

# Iowa Rehabilitation Association 2010--□--□3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Newsletter

**IRA Training Conference –October 20-22, 2010  
see attached program and registration form.**

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

This past week we had the IRA board meeting at the Ramada Tropics Resort Hotel, the venue for this year's annual IRA training conference. It is a very nice facility and should be a great location for our biggest annual event. Please come – a invite some of your colleagues – to be part of the excitement. You will find more on this event elsewhere in this issue.

With the economy stubbornly refusing to improve, it is important for those of us in the rehab field to stick together. With Medicare and Social Security sacrosanct, and a strong budget cutting mood afoot in Congress, there is going to be strong pressure to cut costs in other social and educational programs. That could mean us! While there are plenty of other worthy programs out there, we are providing valuable services that actually save money in the long run. We need to help our politicians realize the importance of rehabilitation services. We can do that individually by cultivating relations with them and keeping apprised of our concerns. As a group we have this association to act as our collective voice. This is done very ably on the national level by Beverlee Stafford and Patricia Leahy, and our own Ellen Sokolowski (see her legislative review as evidence) is very knowledgeable and active on the local as well as national level.

Speaking of Ellen, she will be running this fall for a board member at large position with the National Rehabilitation Association. She is eminently qualified, but has an uphill battle to get elected. The majority of NRA membership is in the southern and eastern states of the U.S., and those regions have dominated the elections of national officers. We need to get a little diversity on the national board, and electing Ellen would be a step in that direction. One way you can help is to make sure you vote in the fall elections. Please do so. (This was not a paid political announcement from the Ellen Sokolowski for Board Member committee.)

Meanwhile, enjoy what remains of the summer, and I hope to see you on October 20-22.

Jonathan Ice, president

## **2010 Brag and Steal Conference Enjoyed by Many**

This year's Brag and Steal Conference was held at the ISU Alumni Center in Ames. In attendance were approximately 50 professionals who received training on such topics as assistive technology in the workplace, new process for IEP development and implementation, an approach for changing the emotional intensity reactions of persons with borderline personality disorder, ethical dilemmas in the workplace, and diversity awareness with regards to gender identity on a spectrum rather than only man/woman. Several professionals in attendance commented that the employer panel was varied and informative.

Overall, the conference went well in my opinion. Some attendees agreed and a few of the comments were: Loved the refreshments and lunch, two attendees wrote "excellent", I was so impressed and looking forward to next year, thanks for your efforts in putting together a great program, loved the training, good job, awesome training, and one wrote: wanted more opening comments by David Mitchell.

Thank you to all who attended the conference. I hope that you will continue to support the Iowa Rehabilitation Association Job Placement and Development Division's Brag and Steal Conference in the future. Please encourage others to attend Brag and Steal and the annual fall IRA training conference. And, don't forget to nominate a deserving professional for the Bill Donohue Memorial Award for most outstanding effort in placing Iowans with disabilities on jobs. Nominations will be accepted through September 1, 2010 and should be sent or emailed to: Marcia Gracey, 4512 SW 16<sup>th</sup> St, Des Moines, IA 50315 [m.gracey@mchsi.com](mailto:m.gracey@mchsi.com) For more information about how to nominate someone, please go to [www.iraiaowa.org](http://www.iraiaowa.org)

John Lee-Egan  
Iowa JPD President

## **Awards by Marcia Gracey**

It is the end of August already. Summer is really flying by. Plus our annual Fall Training Conference is just around the corner – October 20-22. I want to share with you that the Achievement Award is a high point of the Awards Luncheon. We recognize the consumer who has gone through the rehabilitation services program, has gotten a job, and has maintained employment. Over the years IRA has recognized consumers from all walks of life – janitors, nurses, teachers, dish washers, self employed individuals, and many more careers. These award winners have achieved their career goals and have demonstrated competency in most areas of their daily living skills. They all have put forth a great effort, have been persistent and have succeeded. I know you all have assisted and worked with this type of consumer. So take a little time to put a packet together and send it to me.

Don't forget to recognize a colleague or friend who has given time and commitment to assist persons with disabilities to reach their goals and to become more independent. The Counselor of the Year award acknowledges a colleague who has demonstrated exemplary service in their profession.

The Job Placement Division awards the Bill Donahue Memorial Award to a placement professional who has done an outstanding job in placing lowans with disabilities. Sherri Clark, from NISHNA Productions in Red Oak, won the award in 2009. I know you know someone, so NOMINATE them.

IRA also gives the Gerry Byers Award to a member of the association who has been employed in the field of rehabilitation or a closely related field, and has demonstrated significant impact on persons with disabilities and to the association.

The Chuck Wood Memorial Award is given in recognition of the achievements of a person with a disability who has attained a high level of independence, self-reliance, and self-sufficiency in their community. This award was not given in 2009, so it is time to recognize someone and tell them "Great Job!".

I would like to receive nominations for the Achiever of the Year by September 29, 2010; Nomination Packets for the Byers award go to Gary Johnson, 7308 Benton Drive, Urbandale, Iowa 50322, also by September 29.

I look forward to seeing you all at the fall conference. Enjoy the rest of the summer.

Marcia Gracey  
4512 SW 16<sup>th</sup> St  
Des Moines, IA 50315  
m.gracey@mchsi.com

## Proposed Bylaw Change

By Roger Carter

At the Annual Meeting of the Board last fall, Treasurer Rosie Thierer presented a bill from the company that holds our bond on her position. At first, the Board decided that we did not need to have the Treasurer bonded, but the Bylaws state he/she must be and the cost of the bond be paid by IRA. The actual Bylaw (Article IX, Fiscal Policies, Paragraph 2) reads:

**"The Board shall require the treasurer be bonded and the cost of the bond shall be paid by IRA."**

The current cost is about \$100/year or \$300 for 3 years. The Board feels that, while the Bylaw is worthy in principle, the financial status of IRA does not really justify the need. In other words, were we an association that had a large amount

of funds it would be worth insuring against the possible misuse of these funds. But since we are basically a small association and there has never ever been an instance of misuse by a Treasurer for purchasing a personal RV, boat or luxury car, we question the need and the expense. In turn, the Board would like to remove this clause from the Bylaws, but to do so requires majority approval of the membership attending and voting at the Annual Meeting. In keeping with the Bylaws, any proposed change must be published in advance prior to the Annual Meeting. This article has been published in prior newsletters as well.

## **Legislative Report**

**Medicaid FMAP/Education**.....After several unsuccessful attempts, the US Senate passed the Education, Jobs and Medicaid Assistance Act by a vote of 61-39 on August 5. The bill provides \$16.1 billion to extend the Medicaid federal medial assistance percentage(FMAP) from January 1 to June 30, 2011. The bill also send another \$10 billion to school systems to avoid teacher layoffs before the new school year starts. The bill is fully paid for but it reduces the amount of federal support for FMAP from the \$24 billion that would have been available under previous

Passage was finally secured in the Senate when two Republican Senators from Maine(Snowe and Collins voted in favor of the measure. A Medicaid FMAP increase of 3.2% will be in effect from January through March then lowered to 1.2% from April to June, The bill must be passed in the House and sent to the President for his signature.

Disability groups supported the FMAP extension and education funding as they are both critically needed to prevent harmful cuts to services and to schools. There is concern however that it is partially being paid for by scaling back food stamp benefits which serve many individuals with disabilities.

### **Health Care Reform/Medicaid**

On August 6, the Center for Medicaid , CHIP and Survey Certification released a letter in their series of guidance on the implementation of the Affordable Care Act of 2010. The letter provides information about several changes to section 1915(i) of the Social Security Act due to the passage of the Affordable Care Act, which become effective October 1, 2010, including revised and new options for offering home and community based services (HCBS) through the Medicaid State Plan. Among other things, section 1915(i), removed the requirement that individuals meet an institutional level of care in order to qualify for HCBS services through Medicaid. Section 1915(i) provides States an opportunity to offer services and supports before individuals need institutional care, and also provides a mechanism to state plan HCBS to individuals with mental health and substance abuse disorder. IN order to promote State utilization of 1915(i), the Affordable Care Act includes changes that enable states to target HCBS to particular groups of people, to make HCBS accessible to more individuals, and to ensure that individuals receive high quality care.

## **Terminology**

By unanimous consent, the Senate passed Rosa's Law (S. 2781). This bill would change the terms "mental retardation" and "mentally retarded" to intellectual disability and intellectual disability in various federal laws that primarily relate to education and employment. This bill is solely intended to eliminate antiquated terminology. This law would not effect eligibility for services or expand or reduce services availability. Attention now shift to the House where a similar bill, know as the Elizabeth A. Connelly Bill (H>R>4544) is still awaiting committee action.

## **Social Security/ Medicare**

The Social Security and Medicare Trustees issued their annual report. The 2010 Trustees report will be released later this year in order to adjust estimates based on enactment of the Affordable Care Act in 2010. According to the Trustees report, the Social Security trust funds will have an annual surplus of \$77 billion and surpluses will continue to 2024. As reported by the National Academy of Social Insurance, the trust fund surplus will grow from its current \$2.6 trillion to \$4.2 trillion in 2024. Beginning in 2024, reserves will be used to help pay benefits until the trust funds are expected to be depleted in 2037. At that point, benefits will be paid through incoming taxes, which would cover about 78 % of scheduled benefits.

Outlook for the Medicare trust fund has improved substantially since enactment of the Affordable Care Act and it is now expected to remain solvent until 2029; 12 years longer than expected last year. However the trustees point out that further reforms will be needed for long range solvency.

## **Technology**

By unanimous consent, the Senate passed the Equal Access to the 21<sup>st</sup> century Communications Act( S. 3304). The House version of the bill, H.R. 3101 passed on the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act on July 26, 2010. The bill would require captioned television programs to also be captioned when delivered over the Internet; televised emergency information to be accessible to persons who are blind, or have low vision; accessibility of advanced communication equipment and services; such as text messaging and e-mail; hearing aid compatibility of Internet enabled phones; accessible user controls for televisions and set-top boxes and easy access to closed captioning and video description; a clearinghouse of information on accessible products and with public education and outreach; and Advisory Councils that must include persons with disabilities in developing the objectives and protocols for accessibility of Internet-enabled TV and phone technologies. Since provisions of the Senate bill are an improvement over the House bill, advocates support and expect the House of Representatives to pass S. 3304

## **Congress**

Congressional leaders have announced that Congress will return to work on September 14. A four week session is planned ending October 8. Within that period of time, Congress will need to address the Fiscal 2011 appropriations bills and the Bush tax cuts that are scheduled to expire on September 30.

Congress is expected to return for a post election lame duck session on November for one week prior to the Thanksgiving recess. Congress is expected to return on November 29. The length of the lame duck session has not been determined, although the impact of the elections will likely affect that decision. One possible outcome of the lame duck session is a vote on the recommendation, should there be any from the presidentially appointed deficit reduction committee.

### **Reauthorization of the Rehabilitation Act**

It would appear doubtful for this session that the Reauthorization of the Rehabilitation Act will be voted upon. Congress is dealing with the Early Childhood Education Act and that appears to be the focus of the committee that handles both pieces of legislation.

### **In Iowa**

Iowa ended its fiscal year with \$275 million left over, that is \$175 million more than the last revenue estimates. While this is good news, it does not mean that the state of Iowa has turned the corner yet. Iowa ended collecting more money this year, although it has not collected as much money as last year. Revenues continue to drop, although not as much as anticipated.

The bad news is that Iowans paid \$5.5 billion in taxes this last year year, which is 4.1% lower than what was collected the year before and the lowest amount recorded in four years.

### **Medicaid Shortfall**

With the passage of the Education Jobs and Medical Assistance Act by Congress, it had been anticipated that Iowa would receive \$116 million for Medicaid services. Congress has allocated to Iowa 83.1 million for services. Promises had been made for this and the Iowa legislators had passed their budgets banking on this money, so to speak. What happened it that Health Care reform passed with a large price tag, deficits increased and politics became partisan. Options that the state legislators have are to come in January and pass a supplemental authorization for Medicaid funds in Iowa. Another option is to cut back services and potentially increasing waiting lists. DHS at this time has not developed a plan to deal with this shortfall.

### **Special Education Funding**

The Iowa Department of Education has applied for and received approval from the federal government to reduce its states support for special education. Iowa was given approval to cut \$38 million(7.25 %) to special education services. Kansas and North Carolina have asked for and received permission to reduce special education funds, using an escape clause in IDEA intended to assist financially struggling states.

Under IDEA, states can apply for waivers can be given for exceptional or uncontrolled circumstances (such as natural disasters or unforeseen decline in state resources) Iowa state revenues have been in decline for the past four years and there has been a billion dollars less available to spend on public programs.

It is likely that more states will submit applications for this waiver program from the federal government. These waivers are only good for one fiscal year and states are required to return to pre-waiver levels of funding.

### **Time to Redistrict**

With the completion of the 2010 census, Iowa has begun the process of looking at Congressional districts and determining how many districts will remain. The Legislative Services Bureau has begun this process, based on population and will be giving this information to the Iowa legislators by April, 2011. They are to consider only population and need to make the districts as equal in population and compact as possible. It is anticipated that Iowa will lose a Congressional district, placing two members of Congress in the same district.

Once the map is drawn, the Iowa legislature will vote on it. The Iowa legislature cannot change or amend what has been presented to them. If they vote this down, a second map is presented to them. This also cannot be changed or amended. If this also is voted down, a third map is presented to them for consideration. This map can be amended. This whole process takes place during the legislative session in 2011.

### **2010 IRA Board Member Contact List**

**President:** Jonathan Ice, [jonathan.ice@blind.state.ia.us](mailto:jonathan.ice@blind.state.ia.us)

**Vice President:** Gary Johnson, [gary-johnson@uiowa.edu](mailto:gary-johnson@uiowa.edu)

**President-Elect:** Matt Bruinekool, [matt.bruinekool@drake.edu](mailto:matt.bruinekool@drake.edu)

**Secretary:** Mary Augustus, [mary.augustus@iowa.gov](mailto:mary.augustus@iowa.gov)

**Treasurer:** Rosie Thierer, [rosiet@hughes.net](mailto:rosiet@hughes.net)

**Past President:** Harlietta Helland, [harlietta@marshallnet.com](mailto:harlietta@marshallnet.com)

#### **2009-2010 Board Members**

Lisa Chellew, [lisa.chellew1@va.gov](mailto:lisa.chellew1@va.gov)

Jeffrey Morgan, [jeffrey.morgan@iowa.gov](mailto:jeffrey.morgan@iowa.gov)

Mary Ott, [mary.ott@iowa.gov](mailto:mary.ott@iowa.gov)

#### **2010-2011 Board Members**

Mike Williams, [mike.williams@iowa.gov](mailto:mike.williams@iowa.gov)

Keri Osterhaus, [keri.osterhaus@blind.state.ia.us](mailto:keri.osterhaus@blind.state.ia.us)

Jay Brewer, [grimesia@aol.com](mailto:grimesia@aol.com)

#### **Committee Chairs**

Legislative Chair: Ellen Sokolowski, [esokolowski@mchsi.com](mailto:esokolowski@mchsi.com)

Conference: Matt Bruinekool, [matt.bruinekool@drake.edu](mailto:matt.bruinekool@drake.edu)

Awards Chair: Marcia Gracey, [m.gracey@mchsi.com](mailto:m.gracey@mchsi.com)

Bylaws: Roger Carter, [roger.carter@iowa.gov](mailto:roger.carter@iowa.gov)

Membership: Victoria Kollmann, [victoria.kollmann@blind.state.ia.us](mailto:victoria.kollmann@blind.state.ia.us)

Nominations: Harlietta Helland, [harlietta@marshallnet.com](mailto:harlietta@marshallnet.com)

Newsletter: Suzanne Paulson, [suzanne.Paulson@iwd.iowa.gov](mailto:suzanne.Paulson@iwd.iowa.gov)

Legacy: Rosie Thierer, [rosiet@hughes.net](mailto:rosiet@hughes.net)

#### **Division Chairs**

RCEA: Victoria Kollmann, [victoria.kollmann@blind.state.ia.us](mailto:victoria.kollmann@blind.state.ia.us)

JPD: John Lee-Egan, [leeegan56@yahoo.com](mailto:leeegan56@yahoo.com)



**2010 Iowa Rehabilitation Association Annual Training Conference**  
**A Place to Grow!**  
**October 20-22, 2010**  
**Ramada Tropics and Conference Center**  
**Des Moines, Iowa**

**Tentative Schedule** - *Current topic titles for break-out sessions are generalized; specific titles and breakout information will be sent out in our next correspondence! Look forward to more information coming soon!*

**Wednesday, October 20, 2010**

8:00 a.m.	Exhibitor Set-Up
9:30 a.m.	IRA Board Meeting
10:00 a.m.	Registration Opens
12:00 - 1:30 p.m.	Opening Luncheon- A Rehabilitation Success Story! Information Coming Soon!!
1:30 - 1:45 p.m.	Break

1:45 – 3:00 p.m.                      Concurrent Breakout Sessions

*\*Supported Employment and Evidence-Based Practices in Placement for Individuals with Mental Illness*

Denise Stuart, Manager of Supported Employment Services, Community Alliance.

*\*Updates in State Legislation*

Shelly Chandler, President, Iowa Association of Community Providers

*\*Working with Diverse Populations: Integration of VR Services and Native American Populations*

Lisa Alexa, Employment Counselor, Nebraska Vocational Rehabilitation

3:00 – 3:15 p.m.                      Break

3:15 – 4:30 p.m.                      Concurrent Breakout Sessions

*\*Customized Employment: Successful Training for Clients in Vocational Rehabilitation*

Michelle Krefft, Rehabilitation Counselor, Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services

*\*The One-Stop Model of Service Integration*

Doug Keast, Program Coordinator, Iowa Workforce Development

*\*Vocational Placement for Individuals with Substance Abuse*

Vienna Hong, MS, CRC, Employment and Financial Counselor, House of Mercy

4:30 – 5:00 p.m.                      IRA Business Meeting

5:00 – 5:30 p.m.                      IRCA Business Meeting

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.                      Social Hour

Thursday, October 21, 2010

7:00 a.m.                                Registration

7:30 a.m.                                Exhibitor Area Opens

8:45 – 10:00 a.m.                    Concurrent Breakout Sessions

*\*Emergency Preparation for Individuals with Disabilities*

Karin Ford, Disability Consultant, Office of Disability and Health, Department of Public Health

*\*Celebrating 20-Years of the Americans with Disabilities Act*

Great Plains ADA Center

*\*Working with Veterans in the Vocational Rehabilitation Process*

Jack Hackett, MS, CRC, LMHC, Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Counselor,  
Department of Veterans Affairs

10:00 – 10:15 a.m.            Break

10:15 – 11:30 a.m.            Concurrent Breakout Sessions

*\*Revisions to the 2010 Code of Ethics for Rehabilitation Counselors: Part I*

Dr. Jodi Saunders, Professor of Rehabilitation Counseling, University of Iowa

*\*Self-Employment and Small Business Opportunities for Individuals with Disabilities*

Sheila Stoeckel, Community Work Incentive Coordinator, Iowa Work Incentive Planning  
Kochell Weber-Ricklefs, Business Development Specialist, IVRS/ISE

*\*The IPE Process in State Vocational Rehabilitation*

Dr. Matt Bruinekool, Drake University

11:30 – 11:45 a.m.            Break

11:45 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.    Awards Luncheon

1:45 – 3:00 p.m.            Concurrent Breakout Sessions

*\*Revisions to the 2010 Code of Ethics for Rehabilitation Counselors: Part II*

Dr. Jodi Saunders, Professor of Rehabilitation Counseling, University of Iowa

*\*The benefits of disability support groups.*

Sam Erwin, Iowa Information and Referral Center, American Parkinson Disease Association

*\*Apprenticeship Opportunities: A way to employment*

Greer Sisson, Iowa State Director, United States Department of Labor, Office of Apprenticeship

3:00 – 3:15 p.m.            Break- IRA Voting

3:15 – 4:30 p.m. Concurrent Breakout Sessions

*\*Rehabilitation Counseling and Placement for Individuals in the Corrections System*  
Katrina Carter-Larson, Statewide Reentry Coordinator, Iowa Department of Corrections

*\*Interest and Aptitude Assessment in Rehabilitation*  
John F. Reeves, MA, Midwest Representative, Vocational Research Institute

*\*The Club House Model of Social Integration*  
Linda Olsen-King, Executive Director, Passageway

4:30 – 5:00pm Iowa JPD Meeting

6:00 – 9:00 p.m. President's Reception

### **Friday, October 22, 2010**

7:00 a.m. Past President's Breakfast

7:30 a.m. Registration

8:00 – 9:00 a.m. Day Three Keynote Session- **Dan Keplinger**  
**Topic To Be Announced!**

9:00 – 9:15 a.m. Break

9:15 – 10:15 a.m. General Session- **Lynnae Rutledge, RSA Commissioner**

10:15 – 10:30 a.m. Break

10:30 – 11:30 a.m. General Session- **Dr. Robert Stensrud, Drake University**  
**The Demand-Side Model to Placement**

11:30 – 12:00 p.m. IRA Business Meeting



2010 ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE  
 IOWA REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION  
 OCTOBER 20-22, 2010

## Registration Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Name on Name Tag: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Early Registration (Before October 1, 2010)**

	Full Conference	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Total:
NRA/IRA Member	\$100	\$50	\$65	\$30	_____
Student Member	\$75	\$35	\$50	\$15	_____
Non-Member	\$150	\$80	\$110	\$55	_____

**Late Registration (Received after October 1, 2010)**

	Full Conference	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Total:
NRA/IRA Member	\$125	\$75	\$85	\$30	_____
Student Member	\$100	\$50	\$65	\$20	_____
Non-Member	\$175	\$100	\$125	\$75	_____
		Awards Luncheon Ticket- Guest	\$20		_____
		Social Work Fee	\$10		_____
	Assistive Technology Practitioner Certificate Fee	\$100			_____
		<b>Total Enclosed</b>			_____

Special Dietary Needs \_\_\_\_\_

Accommodations \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*Continuing Education Credits are being collected at this conference for CRC, CDMSC, ATP, and Social Work.

**Please mail registration form to Tim and Marcia Gracey, 4512 SW 16<sup>th</sup> Street, Des Moines, IA 50315.**

Hotel Information for the 2010 IRA Conference: Ramada Inn and Tropics Resort, 5000 Merle Hay Road, Des Moines, IA 50322.

Please call 515-278-0271 before October 1, 2010, to reserve your conference rate of only \$79, or visit

[www.ramadatropicsresort.com](http://www.ramadatropicsresort.com) to learn more about the hotel and conference center.

Remember to say you want the IRA Conference Rate!