

June 16, 2003

ICI's Community Advisory Council: Guiding the Institute's Work

When Institute on Community Integration (ICI) staff want to know how the "No Child Left Behind" act is influencing education in Minnesota, what makes for an inclusive religious community, or even whether ICI Web sites are user-friendly, they call upon the experience and expertise of ICI's Community Advisory Council. The Council (CAC for short) provides a forum for individuals with disabilities, family members, and professionals to discuss with ICI staff their views on issues of importance in planning and delivering community services to persons with disabilities and their families. Through such discussion and consultation, the CAC assists the Institute in fulfilling its mission: "improving community services and social supports for individuals with disabilities and their families."

As with all other University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, ICI draws upon its CAC for input into the priorities and activities of the Institute, ensuring that ICI's work effectively addresses the needs of individuals with disabilities, their families, and professionals who provide services and supports, particularly within Minnesota. The CAC currently has approximately 30 members who meet five times a year—in September, November, January, March, and May—to discuss issues such as local housing resources for people with disabilities, involving youth with disabilities in service-learning, and the effects of the terrorist attacks of 9/11/01 on people with disabilities. The CAC is made up of self-advocates, parents, consultants, and interested community members, as well as staff persons from various organizations. The organizations currently represented include:

- Arc Hennepin-Carver
- Brain Injury Association of Minnesota
- Disability Services, University of MN
- Epilepsy Foundation of Minnesota
- Family Institute for Creative Well-Being
- Fraser Community Services
- Healthy & Ready to Work National Center
- The Institute for Minority Development
- LDA Learning Center
- Metropolitan Center for Independent Living
- Minneapolis Public Schools
- Minnesota Department of Education
- Minnesota Disability Law Center
- Minnesota Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities
- Minnetonka Public Schools
- MR Real Estate
- Opportunity Partners
- Options South Transition Program
- PACER Center
- Promote Awareness
- St. Paul Workforce Center
- United Cerebral Palsy of Minnesota

In addition to the many ways in which ICI benefits from the involvement of its CAC, members of the CAC also benefit from their work with ICI. They have the opportunity to network with others who are interested in supporting individuals with disabilities, receive complimentary copies of Institute publications, have access to the expertise of Institute staff, and participate in ICI-related activities, such as public forums, focus groups, Certificate Program courses, and the annual ICI Kickoff.

If you have any questions about the CAC or suggestions for future meeting topics, please contact Julia Socha, CAC Coordinator, at 612-624-2008 or wash004@umn.edu.

Staff Update

- **Staff Arrivals.** **Renata Ticha**, GRA, School-Age Services; **Tristan Breedlove**, Undergrad RA, Adult Services; **Carolyn Sorenson**, Coordinator, NCSET.
- In addition to the ICI staff mentioned in the April *FYI*, **Kristi Liu** and **Sheryl Lazarus** also gave presentations at the conference of the Council for Exceptional Children, held April 9-12 in Seattle.
- **Sara Bolt**, **Jane Minnema**, **Rachel Quenemoen**, and **Martha Thurlow** gave presentations at the annual conference of the American Educational Research Association (AERA), held April 21-25 in Chicago.
- **Trisha Beuhring** and staff of the Ramsey County ACE intervention program for child delinquents gave a presentation to J. Robert Flores, director of the national Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and key OJJDP administrators and re-searchers on May 8. The presentation was covered by National Public Radio. ACE was a top 10 finalist for the national W.T. Grant Youth Development Prize in March.
- Congratulations to **Jerry Smith** and wife Sarah on the birth of Fiona Maureen Smith, May 19, and to **John Westerman** and his wife on the birth of Charlotte Jane Westerman, May 29.
- **Charlie Lakin**, a "prominent researcher," was quoted in a May 29 *Wall Street Journal* article about how parents of children with disabilities can plan for the future.

Dates to Remember...

- **June 20: Pizza Forum**, 12-1 p.m., 118 Pattee Hall.
- **July 4: University Holiday.**

From the Front Office

News from ICI's Administrative Staff

- **Attention CS/BU Staff.** A reminder that if you haven't already used your Personal Holiday for this fiscal year (7/1/02-6/30/03), you have until June 30 to do so. When you use it, please indicate this on your absence card. The day must be taken as a whole day. To check the status of your Personal Holiday, contact Amy at kuro0008@umn.edu or visit <http://hrss.umn.edu>. Note that the Web site will only tell you if you've used your Personal Holiday since January.
- **Attention P&A Staff.** P&A vacation records for this quarter (April-June) are due the end of this month. Turn them in to Beth Nelson in 107 Pattee Hall.
- **Attention Summer RAs and Supervisors.** By now, you should have received your summer appointment letter. They were given to supervisors back in May. Please sign your letter and turn it in to Amy in 102 Pattee Hall ASAP.
- **Attention HR Workgroup.** Just a reminder that the HR Workgroup will meet Thursday, June 18 at 2:00 p.m. in Room 118. Questions? Contact Beth at 6-8042 or Marijo at 4-6830.
- **Attention All Staff.** Updates to the phone list and mailboxes will occur by the end of the week. Please inform Amy (4-6300) of any changes ASAP.
- **Kickoff Reminder.** Do you have October 8 reserved on your calendar? Please save this date and plan to attend ICI's Annual Fall Kickoff!
- **Certificate Reflection Groups.** ICI GRAs and students enrolled or interested in the Certificate on Disability Policy and Services are invited to attend the upcoming Reflection Groups (part of the certificate program):
 - June 18, 12:15-1:15 p.m., 125 Burton. Topic: Community services.
 - June 19, 12:15-1:15 p.m., 125 Burton. Topic: Assistive technology.

Miscellaneous

- **Research Participants with MR Sought.** The CEHD Laboratory of Physiological Hygiene and Exercise Science is looking for adults aged 40-70 years, who have mental retardation with or without Down syndrome and who reside in community settings to participate in their Heart Disease Assessment Study. The goal of the study is to identify ways to decrease the progression of heart disease and reduce the number of deaths caused by heart disease for persons with MR. Participants must make a single visit to the University of Minnesota for a series of assessments, including cholesterol profiles, blood sugar, bone density, blood pressure, body measurements, percent body fat, dietary questions, physical activity questions, and an ultrasound of the arteries in the neck. Participants will receive a \$20 Target gift certificate and reimbursement for parking costs. FFI contact Eric Williamson at 612-624-2943 or will0188@umn.edu.
- **Stakeholder Input Video Conference.** The National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR), in collaboration with the Institute's Research and Training Center on Community Living, will hold a video conference on June 25 from 1-4 p.m. in 165 Peik Hall. The purpose of the video conference is to allow researchers, consumers, families, service providers, and policymakers to give input into the five-year plan of NIDRR and other federal agencies. If you are interested in attending, please contact Ali Glynn at 612-624-6328.
- **Birthdays.** Vicki Gaylord (6/18), Nydia Dealba DeJohnson (6/18), Connie Burkhardt (6/21), Eric Lanners (6/22), Ann Dybvig (6/23), Marit Gould (6/24), Donna Johnson (6/26), Ann Bailey (7/2), Judy Swanson (7/3), Traci Laliberte (7/3), Trish Beuhring (7/4), Dan Jackson (7/4), Carnot Thomas (7/4), Ben Anderson (7/9), Holly Peterson (7/9), Charlie Lakin (7/10). Did we miss your birthday? Let us know! Call 4-6300 or email kuro0008@tc.umn.edu.

Bits & Pieces

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

- **ICI at the Fair.** On Tuesday, August 26, ICI will be featured in the College of Education and Human Development booth, located in the University of Minnesota building, at the Minnesota State Fair. Institute staff will be there throughout the day and evening to talk with fairgoers; a computer-based quiz on dropout prevention based on the work of ICI's Check and Connect project will be offered at the booth; and the ICI video "We Watch the City: Stories in the Shadow of 9/11" will be shown in the building's video screening room. So stop in and say "Hi!"
- **New in the Publications Office.**
 - *DD Data Brief: Health Insurance Coverage and Health Care Experiences of Persons with Disabilities in the NHIS-D*
- **New NCSET Publications.** The Institute's National Center on Secondary Education and Transition (NCSET) has a new publication available:
 - *NLTS2 Data Brief: Who Are Secondary Students in Special Education Today?*
- **Freelancers.** The Publications Office has a copy of the 2003-2004 Professional Editors Network (PEN) directory listing editors, writers, and other communications professionals who freelance in the Twin Cities. To borrow it, contact Vicki (4-6347). Or visit PEN's Web site at www.pensite.org and click on "Looking for an Editor?" for an online directory.
- **Preview of Upcoming Publications.** Coming from ICI this summer and fall:
 - *Impact: Feature Issue on Social Inclusion Through Recreation for Persons with Disabilities* (Summer 2003)
 - *Impact: Feature Issue on Achieving Secondary Education and Transition Results for Students with Disabilities* (Fall 2003)
 - *Policy Research Brief: 20 Years of Medicaid Waiver* (Fall 2003)
- **FYI Deadline.** Items for the next FYI should be submitted to Chris in 109 Pattee or e-mailed to opsal001@umn.edu by Friday, July 11.