

Conference Creates a New Model for Collaboration

With the dust settling from the recent conference the Institute on Community Integration (ICI) helped coordinate, *Coming Together for Children, Youth, and Families*, a picture emerges of a unique, collaborative event. The conference, which occurred November 9 and 10 in Bloomington, Minnesota, was a collaborative effort between transition, early childhood, and mental health interagency initiatives. For the first time representatives came together from Interagency Early Intervention Committees, Local Coordinating Councils, Community Transition Interagency Committees (CTICs), Local Advisory Councils, Family Service Collaboratives, Children's Mental Health Collaboratives, and other child and youth-centered initiatives. Approximately 500 people attended the conference.

The idea to create a collaborative conference began when it was learned that last year each of the conferences for the three initiatives had the same keynote speaker. That got the conversation moving among members of the various initiatives to see if they were working towards similar goals and, if so, how they could pool resources and work together. Eventually eight people – including ICI's Pam Hunt – representing these three initiatives planned the *Coming Together* conference.

The first day of the conference began with Dr. Robert Terry speaking to the plenary session. Dr. Terry is an internationally recognized speaker and president of The Terry Group, Consultants and Trainers in Leadership, Quality, and Diversity. His keynote address focused on "authenticity" and he said that people need to be "authentic" in what they do, and to work for the community at large. He asked participants to consider such questions as: "What are you committing to?" and "Are you on an initiative because you were told to do so, or do you see this as the best way to improve things?" After the plenary, exemplary models from all three initiatives were presented, and in such a way that everyone could examine how the different initiative models could apply to them. What people achieved was not as important to communicate as *how* they did it.

The second day of the conference focused on skill building. In the past, exemplary models were presented, but nothing was said about the process they went through to create their success stories. Conference planners wanted to show people how you get from point A to point B, to have people leave the conference with actual skills. And so there were "how-to" sessions, like how to write a grant. A unique feature of the conference was that students with disabilities played an active and visible role, acting as greeters, introducing seminars, and handing out information.

In the course of the conference an important theme began to develop: people should have a broader view about their work and should think of issues that range from birth onward rather than focusing on a single issue. Many attendees commented that prior to the conference they had no idea that other initiatives were looking at issues similar to their's. For further information on this conference, call Pam Hunt at 625-3863.

Staff Update

- **Staff Arrivals:** Joseph Su, Research Assistant for Deborah Anderson, the University of Illinois at Chicago project; Cindy Vachon, Research Assistant, the ECRI project; Paul Spicer returns as Research Assistant on the Systemetrics project for Charlie Lakin.
- Mary McEvoy was recently awarded a five-year, \$5 million grant which will start a partnership type program within the community that focuses on violence prevention and counseling in the area of child care. She will also be going to Washington D.C. early next year for an extended period of time to help work on the reauthorization of IDEA.
- Sue Swenson who serves on ICI's Community Advisory Committee is now a representative on the AAUAP Consumer Board. With this appointment she will be able to represent the ICI on a national level.
- Jennifer York has been awarded \$165,000 from the Dept. of Education for the three-year "Creating Capacities Within" grant which will provide site-based staff development processes to support inclusive education.
- David Johnson received a \$109,717 grant for the School-to-Work Outreach Project: Ensuring the Participation of Youth with Disabilities in the Full Range of National School-to-Work Programs.

Dates to Remember . . .

- November 21: Institute Council, 9:30 a.m., Room 118.
- November 22: Staff Development Committee. 11:00 a.m., Room 118.

From the Front Office

News from ICI's Administrative Staff

- **Guest Parking.** Parking Services is introducing a new validated parking program designed to make guest parking at pay-exit facilities easier. ICI now has an ink stamper that has been coded with a CUF's budget number on it. In order to get guests' tickets validated, please ask them to stop by and see Dawn in Room 102. If you have any questions, call Claudia at 624-8279.
- **Important Miscellanea.** Please direct the following requests to Dawn: key requests, direct deposit and staff demographic forms, W-4 for change of address or to change withholdings. Please direct questions regarding biweekly payroll to Claudia in Room 102. And Graduate Assistants: if you need a copy of your PAF, please go to the Budget Center in 103 Burton.
- **Community Advisory Council (October 10).** The Institute's Community Advisory Council (CAC) met with a facilitator to redefine its purpose and goals. The group identified five broad areas which will guide their efforts:
 - Review and recommend broad programmatic directions
 - Evaluate Institute's impact throughout the state and region
 - Serve as advocate for the Institute
 - Serve as liaison for Institute involvement in community activities
 - Advise Director and Dean

As a result of this retreat, the CAC decided to increase their meetings to 6 a year in the anticipation of increased involvement and input in ICI activities. They also will be nominating a Chairperson and Co-Chair to work directly with staff. The next meeting of this group is scheduled for December 9 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., place to be announced. Feel free to attend these meetings or contact Scott McConnell (624-6365) or Teri Wallace (626-7220) for additional information.

- **Institute Council Retreat (October 21).** The members of the Institute Council had an opportunity to meet with Pearl Rosenberg, Ph.D., a consultant in group dynamics and organizational development. Dr. Rosenberg led the group through a day long analysis of its current purpose and desired future directions. As a result of this retreat, the Institute Council will now meet twice a month and among its major responsibilities are (1) information sharing among program areas, service centers, core functions, and (2) advisement to the Director.
- **Fall Kick-Off (November 11).** The Fall Kick-Off was a success with nearly 80 individuals attending. Jennifer York provided new staff with an introduction to developmental disabilities in the morning. An overview of the Institute was shared after lunch and program area and service center coordinators shared information about new projects and services. The day ended with program area poster displays, the RTCG computer show, conversation, and FOOD.

Miscellaneous

- **Call for Papers.** The 14th Annual Conference on the Training and Employment of Paraprofessionals in Education and Related Human Services for Children, Youth, and Adults, co-sponsored by ICI, is going to be held in Minnesota next year, April 27-29 at the Radisson Hotel in St. Paul. The deadline for presentation proposals is December 9, 1994. For further information, call Teri Wallace at 626-7220.
- **Birthdays.** Ruth Berman (11/15); Julie Hirsch (11/16); Sheryl Larson (11/26); Laura Lafrenz (12/11).

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).

- **It's a World Wide Web After All!**
- **ICI is on the World Wide Web.** The Institute now has space on the College of Education's World Wide Web Server (WWW). The WWW is similar to Gopher in that it defines protocol for presenting information on the Internet. There are WWW servers all over the world and they can be accessed using one of several WWW browser programs (e.g., Mosaic). The advantage of WWW over Gopher is that it allows you to format your information, including the use of graphics and sounds. You can also create surveys and other documents for people who access your space on the WWW. World Wide Web browsers are available for both Mac and IBM machines. If you have WWW access you can get to ICI's Home Page by selecting "Open URL" or "Open Location" from under the File menu in your WWW browser. In the dialog box type "http://www.coled.umn.edu/ICIWWW/Default.html". Currently, pages are set up for each program area. If you would like further information on the WWW or set up your own space on ICI's server, please contact Tim Soulen 624-7337.
- **Get Your Info Packets**
- **Not Just for New Employees.** If you're new to the ICI, please stop by Room 109 to pick up an information packet on the publications services that are available to you. And if you're not new to ICI but don't remember where you filed your packet, please stop by, too.
- **New Curriculum.** The new 15-module *Self-Determination for Youth with Disabilities: A Family Education Curriculum* has been published and is available in Room 109.