



December 14, 2001

Project Examines Effects of Sept. 11 on People with Disabilities

Charlie Lakin, Mary Hayden, and Jerry Smith of ICI's Research and Training Center on Community Living have been awarded a one-year, \$100,000 contract by the Administration on Developmental Disabilities to explore the effects of the terrorist attacks of September 11 on people with developmental disabilities who live and work in New York City. The project will produce a 26-minute video documentary and a companion print report. Together, these two products will describe the experiences of persons with developmental disabilities following the attacks and the responses of other individuals and public and private groups to their needs. The project is being carried out in collaboration with the Self-Advocacy Association of New York and its Manhattan group, local service providers, and public agencies.

The video documentary, which will be taped entirely in New York City, will use interviews with people with developmental disabilities and, to a lesser extent, those who support them to answer the questions: Who are the people with developmental disabilities who worked in the World Trade Center and throughout lower Manhattan? How are their stories of living and working in New York City different from, and similar to, those of other New Yorkers? What services and accommodations supported them, and how available are these supports now? How are "victims" of this tragedy – those who lost loved ones, those who lost support staff or services, those who no longer have a place of work, those devastated emotionally by the scale of the destruction – coping in its aftermath? At least one self-advocate from the Manhattan area will be present on all shoots and at all interviews.

The video will help convey to the public how people with developmental disabilities

can and do contribute their communities. When completed, it will be distributed to national and local media outlets in hopes of getting airtime.

The print research report will provide a more extensive and objective summary of the attack's effects on people with developmental disabilities, but will also employ personal, family and organizational stories to convey ongoing individual and organizational needs to attempt to get back to "normal" and lessons that individuals and organizations have drawn from the experience. For the report, project staff will gather substantial quantitative data about known effects of the September 11 attacks on persons with developmental disabilities, including a) estimates of the "victims" with developmental disabilities who were killed or injured or who lost primary supports through death or injury of natural or adoptive or host families; b) identification of efforts made by government agencies, non-profit service providers and relief agencies to assist affected individuals and families; and c) examination of the ongoing efforts of service providers, advocacy and self-advocacy organizations, government agencies and others to meet the needs of individuals and their families and other support providers.

The research report will be designed to serve as a training tool for government agencies, developmental disabilities networks, and other organizations, conveying lessons learned and priorities for educating people during times of national disaster. The report will be released concurrently with the video documentary, which is scheduled for completion in early summer 2002.

For more information about the project, contact Charlie Lakin at 612-624-5005 or lakin001@tc.umn.edu.

Staff Update

- **Staff Arrivals.** **Christine Bremer**, Coordinator, NCSET. **Staff Departures.** **Lynda Anderson**, Coordinator, RTC; **Ellie Emanuel**, Research Associate, NCSET; **Babette Gronland**, Coordinator, NCSET.
- **Cliff Poetz** was reelected to the Board of the Arc of the U.S. as a self-advocate. He was also elected by the Board to be on the Arc's national nominating committee for 2002.
- **Jean Ness** presented at the National Indian Education Association conference in Billings, Montana on Oct. 30 on retention and transition issues of American Indian students. She also presented on the Future Bound project at the conference of the Council for Exceptional Children's Division on Career Development and Transition in Denver on Oct. 12. **Rob Fluto** presented on the Future Bound project at the Minnesota Indian Education Association conference in Mahanomen, MN on Oct. 11.
- **Bob Prouty** was a keynote speaker at the Illinois Association of Rehabilitation Facilities' national conference in Springfield, Illinois on Oct. 17. His topic was, "The Future of Services to Persons with Developmental Disabilities."
- **Brian Abery, Charlie Lakin, Michelle Lewis, Marijo McBride, Kris Schoeller, and John Smith** all participated in Arc Minnesota's annual conference, Nov. 2-3 in Duluth, MN.

Dates to Remember . . .

- **January 14: ICI Council**, 10-11:30 a.m., 16 Pattee.
- **January 25: Pizza Forum**, 12-1 p.m., 118 Pattee.

From the Front Office

News from ICI's Administrative Staff

- **Annual Review Process for CS/BU and Undergrad Employees.** A reminder that the deadline to complete this process is Friday, Dec. 14. Please contact Beth Nelson with questions.
- **Current Vacancies.** Executive Administrative Specialist (100% FTE), NCSET — contact Beth Nelson or Ann Mavis. Community Program Associate, Alternative Schools Grant — contact Beth Nelson or Cammy Lehr.
- **Strategic Planning Survey Coming Soon.** The Institute's Strategic Planning Committee has developed an Organizational Climate Survey that will be disseminated online to ICI staff within the next few days. Please take a few minutes to complete this important survey. Deadline for completion is Wednesday, Jan. 16.
- **P&A Staff Vacation Forms.** A reminder to P&A staff that vacation forms for this quarter (October-December) are due to Beth Nelson in 107 Pattee at the end of this month.
- **ICI's Community Advisory Council.** The Council will meet on Thursday, Jan. 10 from 4:30-7:30 p.m. at the Radisson Metrodome. The meeting's topic will be "Violence Against Women with Developmental or Other Disabilities." FFI call Julia at 4-2008.
- **Training on New Travel Regulations.** Dave Welter, Principal Accountant and Certified Approver in FSO, provided in-house training on the new travel regulations to CS/BU and student staff on Dec. 5. We will have Dave back in January or February to provide additional info to ICI staff who travel.

Miscellaneous

- **New Booklet Offers Family Financial Advice.** A new resource booklet, *Possibilities: A Financial Resource Book for Parents of Children with Disabilities*, is available through the collaboration of PACER Center and the National Endowment for Financial Education (NEFE). The 62-page guide to money management and financial resources contains comprehensive, easy-to-understand information of use to parents of children with disabilities. Single copies of the booklet are free to Minnesota parents of children and youth with disabilities. The cost for others is \$3 apiece to cover shipping and handling. To order, call PACER at (952)838-9000.
- **New Web Site Helps Find Benefits.** The National Council on Aging (NCOA) has established a Web site that enables seniors and people with disabilities to determine eligibility for federal and state benefit programs. This resource allows consumers to remain anonymous while receiving geographically-specific information about benefit programs. The only identifying information needed is a zip code and date of birth. The new on-line service is now available at <http://www.BenefitsCheckUp.org>.
- **Call for Papers.** The Inclusion International Conference, to be held Sept. 22-26, 2002 in Melbourne, Australia invites proposals for presentations. The theme of the conference is "Life! Liberty! Security!" To apply, go to: <http://www.icms.com.au/inclusion/default.asp>.
- **Mail Security Info.** Since Sept. 11, the United States Postal Service has made a lot of information available on suspicious mail and what to do about it. Visit the University's Addressing and Mailing Web site (<http://www.a-m.umn.edu>) for mail safety tips and updated mail security info.
- **Universal Access Info.** Confused about the details of implementing Universal Access to services? Call the toll-free Universal Access Information Line at 1-800-336-8208 or visit the Web site of the Arc of Oregon, <http://www.open.org/~arcoforg/>.
- **Birthdays.** Jane Krentz (12/24), Jane Treat (12/25), Mike Anderson (12/30), Jon Goldman (1/6), John Westerman (1/7), Pam Stenhjem (1/10), Crystal Buzicky (1/13), Debbie Hansen Battle (1/14). Did we miss your birthday? Let us know! Email kuro0008@tc.umn.edu or call 4-6300.

Bits & Pieces

Information from the Institute's Web Development Team (110 Pattee, 6-8649) and Publications Office (109 Pattee, 4-4512)

Web Group Activities

- **New Check & Connect Web site.** The Check & Connect truancy prevention project has launched a new Web site: <http://ici.umn.edu/checkandconnect>. Info about current field studies to reduce dropout rates and increase school completion for youth with and without disabilities, in grades K-12, in urban and suburban communities is available on the site, as well as info on recent presentations and workshops, related products, and program impact.

From the Publications Office

- **Publications Now on the Web.**
Impact: Feature Issue on Volunteerism by Persons with Developmental Disabilities, now available at <http://ici.umn.edu/products/impact/142/default.html>
- **From the Institute's National Center on Educational Outcomes:**
Empirical Support for Accommodations Most Often Allowed in State Policy (Synthesis Report 41)
Principles and Characteristics of Inclusive Assessment and Accountability Systems (Synthesis Report 40)
A Self-Study Guide to Implementation of Inclusive Assessment and Accountability Systems: A Best Practice Approach
- **Extra Resource Guides.** The Publications Office has a large supply of the following resource guides. Please think about opportunities you may have to take these to conferences, etc.
Weaving Tapestries of Inclusion: Seven Threads to Strengthen School Membership
Reflective Practice: Creating Capacities for School Improvement
Staying in School: Strategies for Middle School Students with Learning & Emotional Disabilities
- **FYI Deadline.** Items for the next FYI should be submitted to Chris in 109 Pattee or e-mailed to opsal001@tc.umn.edu by Thursday, January 10.