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Pat Quinn, *Governor*

**Illinois Department of Human Services**

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Michelle R.B. Saddler, *Secretary*

100 South Grand Avenue, East • Springfield, Illinois 62762  
401 South Clinton Street • Chicago, Illinois 60607

January 26, 2012

Dear Colleague,

I am pleased to announce that we have engaged the services of a very knowledgeable and expert organization to assist us with the Active Community Care Transition (ACCT) plan.

Community Resource Associates (CRA) is a training and management consultation firm that was founded in 1982. CRA has provided training and consultation in all 50 states and is widely known for having incorporated person-centered planning into all of their service designs and delivery efforts for many years.

CRA has been extensively involved in transitioning individuals, including those with significant behavioral, psychiatric, intellectual/developmental and physical disabilities, to the community from institutions. In addition to Illinois, CRA has directly assisted California, Kentucky, Missouri, Nebraska, North Carolina, Ohio and Wisconsin.

Senior Partner Derrick Dufresne served as the Executive Director of the Illinois-based Institute on Public Policy for People with Disabilities from 2003 through 2008. Likewise, prior to joining CRA as a Senior Partner six years ago, Michael "Mike" Mayer served as the Executive Director of the Institute on Complex Disabilities for 12 years.

Dufresne and Mayer have provided training and consultation throughout Illinois for nearly 30 years, working especially closely with private providers. With extensive publications, assessment tools, training curricula, therapeutic techniques and support models, both Mayer and Dufresne have received numerous awards for their efforts and are recognized experts in the field by NADD, NASDDDS and AAIDD.

Dufresne was responsible for leading several systems change efforts in Illinois during this time, including one working group that was able to keep many people from having to enter state facilities.

Mayer co-authored “Retooling Employment: A Systems Analysis Including Promising Practices for Advancing Supported Employment for Citizens of Illinois with Developmental Disabilities” and “A Blueprint for Advancing Supported Employment for Citizens of Illinois with Developmental Disabilities” for the Illinois Developmental Disabilities Council in 2008.

Dufresne and Mayer have specialized in supporting individuals with a dual diagnosis and/or severe behavior challenges, but have also worked extensively with individuals who are at severe medical risk or have significant vulnerabilities. They have trained tens of thousands of people, both nationally and internationally, on their positive behavior support based approaches.

One recent effort designed and managed by Mayer and Dufresne in North Carolina (Seeing Is Believing), was recently labeled “a model for national replication” following an independent evaluation by the Center on Human Policy at Syracuse University. Mayer was also involved in a systems change project that used the MyPlan Person-Centered Planning and Support model to assist individuals who had a dual IDD/MI diagnosis and who were also forensically involved. The results of this work were recently presented at a national conference and were published by NADD.

CRA has extensive experience designing, developing and managing crisis services for people who have IDD and live in the community. This includes the design and operation of the IACOT model in Ohio and positive behavior support focused collaborative response crisis supports in Kentucky. CRA recently partnered with the START Center at the Institute on Disability of the University of New Hampshire as crisis services specialists.

Both Mayer and Dufresne are on the faculty of the National Leadership Institute in Developmental Disabilities at the University of Delaware. In addition to this role, as the developers of “5 Star Quality Transformation,” which was adopted as the standard for the Community Builder Awards for ANCOR, and which continues to grow throughout North America as a standard of organizational excellence, Dufresne and Mayer are sought out frequently as consultants, trainers and collaborators with organizations, such as the Council on Quality and Leadership and Developmental Disabilities Councils around the country.

Nancy R. Weiss, will serve as the Project Manager. She has worked in the disabilities field for more than 30 years. Prior to her current affiliation as the Co-Director of the National Leadership Institute at the University of Delaware, she was the Executive Director of TASH, an international advocacy association committed to full inclusion for people with disabilities.

Ms. Weiss also served as an adjunct faculty member at Johns Hopkins University and was the Director of Community Services for the Kennedy Krieger Institute in Baltimore.

Ms. Weiss is also the former Executive Director of Community Systems, Inc., an agency providing progressive supports for adults with disabilities in Delaware. Ms. Weiss advocates for person-centered, ethical and humane supports.

Steven M. Eidelman, will serve as the project's Senior Consultant. He is the University of Delaware's H. Rodney Sharp Professor of Human Services Policy and Leadership. He holds joint faculty appointments in the School of Urban Affairs and Public Policy and the Department of Individual and Family Studies. Mr. Eidelman is the former Executive Director of the Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation, leading the organization to implement innovative projects, programs and cutting-edge policies. Prior to his appointment with the University of Delaware, Mr. Eidelman was the Executive Director of The Arc of the United States. He also served as Deputy Secretary for Mental Retardation in the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare.

We look forward to working closely with CRA as we strive to reach our ultimate goal of rebalancing the developmental disabilities system in Illinois. I hope that you will afford them your utmost support, cooperation and access to DHS resources.

Sincerely,



Michelle R.B. Saddler  
Secretary



Mark Doyle  
Project Manager, Transition of Care