Sherri concludes.

FFI, contact Sherri at larso072@umn.edu or 612-624-6024.

Staff Update

- **Staff Hire:** **Hanife Cakici**, GRA, Transition. **Staff Departure:** **Aolin Xie**, GRA, Adult Services.
- On January 13, **Jean Ness** co-presented on *The Young American Indian Entrepreneur* curriculum and model in New Orleans at the United States Association for Small Business and Entrepreneurship conference.
- **Libby Hallas-Muchow** was interviewed in the Winter/Spring 2012 issue of *Technological Leadership* magazine on business continuity and disaster recovery plans – the subject of the capstone project in her recent M.S. degree in Security Technologies. The magazine is published by the Technological Leadership Institute at the University's College of Science and Engineering.
- **Angela Amado** presented at the national TASH conference in Atlanta on December 1 about the Research and Training Center on Community Living project on increasing friendships between individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and other community members.
- **Chris Johnstone** presented on international special education at the University's Saturday Scholars event on November 5 at Coffman Union. He outlined global trends in education of students with special needs and shared information from his projects over the past 10 years in Mexico, Trinidad and Tobago, Lesotho, Macedonia, Kenya, Serbia, Turkmenistan, and the United States.

Dates to Remember...

- January 16: University Closed
- January 18: Community Advisory Council, 11:30-1:30, UROC
- January 20: ICI Pizza Forum, 12-1, 118 Pattee
- February 14: ICI Council, 10-12, 118 Pattee

From the Front Office

News from ICI's Administrative Staff

- **Research Fellow Promotions.** Information regarding promotion to Senior Research Fellow was e-mailed December 12. Research Fellows interested in pursuing a promotion should notify Beth Nelson in writing at nels106@umn.edu by January 13.
- **International Travel Policy Change.** Effective January 1, the University now requires pre-travel registration for all international travel for University purposes. The policy is available at: <http://www.policy.umn.edu/Policies/Finance/Travel/TRAVEL.html>. Note that there is no additional travel approval process associated with this policy, but it will make it easier and more efficient to provide travelers with helpful information prior to

departure, and to provide travelers with prompt assistance overseas should circumstances demand it.

- **ICI Council Update.** The Institute Council met on January 10 and Tom Norman, Senior Director for Research, Innovations and Outreach (RIO) in the College, was a guest; he described some of the RIO priorities and activities, and how those may connect with and support the work of ICI and the other college-wide centers. Among other topics discussed at the council meeting were upcoming staff performance reviews, continued evaluation of the findings of the ICI Disability Survey of employees, training for supervisors at ICI, and College Academic Professionals and Administrators (CAPA) group activities.

Miscellaneous

- **Evaluation Conference.** Registration is now open for the 17th Annual Minnesota Evaluation Studies Institute (MESI) Spring Conference to be held March 28-30 at the University's Continuing Education Conference Center. The theme is "Evaluation in a Complex World: Changing Expectations, Changing Realities" and features speakers from across the University and the local evaluation and human services community. This conference is designed for professional evaluators, program directors and staff in non-profit and for-profit organizations, students, and others interested in conducting or using evaluations. FFI, visit <http://evaluation.umn.edu/mesi-conference/2012-mesi-conference/>.
- **New Resource for Siblings of People with Disabilities.** In December, The Arc announced a new partnership with the national Sibling Leadership Network (SLN) and formed The Arc's National Sibling Council. The National Sibling Council will connect siblings of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities with each other and offer them opportunities to impact policy, service delivery and the quality of life for millions of Americans with disabilities through specialized programming, events, and opportunities to connect. FFI, visit the "I Am A Sibling" page on The Arc's Web site at <http://www.thearc.org/page.aspx?pid=2661>.

- **Webinar on Jobs for Students with Intellectual Disability.** A webinar, *Finding Jobs for Students with Intellectual Disability: Where Do You Start?* is being hosted on March 7, 2-3:30 p.m. EST. It is sponsored by Think College, a national initiative for which ICI is a collaborator. FFI, visit <http://www.thinkcollege.net/for-professionals/training-events>.
- **Resource on Charter Schools and Students with Disabilities.** The National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities (NICHCY) published the brief *The Facts on Charter Schools and Students with Disabilities* in November 2011 to answer 10 commonly-asked questions that families and educators have about charter schools, such as whether charter schools are required to serve students with disabilities, how they are funded, and what teacher certification requirements for charter schools are. Links to state-specific resources are also included. FFI, visit <http://nichcy.org/publications/charters>.
- **Birthdays.** Bjorn Pederson (1/19), Derek Nord (1/20), Yi-Chen Wu (1/27), Kate Welshons (1/27), Susan O'Neil (1/30), Kristin Dean (1/31), Mark Olson (2/2), Chantal Figueroa (2/7), Whitney Sharpe (2/8), Lynda Anderson (2/11), Deb Albus (2/13), and Rebekah Rieke (2/17). Did we miss your birthday? Let us know! Call 4-2380 or e-mail kuro0008@umn.edu.

Bits & Pieces

Information on New Publications and Web Sites

- **New Publications.** The following new ICI publications are available:
 - *NCEO Synthesis Report 86: Educating Struggling Learners: Reflections on Lessons Learned About Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment* (December 2011). Published by the Institute's National Center on Educational Outcomes (NCEO). Available on the Web at <http://www.cehd.umn.edu/NCEO/onlinepubs/Synthesis86/default.htm>.
 - *NCEO Brief 5: Performance of Special Education Students: Implications for Common State Assessments* (January 2012). Published by NCEO and available on the Web at <http://www.cehd.umn.edu/NCEO/OnlinePubs/briefs/brief05/brief05.html>.
- **Check & Connect E-mail "Blasts."** In a new service, Check & Connect is sending e-mail "blasts" to subscribers approximately every four to six weeks. These "blasts" inform subscribers about Check & Connect news and upcoming events, such as Check & Connect webinars. To subscribe, e-mail checkandconnect@umn.edu.
- **Check & Connect Webinar.** Check & Connect is hosting "Exploring Check & Connect," a one-hour webinar that introduces participants to the research-based Check & Connect model on January 31, 1-2 p.m. Cost is \$30 per computer connection. FFI, contact checkandconnect@umn.edu or 612-624-2097. The registration deadline is January 20.
- **E-Connect.** E-Connect, an ICI mentoring project that connects high school students to employees from the local business community through e-mail and face-to-face meetings, has launched its Web site at <http://ici.umn.edu/e-connect/>. The Web site addresses mentoring coordinators, teachers, employer liaisons, mentors, and mentees – and offers resources and tools relevant to each audience.
- **FYI Deadline.** Items for the next FYI should be submitted to Tom (donag003@umn.edu) by February 8.