

RISP Charts Changing MR/DD Field

One of the first projects of ICI's Research and Training Center on Community Living (RRTC) was a national residential services survey and dissemination project conducted in 1977. Because of its ongoing involvement in this type of research, the RRTC now has the reputation as *the* national center for data on long-term care for persons with mental retardation and developmental disabilities (MR/DD). Many of the data analyses at the RRTC are conducted by the National Residential Information Systems Project (RISP), which is funded by the Administration on Developmental Disabilities and the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA). One recently published report from RISP is called *Status and Changes in Medicaid's Intermediate Care Facility for the Mentally Retarded (ICF-MR) Program: Results from Analysis of the Online Survey Certification and Reporting System (OSCAR Report)*. This report provides a picture of the current status of ICF-MR services and of how ICF-MR services for people with MR/DD have changed in the last decade.

Unlike the direct data collection that makes up most of the RISP activities, the OSCAR report used information that HCFA gathered as part of its administrative records on the ICF-MR program. ICFs-MR housed 142,000 people with developmental disabilities in 1994 at a cost of 9.2 billion dollars, making ICF-MR one of the largest and most expensive types of federally funded residential services for persons with MR/DD in the country. Using the HCFA data set (OSCAR), analyses were done to identify differences between public, private non-profit, and private for-profit ICFs-MR, differences between large and small facilities, and differences among states in how they run their ICF-MR program. The data were also compared against a 1982 census that the RRTC had also conducted.

Among the significant findings from the OSCAR report were the following:

- While the total number of people with MR/DD living in ICFs-MR remained constant between 1982 and 1992, the number in large ICFs-MR declined dramatically, and the number in small community ICFs-MR exploded.
- Public ICFs-MR (as compared to private ICFs-MR) served a higher proportion of persons over 65, a lower proportion of persons 21 or younger, and a lower proportion of persons who were non-ambulatory. Court ordered admissions were almost six times more common in public than private ICFs-MR between 1982 and 1992.
- The total number of ICF-MR resident ages 0-21 declined by 50% between 1982 and 1992. This overall decrease in population of persons 21 years old or younger was evident in most states. However, the proportion of aging ICF-MR residents increased overall by 22.5% during the same ten-year period.

Though the overall figures paint a picture of significant changes regarding residential services for persons with MR/DD, there is notable variability in how the ICF-MR program is used from state to state.

For more information on this project, call Sheri Larson at 624-6024 or Charlie Lakin at 624-5005. Copies of this and other RRTC reports can be found in the Publications Office.

Staff Update

- **Staff Arrivals:** Robert Bonham, Student Secretary in the Publications Office; Hyun-Jeong Park, Research Assistant for the NTN project; Dawna Phillips, Research Assistant for RRTC; Murdo ("Murdock") McDonald Henderson, Research Assistant for RRTC; Angelle Gosha, Common Ground Consortium Research Assistant for RTCG; Dustin Flatt, Student Secretary in Room 102.
Staff Departures: N.R. Vaidyanathan, Research Assistant for RTCG.
- Susan Rampi has accepted the position as Dawn Englestad's replacement in Room 102.
- Teri Wallace was appointed by the Governor to serve on the Governor's Advisory Council on Technology for People with Disabilities.
- Mary Hayden presented a paper at the National Association of Social Workers on Oct. 12 in Philadelphia. The paper presented the final results of the Family Services and Support Project.
- Dave Johnson and Brian Aberly were awarded a \$109,955 grant from the U.S. Dept. of Education, OSERS, for "Improving the Delivery and Outcomes of Postsecondary Education for American Indians with Disabilities in Minnesota." Project coordinator is Jean Ness.

Dates to Remember . . .

- **October 23:** ICI Council, 9:30 a.m., 118 Pattee Hall.
- **October 31:** Halloween Get-Together, 12:00 p.m., Room 6, Pattee Hall.

From the Front Office

News from ICI's Administrative Staff

- **FOIS Training.** As of December 1st, Teri Wallace will no longer be distributing funding information. Everyone at ICI will need to get information on possible funding sources from the College's Online Funding Opportunity Information System (FOIS). Training times and dates for use of FOIS have been set up: Nov. 8, 10:00-11:00 a.m.; Nov. 13, 1:00-2:00 p.m.; Nov. 14, 1:00-2:00 p.m.; Nov. 17, 10:00-11:00 a.m.; Nov. 20, 1:00-2:00 p.m. All training will take place at 128 Burton. Reservations are not necessary, just show up.
- **Open Enrollment.** Open Enrollment for changes in medical and dental plans will run from October 16 - November 15. Beth Nelson in Room 102 has brochures and other provider literature which everyone is welcome to look at. Any questions about Open Enrollment should be directed to Employee Benefits.
- **Office Environment Assessment.** On Thursday, October 19, staff from the Office of Environmental Health and Safety will be at ICI to assess our offices and equipment and to provide advice to make the environment ergonomically safer. Sign up sheets to have your space inspected are posted in Pattee Hall. Call Megan Dushin at 626-8649 for more information or to make an appointment.
- **Halloween and Wellness Activities.** The Community Building Committee will be hosting a gathering on October 31, from noon - 1:00 p.m. complete with cartoons, popcorn, apple cider, and candy corn. Location is set for the basement of Pattee Hall. On Tuesday, November 14 another Wellness Activity is scheduled. The activity and location is still pending. Wellness Activities will be continuous, monthly events.

Bits and Pieces

Information from the Institute's Research and Technology Consulting Group (RTCG, 110 Pattee, 4-7337) and the Publications Office (109 Pattee, 4-4512).

- **College E-mail Update**
- **College E-Mail System Update.** As ICI's Mac Users already know, the College e-mail system (WPMail) went down over a week ago due to the demise of one of our network components. We have responded to this emergency by upgrading the Mac users to the new College e-mail system, called Groupwise. At this point, everyone should have Groupwise installed on their computers, and RTCG staff are training people on its e-mail functions. All the training should be completed by the end of this week. Groupwise has many fancy features including calendars, schedulers, to-do lists, etc. In the future, the RTCG will present seminars covering these advanced features. For now we are only providing training on e-mail. PC users will be upgraded to Groupwise at a later date. If you have any questions, please contact the RTCG helpline at 626-1515.
- **New Publications**
- **New.** Off the press this month are *A Guidebook on Consumer Controlled Housing for Minnesotans with Developmental Disabilities*, and a revised version of ICI's *Publications Catalogue*.

Miscellaneous

- **Self-Advocate Conference.** The Center on Residential Services and Community Living is hosting a conference for Self-Advocates *Becoming Empowered* Nov. 14-15 at the Wilder Forest conference center. For more information, contact RRTC at 624-6328.
- **PAVE Institute.** The Partnership to Address Violence through Education (PAVE) presents its second Institute, "Intervention", November 16 and 17 at the St. Paul Student Center. For more information, contact Kathy Kolb or Christopher Watson at 626-8877.
- **Chairperson Sought.** Ramsey County is seeking volunteer applicants to serve as Chair of the Community Human Services Citizens Advisory Council. The Council consists of representatives of seven advisory committees: Adult Services, Chemical Health, Children and Family Services, Developmental Disabilities, Low Income, Children's Mental Health, and Adult Mental Health. For information and an application, call Dawn Autenreith at 266-4423.
- **LDM Conference.** Learning Disabilities of Minnesota (LDM) presents its annual conference, "Pathways & Perspectives - For Life and Learning" November 2-4 at the Radisson Hotel, Saint Paul. For more information or registration, call the LDM office at 222-2696.
- **PACER Publications.** The PACER Center has released two new resource books, *Risky Situations: Vulnerable Children*, and *Honorable Intentions: A Parent's Guide to Educational Planning for Children with Emotional or Behavioral Disorders*. For ordering information, contact the PACER Center at 827-2966.
- **Birthdays.** Brian Aberly (10/17); Chandra Cooper (11/9); Carrie Gustafson (10/30); Dawn Hankwitz (10/18); Sarah Henderson (11/11); Christine Hurley (10/23); Jean Ness (11/14); Kristin Southard (10/28).