Futurity...Stories Yet to Tell

This first edition of Futurity marks the continuation of a tradition established by Information Exchange, a Developmental Disability newsletter which had its beginning in the mid 1970's and was terminated with the September 1990 issue. Information is power. Information is also the key to survival. Thus, Futurity is our attempt to remember what we have learned from the past, to capture important events in the present, and to articulate our dreams for the future.

Our concept of Futurity is best described by John O'Brien and Beth Mount in their chapter "Telling Stories: The Search for Capacity Among People with Severe Handicaps," which appears in a recent publication, Critical Issues in the Lives of People with Severe Disabilities. O'Brien and Mount quote Raymond Kilroy's testimony to the United States Senate Subcommittee on the Handicapped in 1987:

"We are moving away from emphasizing my needs toward building upon my capacities. We are moving away from providing services to me in some facility toward building bridges with me to communities and neighborhood associations. We are moving away from programming me and our families to acquire the support we want. We are moving away from focusing on my deficits to focusing on my competence. We are moving away from specialized disability organizations so that we can develop and sustain relationships with people who will depend upon people like me and upon whom people like me can depend." (p. 92)

"To move toward this future, we must all learn to listen, to tell, and to act on new stories...stories whose theme is action to discover capacity," concluded O'Brien and Mount.

Thus, Futurity is about all of us as we seek our own destinies. What is marvelous about the future is that it belongs to everyone. Futurity is a continuous saga about the fulfillment of our hopes and dreams.

Ideas and contributions, from you, the reader, are encouraged and welcomed.

-The Editor

Two RFPs Issued on Technology

The STAR Program of the Governor's Advisory Council on Technology for People with Disabilities has announced the availability of funds in two Requests for Proposals:

1. expansion or creation of community technological assistance programs to underserved persons with disabilities;
2. the development of assistive technological mobile van delivery programs.

Applications must be received by 4:30 pm. on November 30, 1990. Contact: Rachel Wobschall, Executive Director, STAR Program Minnesota State Planning Agency 300 Centennial Building 658 Cedar Street St. Paul, MN 55155 612/297-1552 (voice) 612/296-9962 (TDD)

Inside This Issue...

California establishes right to full-time, regular classroom education

Training programs for: parent case management transition specialist
Transition Specialist Training Program Announced

The Institute on Community Integration at the University of Minnesota has been awarded a three-year grant from the U.S. Department of Education to develop an interdisciplinary training program for transition specialists. There is an increasing demand for professionals who have the training and skills necessary to assist students in the transition from school to adulthood. Five full-time graduate students will receive half-time assistantships in addition to their interdisciplinary academic preparation. In addition to training students, the project will develop course outlines and training modules to disseminate to faculty in other institutions of higher education and to the Minnesota Department of Education for its ongoing continuing education training programs. For further information, contact: David Johnson at 612/624-6347.

Help Fight The "Silent Epidemic"

There is power in numbers and your voice and membership is needed by the Minnesota Head Injury Association. More than 9,000 Minnesotans sustain head injuries each year. Of these, 1,000 will have permanent life-altering intellectual, physical, and emotional disabilities. Find out more, call: 612/370-3911 (voice and TDD).

California Sets Precedent:
A Right to be Educated in a Regular Classroom, Full-time!

Ending a lengthy battle, the Sacramento City Unified School District was ordered to allow 8-year old Rachel Holland to attend--full time--a regular first grade class. "We're thrilled but exhausted" said Kim Conner, Rachel's mother, who was quoted in an article that appeared in The Sacramento Bee Final, August 25, 1990. "We hope the district will build on this success. We are certainly willing to give all we can to make it work, and we hope the district will too," continued Connor.

California Hearing Officer, Mary L. Cote, said in a 23-page decision that except for the district's efforts to integrate Rachel in a class during free play, efforts had been limited to recess, lunch, and music for about 40 minutes a day. "In the case at hand," Cote said, "the balance tips in favor of placing Rachel in a regular education classroom with the appropriate support services. Despite the district's concern that Rachel would be an 'isolate' in a regular classroom and the fact that she is mild to moderately developmentally delayed, she has the capacity to function with her normal peers."

Rachel's mother said, "We shouldn't have to fight so hard for a child's right to go to school with children their own age, in their own neighborhood. We've been trying for over a year to get Rachel in a regular classroom with support. Research shows this kind of integration is working, and it's consistent with the law."

Kim Conner and her husband had pulled Rachel from the district's preschool learning class for children with handicaps and they enrolled her in a private sectarian school. "Rachel did very, very well," said Conner. "She learned to write her name, she made friends, she was invited to birthday parties."

"This decision challenges preconceptions about how and where children with mental retardation can be educated, and will force educators to look beyond stereotypes in determining appropriate class placements," said Mary Low Breslin, Executive Director of the Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Recent information received indicates that the school district is appealing the hearing officer's decision.
Events:

November 8, 1990
The last in a series of regional workshops on "Conservatorship/Guardianship in Minnesota" will be held at the Holiday Inn, New Ulm, Minnesota. Sponsored by the Department of Human Services, this is intended for case managers, family members, and friends of persons under public guardianship, and who are interested in becoming a private conservator or guardian.
Contact: Lorna Wiens
North Central Technical College, Staples Campus
Airport Road, Staples, Minnesota 56479
1-800/247-6836

November 17, 1990
African-American parents who have a child with a disability are invited to meet with other parents at PACER Center, 4826 Chicago Avenue South in Minneapolis. The meeting, Saturday morning from 9:00 to 11:00, will help parents learn and understand what their rights are and how to get assistance in finding appropriate resources. Call: 612/827-2966.

November 26, 1990
Adaptive Communications Systems, Inc. is presenting a Hands On Workshop at the St. Paul Hotel in St. Paul, Minnesota. Gillette Children's Hospital is serving as a host agency. Learn about the latest technology in augmentative communication devices and improve skills. Fee: $65 Contact: Adaptive Communication Systems, Inc.
354 Hookstown Grade Road, Clinton, PA 15026
1-800/247-3433 (between 10 and 4:30 pm. EST)

December 1, 1990
Ablenet, Inc. will operate a Santa's Toyshop between 10:00 and 4:00 pm. at Bandana Square, second floor, 1021 East Bandana Blvd., St. Paul, Minnesota. New toys and games will be sold. Bring old toys, games, and switches for adaptation or repair. Learn how simple technology can be used in a variety of settings. For more information, call 612/379-0956, or 1-800/322-0956.

Health Care Workshops Scheduled
A health care skills workshop has been developed by the Minnesota Department of Education for parents or guardians of children with special health care needs. Learn about the health care system. A manual on financial resources will be provided. Free workshops are scheduled at the following locations and dates:
Marshall, November 3, 1990
Bemidji, November 10, 1990
Rochester, November 17, 1990
Twin Cities, December 1, 1990
Contact:
Judith Kahn
Pathfinder Resources, Inc.
2324 University Avenue, West
Suite 105
St. Paul, MN 55114
612/747-6905

Parent Case Management Training
The Institute on Community Integration at the University of Minnesota has received a second-year grant that will enabled participants to receive training on how to become more involved in the case management process. Trainings will be provided in Regions 5, 7, 9, and 10. Applications are due December 1, 1990. Call Marijo McBride at 612/624-4848 or 612/457-8138.
Underlying Assumptions in the Empowerment Process

There is an increased interest in empowerment. As noted in Information Exchange-State Supplement (September 1990), The Cornell Empowerment Group, Ithaca, New York, defined empowerment as "an intentional, ongoing process centered in the local community, involving mutual respect, critical reflection, caring, and group participation, through which people who are lacking in an equal share of valued resources, gain greater access to and control over those resources."

This definition was built on a set of assumptions which can serve as a point of reference for those wishing to analyze their own programs:

1. All individuals have strengths.
2. Diversity (race, gender, family form, age physical and mental ability, sexual orientation) is positively valued.
3. Human beings develop through interaction with a number of environmental systems, which can be specified. The behavior of individuals, groups, and nations must be subordinate to the demands imposed by the global physical environment for sustainability.
4. A truly democratic society is organized to provide all people with choices, and the power to exercise those choices.
5. The deficit model of family assistance, in which people must demonstrate inadequacy in order to become eligible for support, is counterproductive, and competes with empowerment process.
6. An understanding of the history of a given culture, including the traditions associated with role allocations, is indispensable to termination of appropriate strategies for reducing inequality.
7. Women are particularly burdened with inequities regarding the work assigned them in traditional role distributions, and these burdens have usually increased as a result of new role assignments (work and community responsibility outside the home) without relief from traditional roles.
8. Issues of power are central to resources distribution and, therefore, to family support.

Continued on page two
Partners in Policymaking

The World Institute on Disabilities is seeking applications for participation in Partners in Policymaking, a one-year leadership training program. This competency-based training is designed to empower individuals in their ability to influence public policy. Parents of young children or individuals with developmental disabilities, or people with disabilities from throughout Minnesota are encouraged to apply.

Expenses are paid for travel, lodging, meals, and respite care. Sessions are held on Friday and Saturday at a metropolitan location. Attendance at all eight sessions is mandatory.

Selections will be made based on the quality of the application. Applications are due December 14, 1990. The first session will be held on January 25 and 26, 1991. Direct requests for applications to:

David Hancox
World Institute on Disability/Minnesota
1313 5th Street, SE Suite 103B
Minneapolis, MN 55414
612/379-3969

Council Seeks New Members

Applications are being accepted to fill anticipated vacancies on the Governor's Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities. Those appointed by the Governor will begin serving on the Council in February 1991.

The Council assists in the selection of priorities for the development of a state plan. They also advise the Governor of Minnesota on policies pertaining to the provision of an array of services to people with developmental disabilities and their families, such as health, education, human services, housing, and transportation.

People with "developmental disabilities" are those who have severe, physical or mental disabilities, which appear before age twenty-two and are likely to continue indefinitely.

A developmental disability significantly limits three or more life activities, such as: self-care, language, learning, mobility, self-direction, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency.

Persons who have a developmental disability and those who represent the general public interest are encouraged to apply.

Applications are to be filed at the Office of the Secretary of State by January 4, 1991.

Please contact the Office of the Secretary of State to request the form entitled "Application for Service in State Agency." Address: State Office Building, Room 180, St. Paul, MN 55155 or call 612/297-5845.

Views on Independence

by Iva Vosberg

As an instructor at a shelterd workshop, I taught a group of middle-aged individuals. Most of them had spent their entire lives in institutions, had then moved to group homes, and had advanced to living in supervised apartments. I remember a lunchtime conversation I had with some of the employees, it went like this...

"Do you live alone?" a woman asked me. "No," I replied.
"I live with my husband." "And before you were married?"
"I lived with my parents then." I had a lot to think about when she said, "Oh, you never made it to independent living."
**Employment Opportunities**

**Volunteer Service Assistant**, full-time employment requires Bachelor's Degree or experience in human services. Contact: Minnesota Multiple Sclerosis Society, 2344 Nicollet Avenue, Suite 280, Minneapolis, MN 55404-3381 or call: 612/870-1500 or 1-800/582-5296.

**Advocacy Coordinator**, The Oregon Developmental Disabilities Council is recruiting for a position to coordinate policy analysis, develop action plans for legislation and rulemaking, write newsletters, and handle marketing and public relations. Contact: Oregon Developmental Disabilities Council, 540 24th Place NE, Salem, Oregon, 97301-4517 or call: 503/373-7555.

**Resources**

**Funding Assistive Technology**, STAR Program (1990) is a brochure that outlines a variety of funding sources and criteria for qualifying for financial assistance when purchasing assistive technological devices. A list of agencies and organizations that can provide information and assistance is also provided. For a free copy, contact: STAR Program, State Planning Agency, 300 Centennial Office Building, 658 Cedar Street, St. Paul, MN 55155. 612/296-2771 (voice) or 612/296-9962 (TDD)

**Transition to Higher Education for Students with Disabilities** (1990) is a brochure listing a number of postsecondary options and opportunities. Free copies are available from: The Interagency Office on Transition Services, 800 Capitol Square Building, 550 Cedar Street, St. Paul, MN 55101. 612/296-0280

**Print and Media resources for Supported Employment Personnel** is a 65-page list of books, training materials, newsletters, video-tapes, and other materials. Send $3.00 to Minnesota Technical Assistance Resource Network on Supported Employment, Institute on Community Integration, 109 Patee Hall, 150 Pillsbury Drive, SE or call 612/624-4512. Make checks payable to the University of Minnesota.

DIAL-IN NEWS Out of hundreds of newspapers sold in Minnesota everyday, not one has ever been made available to people who are blind or are unable to see print...that is until now. The Communication Center of the State Services for the Blind has announced the availability of a newspaper reading service. Qualified subscribers can hear newspaper articles, that have been recorded by volunteers, over the telephone. By pushing specific phone buttons, individuals can select the section and items they would like to hear. Read when you want to; no special training or equipment necessary. Subscription fee: $6.00 per month. Call: 612/643-3526 or 643-0513.

**OSER News in Print** is a free quarterly newsletter published by the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Washington, DC. Each edition is focused on a selected topic, such as the Autumn 1990 edition was entitled "Technology: Assisting Individuals with Disabilities." Contact: Editor, OSER News in Print, Room 3132, Switzer Building, 330 "C" Street, SW, Washington, DC. 20202-2524. 202/732-1723

"Taking risks is necessary for everyone because security is mostly a superstition. Life is either a daring adventure...or it is nothing."

-Helen Keller
Lending Library

The following videotapes, (VHS,1/2") are available on a two-week loan basis. The only cost to the borrower is the return postage. Write or call the address below.

Apple-Chapter 1 is a futuristic depiction of a mother who is writing about her family and how technology serves as a catalyst for change...the power to be your best.

Supported Employment: More Than Just a Job, New Hampshire, stories of several individuals whose lives have been enriched through real work.

A Waiting Work Force:

Ready, Willing and Disabled, National Center for Research in Vocational Education, Ohio State University, emphasizes an untapped national resource and the potential of people with disabilities in the labor force.

Eating Comes Naturally: A Care Giver's Guide to the Feeding of Infants and Young Children, University of Alabama.

 Dropout Prevention Program

The U.S. Department of Education has awarded a 5-year grant to the university of Minnesota, Institute on Community Integration to develop a dropout prevention program in collaboration with the Minneapolis Public Schools. The project began in September 1990 and will target 225 students with emotional and behavioral disorders and learning disabilities at two Minneapolis junior high schools. Special emphasis will be placed on family relationships with the schools and involvement of community agencies. This project is one of three funded in the country by the Office on Special Education and Rehabilitative Services which will focus on dropout prevention at the middle school level.

Training in Personal Futures Planning

The Human Services Research and Development Center is scheduling five introductory workshops on personal futures planning. Attendance at one of the workshops is a prerequisite for enrollment for the facilitator training to be held later in the spring. Cost is $25, with a reduced fee of $10 for family members and persons with disabilities. Reimbursement for child care expense is available for parents. Contact Pat Lyon, Personal Futures Planning Project, 357 Oneida St., St. Paul, MN 55102, 612/227-9117.

Schedule is from 9:30 to 4:30 at these locations: January 24, Rochester; January 31, Brainerd; February 23, Mankato; March 2, Metro Area; March 7, Grand Rapids.

Futurity

MINNESOTA STATE PLANNING AGENCY
Governor’s Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities
300 Centennial Office Building
658 Cedar Street, St. Paul, MN 55155

Roger Strand, Editor
612/296-8018
612/296-9082 TDD

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Social Support and Personal Satisfaction Studied in Vermont

What is the quality of life experienced by persons with developmental disabilities who are now living in community settings? Sara Burchard and Moira Hutchins-Fuhr from the University of Vermont interviewed 114 adults over a three-year duration to examine community adjustment, integration, and the quality of their lives. People participating in the study resided in three settings: group homes, supervised apartments, and family homes.

The researchers found that:

- Persons living with their own relatives (family homes) and in semi-independent apartments had greater lifestyle satisfaction than persons living in group homes.
- Persons in family homes expressed greater well-being than those in group homes. Apartment dwellers were between those two groups in self-expressed adjustment.
- Lifestyle satisfaction and personal well-being increased over all community settings over time.

Some of the findings in the study regarding social network stability and satisfaction were characterized by:

- Only 5 percent of those interviewed had friends without disabilities within their social networks.
- Social integration was minimal for persons in every setting.
- Social networks were extremely stable with respect to their size, type of people in them, and perceived support over the three years.
- Persons in family homes had fewer friends, dated less frequently, but had more kin in their networks than persons in the other settings.
- Primary support came from staff persons for those living in group homes.
- Almost everyone had someone who provided social support to them consistently over the three-year period. However, 13 percent of those

Continued on page two

Council Member Receives TASH Honors

Pat Tietz (Shakopee, MN) was a recipient of a Distinguished Parent Award at the of The Association for Persons with Severe Handicaps (TASH) Conference held in Chicago, December 1990. Pat, a member of the Governor's Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities, has a vision of inclusive home-school communities for her son. Pat's advice to other parents is, "You must first have a vision about what you would like for your child's future, then it takes lots of hard work to get there."

Inside This Issue...

Need Special Telephone Equipment? The Minnesota Department of Human Services operates two programs: 1) the Message Relay Service which relays calls for TDD users, and 2) the Equipment Distribution Program for people needing special equipment to use the telephone, e.g., amplifiers, ring signaler, telecommunication devices (TDD) with keyboard and visual display screen, and special devices for people who are deaf-blind. For further information, contact: Equipment Distribution Program, Minnesota Department of Human Services, 444 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155-9901. 1-800/657-3663 (voice) or 1-800/657-3513 (TDD)

Deadline to Claim Vaccine Compensation--January 31, 1991

With the passage of the Vaccine and Immunization Amendments Act of 1990, Congress extended the deadline to apply for benefits by January 31, 1991. If an individual received a vaccine prior to October 1, 1988, and developed specific reactions within certain time periods, the petitioners may be entitled to recover the cost of care. The program is intended to serve as a faster and less expensive procedure than a civil suit for resolving claims for certain vaccine-related injuries. Using this no-fault system, petitioners do not need to prove that those who manufactured or administered the vaccine were at fault. They must prove that the vaccine is related to the injury.

This federal program provides compensation to individuals who developed adverse affects from one of the following vaccines: 1) diphtheria and tetanus toxoids and pertussis vaccine (DTP); 2) measles, mumps, rubella vaccines; 3) oral polio vaccines; and 4) inactive polio vaccine.

Claims must be filed by an attorney practicing before the United States Claims Court. Contact: U.S. Claims Court, 717 Madison Place N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005. For general information, call Health Resources and Services Administration: 1-800/338-2382, toll-free.

Events

January 26, 1991 (9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.)

*Family Unity: A Working Conference to Develop Family Support Policy* will be a statewide event sponsored by several advocacy organizations held at Earle Brown center, University of Minnesota, St. Paul Campus. Hank Bersani (Arc-Oregon) will highlight national trends, and Kathy Manderville will share how support networks were established in New Hampshire. Issues will be identified for 1991 legislation. Contact: Paula Gilbert, Chair, 612/456-8519, toll-free

January 28-31, 1991

*School-To-Work Transition: Working It Out Together for Minnesota Youth*, a statewide conference at the St. Cloud Civic Center, St. Cloud, Minnesota, will be sponsored by the Minnesota Departments of Jobs and Training, Human Services, Labor and Industry, Education, Corrections, Planning and the State Board of Vocational Technical Education. Contact: Kay Tracy, Department of Jobs and Training, 612/296-6064, or 1-800/456-8519.

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living in group homes and semi-independent apartments combined did not have consistent support throughout that time.

Copies of "Comparison of Characteristics of Social Support and Personal Satisfaction for Adults Living in Community Settings" (presentation at TASH Conference, December 7, 1990) may be requested from Department of Psychology, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT 05405.
Resources

Policy Analysis and Model Statute on Family Support, by H.R. Turnbull, J.D. Harlow, P.A. Barber, & D. Schnase (in press), Beach Center on Families and Disability, c/o Bureau of Child Research, 3111 Haworth, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS 66045. This packet includes an analysis of family support programs and services for people with developmental disabilities and their families, and a state model family support statute. The analysis describes the major characteristics, historical context, underlying values and principles, and existing barriers to support and family policy, and recommends policy directions. The model statute may be used as a platform to advocate for change or as a draft for specific state statutes.

The "Best Practices" Manual (1990) is a document describing various features and practices of 73 agencies in the country identified as potential "best practice" settings. The Manual is intended for those interested in expanding or improving integrated employment services. Two programs in Minnesota are highlighted: Kaposia, Inc. of St. Paul, and Rise, Inc. of Minneapolis. Cost $25.00. Contact: Developmental Disabilities Training Institute, CB #3370, Hill Commercial Building, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3370. 919/966-5463

Dual Sensory Impairments: Resource Center Materials List (Annotated Bibliography), provides a number of resources addressing the needs of persons with vision and hearing impairments. Contact: Dual Sensory Impairment Technical Assistance Project, University Technology Center, 1313 5th Street, SE, Suite 209, Minneapolis, MN 55421 612/627-5463

Statewide Respite Directory, published by the Association of Residential Resources in Minnesota, is available for $5.00. Call ARRM: 612/291-1086.

Inclusion News, Center for Integrated Education and Community, is a quarterly newsletter from Canada. It attempts to offer a new vision of education that would allow ALL children to belong, and would focus on PERSON not disability. Contact: Marsha Forest, 24 Thome Crescent Toronto, Ontario, Canada M6H 2S5. 416/6585363.

Mark Your 1991 Calendars

March 14 and 15, 1991: "Healthy Roots: Primary Prevention of Fetal Alcohol Damage," sponsored by the Maternal and Child Health Training Program, School of Public Health, University of Minnesota, at Riverwood Conference Center near Monticello, MN. This is a working conference to develop a five-year plan; by invitation only. Contact: Jan Pearson at 612/625-3660.


June 27-30, 1991: The Beach Center on Families and Disability, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas, will host a national "Great Expectations Summer Institute." Contact: Gary Brunk, 913/864-7600
Lending Library

The following videotapes (VHS 1/2") are available on a two-week loan basis. The only cost to the borrower is the return postage.

Richard Dodds on Technology demonstrates a variety of inexpensive, practical tools for learning and mastering the environment by persons with disabilities.

Conservatorship and Guardianship in Minnesota (Four-Part Series) including responsibilities of conservators/guardians and ethical considerations, Minnesota Department of Human Services (1990).

There's Always Belinda, Youth Involvement, Ontario (15 minutes), documents how a circle of friends was created for Belinda.

It's Michaels Money: Innovative Training for Representative Payees, describes responsibilities for administering funds received from the Social Security Administration.

Parent Case Management Training Scheduled

One-day workshops have been scheduled during winter, spring, and fall of 1991. Emphasis will be placed on self-determination and empowerment, intended to help parents, guardians, family members, case managers, advocates, and persons with developmental disabilities. Each session will be different, and people may attend one, two or all three sessions:

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The sites for the respective winter workshops are:

- Faribault Technical College
- 1225 SW Third Street
- Faribault, MN

- St. Cloud Holiday Inn
- 75 South 37th Avenue
- St. Cloud, MN

Fee: $10.00, includes materials and lunch. Contact: Marijo McBride, Institute on Community Integration, 6 Pattee Hall, University of Minnesota, 150 Pillsbury Drive, SE, Minneapolis, MN 55455. 612/624-4848

"The Parent Case Management Project assumes competence in families and supports us in empowering ourselves."

Parent in Minnesota

Futurity

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TIME DATED MATERIAL