



President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities

PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE FOR PEOPLE WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES

Quarterly Meeting
December 7, 2006

ATTENDEES:*

Sally Atwater, Executive Director of PCPID
Dallas Rob Sweezy, Chair of PCPID
Harris N. Hollin, Chair of Subcommittee on Research Applications
Neil Romano, Chair of Subcommittee on Public Awareness
Linda Hampton Starnes, Chair of Subcommittee on New Freedom Initiative
Ricardo Barraza
Jim Boles
William Edwards
Roy Grizzard – US Department of Labor
Mark Gross – US Department of Justice
Steven Hollingshead – US Department of Housing and Urban Development
Casey Patrick O'Halloran
Judy O'Halloran
Stephanie Preshong Brown
Tom J. Reilly
Steve C. Rhatigan
MaryMargaret Sharp-Pucci
Steven Suroviec
William Tienken
Carmela Vargas Gonzales
Donna Wiesner – US Department of Education
Ericka Alston, Staff
George N. Bouthilet, Staff
Laverdia Roach, Staff
Kristen Kodie Ruzicka, Staff
Sheila Whittaker, Staff
Madeleine Will, Guest Speaker

OUTLINE OF MEETING

Executive Director Sally Atwater convened the official quarterly meeting of the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities on December 7 at 3:00 PM, which was held via conference call.

* This list may not be comprehensive given that it is composed of only those who identified themselves as participants.

Staff member, Laverdia Roach, introduced the first speaker, former Committee chair, Madeleine Will.

Madeleine Will made a presentation on selected major issues and challenges facing the Committee and offered some possible approaches and solutions (full text of remarks not included in minutes, but attached as an appendix).

Staff member, George Bouthilet, introduced the second speaker, Mark Gross, ex officio representative from the US Department of Justice.

Mark Gross made a presentation on his position with the U.S. Department of Justice and his role as the representative for the Attorney General of the United States relating to people with intellectual disabilities. He focused his presentation on the activities of the Civil Rights Division of the Department, where he is located, and referred to selected activities associated with Federal laws, such as the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) pertaining to people with disabilities.

Dr. Bouthilet provided additional information on U.S. Department of Justice offices in reference to people with intellectual disabilities, e.g., Office of Civil Rights for Institutionalized Persons Act (CRIPA), Office of Special Justice Programs, the Criminal Division, the National Institute on Corrections, the U.S. Bureau of Prisons. He noted that there was an over-representation of people with intellectual disabilities in State and Federal prisons.

Chairman Rob Sweezy presented and briefly discussed a proposed theme for the Report to the President for 2007. The suggested theme consisted of highlighting the “value” of people with intellectual disabilities in American society. He suggested that the Chairs of the three Subcommittees and all members give thoughtful consideration to the proposed theme for the Report to the President.

Rob Sweezy called on the Chair of each of the three Subcommittees to provide summary reports of their activities.

Subcommittee on Research Applications

Chair – Harris Hollin

The Subcommittee on Research Applications reported the continuing development of a mission statement and plan for implementation. This plan includes the following four goals:

1. Improve and streamline the translation of basic neuroscience findings to the clinical applications that will result in better prevention and treatment of intellectual disabilities.
2. Encourage vigorous pursuit of drug development and psychopharmacological applications for people with intellectual disabilities.
3. Promote equitable access to services and improvements in diagnostic categories and instruments across programs and funding streams.
4. Encourage the improvement, effectiveness and consistency of more health services for people with intellectual disabilities.

Subcommittee on People with Intellectual Disabilities and the New Freedom Initiative

Chair – Linda Hampton Starnes

The Subcommittee on People with Intellectual Disabilities and the New Freedom Initiative reported their goal to look at four elements of the New Freedom Initiative that touched upon the lifespan issues of a person with intellectual disabilities and their families. These four areas are:

1. Assistive technology and universal design
2. Education – least restrictive environment
3. Housing
4. Health – early periodic screening

Subcommittee on Public Awareness

Chair – Neil Romano

The Subcommittee on Public Relations reported on six goals and priority areas:

1. Provide a statement on the value of people with intellectual disabilities. This statement could then serve as an umbrella for any other issues the Committee chose to address. They also reported on their discussions of how this value statement could be introduced into American culture. One specific idea is a request in the report to the President that he include the value statement in his State of the Union Address to demonstrate the commitment of the federal government to the civil rights of people with intellectual disabilities.

2. Continue to work with Bob Goldstraw of Disabilityinfo.gov and increase the potential for further development and improvement of the site.
3. Explore the possibility of having a small portion of every disability program budget dedicated to promotion of the program to maximize awareness of available resources.
4. Explore the need of a nation wide attitudinal survey on the beliefs and attitudes of the general population regarding people with intellectual disabilities.
5. Explore the relationship between people with intellectual disabilities and the criminal justice system.
6. Promote the establishment of a National Disability History Week.

After the Subcommittee reports, Chairman Rob Sweezy conducted a general session of the full Committee and posed a number of action items for consideration by the members of the Committee.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. To convene a special meeting among Rob Sweezy, Chair of the full Committee, Neil Romano, Chair, Subcommittee on Public Awareness, and Sally Atwater, Executive Director, during the noon period on January 5, 2007. The multi-purpose meeting would include a review and discussion on the proposed theme for the annual Report to the President for 2007 and other related matters as may be determined pertaining to the full Committee and to the Subcommittee on Public Awareness;
2. The Chairs of each of the Subcommittees are requested to convene meetings of their Subcommittees in early January 2007, to consider issues, speakers, products and other related matters, before a proposed meeting of the Executive Committee in the middle of January 2007;
3. To identify and consolidate topics from the summaries of all three Subcommittees before convening the Executive Committee meeting for use as a resource document by the Chair of the full Committee, the Chairs of the three Subcommittees, and the Executive Director.
4. To convene an Executive Committee meeting of the Chairs and the Executive Director in the middle of January 2007, in preparation for the quarterly meeting February 2007. The Executive

Committee consists of five members, the Chair of the full Committee, the Executive Director of the Committee, and the chairs of the respective subcommittees;

5. The members of the Committee are to give careful consideration to the proposed theme for the Report to the President for 2007 – *the value of people with intellectual disabilities in our society* - from the perspective of the Chairs and members of each of the three Subcommittees and from the perspective of individual members having certain special initiatives – in preparation for the quarterly meeting of the Committee in February 2007;

6. The members of the Committee are to give consideration to the possible selection and use of a professional writer(s) for the preparation of the annual Report to the President for 2007, and to offer “pro and con” suggestions to the full Committee during the meeting in February 2007;

7. To convene the official quarterly meeting of the full Committee on February 15-16, 2007.

Rob Sweezy adjourned the quarterly meeting at 6:00 PM.