#### CHAMPAIGN COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD



### CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD FOR CARE AND TREATMENT OF PERSONS WITH A DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY

PLEASE REMEMBER this meeting is being audio recorded. Speak clearly into the microphone during the meeting.

# Champaign County Developmental Disabilities Board (CCDDB) AGENDA Wednesday, February 18, 2015

Brookens Administrative Building, Lyle Shields Room 1776 E. Washington St., Urbana, IL 61802 6:00 PM

(Members of the Champaign County Mental Health Board are invited to sit in as special guests)

- 1. Call to Order Mr. Mike Smith, Secretary
- 2. Roll Call Stephanie Howard-Gallo
- 3. Additions to Agenda
- 4. Citizen Input
- 5. CCDDB/CCMHB Joint Study Session: Supportive Housing Options (SHO) Pilot Project (pages 3-6)

Stephanie Sideman, Corporation for Supportive Housing, and Jennifer Knapp, Community Choices, will present an update on the Champaign-Urbana SHO pilot project. An overview of the pilot and background information on CSH are included in the board packet for information only.

- 6. CCMHB Input (pages 7-11)

  Draft minutes of the 1/21/15 CCMHB meeting are included in the packet for information only.
- 7. Approval of CCDDB Minutes (pages 12-16)
  - A. 1/21/15 Board Meeting\*

    Minutes are included in the packet. Board action is requested.
- 8. Secretary's Comments Mr. Mike Smith
- 9. Executive Director's Report Peter Tracy



BROOKENS ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER

1776 E. WASHINGTON STREET

URBANA, ILLINOIS 61802

- 10. Staff Report Lynn Canfield (pages 17-19)
- 11. Agency Information
- 12. Financial Report
  - A. Approval of Claims\* (pages 20-21)

    Included in the Board packet. Action is requested.
- 13. New Business
  - A. FY2016 Funding Applications

    A list of applicants and amounts requested will be distributed at the meeting.
  - B. Integration of People with ID/DD (pages 22-23 )

    A Briefing Memorandum regarding the risk of segregation inherent in "special" events is included in the packet for information.
  - C. Proposed 1115 Waiver Service Definitions (pages 24-31)

    A Briefing Memorandum on service definitions proposed by the
    Governor's Office of Health Innovation and Transformation (GOHIT)

    ID/DD breakthrough group is included in the packet for information.
  - D. Integration Transition Successes

    Representatives of funded agency programs will provide oral reports on successful transitions to community settings related to home, work, volunteer, recreation, or other connection.

#### 14. Old Business

 A. Alliance for the Promotion of Acceptance, Inclusion, & Respect (pages 32-37)

An oral report will be provided at the meeting. An article from the debut issue of the online Ebertfest newsletter and copy of promotion of spring art displays are included for information only.

- B. Disability Resource Expo (page 38)

  A report from Ms. Barbara Bressner is included in the packet for information only.
- 15. Board Announcements
- 16. Adjournment

<sup>\*</sup>Board action requested



#### **Supportive Housing Options (SHO) Pilot Project**

**Issue:** Through the Section 811 Project Based Rental Assistance Demonstration Program grant award, people with disabilities moving from institutions to the community will have an opportunity to receive a rental subsidy. This rental subsidy will make it possible for people with very low incomes to access an apartment, condo or house affordably. Unfortunately, the current service structure for people with developmental disabilities (i.e. 24 hour CILA – 168 hours of service/week or Home Based Services – 15 hours of service/week) makes it challenging for people with intellectual or developmental disabilities to take advantage of the Section 811 program.

**Proposal:** Create a Supportive Housing Options (SHO) Pilot Project in order to develop a service structure that will support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities moving from institutions into consumer controlled apartments, condos or houses.

Participants: Persons with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities transitioning from State Operated Developmental Centers, Intermediate Care Facilities for the Developmentally Disabled or Ligas PUNS List class members chosen for service moving into consumer controlled apartments, condos or houses in the community (a person can chose to have one or two roommates, each with their own bedroom and lease or live alone, but group homes are not eligible sites for Section 811 rental subsidies).

**Providers:** Providers of intellectual and developmental disabilities services who are in good standing with the IDHS-Division of Developmental Disabilities and approved by the Director of the Division of Developmental Disabilities.

**Location of Projects:** Metro East (Edwardsville, Collinsville, Alton), Champaign-Urbana, Bloomington-Normal, Chicago and the Collar Counties.

**Support Model:** The Intermittent CILA service package (with a base line of 15 hours of service per week) plus 50 hours of service per week of 53R temporary intensive staffing in a CILA. During the first year, the service package use will be reviewed quarterly and requests for changes (more or less) will be submitted to the IDHS-Division of Developmental Disabilities. The Providers and Participants will work with the Division of Developmental Disabilities, Governor's Office Transition of Support/Care Project Manager and the Statewide Housing Coordinator to develop a set of flexible service options that will support people in a consumer controlled apartment, condo or house.

The Room and Board rate will be removed from the Intermittent CILA service package and the participant will retain control of their income. Financial management services will be part of the enhanced service package (either through a payee or through a budgeting and financial management consultant).

**Timeframe:** The project has begun. Potential participants (both residents and providers) have been or are being approached. As Section 811 units come online, the participants will apply for the housing opportunities that they are interested in. Once a participant finds housing, the project implementation phase will begin. DDD staff and Statewide Housing Coordinator will hold bi-weekly conference calls with



providers to trouble shoot, course correct and learn. Once the Self-Directed Services option is approved by CMS, we will explore whether or not the Supportive Housing Options Pilot Project can be merged into this new service option. If not, we will develop the needed changes and service definitions to be created within the 1115 Waiver process or in a new State Plan Amendment.

**Communication:** Division of Developmental Disabilities staff, including the Director, will be a vital member of the Supportive Housing Options Pilot Project. Ongoing communication with providers will be handled during bi-weekly conference calls. The Statewide Housing Coordinator will meet monthly with the Division Director in order to report on the status of the project.

2/6/15







CSH is advancing solutions that use housing as a platform for services to improve the lives of the most vulnerable people, maximize public resources and build healthy communities.

#### HOW WE DRIVE IMPACT

Fund new projects and programs

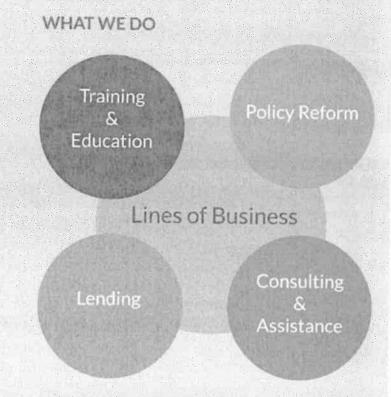
Educate and empower industry players

Engage and influence policy and decision makers

Reform and improve government systems

Lead and expand the supportive housing industry

innovate, measure and evaluate smart solutions



From idea to implementation, CSH is the source for housing solutions. We are a touchstone for new ideas and best practices. We are a collaborative and pragmatic community partner as well as an influential advocate for supportive housing.









### **About Supportive Housing**

Supportive housing is a combination of affordable housing and supportive services designed to help vulnerable individuals and families use stable housing as a platform for health, recovery and personal growth.

#### HOUSING

Supportive housing can be any type of affordable, permanent and independent housing that meets the needs of tenants and is integrated within a neighborhood or community. This includes an apartment, a duplex or a single family home.

#### SUPPORT



Services available in supportive housing are flexible, voluntary and tenant-centered. Services can include case management, mental health services, primary health services, substance abuse treatment, employment services and parenting skills.









#### WHO LIVES IN SUPPORTIVE HOUSING?

Supportive housing is designed to serve those who would not be able to stay housed without a wide range of supportive services. Individuals or families living in supportive housing may have a long history of homelessness or stays in institutions and often face one or more persistent obstacles to maintaining housing such as serious mental illness, substance use disorders or chronic medical problems. Though services help tenants maintain stability, being housed is an essential first step in addressing these conditions that often have gone untreated for many years. The combination of housing and supportive services creates a synergy that allows tenants to take steps toward recovery and independence.

#### KEY CHARACTERISTICS OF HIGH-QUALITY SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Located within safe neighborhoods with close proximity to:

- \* Transportation
- \* Employment Opportunities
- \* Services
- \* Shopping, Recreation and Socialization

Tenants have a lease identical to those tenants who are not in supportive housing

Services are voluntary and consumer-driven. They focus on ensuring that tenants can obtain and thrive in stable housing, regardless of barriers they may face.

The housing and its tenants are good neighbors, contributing to meeting community needs and goals whenever possible.



## CHAMPAIGN COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD BOARD MEETING

Minutes—January 21, 2015

Brookens Administrative Center Lyle Shields Room 1776 E. Washington St Urbana, IL



4:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Astrid Berkson, Aillinn Dannave, Susan Fowler, Deloris Henry,

Mike McClellan, Julian Rappaport, Deborah Townsend

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** 

Thom Moore

**STAFF PRESENT:** 

Peter Tracy, Executive Director; Lynn Canfield, Nancy Crawford,

Mark Driscoll, Stephanie Howard-Gallo, Tracy Parsons

**OTHERS PRESENT:** 

Jennifer Knapp, Linda Tortorelli, Community Choices; Sue Wittman, Juli Kartel, Bruce Barnard, Shae Ellington, Monica Cherry, Community Elements (CE); Dale Morrissey, Danielle Matthews, Felicia Gooler, Jennifer Carlson, Vicki Tolf, Annette Becherer, Laura Bennett, Patty Walters, Developmental Services Center (DSC); Gary Maxwell, Pattsi Petrie, Champaign County Board; Vicki Niswander, IAMC; Darlene Kloeppel, Regional Planning Commission (RPC); Shandra Summerville, ACCESS Initiative; Lt. Joel Sanders, Urbana Police; Sheriff Dan Walsh, Lt. Brian Mennenga, Chief Deputy Allen Jones, Champaign County Sheriff's Dept; Pete Moore, Ohio Association of County Boards of

Developmental Disabilities

#### **CALL TO ORDER:**

Dr. Henry, President, called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

#### **ROLL CALL:**

Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.



#### CITIZEN INPUT / PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

None.

#### ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:

None.

#### **CCDDB INFORMATION:**

Draft minutes from the 11/19/14 CCDDB meeting were included in the packet for information only.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Minutes from the 11/19/14 Board meeting were included in the Board packet for approval.

MOTION: Dr. Townsend moved to approve the minutes from 11/19/14 as presented in the packet. Ms. Dannave seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed.

#### PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS:

Dr. Henry thanked Mr. McClellan for his service to the CCMHB. Mr. McClellan spoke briefly regarding his time spent with the CCMHB.

#### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS:**

Mr. Tracy encouraged Board members to stay for the CCDDB presentation beginning at 6 p.m. featuring Pete Moore, the Director of Service Initiatives/Ohio Association of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities.

#### **STAFF REPORTS:**

Staff reports from Mr. Driscoll, Ms. Canfield, and Mr. Parsons and the ACCESS Initiative were included in the Board packet.

#### **BOARD TO BOARD:**

None.

#### **AGENCY INFORMATION:**

Ms. Jennifer Knapp and Ms. Patty Walters provided an update on Employment First. The pilot project is currently on hold due to the change in governorship in Illinois.

(8)

Ms. Knapp from Community Choices reported that discriminatory employment practices at the local Federal Express Ground have been resolved and employees who lost their jobs will be rehired.

Ms. Walters from Developmental Services Center (DSC) reported DSC has purchased a 4 person CILA in Mahomet.

#### FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

A copy of the claims report was included in the Board packet.

MOTION: Mr. McClellan moved to accept the claims as presented. Ms. Dannave econded the motion. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **Election of Officers:**

MOTION: Ms. Berkson moved to nominate Dr. Deborah Townsend for President of the CCMHB. Mr. McClellan seconded the motion. Nominations were closed. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Ms. Dannave moved to nominate Dr. Deloris Henry to serve as Vice-President/Secretary of the CCMHB. Ms. Berkson seconded the motion. Nominations were closed. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

#### Notice of Funding Availability:

A copy of the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) published in the News Gazette on December 14, 2014 was included in the Board packet for information only.

#### Peoria County Emergency Response Service (ERS) and Crisis Center:

Mr. Driscoll and Ms. Canfield provided a verbal report on their recent to trip to Peoria County. A trip to meet with Peoria Police Department and the Human Service Center to learn about how crisis services are delivered to Peoria County was organized by Lt. Joel Sanders from the Urbana Police Department. Other participants included Lt. Brian Mennenga from the Sheriff's Office and Monica Cherry, Crisis Coordinator from Community Elements (CE). A written summary of the meeting was included in the Board packet as Agenda Item A3.C. Joel Sanders from the Urbana Police Department and Monica Cherry from CE provided a verbal report of the meeting, as well.



#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

#### **Community Mental Health Services:**

Bruce Barnard from Community Elements revisited the information shared at the November CCMHB meeting. An updated document regarding waiting lists and challenges community mental health services continue to face was distributed. Suggestions made by Community Elements (CE) to the CCMHB included considering multi-year funding for core services to prevent instability.

#### Champaign County CILA Expansion Update:

A Decision Memorandum was included in the packet. On May 21, 2014, the Champaign County Mental Health Board (CCMHB) passed the following motion:

Motion to authorize issuance of the Request For Proposals for Community Integrated Living Arrangement Services in Champaign County, to be issued on May 22, 2014, and authorize borrowing up to \$800,000 over a ten-year term, subject to the terms and conditions of the loan agreement. The cost of the loan for the first year shall not exceed \$100,000.

At such time as the Champaign County Developmental Disabilities Board (CCDDB) takes action to participate in the Request For Proposals, the following shall take place: (1) an addendum to the Intergovernmental Agreement will be completed to reflect CCDDB status as partners in the RFP process, and (2) the RFP will also be amended to reflect the CCDDB participation.

On June 3, 2014, the Champaign County Developmental Disabilities Board (CCDDB) approved the following motion:

Motion to fully participate with the Request for Proposals for Community Integrated Living Arrangement Services in Champaign County issued on May 22, 2014, and to amend the Intergovernmental Agreement with the Champaign County Mental Health Board to share equally in all costs associated with borrowing up to \$800,000 subject to the terms and conditions delineated in the loan agreement, and to share equally in the equity associated with the real estate purchased. The anticipated cost for the first year shall not exceed \$50,000.

We are having difficulty finding appropriate houses for CILA services at the \$200,000 average price level. Based on the advice of our realtor/property manager I am recommending that we raise the average price per house to \$260,000. Since we have already purchased one house, this increase will apply to three houses. The rationale for this request is predicated on the following considerations:

- (1) All of the houses require some modifications and sprinklers.
- (2) The last three houses need to be wheelchair accessible.
- (3) Ranch style houses are the most appropriate for use as a CILA and the price limitation makes it difficult to find this type of house.



For these reasons, we need to increase the average price per house limits. Despite this increase, we will continue to search for appropriate houses at the lowest possible prices. Because of delays in start-up, it is anticipated that our financing costs for the first year will be well below the previously authorized \$100,000. Subsequent year costs would be based on the prices of houses purchased.

MOTION: Mr. McClellan moved to increase the CILA Project borrowing limits by \$200,000 to a total of \$1,000,000 to cover costs up to an average of \$60,000 to \$70,000 for the additional three houses. The anticipated aggregate cost to the CCMHB for the first year (July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015) should not exceed \$50,000. Dr. Townsend seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. All members voted aye and the motion passed unanimously.

#### Sustainability Plan ACCESS Initiative (AI):

A copy of a letter sent to Dr. Pattsi Petrie, County Board Chair from Dr. Constance Williams, Co-Principal Investigator of the ACCESS Initiative was included in the Board packet for information only. The letter described the ACCESS Initiative's Sustainability Plan, the national recognition ACCESS staff has received, and the importance of the work of the program to minority youth and families..

Dr. Rappaport commented this program is one of the more well-evaluated program that we fund. He suggested the AI evaluation model be used more for other County programs that aren't being evaluated at this time. An Executive summary on the latest evaluation for the AI was included on Page 17 of the Board packet.

#### Alliance for the Promotion of Acceptance, Inclusion and Respect:

A copy of a completed holiday promotion was included in the packet for information only.

#### disAbility Resource Expo:

The date for the 2015 Expo will be October 17<sup>th</sup>.

#### **BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

None.

#### ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully

Submitted by: Stephanie Howard-Gallo

CCMHB/CCDDB Staff

<sup>\*</sup>Minutes are in draft form and subject to CCMHB approval.





#### CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD FOR CARE AND TREATMENT OF PERSONS WITH A DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY (CCDDB) BOARD MEETING

Minutes –January 21, 2015

Brookens Administrative Center Lyle Shields Room 1776 E. Washington St. Urbana, IL



6:00 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** 

Joyce Dill, Phil Krein, Mike Smith, Deb Ruesch

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** 

Sue Suter

**STAFF PRESENT:** 

Peter Tracy, Lynn Canfield, Nancy Crawford, Mark Driscoll,

Stephanie Howard-Gallo

**OTHERS PRESENT:** 

Jennifer Knapp, Linda Tortorelli, Community Choices; Bruce Barnard, Community Elements (CE); Dale Morrissey, Danielle Matthews, Felicia Gooler, Jennifer Carlson, Vicki Tolf, Annette Becherer, Laura Bennett, Patty Walters, Developmental Services Center (DSC); Gary Maxwell, Pattsi Petrie, Champaign County Board; Vicki Niswander, IAMC; Darlene Kloeppel, Regional Planning Commission (RPC); Shandra Summerville, Tracy Parsons, ACCESS Initiative; Susan Fowler, Deloris Henry, Astrid Berkson, Aillinn Dannave, Champaign County Mental Health Board; Pete Moore, Ohio Association of County Boards of

Developmental Disabilities

#### **CALL TO ORDER:**

Mr. Mike Smith called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

#### **ROLL CALL:**

Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

#### ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:

None.

#### CITIZEN INPUT:

None.

#### **CCMHB INPUT:**

A copy of the 11/19/14 Board minutes was included in the Board packet for information only.

#### CCDDB/CCMHB Joint Study Session: A Good Life Approach to Our Work

Mr. Tracy introduced Mr. Pete Moore. Pete Moore joined the Ohio Association of County Boards Serving People with Developmental Disabilities in November of 2009. He serves as the Project Manager for the Bridges to Transition Grant, a unique collaboration between the OACB, County Boards of Developmental Disabilities, Local Education Agencies (LEA), and the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (ORSC). In February of 2010, he took on an additional role as a Positive Culture Consultant for The Connections, a project that is designed to provide training and technical assistance to OACB members as they develop and maintain positive cultures for the people they serve.

Moore has 20 years of experience in working with people with developmental disabilities. He has had many roles during his career including: Recreation Director for the Salvation Army in Pittsburgh, PA; Teacher's Aid for Tiffin City Schools; Activities Therapist, QMRP, and Director of Vocational Services at Tiffin Developmental Center; Director of Residential Services for the Hancock County Board of DD; Behavior Support Consultant for the State of Ohio's Department of DD; and, as an independent consultant. Throughout his career, Moore has been respected for his common sense approach and insight. He has provided training and technical support for many different programs and professionals across the State of Ohio. He is also the Chairman of the National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Directors (NACBHDD) Intellectual and Developmental Disability Committee.

Mr. Moore presented a system redesign vision which goes beyond responding to changes in regulation and rule. Board members were given an opportunity to ask questions following the presentation.

#### APPROVAL OF CCDDB MINUTES:

Minutes from the November 19, 2014 CCDDB meeting were included in the Board packet.

MOTION: Ms. Dill moved to approve the minutes from the November 19, 2014 CCDDB meeting. Dr. Krein seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

#### PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS:

None.

#### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

None.

#### **STAFF REPORT:**

Ms. Canfield's staff report was included in the Board packet for review.

#### **AGENCY INFORMATION:**

Ms. Jennifer Knapp and Ms. Patty Walters provided an update on Employment First. The pilot project is currently on hold due to the change in governorship in Illinois.

Ms. Knapp from Community Choices reported that discriminatory employment practices at Federal Express Ground have been resolved and employees who lost their jobs will be rehired.

Ms. Walters from Developmental Services Center (DSC) reported DSC has purchased a 4 person CILA in Mahomet.

#### FINANCIAL REPORT:

A copy of the claims report was included in the Board packet.

MOTION: Dr. Krein moved to accept the claims report as presented. Ms. Dill seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### Notification of FY2016 Funding Availability:

A copy of the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) published in the News Gazette on December 14, 2014 was included in the Board packet for information only.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

#### **Champaign County CILA Expansion Update:**

A Decision Memorandum was included in the packet. On May 21, 2014, the Champaign County Mental Health Board (CCMHB) passed the following motion:



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On June 3, 2014, the Champaign County Developmental Disabilities Board (CCDDB) approved the following motion:

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MOTION: Dr. Krein moved to increase the CILA Project borrowing limits by \$200,000 to a total of \$1,000,000 to cover costs up to an average of \$60,000 to \$70,000 for the additional three houses. The anticipated aggregate cost to the CCDDB for the first year (July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015) should not exceed \$50,000. Ms. Ruesch seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Krein and Ruesch voted aye. Smith and Dill voted nay. The motion failed.



#### Alliance for the Promotion of Acceptance, Inclusion and Respect:

A copy of a completed holiday promotion was included in the packet for information only.

#### disAbility Resource Expo:

The 2015 Expo will take place on October 17.

#### **BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

None.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m. Respectfully Submitted by: Stephanie Howard-Gallo

\*Minutes are in draft form and subject to CCDDB approval.





### Lynn Canfield, Associate Director for Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Staff Report – February 18, 2015

FY2015 Contracts: Required second quarter reports were submitted for all grant-funded ID/DD programs, although information on persons served is pending from one organization. At the time of this writing, I have not completed processing and desk review. Monthly claims submitted through the Proviso RTS for two contracts include demographic and personal information which completes the spreadsheet tracking utilization of adult ID/DD services across the system.

**Applications for FY2016 Funding:** The deadline for submission of all application materials was Friday, February 13 at 4:30PM. A list of successful applications with funding requests will be distributed at the meeting.

Alliance for the Promotion of Acceptance, Inclusion, and Respect: The packet includes a print promotion developed for ongoing art shows/sales at Café Kopi and Café Zojo. The Alliance steering committee continues to communicate through email about plans for the the April 15-19 Ebertfest. The first issue of the festival's new online newsletter features us and has been distributed to committee and board members. A film has not been selected, but Mrs. Ebert and the festival director and coordinator are viewing three for us. Peter Tracy and I met with the coordinator for updates. Once we know whether the 'anti-stigma' film is youth-friendly, I will approach school administrators about whether a screening/panel discussion for youth is possible in a school setting. Artists have expressed a desire to show on Saturday, April 18, in shifts throughout the day; initial contacts are underway. There is also an opportunity for week-long display in the VIP 'green room' at the Springer Cultural Center.

Employment First: Because Illinois is one of fifteen Core States for the Office of Disability Employment Policy's Employment First Leadership State Mentoring Program (EFLSMP), I received (and forwarded) a number of articles and listened to this month's Community of Practice webinar on certification programs, development of training curriculum and overview, and how funding agencies can use these to expect whether providers will be able to deliver employment support services effectively.

State and National Association Meetings: I participated in meetings of the Association of Community Behavioral Health Authorities of Illinois (ACMHAI) Legislative Committee and Executive Committee and chaired the ID/DD Committee; board members are invited to participate in these regular calls along with those for Medicaid, Children's Behavioral Health, Training and Best Practices, and Membership and Technology Committees; contact me for

schedule and call-in details. The focus continues to be on transitions of state and federal funding systems/regulations and also on the operations of the association.

I viewed two webinars hosted by the National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Directors (NACBHDD) – "To Your Health and Wealth: Sprinting Toward the Triple Aim" (health care reform, creating a culture of health, success in the UK of "Marmot's Model" of social determinants of health, policy goals, objectives, and mechanisms to decrease inequities and improve outcomes in health) and "Peer Services Toolkit: A Guide to Advancing and Implementation of Peer-run Behavioral Health Services" (certification programs, building systems to manage the business end, state level advocacy, integration with professional models of care, a demonstrated decrease in healthcare utilization for those accessing peer services.)

This month's NACBHDD ID/DD Subcommittee call was a presentation by Nancy Thaler, Executive Director of the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS) on the top four issues programs and states will deal with in 2015: Employment for Individuals with ID/DD – focus on work, students leaving school, ODEP (see above), aggressive settlement in Rhode Island (expect more); Quality Measures – National Core Indicators are on the table as possible standard; Financing Services –some states with major cuts, impact of tighter Medicaid budgets, solutions like managed care and possible Medicare reform; and CMS Home and Community Based Services regulations, with many states' transition plans for settings due in March. We learned that conflict-free case management (CFCM) will not be addressed in these transition plans because states are expected to be in compliance by March.

More on those CMS Regulations: In a follow up email exchange with the subcommittee, Nancy Thaler wrote "CMS has made clear in conference calls with states that it is only the HCBS settings requirement that has the 2019 time frame and in written communications with states within the past few weeks the following has been stated: "These conflict of interest provisions do not have a transition period, as do the HCBS setting requirements. Therefore, in its waiver, the state would not be proposing a transition plan, but rather a Corrective Action Plan (CAP). The time frames for a CAP would not be as long as the 2019 period outlined in the HCBS settings transition piece." Already underway was Illinois' Balancing Incentives Program CFCM protocol implementation plan, to be completed by September 30, 2015 for compliance; compliance with the new CMS regs will be triggered by either the waiver renewal application or by implementation of the 1115 waiver (the latter appears unlikely to be pursued, at least in its most recent form).

Information about Illinois' transition plan, due to CMS by March 17, is available at <a href="https://www2.illinois.gov/hfs/MedicalPrograms/HCBS/Transition/Pages/default.aspx">https://www2.illinois.gov/hfs/MedicalPrograms/HCBS/Transition/Pages/default.aspx</a>) Public comment is welcome through the end of February. At a recent listening forum in Champaign, I noted that although CFCM is not to be addressed, and although Illinois may have confidence that it has a good model in the current DD system (i.e., contracting with Pre-Admission Screening and

Independent Service Coordination units), it is not funded for caseloads of 1:35 and is unlikely to be capable of supporting transition to integrated HCBS settings or the person-centered planning process driving them. The recommendations of the Life Choices Project (see <a href="https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=74550">https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=74550</a>) and of the relevant 1115 waiver breakthrough groups lay a foundation for system transformation.

<u>CILA Expansion</u>: A great deal of communication and activity continues as we identify appropriate homes and as people seeking smaller residential settings are referred. The first home has been purchased and is undergoing improvements with an early March move date; a second home is in the works.

Other Activity: I attended regular meetings of the Metropolitan Intergovernmental Council, Mental Health Agencies Council (FY16 application process was a focus), and the Champaign Community Coalition, as well as a Coalition presentation to Champaign City Council. Although I was unable to attend the Birth to Six Council of Families and Agencies meeting, I received written subcommittee reports and Child and Family Connections data: for four of six months of FY15, referrals in Champaign County are lower than FY14, and the average monthly rate of 42.3 is lower than the last two years. During small meetings with last month's presenter Pete Moore, some ID/DD service providers, board members, staff, and stakeholders brainstormed on how to support greater integration of work, home, volunteer, and recreation/connection activities. These resulted in the addition of a regular agenda item for service provider updates on successes and the development of an annual recognition event (i.e., of a business partnering with provider(s) or advocates to increase opportunities for people with disabilities), which might fit well with the Expo mainstage.

Ligas, PUNS, and Unmet Need: DHS-DDD Director Casey will conduct a study session in March regarding progress and changes in the state's DD system. I hope to learn that not all of the work done toward an 1115 waiver will be abandoned, that recommendations from the Life Choices Project related to improving PUNS and service coordination/case management will be implemented, and that there really will be an early spring PUNS draw, particularly since BIP (federal grant) money is targeted for reduction of the 'waitlist.'

# CHAMPAIGN COUNTY

# EXPENDITURE APPROVAL LIST

# 2/06/15

|         | RE   |                           |                           | *   | *  | *  | *  |   |
|---------|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|---|--|--|--|---|
|         | EXPENDITURE<br>AMOUNT                      |                           |                           | 27,633.00<br>50,000.00<br>27,686.00<br>105,319.00   | 833.00<br>833.00<br>1,666.00                                     | 2,922.00<br>2,922.00<br>5,844.00                               | 715.00<br>3,042.00<br>715.00<br>3,042.00<br>7,514.00   | 33,765.00<br>14,481.00<br>18,025.00<br>7,083.00<br>45,492.00<br>30,429.00   |
| PAGE 10 | ITEM DESCRIPTION                           |                           |                           | JAN ADMIN FEE<br>108TFR FOR CILA 090<br>FEB ADMIN FEE<br>VENDOR TOTAL                                       | JAN AUSTISM SOCIETY<br>FEB AUTISM SOCIETY<br>VENDOR TOTAL        | JAN COORD OF SVCS<br>FEB COORD OF SVCS<br>VENDOR TOTAL         | JAN NURSING<br>JAN RESIDENTIAL<br>FEB NURSING<br>FEB RESIDENTIAL<br>VENDOR TOTAL                                 | JAN APARTMENT SVCS JAN CLINICAL SVCS JAN COMMUNITY EMPLO JAN CONNECTIONS JAN FAM DEV CENTER JAN INDIV/FAM SUP   |
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# CHAMPAIGN COUNTY

# EXPENDITURE APPROVAL LIST

2/06/15

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|              |  |   |  |   | DEVLMNT   | DEVLMNTL DISABILITY BOARD  | DEPARTMENT TOTAL  | 531,379.00 *   |

531,379.00 \*

FUND TOTAL

DEVLPMNTL DISABILITY FUND



#### CHAMPAIGN COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

#### CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD FOR CARE AND TREATMENT OF PERSONS WITH A DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY BRIEFING MEMORANDUM

DATE:

February 18, 2015

TO:

Members, Champaign County Developmental Disabilities Board

FROM:

Peter Tracy, Executive Director

SUBJECT:

Acceptance, Inclusion and Respect

The paragraphs below were authored by Ms. Vicki Niswander and are shared in this memo with her permission.

At a recent National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Directors (NACBHDD) meeting concerning intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD), an advocate made the comment that what we as I/DD funding organizations should be purchasing is "integration."

I think Vicki's observations and opinions below represent where we are heading with I/DD programs, services and supports. It also eloquently expresses why we need to push hard to move the system toward integrated community living for all people with disabilities in Champaign County. To the extent possible, our local dollars should be focused on the kind of integration and community life described below with an emphasis on promoting acceptance, inclusion and

You may be aware of an upcoming event sponsored by the Tim Tebow Foundation to host a number of "proms" across the country and internationally for people with disabilities. This well-intentioned, but misguided event is just one more example of how our society keeps individuals with disabilities separated from the community. Consider for a moment how most people live their lives - living, working, volunteering, having friendships and relationships, and making a multitude of ... choices every day. That kind of life is not necessarily remarkable, unless you are a person with a significant developmental disability.

In most cases, particularly in Illinois, you would be living in an isolated group home, spending your days working for sub-minimum wage at best in an isolated day program, and calling paid staff your best friends.

As the parent of a daughter with a disability, I believe that these one-time spectacular separate events do more damage than good. They send the message that people with disabilities deserve our pity. That they are not good enough to be involved in similar activities designed for the whole community. Separate special events are more designed for the organizers to feel good about themselves.

So, to the Tim Tebow foundation, and to the organizers of other special proms and separate events, I suggest you spend your time and money on making your community a place that respects and supports people with disabilities in being a valuable part of your community culture. That they are not just a photo op once a year, but real people who are valued and whose presence can improve the lives of everyone they touch. Spend your

WASHINGTON STREET

URBANA, ILLINOIS 61802

money to assure that people with disabilities are given opportunities to live in their own homes, to have real jobs and to have friends and relationships like everyone else. Now that would be something to celebrate.

Well said, Vicki!!



#### CHAMPAIGN COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

(13.C.

#### CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD FOR CARE AND TREATMENT OF PERSONS WITH A DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY

#### **BRIEFING MEMORANDUM**

DATE:

February 18, 2015

TO:

Members, Champaign County Developmental Disabilities Board

FROM:

Lynn Canfield, Associate Director for ID/DD

SUBJECT:

GOHIT ID/DD Group Proposed Service Definitions

**Background**: Because the work of the (previous) <u>Governor's Office of Health Innovation and Transformation</u> (GOHIT) does not appear destined to continue in its most recent form, an 800 page final draft of the proposed 1115 waiver, we might consider the value of some of those efforts.

Attached are service definitions proposed by the ID/DD breakthrough group. These resulted from broad stakeholder participation over the course of weekly meetings in the last three months of 2014. A great deal of discussion, even debate, led to these definitions, which would create opportunities for more integrated residential, employment, and day services and supports. They are presented for your information only.

(24)

1776 E. WASHINGTON STREET

# Supported Employment-Individual Employment Support Customized Employment Services Proposed Service Definition IDD Breakthrough Group 12-8-2014

Supported Employment--Individual Employment Support services are the ongoing supports made available to job seekers and job holders who, because of their disabilities, need on-going support to obtain and maintain a competitive or customized job, or self-employment or to pursue career development or enhancement, in an integrated community setting for which an individual is compensated at or above the minimum wage. Supported Employment does not include sheltered work or other similar types of vocational services furnished in specialized facilities.

"The term competitive integrated employment means work that is performed on a full-time or part-time basis, including self-employment, (A) for which an individual is compensated at a rate that shall be not less than the higher of FLSA or the rate specified in the applicable State or local minimum wage law; and, is not less than the customary rate paid by the employer for the same or similar work performed by other employees who are not individuals with disabilities and who are similarly situated in similar occupations by the same employer and who have similar training, experience and skills, or in the case of an individual who is self-employed, yields an income that is comparable to the income received by other individuals who are not individuals with disabilities, and who are self-employed in similar operation or on similar tasks and who have similar training, experience and skills; and is eligible for the level of benefits provided to other employees; (B) that is at a location where the employee interacts with other persons who are not individuals with disabilities - not including supervisory personnel or individuals who are providing services to such employee - to the same extent that individuals who are not individuals with disabilities and who are not individuals with disabilities and who are in comparable positions interact with other persons; and (C), that as appropriate, presents opportunities for the advancement that are similar to those for other employees who are not individuals with disabilities and who have similar positions." (Section 7, U.S.C. 705 as amended by WIOA, July 2014)



The expected outcome of this service is individualized employment in an integrated setting, either through:

- (1) Sustained paid employment in a competitive or *customized job* that meets personal and career goals as identified in the person-centered plan that is in an integrated work setting in the general workforce with an employer for which an individual is compensated at or above the state's minimum wage, with the optimal goal being not less than the customary wage and level of benefits paid by the employer for the same or similar work performed by individuals without disabilities; or
- (2) Sustained paid self-employment that meets personal and career goals that is identified in the person-centered plan that is home-based or conducted in an integrated setting(s) where net income in relation to hours worked is equivalent to no less than the state's minimum wage, after a reasonable self-employment start-up period.

"The term *Customized Employment means* competitive integrated employment, for an individual with a significant disability, that is based on an individualized determination of the strengths, needs and interests of the individual with a significant disability, is designed to meet the specific abilities of the individual with a significant disability and the business needs of the employer, and is carried out through flexible strategies, such as

- (A) Job exploration by the individual;
- (B) Working with an employer to facilitate a placement including
  - (i) Customizing a job description based on current employer needs or on previously unidentified and unmet employer needs;
  - (ii) Developing a set of job duties, a work schedule and job arrangement, and specifics of supervision (including performance evaluation and review), and determining a job location;
  - (iii) Representation by a professional chosen by the individual or selfrepresentation of the individual with an employer to facilitate placement; and,
  - (iv) Providing services and supports at the job location." (29 USC 705, section 7, as amended by WIOA, July, 2014)



The Customized Employment Process consists of the following elements:

- Discovery is a time limited (60 days) 25-40 hour process of ecological validity, used as an alternative to comparative assessment and predictive validity, to gain insight or knowledge into the strengths, needs and interests of the person with complex life issues through observation in a variety of settings, interviews with family members and significant others and spending time with the person in natural environments that will find the direction to facilitate successful employment, including self-employment. Discovery is to answer the question, "Who is this person?" It provides a competency-based look at the job seeker that provides the foundation information that is then used to guide the customization of a position with an employer or a business for self-employment.
- **Profiles** are written to capture the information learned about the person through the discovery process and to recommend next steps. The Profile is the product of the discovery process and is to be completed with the 60 day period and is paid for upon completion and delivery.
- Customized, person-centered planning developed by the job seeker's contributions, conditions essential for success and interests
- Portfolio/visual resume development
- Job Development Plan or Self-Employment Plan is a time-limited and targeted service designed to create a clear plan for Job Development or the start-up phase of Self-Employment. This service includes a planning meeting involving the job seeker and other key people who will be instrumental in supporting the job seeker to become employed in competitive or customized employment or to become self-employed. This service culminates in a written plan directly tied to the results of Discovery as written in the Profile, and is due no later than thirty (30) days after the service commences. For self-employment goals, this service results in the development of a self-employment business plan that identifies training and technical assistance needs and potential supports and resources for those services as well as including potential sources of business financing, given that Medicaid funds may not be used to defray the capital expenses associated with starting up a business. This service component is paid on an outcome basis, after the plan is received and approved.
- Job development and negotiations with the employer regarding the essential responsibilities of the job as well as the employer's expectations on behalf of the job seeker/applicant



 Job site analysis, accommodations and support, including the use of assistive technology

(The following statements are required by CMS rules and guidance for this service.)

Ticket to Work Outcome and Milestone payments from the Social Security Administration do not conflict with CMS regulatory requirements and do not constitute an overpayment of Federal dollars for services provided since payments are made for an outcome, rather than for a Medicaid service rendered.

#### Service Limitations:

This service does not include support for volunteering.

This service does not include supporting paid employment in sheltered workshops or similar facility-based settings, or in a business enterprise owned by a provider of this service.

This service does not include payment for the supervisory activities rendered as a normal part of the business setting.

Transportation of the individual to and from this service is not included in the rate paid for this service.

The waiver will not cover services which are otherwise available to the individual under section 110 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, or the IDEA (20 U.S.C. 1401 et seq.). If this service is authorized, documentation is maintained that the service is not available to the individual under a program funded under section 110 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 or the IDEA (20 U.S.C. 1401 et seq.).

This service will not duplicate other services provided through the waiver or Medicaid state plan services. An individual's ISP may include more than one non-residential habilitation service; however, they may not be billed for during the same period of time (e.g., the same hour).

Federal financial participation is not claimed for incentive payments, subsidies, or unrelated vocational training expenses such as the following:



- 1. Incentive payments made to an employer to encourage or subsidize the employer's participation in supported employment;
- 2. Payments that are passed through to users of supported employment services; or
- 3. Payments for training that is not directly related to an individual's supported employment program.



#### DRAFT SERVICE DEFINITIOIN

#### INDIVIDUAL RESIDENTIAL AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES

Individual Residential and Community Support Services is a package of habilitation and rehabilitation services including but not limited to: case management and case coordination activities to obtain, retain, monitor, document, and sustain public and private medical, financial benefits, work incentives and work-related supports, i.e., private insurance, retirement savings; counseling, case management and case coordination, support, assistance, and education as needed to accomplish the normal activities of daily living; counseling, case management, case coordination, education, support and assistance with leisure activities; case coordination, education, support, and assistance with community transportation; and, case coordination, support, education, and assistance in accessing community resources. These services are designed to support an individual in obtaining, living in, maintaining, and remaining in their housing unit and community of their choice as well as accessing the necessary community resources and amenities for fully integrated community living. Services shall be provided in a manner that is consistent with the person-centered support plan, which will have been developed as part of a person-centered planning process. The emphasis, in service delivery, should remain on doing with (whenever possible) rather than doing for the person.

This package of services is designed to support an individual's base level of consistent support in living in and maintaining themselves in the community. This service package does not exclude a person from accessing additional services outside of this waiver to manage crisis or periodic situations related to physical or behavioral health needs. This service does not exclude a person from accessing psychiatric or specialized therapy services for rehabilitation purposes outside of this waiver to assist the person in developing additional coping techniques or skills to obtain greater integration into the community.

The individual with intellectual and/or other developmental disabilities shall have the ability to choose a package of services using a person-centered planning process. <u>The individual shall have authority to choose:</u>

- (1) <u>Services and supports</u> that are given in accordance with the personcentered planning process, ensuring health, safety, generic and natural supports; and
- (2) The providers of direct care services and supports:



(3) An apartment or self-contained housing unit of the person's choice able to meet the standards of HUD Health and Quality Standards (HQS), with up to three other individuals; with or without a disability, who have chosen to reside together. The housing shall be inspected annually by an agent of the Division of Developmental Disabilities and be expected to meet those requirements annually. Housing shall abide by the general zoning codes of the locale and not be subject to licensure or further regulation by the state.

(4) To be named on the lease (or co-signed by their legal guardian for that individual) with the full rights of tenancy under the law granted to each of those

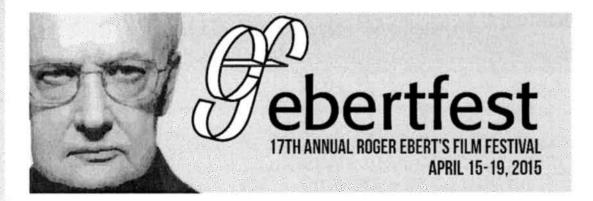
(5) To be responsible for paying their own rent or other housing costs. A service provider shall not be permitted to take any portion of the individual's income for

Subject:

FW: "Ebertfest First Newsletter"



The College of Media at Illinois presents



#### PASSES ON SALE

#### Festival Passes (\$145) on sale NOW!

Additional processing fees apply

Get them online at <a href="www.ebertfest.com">www.thevirginia.org</a> or The Virginia Theatre Box Office: 203 W. Park Avenue, Champaign, II (217) 356-9063 10:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Monday - Friday

Individual tickets (\$14) / Student & Senior Citizens (\$12) on sale April 1, 2015

#### **DOCUMENTARY**

In case you missed it - we would like to share with you our 2014 Ebertfest



documentary, a 10-minute retrospective on the 16th annual festival, which took place April 23-27, 2014.

Watch: Behind the scenes at Ebertfest with Chaz Ebert, Spike Lee, Steve James, Oliver Stone, Brie Larson, Patton Oswalt and more. This intimate video is directed by Luke Boyce and produced by Brett Hays of <u>Sharterglass Studios</u>.

Change to very the ducumentary

#### SHAILENE WOODLEY INTERVIEW



Shailene Woodley, the Divergent and Fault in Our Stars actress, was one of our special guests at the 2013 festival with the film THE SPECTACULAR NOW, a romantic comedy about how a not-so-typical "nice girl" changes the life of a party boy, high school senior.

If you have yet to see her interview, check out the link here

#### **VOLUNTEERING**

If you are interested in volunteering during Ebertfest, please let us know. We particularly need volunteers in the following areas: ushers, concession stand, pass holder registration and check in, VIP/press registration and check in, crowd control and merchandise sales.



We will be having EBERTFEST VOLUNTEER TRAINING for "Theatre Team" volunteers on:

Sunday, April 12 @ 2:00pm 112 Gregory Hall, 810 S. Wright St., Urbana, IL University of Illinois campus

Please fill out this volunteer form: https://champaignparks.com/general-volunteer-

#### 2015 LEADING SPONSORS

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY

Acceptance, Inclusion, & Respect



#### Peter Tracy of the Alliance

Q. Please tell us about your Alliance.

A. We are a collaborative campaign to challenge the discrimination against and negative images of people who have disabilities and/or behavioral health disorders. We promote integration and believe that accessible, inclusive community is the best place for all of us to live.

- Q. Why film as an Anti-Stigma strategy?
- A. The arts have tremendous power to change attitudes and ideas through building



empathy and awareness and by challenging our more destructive assumptions. Film is great not only for presenting positive images and direct information but also for doing that within an experience shared by many. It's also a medium through which people who have experience with disability and discrimination can communicate very effectively.

Q. How does your involvement with Roger Ebert's Film Festival further your mission of addressing problems associated with stigma?

A. The festival's audience is a thoughtful crowd. They're good company to keep and, being from all over the world, have much to contribute to the conversation about what it takes to make communities whole. Their interest in film, the discussions they have about film, and the way they allow film to connect them are pretty magical. That kind of exchange and discovery of common ground is a great example of how we move through misunderstanding.

Q. How many years have you been involved with Ebertfest?

A. The Alliance has been a Film Circle Sponsor since 2008. Personally, I have been a sponsor since 2000.

Q. What agencies are included in your Alliance?

A. The ACCESS Initiative; Champaign Community Coalition; Champaign County Developmental Disabilities Board; Champaign County Mental Health Board; Community Elements, Inc.; Crosspoint Human Services; Cunningham Children's Home; Developmental Services Center; Family Service of Champaign County; National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) - Champaign Chapter; Parkland College - Counseling & Advising Center, Dean of Students Office, and Fine & Applied Arts Department; The Pavilion Behavioral Health System; and University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign School of Social Work. We also enjoy the support of

#### **BECOME A SPONSOR**

The Community of festival sponsors is vital to the success of Roger Ebert's Film Festival. Sponsor contributions account for approximately fifty percent of the festival's operating budget. The festival is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) event of the University of Illinois College of Media. If you would like to become a sponsor or would like more information, please contact Mary Susan Britt marsue@illinois.edu or 217-244-0552. Click here for 2015 Sponsorship package.





Follow us on Facebook and Twitter for updates on the festival and all things Ebertfest.



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#### Our mailing address is:

Roger Ebert's Film Festival College of Media 119 Gregory Hall, 810 S. Wright Street Urbana, IL 61801

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http://ebertfest.com

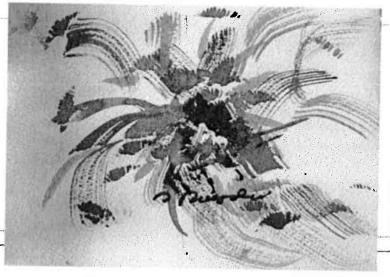


# POPPING UP ALL OVER

AT CAFÉ KOPI AND CAFÉ ZOJO NOW AND COMING TO EBERTFEST!

#### At Café Kopi.

Find delicate watercolors by **Izabela Rayski** nudging you into spring while you recharge at Champaign's treasure, Café Kopi, where pieces by Alliance artists are on display all year. To purchase a framed, lasting bouquet, contact Barbara at (217) 840-7809.



Izabela was born in Chelm, Poland in 1921. With the German invasion of Poland in 1939, Izabela completed the Red Cross School of Nursing, and worked as a nurse during WWII. During the later years of the World War, she was forced to work in a gun factory in Germany. When the War was over, she was able to go back to nursing in a US Military Hospital in Frankfort, Germany. In 1948 she married a Polish military officer and they immigrated to Chicago where they raised 3 children. When her husband passed away in 1977, she took on two jobs as a movie theater manager and a dental assistant. In her final year, Izabela sold her paintings, garments, and greeting cards at the disAbility Resource Expo, and these pieces have been featured twice since her passing.

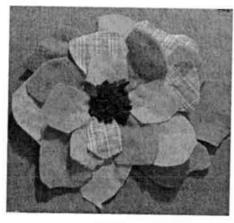
Your purchase of an Alliance artist's product and your patronage of this valued Community Business Partner's shop makes this a nicer place for all of us to live, one sale at a time.

Thank you for BUYING LOCAL, PROMOTING INCLUSION, SUPPORTING ENTREPRENEURSHIP, and GIVING OBJECTS OF BEAUTY,

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY

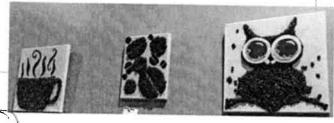
FOR THE PROMOTION OF

http://facebook.com/allianceforAIR Phone: 217-367-5703 E-mail: lynn@ccmhb.org



#### At Café Zojo.

The floral wall art created by Emily, Hannah, Jay, Steve, and Carol R continues to be such a hit at Urbana's Café Zojo that they've paired coffee and art in a new way...





# disABILITY Resource Expo: Reaching Out For Answers Board Report February, 2015

The 9<sup>th</sup> annual Expo will be held on Saturday, October 17, 2015 at the Fluid Event Center, 601 N. Country Fair Dr., Champaign. A meeting was held with Jeff Grant, owner of the Fluid Event Center, to discuss facility needs for the Expo based on evaluations from the 2014 Expo. Mr. Grant has been very accommodating, and we look forward to working with him on the 2015 Expo. The contract with the Fluid Event Center has been negotiated, and will be completed soon.

We are very pleased to have Jim Mayer working on contract with us this year. Jim has been a key member of the Steering Committee and heavily involved in Expo planning since its inception, so his experience and expertise will be invaluable.

We will be contracting with Cathie Godwin again this year to produce the annual Expo Resource Book. She did a wonderful job with the book in 2014. Ms. Godwin will also be maintaining our website for us.

The Expo Steering Committee will be holding their first meeting of the year in mid to late March to begin planning for the  $9^{th}$  annual Expo.

Exhibitors –This committee has yet to meet in 2015.

Marketing/Sponsorship – This committee will meet in late February to begin to address fundraising strategies for the Expo. A meeting was held recently with a local businessman who has expressed a possible interest in doing a fundraiser for the Expo. We will be following up with him, as well as looking into some other similar opportunities.

**Accessibility/Entertainment** –The chair of this committee will be calling the committee together in late February.

Children's Activities -No activity for 2015 yet.

**PRIDE Room** –Some initial plans for the Pride Room are being explored. More information to come.

Volunteers – Volunteers will be recruited in late summer.

Public Safety - No activity for 2015 yet.

Respectfully submitted Barb Bressner, Consultant

