



February 16, 2004

Project Supporting the Transition from Nursing Facility to Community Living

Many individuals with multiple disabilities, some of whom also have chronic medical and mental health conditions, reside in nursing homes. In Hennepin County, 500 such individuals and their families have expressed interest in making a transition from living in a nursing facility to living in a community setting. However, they are often left on their own to develop and implement a transition process that meets the needs and desires of the person making the transition. The Institute's Hennepin County Long-Term Care Project, a joint project of ICI and Hennepin County Community Health, is seeking to develop and implement within the county a set of resources for individuals and families that will support and guide this transition process and help ensure its success.

Institute staff on the project – Brian Abery, John Smith, Matt Ziegler, Kim Lloyd, and Erin Simunds – are developing an educational and training program to facilitate the transition of adults with disabilities, ages 18-65, from nursing facilities to community living, and to support them and their families and friends that process. Over the course of the project, which began this past November, materials are being developed in the areas of self-determination, person-centered planning, and community transition planning. These three topics will be addressed in a variety of user-friendly formats that can assist individuals in the transition process. For example, brochures will be developed on each topic that will provide readers with critical, practical information in a concise, easy-to-read format. Pocket guides and workbooks providing detailed information on each of the three areas will serve as a resource tool that individuals can carry with them as they investigate their options in the community. In addition to the development and dissemination of informational materials, workshops will be offered in each of the three areas – self-determination, person-centered planning, community transition planning. These workshops will be based on an active learning model in which participants are introduced to new concepts and then provided with the opportunity to try them out. The development of educational materials and training is based on the assumption that all activities must facilitate and support self-determination for individuals with disabilities during and following the transition process.

The project is committed to providing materials and training to all individuals with disabilities and their families within the county who are interested in exploring the transition from living in a nursing facility to living in the community. The materials will become part of the resources used by Hennepin County Community Health staff now and in the future to assist families and individuals with such transitions. According to project director at ICI Brian Abery, "Given the number of persons who have expressed a desire to move into the community, it is critical for family members and persons with disabilities to have access to a process that will help them make informed decisions about what types of support they need, where and with whom they desire to live, and how they want to lead their lives. Working together, the project staff from ICI and Hennepin County Community Health hope to put in place such a process in Hennepin County."

The project is supported by a \$25,000 grant from Hennepin County Community Health. For further information, contact Brian Abery at 612/625-5592.

Staff Update

- **Staff Arrivals:** Mary McEathron, RA, Transition; Cynthia Jiban and Cortney Olson, RAs, Research Institute on Progress Monitoring. **Departures:** Sophia Herrera, Office Specialist, CEED.
- Teri Wallace and Chris Espin (Department of Educational Psychology, Special Education Programs) presented "Creating a Progress Monitoring System" at the Pacific Coast Research Conference in San Diego the first week of February.
- Six ICI staff were among the featured poster session presenters at the College of Education and Human Development Research Day held February 11. Jean Ness presented "The Retention of American Indian Students in Tribal Colleges," Bob Prouty and Kathy Coucouvanis presented "Residential Services to Persons with Developmental Disabilities," Teri Wallace and Renata Ticha, along with Chris Espin, presented "Creating a Progress Measuring System for Secondary Students in Reading and Writing," and Matt Ziegler presented "Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Awareness and Education Project."
- Mary Hayden will be working with the World Bank as the Disability Advisor for Kosovo to focus on the needs of persons with developmental disabilities and the deinstitutionalization agenda.

Dates to Remember...

- **February 27: Pizza Forum**, 12-1 p.m., 118 Pattee.
- **March 8: ICI Council**, 10-11:30, 118 Pattee.
- **March 11: Certificate Reflection Group: Person-Centered Supports**, 3:45-4:45, 220 Wulling.

From the Front Office

News from ICI's Administrative Staff

- **Attention ICI P&A Staff.** The newly reformatted P&A vacation records are due at the end of this month (for January and February). Questions and feedback should be directed to Beth at 6-8042.
- **W-2s.** By now you should have received your W-2 form for 2003. If you haven't, you can access and print a "reissued" (duplicate) copy of your W-2 through the Employee Self-Service Web site at <http://hrss.umn.edu>, "Self-Service Action – Online W2." If you have questions about how to read your W-2, see "How to Read Your W-2" on the Web site at http://hrss.umn.edu/paycheck_info/Taxes.
- **Performance Reviews.** The 2003-04 Merit/Performance Review process for faculty and P&A will begin soon. Watch for more information from David and Beth. The deadline is April 15.
- **Phone List/Mailbox Updates.** Phone lists and mailboxes have been updated. Please notify Amy (kuro0008@umn.edu) if you have any changes.
- **ICI's Community Advisory Council.** ICI's Community Advisory Council will meet March 25 from 4:30-7:30 p.m. at the Radisson Metrodome. This meeting's topic will be work incentives and other related employment information. If you would like to attend, please contact Julia Socha *prior* to the meeting (4-2008 or wash004@umn.edu).
- **Orientation Tools.** The new ICI Staff Orientation Tools will be implemented shortly. Watch for an e-mail from the HR Workgroup about the implementation. In addition, information from the resource guide developed by the workgroup will be available soon on Orpheus. FFI contact Beth (6-8042) or Marijo (46830).

Miscellaneous

- **Creating a Progress Monitoring System Presentation and Discussion.** Teri Wallace and Chris Espin will be among the presenters on the topic "Creating a Progress Monitoring System: Predicting Success of Secondary Students on the Minnesota Basic Standards Tests", March 8, 3:30-5:30, at the Four Points by Sheraton, 1330 Industrial Blvd., Minneapolis (35W and Industrial Blvd.). Researchers and students from the University have been working with colleagues in the Minneapolis Public Schools for over two years to address the question, How do we meet the individualized needs of students with disabilities while fulfilling the requirements of general and special education reforms such as inclusion in high stakes assessments? They have identified valid and reliable curriculum-based measures in reading and written expression that predict performance on the Minnesota Basic Standards Tests, and have also examined the effects of progress monitoring on student performance and teacher instruction. Join them in reviewing these results and discussing their meaning. Please RSVP by March 4 to Anna at 612/624-9893 or kruc0027@umn.edu.
- **Birthdays.** Jennifer Huisken (2/16), Anna Cosio (2/18), Joe Timmons and Renata Ticha (2/24), David Johnson (2/26), Heidi Triezenberg (2/27), Derek Meyer (3/4), Mae Watson (3/5), Carrie Sword and Maura Doyle (3/7), Beth Nelson (3/8), Lucy Arias (3/9), Kathleen Horst (3/10), Amy Kurowski and Michele Knife Sterner (3/17). Did we miss your birthday? Let us know! Call 4-6300 or email kuro0008@umn.edu.

Bits & Pieces

Information from the Institute's Web Development Team (11 Pattee, 6-8649) and Publications Office (109 Pattee, 4-4512)

- **Publications Staff Changes.** The Publications Office is currently in the hiring process for an Office Manager (Principal Administrative Specialist) and will soon post an opening for an Editor/Designer (Associate Editor). Check your Friday (2/13) e-mail for an announcement on staffing shifts taking place, and contact Vicki (624-6347, gaylo001@umn.edu) for more information on the open positions.
- **New Publications.** The Institute Publications Office has the following new publications available:
 - *DD*Data Brief: Gender, Age and Disability Differences in Functional Limitations for Non-Institutionalized Adults in the NHIS-D*
 - *Winter ICI Publications Catalog*
- **New NCEO Publications.** The Institute's National Center on Educational Outcomes (NCEO) has the following new publications available on the Web (www.education.umn.edu/NCEO):
 - *Improving Validity of Large-Scale Tests: Universal Design and Student Performance*
 - *2003 State Special Education Outcomes: Marching On*
- **NCSET Summit Web Site.** In case you're curious about what actually happened in DC last September during Hurricane Isabel, NCSET has a Web site for the National Leadership Summit 2003 that it hosted in the midst of the storm. See <http://www.ncset.org/summit03> for state findings and outcomes, agenda, session notes, Power Point presentations, state contacts, photographs, and more. Kudos to Shawn Lawler, Megan Dushin, Ann Mavis, and Kelli Crane in Boston for putting this excellent site together.
- **FYI Deadline.** Items for the next *FYI* should be submitted to Vicki in 109 Pattee or e-mailed to gaylo001@umn.edu by Thursday, March 11.