

## Institute Co-Sponsors in *Reinventing Quality*

Services for persons with mental retardation and related conditions (MR/RC) are evolving from dependence on large congregate residential facilities to services based in the community. Data shows growth between 1977 and 1991 from 11,000 to over 40,000 residential settings providing out-of-home residential services to people with mental retardation and related conditions. This shift to individuals with MR/RC living in their family, their own home, or small group residences in the community brings not only new opportunities for improved quality of life, but also new challenges for assuring and enhancing the quality of services they receive.

To meet these challenges, a two-day conference on assuring and enhancing quality in community services is scheduled for December 3 and 4, 1992 in Alexandria, Virginia. The purpose of this conference, titled *Reinventing Quality*, is to provide states with an opportunity to share their best efforts in response to these challenges. The conference, co-sponsored by the Institute's Center on Residential Services and Community Living and the National Association of State Mental Retardation Program Directors (NASMRPD), will be held as part of the national NASMRPD meeting.

Presentations by various states on activities effective in promoting quality services will be accompanied by forums for discussion among participants from state agencies and other interested groups. A resource book of recommended programs and activities for assuring, maintaining, and enhancing quality will be provided to each conference participant. Included programs and activities will be those that do the following for persons with mental retardation and related conditions:

- Ensure the health, safety, and personal development of persons with mental retardation and related conditions.
- Encourage increased independence and decision making.
- Support social relationships with friends and family.
- Promote meaningful presence and valued participation in the community.

State mental retardation/developmental disabilities offices, developmental disabilities councils, and protection and advocacy agencies have been invited to submit nominations for the resource booklet from areas including, but not limited to, individual program and services planning, training systems, technical assistance, governmental and citizen monitoring, and information management systems.

In addition to providing conference participants with opportunities to exchange in-depth, practical information and experience concerning quality assurance in community settings, a desired outcome of the conference is the development of a national network involving states in efforts to assist each other in activities to improve quality for persons with MR/RC.

For further information about the conference, contact Bob Prouty, (612) 626-2020.

## Site Visit Update

A draft agenda for ICI's site visit has been prepared. The site visit team will arrive in Minneapolis on the evening of August 31. On Tuesday, September 1, they will arrive at the Institute at 9:00 a.m., at which time they will be introduced to ICI core function and program area coordinators. In the afternoon the site visit team will meet with University leaders within the college and Central Administration (e.g., Provost Ettore Infante, Dean Bob Bruininks, and Dean Ann Peterson). They will also meet with Colleen Wieck from the Minnesota DD Council, Luther Granquist from Legal Aid for Persons with Disabilities, and representatives from the Institute's University Advisory and Community Advisory Committees. The day will conclude at 6:30 p.m. with a social gathering and dinner.

September 2nd will be devoted primarily to presentations from core function coordinators and meetings with representatives from other University disability centers. On September 3, the site visit team will convene with Scott McConnell and Laura Bloomberg, and ICI-UAP core function and program area coordinators for their summary exit meeting.

Contact Laura Bloomberg, 625-0502, for further information on the site visit.

## Dates to Remember ...

- August 10-12: Transition Summer Institute, *A Partnership for Success*, Winona, MN. Call Teri Wallace, (612) 626-7220, for information.
- August 17: Core Function Meeting, 9:30 - 11 a.m., conference room 118.

## Publications Update

- **What's Working in Transition.** The fall issue will be available in 109 Pattee August 6, 1992.
- **Missing Negatives?** A set of black and white negatives of a boy's basketball game between St. Charles and Park Valley schools was found in the publications office. Please see Chris Stehly, 109 Pattee, if you have any information about these mysterious negatives.
- **ECRI Update.** The first issue of the newsletter of our Early Childhood Research Institute is available in 109 Pattee.

## TAC Survey Results

The Technical Assistance Center's (TAC) evaluation survey received only a 10% response, or 14 respondents. These respondents represented 26 services provided to projects and 20 services provided on a walk-in/call-in basis. The overall results were quite positive with only a few areas where concern was expressed. For instance, some felt that TAC's office hours were not sufficient enough to meet their needs. To address this, staff have structured their summer hours to ensure that someone is available to provide assistance from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. The goal of TAC is to provide quality services to all on a timely basis. Several suggestions were made for additional services. They include:

- Provide training and maintenance for the computer network.
- Provide training for specific programs.
- Consolidate software manuals into the TAC reference library.
- Obtain manuals for MAC programs.

*(...and speaking of computers, Dennis Kern will start contacting people after August 1st to make appointments for networking.)*

## Cross Reference

The Institute on Community Integration's Resource Library maintains a collection of tests and test materials. They are located in two bookcases in 110 Pattee. A list of the titles is posted on the side of the bookcase. To check them out, fill out the card attached to the item and place it in the resource library envelope.

### Are You a Slave to Time?

Are there too many demands on your time that you can't squeeze another second out of your schedule? If so, you have "timelock." Just as gridlock stops traffic, timelock stops productivity. Here's what to do to get unlocked:

- **Think of what you want out of life**—not how much you can get done. Assess all your activities. If they add to your life, keep them. If not, eliminate them whenever possible.
- **Understand your body clock.** It's irregular and not as uniform as time from a clock. Identify its peak times. That's when to schedule especially difficult work.
- **Don't crowd every minute with some task.** If you do, tension rises and effectiveness declines.
- **Slow down.** Don't be addicted to rushing. Ask, "Why am I rushing?" What'll happen if I don't? Know the difference between necessary haste and impatience.
- **Subtract an old activity when you add a new one.**

*Reprinted with permission from communication briefings, Volume XI (VI), published by Encoders, Inc., Blackwood, N.J.*

## Odds and Ends

- **New Adjunct Faculty.** Dr. Peter Blasco, Associate Professor in the Department of Pediatrics' Center for Children with Chronic Illness and Disability, has been elected to a three year term of adjunct status with the Department of Educational Psychology for his excellent contributions to ICI and the department.
- **Town Meeting.** The metro area town meeting will be held August 20 from 5 - 7 p.m. at the St. Paul Technical College. The meetings, conducted by the Department of Human Services in collaboration with the DD Council, provide an opportunity for people to express their comments and concerns regarding services to people with developmental disabilities. A schedule of town meeting dates is posted on the bulletin board outside 102 Pattee.

- **System 7.** Mac users running System 7 or System 7.01, please note that System 7 has a bug which can cause folders to disappear. The System Tuner program will fix this problem and improve memory usage. The most recent version of System Tuner is 1.1.1. Previous versions are outdated and/or buggy and should be replaced with current version.

- **Recycling.** The recycling can on the 1st floor accommodates cans *and* bottles.

- **Video Room.** Peter Aleshire rearranged/cleaned the video room (Pattee Hall basement) to make it more user friendly. The large Institute display posters are now located in the upright cabinet in the corner, and the smaller displays are in the right-hand side of the short cabinet.

- **Baseball Update.** The ICI baseball team won by forfeit when they played the Medical School team on 7/27/92. The last game is scheduled for 5:50 p.m. on August 3 at Bierman field.

### Birthdays!

August 5	Jane Cromie
August 7	Paris DePaepe
August 14	Elizabeth Garrettson
August 15	Bob Prouty