



NEWS RELEASE

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY
REGIONAL PLANNING
COMMISSION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RPC Scaling Down Developmental Disability Services from 13 Counties While Maintaining Services Only in Champaign County with Local and Federal Funding

URBANA, IL (May 1, 2023) The RPC informed the Illinois Department of Human Services' (DHS) Division of Developmental Disabilities in the middle of March that it will exercise the option to not renew its Independent Service Coordination (ISC) grant agreement for Fiscal Year 2024 due to extenuating circumstances impacting RPC's ISC program. The RPC committed to working collaboratively with the Division through June 30, 2023—the effective date of the termination—to transition the ISC program and services to another provider in a manner that serves the needs of the families and individuals in Region H, which includes Champaign, Ford, Iroquois, Vermilion, Mason, Tazewell, Woodford, McLean, Livingston, Bureau, LaSalle, Putnam, and Marshall Counties.

For decades, the RPC has been a committed partner with the DHS in serving individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities and their families. Over the last few years, however, it has been difficult to administer the ISC program due to a shift in the labor market and limited funding resulting in ongoing staff vacancies affecting program deliverables.

"The RPC leadership team conducted an analysis of the program structure required to deliver a quality program that meets the needs of the individuals and the families who are served by this program," says RPC CEO **Dalitso Sulamoyo**. "That program structure includes our ability to pay competitive wages while earning the necessary and adequate resources to cover overall program costs. We have determined that the RPC is unable to meet the needs specific to the ISC program funded by DHS going forward with current funding levels without incurring huge deficits."

Community Services Director **Lisa Benson** shared that, "It is the RPC's goal to continue to provide person-centered, conflict-free case management services to individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities and their families only in Champaign County with local and federal funding designated for Champaign County."

-more-

Champaign County Regional Planning Commission

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While the projected FY24 financial deficit is cited as the primary reason for termination/non-renewal of the ISC grant, the RPC notes a few other details that contribute to the decision:

- In the past couple of years, the ISC program has had ongoing staff vacancies that impede the ability to adequately bill for services rendered.
- The ongoing vacancies and additional expectations have placed immense stress on the staff.
- Program funding does not support staff compensation to obtain and retain qualified staff.

“The RPC will work with DHS in the coming weeks to ensure that there is a smooth transition for both the staff employed by this program and its clients,” Benson says.

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From: [Lisa M. Benson](#)
To: "kim fisher"
Cc: [Lynn Canfield](#); ayost@ccrpc.org; [Jessica L. McCann](#); [Kim Bowdry](#); [Dalitso S. Sulamoyo](#)
Subject: RE: CCRPC Press Release
Date: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 12:25:07 PM
Attachments: [NEWS RELEASE—RPC Scaling Down Developmental Disability Services from 13 Counties.pdf](#)

Good afternoon,

I hope to alleviate any concerns that the recent IDHS letter to individuals served by the state-funded ISC program, press coverage, or the RPC press release may have raised. Due to reasons covered in the press release, RPC will not be renewing the contract with the State to provide ISC services in Region H, but we are working with the State and the ISC organizations serving in the counties collaring our Region, to develop a transition plan for state-funded Region H ISC services. All parties are working collaboratively toward a smooth transition. I anticipate that in the next couple weeks, I will have more detail to share about the transition plan.

Through the DDB funding, RPC has provided person centered conflict free case management to Champaign County individuals with disabilities who are not State-funded, provided transition planning services for youth transitioning to adulthood, conducted preference assessment surveys, and most recently added dual diagnosis case management to the work. I am confident that RPC will be able to fulfill the deliverables set forth in our FY24 application to the CCDDDB. Some changes would be necessary, but would not change the scope of the work, the outcomes, nor the overall funding request. Changes would include re-budgeting within the proposed funding amount, reassignment of tasks amongst the staff positions, and a revised mode for preference assessment survey collection. RPC will also work with DDB staff, Champaign County service providers, and the state-funded ISC organization serving Champaign County in the future, to confirm individuals eligibility for RPC's DDB funded conflict free case management services.

RPC is fully committed to continuing to deliver quality programming and hopes to continue to have the support of the DDB.

I am happy to address any questions or concerns that have not been addressed.

Sincerely,
Lisa Benson

From: Kim Bowdry <kim@ccmhb.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 1:37 PM
To: 'kim fisher' <kimwfisher@gmail.com>
Cc: [Lynn Canfield](mailto:lynn@ccmhb.org) <lynn@ccmhb.org>; [Lisa M. Benson](mailto:lbenson@ccrpc.org) <lbenson@ccrpc.org>; Angela K. Yost <ayost@ccrpc.org>; Jessica L. McCann <JMcCann@ccrpc.org>
Subject: CCRPC Press Release

CAUTION: External email, be careful when opening.

Hello,

Attached is the press release from CCRPC about their discontinuation of serving as the contracted ISC for Region H, which includes Champaign County. As detailed in the press release, CCRPC made the decision not to renew their FY2024 contract with IDHS-DDD due to financial and staffing concerns. I wanted to share this with you. I have cc'd representatives from CCRPC in case you have any questions that will be best answered by them.

Thank you,

Kim

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(pronouns: she/her/hers)
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