Members:

Rep. Sheila Klinker, Chair
Rep. Robert Alderman
Sen. Marvin Riegsecker
Sen. Rose Ann Antich

Lay Members

Sylvia Brantley
Christopher Durcholz
Suda Hopkins
Sally Lowery
Dr. Joanne Rains
Thomas VanMeter
Betty Williams

LSA Staff:

Ron Sobecki, Fiscal Analyst for the Committee
Steven Wenning, Attorney for the Committee

Authority: **P.L. 245-1997**

INDIANA COMMISSION ON MENTAL RETARDATION AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

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MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date:	June 22, 1998
Meeting Time:	10:30 A.M.
Meeting Place:	State House, 200 W. Washington St., Room 233
Meeting City:	Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number:	1

Members Present: Rep. Sheila Klinker, Chairperson; Rep. Robert Alderman; Sen. Marvin Riegsecker; Sylvia Brantley; Thomas VanMeter; Sally Lowery; Suda Hopkins; Dr. Joanne Rains.

Members Absent: Sen. Rose Ann Antich; Betty Williams.

LSA Staff Present: Ron Sobecki, Fiscal Analyst; Steve Wenning, Staff Attorney.

Representative Klinker called the meeting to order and asked Commission members to introduce themselves.

Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) Presentation

Ms. Debra Wilson, Director, Disability, Aging and Rehabilitative Services(DDARS), provided an update to the MRDD Commission on the work of the 317 Task Force. She stated that the 317 Task Force has been working on a draft document a plan to serve individuals with mental retardation and developmental disabilities. She provided the

MRDD Commission with a copy of the vision statement of the plan[1]. Ms. Wilson stated the 317 Task Force has heard testimony from providers, consumers, and family members. She discussed that a draft plan has been developed and should be in final form in July. Ms. Wilson testified that the 317 Task Force has two meetings scheduled in order to finish the plan. She stated that the FSSA plans to present the plan to the MRDD Commission in July.

Ms. Wilson presented an update on the closing of the New Castle Developmental Center and the Northern Indiana Developmental Center. She explained the background of the decision to close the New Castle Developmental Center. She explained that the closing of New Castle allowed the FSSA to implement "person centered planning" as an effort to place the individuals currently residing at New Castle and Northern Indiana. She said there were 164 individuals residing in New Castle and 49 residing in Northern Indiana. Ms. Wilson testified that New Castle is scheduled to close on July 31, 1998, and Northern Indiana on December 30, 1998.

Sen. Riegsecker asked whether all the individuals at the two developmental centers will be placed in the community. Ms. Wilson replied that not all individuals will be placed in the community. She stated that approximately 15 individuals will be placed in other state developmental centers. Sen. Riegsecker asked for a list of where the former residents of New Castle and Northern Indiana will be placed.

Ms. Wilson provided the Commission with an update on funding for respite care. She said there were some challenges in funding respite care. Ms. Wilson explained that DDARS felt that some of the respite caregivers were spending too much for administrative costs and the DDARS has decided to cap what service providers can spend for administrative costs. She discussed that starting on July 1, 1999 each provider will receive $32,000 to recruit, train staff, and administer respite care. Ms. Wilson explained that each provider will receive the same funding in 1999 as the provider received in 1998. She testified that DDARS will continue to evaluate the implementation of the new policy during 1999.

Representative Klinker expressed her concern that there is no ability for new individuals to receive respite care. Ms. Wilson explained that there is not enough money to serve everybody that needs respite care. Representative Klinker asked for information at the next meeting concerning how much of a shortfall there is in respite care funding. Ms. Wilson said that the 317 Task Force plan will speak to the shortfall.

Indiana Association of Rehabilitation Facilities (IN-ARF) Presentation

Mr. Costa Miller, Executive Director, IN-ARF, discussed his organization's ideas for what the Commission should study during the summer[2]. He testified that it is imperative that the MRDD Commission adopt the 317 Task Force plan. He discussed the need for the MRDD Commission to recommend as much proposed legislation as

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[1] A copy of the vision statement presented by Ms. Deborah Wilson is on file in the Legislative Information Center, Room 230 of the State House, Indianapolis, Indiana, 46204. The telephone number of the Legislative Information Office is (317) 232-9856.

[2] A copy of Mr. Costa Miller's remarks is on file in the Legislative Information Center (see footnote 1).

necessary to implement the recommendations of the 317 Task Force. Mr. Miller explained that the MRDD service system has been under funded for a number of years. Mr. Miller testified there is a shortfall of $2 million in day services and funding for residential services has remained constant for the last ten years. He discussed the need for an additional $10 to $12 million in funding for each year of the next biennial budget for MRDD service provision. He stated this funding would help target the most vulnerable populations among those currently on the waiting lists for services. Mr. Miller also addressed the need to provide the full match to receive funding from the federal vocational rehabilitation grant.

Ms. Sally Lowery expressed her concern about the fact that Indiana returns to the federal government approximately $6 million in federal funding for vocational rehabilitation services on an annual basis. Rep. Klinker suggested a discussion and briefing by DDARS on the federal rules for using vocational rehabilitation funds at a future meeting.

Association of Retarded Citizens of Indiana (ARC of Indiana) Presentation

Mr. John Dickerson, Executive Director, ARC of Indiana, addressed the Commission concerning three issues. He stated that the state changed the way individuals at New Castle were treated in terms of finding new places to live as compared to what happened with the Central State Hospital closing. He explained that the New Castle residents and their families were given their choice of service providers and where the individuals could live as opposed to the Central State Hospital residents who were not given this choice. Secondly, Mr. Dickerson testified that there have been significant system changes in the last year especially for individuals in crisis situations. He stated changes in Medicaid rules has made it easier for individuals in a crisis situation to receive the necessary services. Thirdly, he discussed the importance of the 317 Task Force plan and stated that for the first time the plan has identified those individuals on waiting lists for services. He stated the ARC of Indiana will come to the MRDD Commission at a later date with two pieces of legislation: (1) the need for quality assurance in service provision, and (2) legislation that deal with concerns about MRDD individuals who are in the criminal justice system.

Other Presentations

Mr. Jeff Darling, President, Wabash Center, testified that four individuals from the New Castle Developmental Center chose his agency as their service provider. He discussed how his organization purchased a duplex to serve these individuals. He discussed how well “person centered planning” worked for the residents of New Castle.

Ms. Suzann Shackleton, Social Worker in Warren County, discussed her experiences working with MRDD individuals in a rural setting. She said that clients and families are required to work with a number of agencies and there is rarely one individual that can answer all the family’s questions about services. She stated that case workers and case managers are on a limited budget which limits their effectiveness. She said in rural areas it is often difficult to receive all the necessary services. Ms. Shackleton

testified that she has observed that programs are client focused and not always what the families need. Ms. Shakleton said that programs are usually specialized and not always adaptive to rural communities.

Ms. Linda Wilson described for the Commission the difficulties she has experienced in caring for her daughter who was severely injured in an automobile. She stated that she is having difficultly in getting help to provide care for her daughter. Ms. Wilson stated that in the rural area where she lives it is difficult for her daughter to receive care at home. She testified that it is difficult to get nursing care because of the distance to her home.

The next meeting was set for July 15, 1998, at 10:30 a.m.