

NATIONAL NEWS

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“Love & Respect in Every Action”

This is our new national vision Statement. It was developed recently when members of the Regional Team, National Directorate and representatives from each Region got together in Cork. For some time now we felt that we needed to establish a clear Vision which would guide and direct our Services into the future. During the time we spent together everyone worked very hard, contributing their views from their experience working on behalf of people with an intellectual disability. We learned that vision is held in our hearts and comes from truly seeing the needs as expressed by our service users, families and our staff. We hope our Vision will be the constant star that guides the goals of our Organisation and the steps along the way to achieving these goals. Each word chosen was used because of its full meaning.

The word Respect is used in its full sense, meaning to see again or look again, the word love is used in the sense of it being limitless and representing freedom and also because “Caritas in Deo Caritas Est” means love.

Afterwards each person spend a short period reflecting on what way the Vision Statement can guide their daily work. It was agreed that in the near future we need to follow by developing a National Mission Statement. Mission Statements which each of our Regions have already developed will help us in this task. Another key part of developing our Mission Statement is to identify, in a broad way, people whom the services should support and the type and variety of services we should undertake to deliver.

Winifred O’Hanrahan

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Exploring Advocacy an NDA Report

Advocacy is a practice carried out by or on behalf of an individual or a group, which tries to redress the imbalance of power in society. Advocacy is a powerful tool that individuals with disabilities can use to participate fully in society. Six models of advocacy are explored in this report: self advocacy; citizen advocacy; peer advocacy; collective advocacy; family and professional advocacy.

The goals of Advocacy are stated as:

1. To safeguard the rights of vulnerable citizens
2. To empower these citizens.

The report goes on to explore advocacy at work internationally and what is currently available in Ireland. The over-arching conclusion is that no services are mandated and advocacy organisations have emerged with few resources. It is likely that the primary problem will arise from failure to regard advocacy as a human and civil right.

The report makes the following four recommendations for the development of advocacy provision in Ireland:

- The recognition of Advocacy as a Right.
- The establishment of an Independent Advocacy Service.
- A guarantee of long term funding for Advocacy Organisations.
- The structure and implementation of Advocacy provision be subject to consultation and periodic review of effectiveness.

Further information on: www.nda.ie

See also NAMHI’s website on www.namhi.ie for further information on Advocacy particularly the document “Who Decides and How?”

REPORT BY THE NATIONAL DISABILITY AUTHORITY ON THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A SYSTEM OF INDEPENDENT NEEDS ASSESSMENT IN IRELAND

The Disability legislation Consultation Group (DLCG) identified the need for the introduction in Ireland of a “Rights” based system of independent needs assessment and service coordination. With the publishing of the Education for Persons with Disabilities bill (2003), and the forthcoming redrafting of the Disabilities Bill, the provision of needs assessment is something that will be shaped for the future with the passing of these two pieces of legislation.

The National Disability Authority (NDA) published a paper in September 2003 stating the NDA's position on the issue entitled ‘Requirements for a System of Independent Needs Assessment in Ireland’. The aims of the report are

:

- To identify the key principles which should underpin an independent system of needs assessment in Ireland (as outlined in ‘A Strategy for Equality’ and DLCG’s ‘Proposal for Core Elements of Disability Legislation’);
- To identify the key elements of a system of independent needs assessment;
- To identify a framework and structure for a system of independent needs assessment in Ireland which will cross-cut all disabilities, relevant sectors and Government Departments; and
- To make recommendations for an independent Irish system of needs assessment in relation to policy, procedures, infrastructure and costs.

The Report looks at a broad overview of provision in Ireland today to identify the key stakeholders involved and those whose participation in a restructured system will be of central importance. It looks at international models of integrated needs assessment and service coordination in order to draw lessons and recommendations for an Irish Model. The Report then outlines key recommendations for a new system of needs assessment in Ireland with the caveat that there needs to be further research before recommendations for an Irish system can be thoroughly mapped out. It states that the current system in place in Ireland is complex, unstructured and uncoordinated.

The recommendations are based on the lessons drawn from international practice, current provision in Ireland, as well as the requirements from a system identified by the Commission report and the DLCG recommendations on core elements for new disability legislation. The report recommends that an inter departmental group should be established to develop the policies, systems and processes necessary, and to oversee implementation and operation on an ongoing basis. The policy recommendations are as follows:

- The model should identify the aim of creating a system of Single Shared Assessment (SSA);
- SSA should include all people with disabilities of all ages and types of disability;
- It should be cross-sectoral in nature, covering all types of social, economic, health and other needs;
- The right to an assessment of need under SSA for all people with disabilities should be put in place; and
- Quality in services to people with disabilities should be guided by the implementation of standards and codes of practice for assessment personnel and for service providers.

The report recommends that the NDA be responsible for the development and monitoring of standards in relation to service provision and assessment, other than in the areas under the functional remit of the Mental Health Commission. There are a number of issues in relation to the definition of “needs” which must be resolved. Using a rights-based approach, Ireland must clearly identify the principles underlying an Independent SSA framework. The establishment of guiding principles is something that should be done in full consultation with people with disabilities.

The Report also sets out the Assessment Process and the type of assessment envisaged. The report concludes stating that further consultation and more detailed research is needed. Full copies of the Report can be sourced by phoning the NDA on 01 6080400 or looking up their web site www.nda.ie. You may also contact the editor of National News for a synopsis of the report.

A Bill was published in December 2001 but was withdrawn after severe criticism from the disability sector over the difficulty of enforcing rights and the time scale for the delivery of some provisions. Disability campaigners believed the Bill fell short of their demand for an approach which would set out rights for those with disabilities which could then be enforced through the courts if necessary. In March 2002, following the withdrawal of the disability bill, 2001, the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform set up an Expert Consultation Team with the task to consult all stakeholders and report to Government. At the same time the Minister of State invited the Chairperson of the National Disability Authority to facilitate meaningful dialogue at national level with people with disabilities, their families, carers and service providers. This led to the formation of the Disability Legislation Consultative Group. This group produced "Equal Citizens" Proposals for Core Elements of Disability Legislation in February 2003. The Times reported on 26th January 2004 that the Disability Bill was now at the top of the Governments legislative agenda and would be published shortly. We are still waiting for this bill which has been promised since 1999.

Will keep you informed.....

Europe in Action 2004

Europe in Action 2004 is an initiative against discrimination of people with intellectual disability and their families. A conference will be held on 27th to 29th May in Dublin. The conference addresses people with intellectual disability and their families, as well as professionals and political decision makers. The conference will cover topics such as Education; This part of the conference will present examples of successful inclusion into schools and Life in Society, again using successful models of integration into employment. The Clare Services will be opening the Conference. "Lived Democracy" are the elections for the European Parliament, participants will discuss with Members of the European Parliament their election program and the influence of European policies on the lives of people with an intellectual disability. Further information on this event can be found on www.europenaction.org, information@inclusion-europe.org or fax:

Good Delivery

In issue 5 we discussed making presentations, This column is the next step! To deliver a presentation effectively the following approaches are desirable.

- Talk audibly and check that you can be heard at the back.
- Vary the pace, pitch and emphasis of your delivery. Use pauses to make a point.
- Try to be conversational and as informal as the occasion requires.
- Give every indication that you truly believe in what you are saying: audiences respond well to enthusiasm.
- Avoid a stilted delivery.
- Light relief is a good thing.
- Use short words and sentences.
- Keep your eyes on the audience, moving from person to person.
- If you can manage without elaborate notes, come out from behind the lectern and get close to your audience.
- Use hands for gesture and emphasis in moderation, don't put them in your pockets!
- Don't fidget.
- Stand naturally and upright.
- You can move around the platform a little to add variety—avoid pacing up and down.

To avoid nervousness:

practice; know your subject; know your audience; know your objective; prepare; and rehearse!

(M. Armstrong Managing Activities)

The National Network for Learning Disability Nurses and The Foundation of Nursing Studies announce: **"Delivering Clinical Effectiveness and Developing Leadership Skills Through Networking"** The 22nd National Learning Disabilities Nurses' Conference.

Monday 12th and Tuesday 13th July 2004
Venue: Glamorgan Business Centre, University of Glamorgan, Pontypridd, CF37 1DL

Papers are invited for the concurrent theme group oral presentations and poster presentations at this conference.

Topics for concurrent theme group papers and posters:

1. Clinical effectiveness (e.g. innovations in clinical practice)
2. Working in New Ways (e.g. new service models, role re-design)
3. Leadership in Practice
4. Education/Training

Contact for further details:

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Reminder:

"12th World Congress of the IASSID—"Towards Mutual Understanding: Person, Environment, Community". Venue: France from 14 to 19 June 2004. For further details please consult the web site: www.iassid.org or e-mail: gestion@corum-montpellier.com.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

E-Learning in Irish Organisations, conclusions from a CIPD report undertaken by the Kemmy Business School at the University of Limerick.

eLearnign is not a stand alone phenomenon, it is both a consequence and a reflection of the increasing penetration of information and communications technology into business, society and everyday life. It is driven by considerations of cost, time, technological innovation, globalisation and employee/learner demand for qualifications based training. Adopting eLearning demands the development of further professional skills by training and development specialists and of new attitudes to learning by learners. eLearning is no different from traditional training methods in terms of its purpose, which is learning, but is more so in terms of requisite infrastructure, design, mode of delivery, and communicative potential.

eLearning is in the early stage of its development, in many cases it can provide learning, time and cost effective solutions to employee and personal development situations and, in combination with tried and tested traditional methodologies, termed Blended-Learning, it is probably more useful.

Traditional methods such as face-to-face, on-the-job, coaching/mentoring, and formal education remain dominant in Irish organisations. However the larger the organisation the more likely it is to use eLearning. Half of these have a preference for customised materials and is used most for the delivery of IT and technical skills training.

The full report can be accessed on www.cipd.co.uk

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHT—Clare Services

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We would love to hear from you—
suggestions/ articles

*Next Issue will highlight the
Galway Region*

NOTICE BOARD

We invite anyone undertaking Research within Brothers of Charity Services to inform the National Office, we can put you in touch with others undertaking similar research.

On the lighter side...

Did you know?

- It is impossible to lick your elbow.
- A crocodile can't stick his tongue out.
- A shrimp's heart is in its head.
- When you sneeze, your heart stops for a millisecond.
- It is physically impossible for pigs to look up into the sky.
- The electric chair was invented by a dentist.
- More than 50% of the people in the world have never made or received a telephone call
- Rats and horses can't vomit.
- The "sixth sick sheik's sixth sheep's sick" is said to be the toughest tongue twister in the English language.
- A duck's quack doesn't echo, and no one knows why.
- In the course of an average lifetime you will, while sleeping, eat 70 assorted insects and 10 spiders.
- In a study of 200,000 ostriches over a period of 80 years, no one reported a single case where an ostrich buried its head in the sand or attempted to do so.
- The cigarette lighter was invented before the match.
- 160 cars can drive side by side on the Monumental Axis in Brazil, the world's widest road.
- Over 75% of people who read this will try to lick their elbows!

(anon)

The Brothers of Charity Adult Community Services in Ennis published their first Newsletter entitled "the Bridge". Congratulations to Sonny Kearney who coined the name.

Eamon Finn stated: *"The name sums up a range of different ideas and visions we have for our service, immediately bringing to mind the ideas of connection and relationships and the importance of these in all our lives. I see our services as being in many ways a bridge which supports people to make connections with friends, colleagues, family and the community. The Bridge also brought to my mind the idea of a journey and crossings into new and exciting places and I feel here in Ennis we are on such a journey."*

I have read the first issue and its fantastic, full of interesting photos and people sharing their adventures with us. You can read the Bridge for yourself on the Clare section of the national web-site (ed).

Clare opened a new home in Dormers Lane on the Gort road. This home can accommodate people with high dependency needs. It has state of the art equipment and was custom built to meet the needs of all the people using it. Its design incorporates full wheelchair accessibility and hoist availability in every room. Those whose home it is had an opportunity to express their views on how it should look and what was required prior to it being built.

The house is approx. four thousand square feet and comprises six bedrooms, five bathrooms, a kitchen, utility, office dining, sitting, recreational and snoozelen room. There are a variety of services available to people who come to the house on a daily basis, these include reflexology, physiotherapy, arts, crafts, basic stimulation, music therapy, educational play/work, social training and many more. The Clare region are currently running a competition to decide on the name of this new facility.

**NATIONAL
ADVOCACY
DAY
12th JULY 2004**



Main Social Welfare Changes

For People With Disabilities:

Increase of 10 Euro per week to people getting Disability Allowance from January 2004.

Increase of 10 Euro for those who receive a Mobility Allowance, now 142 Euros per month for the higher rate and a 5 Euro increase in the lower rate, bringing it to 71 Euros per month.

Spending Allowance for those in long stay institutions increased from 21 Euros to 22 Euros.