

## **ICC Meeting 1/29/09**

### **❖ Call to Order**

The January 29<sup>th</sup> meeting of the ICC was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Marva Campbell Pruitt.

### **❖ Introduction of New Members**

As a result of sending the notice out to the directors with our strategic plan in asking them to recommit who their designee would be Dr. Jones of the Dept. of Mental Health sent the name of Brenda Hampton as the designee. Brenda was welcomed today.

Brenda Hampton is with Division of Mental Health. She is Deputy Director looking at the restructuring of the long term care system and transitioning individuals who have mental illness and who are residents of long term care back into community. She is also looking at community re-entry and that was one of the reasons why she was asked to participate with this group, looking at the different venues in which individuals do enter the mental health system looking at those issues of barriers that might not make re-entry as smooth as possible and how to make it a reality. Brenda has been with the Division of Mental Health for 20 years. She is a social worker by training, MSW. She spent several years working in the community and various community mental health centers in the Chicago Area.

### **❖ Agency Roll Call**

The following ICC members were present:

Terry Braidwood – DHS/DDD

Lola Lucas – IDES

Brenda Hampton – DHS/DMH

Sue Walter – ISBE

Darcy Contri – Division of Specialized Care for Children

Ochang Jany – IBHE

Alan Dietrich – DHS/DMH

Melanie Fleenor – ISBE

Andi Berryman – ICCB

Margie Harkness – ICDD

Adjoa Blalock – DHS/DMH

Marva Campbell-Pruitt – DHS/DRS

### **❖ Adoption of Agenda**

Motion to accept agenda by common consent was made.

### **❖ Review and Approval of Minutes**

Sue W wasn't able to listen to the recording of the minutes so she wants to know if they want to hold off on approving the minutes or go ahead and approve.

Approve subject to any modification that Sue will want to make later. There was a motion and a second. Minutes will be accepted.

Who is taking minutes today? Sue is recording them and it will be recorded onto a disc and then she will type up the details.

#### ❖ **Chairperson's Reports**

Beth Hanselman will attend meeting later and she did not give a report for Sue W to share. Sue is not aware of what Beth will discuss.

Marva Campbell Pruitt: Where DRS is concerned involves our Home Service Program even though not a lot of our youth who are in transition utilize our home service program. I think students usually go with DDS home service program more so, but we did meet with a group of stake holders on Monday to talk about the plans for future programming and individuals who were represented including people from our CIL's with the Statewide Independent Living Council and the Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities in IL. DRS has a new acting bureau chief Candice Scott who is with Home Service Programs. The stakeholders also discussed the state budget pressures and a lot of other things. DRS is focusing on money following the person and rapid reintegration. DRS is very hopeful about President Obama's economic stimulus package, because vocational rehabilitation was a key.

**Is DRS looking at changing the home services program or were they just trying to get feed back from stakeholders on how its working?** DRS was getting feedback in terms of how it's working; they are also developing a pilot program for individuals who have TBI.

#### ❖ **Old Business**

##### **★ DHS/DDD Updates (PUNS and Howe Closure)**

Terry Braidwood talked about the PUN database, Prioritization of Unmet Needs, that has been operational for the last few years. The database is now used to select people for services for DHS/DDD. There are about 23,000 people who are now in the PUNS database, of that we have almost 18,000 adults and 5,000 children, so probably the biggest transitional factor is working with children and there should be a seamless move to adult services now that they are enrolled in our system. Of the 23,000, 16,000 are actively needing/awaiting services.

On November 21, 2008 the first group of folks selected from PUNS was announced. DDD sent out 255 letters indicating to those families that their member would be receiving if they chose to apply for it. Of that group there were 180 children and 75 adults. DDD is waiting for people to respond to the invitation for services...they have six months to respond to their PAS agency. Terry said that DDD is happy to have gotten this system off the ground though there are bugs to be worked through.

Our data selection committee is meeting for the first time in months to actively work on fine-tuning the process used to select people; perhaps more weight will be added to people who are in immediate need or are within one year of need.

**Howe closure:** Our secretary of DHS sent notice to CGFA which is the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability on September the 5<sup>th</sup> to close the facility. The first hearing of CGFA was held to discuss the closure issue on December 11, 2008 and the final recommendation from CGFA was to include the Tinley Park Mental Health Center. There will be a delay until the impeachment situation of our Governor has been resolved so that there is no chance of any concerns being raised that the closure has anything to do with the impeachment.

**Question for Terry:** At a TPC consortium yesterday, some of the people who were in attendance wanted to know about those young people who are at home and they've been home for two and three years now and are still waiting for a call? What do we say to those people? **Terry's response:** We have two ways that a person can receive an invitation for services thru the Division of DD. One way would be through the PUNS database as I have just described. The second route happens when an individual and his or her family get together with their PAS agent and they feel that their situation is so critical within the family that they can't wait to be selected. The family then has the opportunity to submit an application directly to our DD Network Facilitator requesting expedited funding based on a set of crisis criteria. If any of these crisis criteria are met then expedited funding for services could happen. The three criteria that are considered for expedited services include: 1) the caregiver is unable to keep the child safe; 2) the caregiver is unable to meet the child's support needs, the family dynamics such as children with multiple disabilities depending on the caregiver and the medical, physical and behavioral needs of the child places demands on the family that put the child or family members at serious risk; or, 3) the child's behavior such as verbal and physical aggression and bodily harm to self or others put the child and/or family member at risk for harm.

**Question:** A lot of kids transitioning or leaving the school system may not meet those definitions of severe crisis yet it's foolish for them to sit at home and do nothing for a number of years. Is there a better way to keep those people from just being dropped into an abyss?

**Answer:** With the limited amount of dollars that DHS has received, we have to engage in a triage of sorts and unfortunately it does open the door to children transitioning out who don't receive or need to receive immediate services and you could say there is a danger of regression of skills simply because of the vacuum that takes place until they can be picked up. However, the reality is that these are the kinds of issues we have to deal with and there really is no way to capture a lot of these cases with just the few dollars that are available. So the answer to you is that the inability to receive services and the regression of skills doesn't meet the criteria that we looked at for expedited services.

For those students who have been in the children's waiver program...are they automatically transitioned into the adult program (i.e., seamless)? Yes, this is true.

**What can be included in adult services?** Adult services in the home-based services program could include in-home services such as personal support workers within the home, therapies, developmental training and vocational types of programs (outside the home). It also can include similar types of programs up thru and including 24 hour services.

### ★ Annual Report

The Annual Reports for 2005 – 2006 and 2006 – 2007 have been completed, signed and copies sent to the appropriate, required people. Extra hard copies are available and an electronic version will be posted to the IICC webpage.

The 2007-2008 report is currently being worked on. Marva has a few of the agency members' reports. Marva is still analyzing some of the data from the transition planning committees. TPC committees are reporting that transportation and funding are definitely needed, more funding for the STEP program and more funding for special education programs at the local level. TPC members' report that they need more staff that can provide the direct services and opportunities that students' need and the assessments that are needed. Marva will send an e-mail to everyone. Members should

let her know which one or two of those issues we want to tackle for this year's report and/or consider making recommendations to the governor and legislature.

### **★ Strategic Plan Activity – 2009 Activities**

We need to start responding to what activities from this plan have we done or are we planning to do. Marva asked the work group chairs to look at them to see exactly where we can go.

Question: Where is DCFS's report, what is their current involvement on the ICC? We do have a delegate designee from DCFS but he's not been able to come to the meetings and he did not submit a response for the agency updates in the annual report. He stated that he really wanted to submit something for the 2006-2007 report but because of the already late date, Marva asked him to begin working on the 2007-2008 report. Marva will be in contact with him this week because she still doesn't have his promised report.

In comparing the original strategic plan with the executive summary, the strategic plan included a page with Next Steps. The Next Steps were broken into 3 subcategories with points under each.

1. Data collection and Analysis
  - a. Includes four points that speak to ICC members bringing data from their respective agencies to share with the Council in order to have meaningful data discussions and use in planning and decision making.
2. Public Policy
  - a. Create a public policy workgroup of the ICC that would collaborate and share their findings and make recommendations to key statewide disability advocacy groups. The ICC would use information from the trend analysis and data collection to develop policy and position statements on transition issues. The last point this topic is to partner with others including state institutions of higher education that have students as a resource to formulate public policy recommendations and effect system change.
3. Interagency Coordination
  - a. Promote greater awareness among agency directors relative to the ICC priorities that would include but not be limited to sharing the summary of the trend analysis.
  - b. Invite the Governor's office and the Attorney General's Office to become members of the ICC.
  - c. Discuss and plan for participation of other key stakeholders with the ICC, such as service providers, family, students, other stakeholders.
  - d. Identify and utilize resources from member and other agencies and look beyond the traditional disability-related boundaries in order to expand capacity of effective practices
  - e. Secure media coverage for successes.

Other ICC members commented that they were just saying that a lot of these same points are incorporated into the executive summary under opportunities for improvement but not the details. Some of that was just re-worded and summarized a little bit different into action steps and we made it a positive "opportunities for improvement."

Sue W has the strategic plan in a word file and was asked to send it out to everyone.

Marva asked which one of these action items we would be interested in taking on this year in our workgroups. We do have 3 workgroups...do any of the action activities just outlined in the 3 categories fall under those workgroups or will we need another workgroup?

Question: Is there an existing group at State Board of Ed that looks at transition data? Sue W explained that data is collected for each indicator of the state performance plan for an annual performance report. The indicators that are transition-related include graduation rates, drop out rates, the transition plan and post-school outcomes. The FACTS data system also captures Services Required Upon Graduation from High School. Marva wants to know if the data can be reported by county for the TPC's. Sue W says we will need to speak to Beth H about engaging in this process. Then we can talk to Scott about what can and cannot be done. Sue will talk to Beth and Scott and bring information back to next meeting. Marva asked Sue, Darcy and Margie and Ocheng to begin an effort to work on the data activity. We need to zero in on what data is out there and what would be useful to us for any kind of decision making.

The next subcategory is public policy. Marva said she thought we had talked about looking to Sheila Romano on this topic and how to get a liaison from the Governor's office but we never followed thru with that. Marva said that was an option but another option is in regard to the agenda item on the ICC/ISAC meeting. Do you think this would be something we could collaborate on with ISAC? Marva stated that she talked to Suzy Woods and the two of them were brainstorming about what types of things they might work together on. Melanie will ask Kathy Stratton, the support person for ISAC, when their policy committee meets. Melanie stated that perhaps she could attend that meeting to see what is going on. Marva agreed that this was a good idea.

The joint meeting of ISAC/ICC is on February 10<sup>th</sup> so that would be a good opportunity to bring up the idea of collaborating and get a general consensus of both groups.

The last sub-category is Interagency Coordination. Lola Lucas stated that clearly some public relations and marketing needs to come into play. Marva asked if she had any ideas as to where to go and grow for 2009? Lola stated that one thing that comes to mind is to come up with a tri-fold brochure and get more information out that may be useful to parents and students. The focus of the tri-fold brochure could include 3 bullet points from each agency in regard to their services/programs that impact transitioning students and their families. The brochure could then refer readers to the website to get more in-depth information. Sue W stated that she thinks using the ICC web page to a better advantage is something to think about.

A motion was made and seconded to proceed with designing a brochure to be put into PDF format and/or printed. The brochure would explain the most important transition services or highlights of our member agencies. Comment: The committee needs to consider if a paper brochure will be best because brochures can be easily lost or misplaced. The motion was amended to "produce marketing materials to get people to the websites of different agencies and the details of their service." This motion was passed.

There is one Next Steps issue that there is no current committee set up for: the interagency piece on informing the member agencies and their employees of all of the different agencies and what we do and how we need to work together. Lola, Adjoa, and Marva agreed to work on a plan for interagency training.

★ HR 1117 Update

Melanie Fleenor provided an update. She said they met on the 16<sup>th</sup> of January via teleconference and there were various members among the group. The group decided to develop a document that outlines the age at which youth transition out of “children’s” services and into “adult” services. Marva has devised two documents that each agency is going to complete so we know the facts from each relevant player. Marva hasn’t received any feed back on the Matrix information they discussed at a previous meeting. The next meeting is February 6<sup>th</sup>.

**★ Agency Reports**

**DHS/DMH**

Adjoa Blalock reported their children’s services bureau continues to have a specialized program for transitioning youth. It is called Mental Health Transition Services for Youth and this initiative is going into the 2<sup>nd</sup> full year to address the needs of 16-18 year olds transitioning from children’s mental health services to adult mental health services. She explained, as a reminder, that DHS/DMH has two units: a child adolescent unit and the adult unit. This initiative is out of the children’s unit. Also within that initiative we have another target population of any age youth transitioning to the community from the department of Juvenile Justice. For FY08, there are 10 agencies that are located throughout the state. DHS has 5 regions and we now have 2 agencies in each of the 5 regions. The 10 agencies provide services to 254 16-18 year olds who are transitioning to adult services.

**IDES**

Lola mentioned they are creating a new link on their website about green jobs.

**★New Business**

**2009 Transition Conference Update**

The steering committee is working to finalize the date and location. The date is not confirmed but will be in mid to late October. The location will be the Schaumburg Renaissance Hotel and Conference Center. All ICC members are welcome to join in the planning.

The joint meeting of ICC and ISAC will take place February the 10<sup>th</sup> from 10-12 on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of ISBE.

The next ICC meeting is scheduled for March 25, 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Motion to adjourn was made and seconded.