

The UPDATE

Pennsylvania's Independent Living Project Newsletter

November 2001

Lynda Long Leaves the IL Project

On Wednesday October 24, 2001 the staff of the University of Pittsburgh Competency Based Training Programs met in a downtown Mechanicsburg restaurant to bid Lynda Long, ILP Specialist a fond farewell. Lynda worked for CBT for over 3 years and served as the IL Project Coordinator and later as the programs' Assistant Director. Lynda is currently working for the Center for Schools and Communities in Harrisburg, PA.



Annual Planning Conference Scheduled for the 2002 IL Youth Retreat

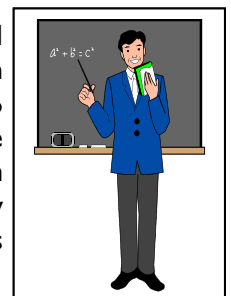
The 2002 Youth Retreat Steering Committee Annual Planning Conference will be held on January 10 & 11, 2002 at the Days Inn State College. This 2-day conference will result in the theme for the conference, daily schedules, curriculum ideas, potential facilitators and a calendar of events scheduled to take place leading up to the Retreat. If your county has any youth who would be interested in participating in this planning event, please contact Tracy Eisenreich of Valley Youth House at 610-317-0721 ext. 206 for additional information.

IL State Conference

The 2002 IL State Conference has been scheduled with the Penn State Hotel and Conference Center to take place June 12th throughout the 14th. Thanks go out to all of you who completed ITNA's to assist with designing the conference workshops! 51 individuals responded with lots of great ideas!! New to this year's conference will be a special invitation pre-conference event for new IL workers. This affair will consist of round table discussions lead by experts in the field of IL with topics ranging from Housing and Room & Board to Creative Programming, as well as opportunities to network with other agencies. Special invitations will be sent to those working in IL 3 years or less requesting their attendance. The IL Project has also received considerable feedback related to providing workshops that will stimulate experienced IL staff. That need will be addressed with this conference by providing 2 different workshop/breakout tracks. One track for those working in IL 3 years or more with other options available for those with less than 3 years of experience. So mark you calendars now and be on the lookout for additional information soon!

The Pennsylvania Model: A Guide to Independent Living

The initial pilot of the IL Curriculum took place November 7 in Monroeville. Overall feedback from the pilot was good. Fortunately so many people were interested in participating some activities had to be reserved for the pilot scheduled for December 6 at Dixon University in Harrisburg. **NOTE: The location has changed from the original site at the South Central RTC Mechanicsburg office to Dixon University South Hall 107/108 on 2nd Street in Harrisburg.** Registration is now closed for that session, but future sessions are being planned. If you have any questions about the pilot session, please feel free to contact Lenore at 717-795-9048 ext 207.





PILOTS System Update

The Pennsylvania Independent Living Outcomes Tracking System (PILOTS) will be back in full operation in the near future. Upon gaining internet access, notification will be sent regarding operation status along with a new forms instructions manual explaining some minor changes that have been made to the youth reporting forms. County programs have the option of holding forms and inputting them at that time or sending them to the project at 2 Market Plaza Way, Suite 102, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055 to the attention of Crystal Bittinger, IL Data Entry who will input the forms once Internet access is obtained. Forms may also be faxed to Crystal at 717-795-8013.

01' – 02' IL Bulletin & Allocation Status

This year's IL Bulletin/Application is delayed due to the availability of an additional \$1 million in IL-specific TANF monies and efforts to incorporate this information into the package. While we are excited about the addition of these funds to benefit children, it has been a challenging process. Clarification on how the funds can be utilized will be detailed in the bulletin. Additionally, we anticipate grant allocation amounts in the near future. Counties should continue to operate their programs under the 00' – 01' requirements. Any questions can be directed to Dave Derbes at 717-705-2911. Thanks for your patience.

2002 National Family Unification Program Training Conference

The FUP Training Conference will be held from January 23 – 26, 2002 at the Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC. The theme of this year's conference is "Strengthening America's Children, Youth and Families Through Affordable Housing". Topic areas that may prove of significant interest to IL staff include: Eligibility, screening and referral; Landlord recruitment and retention; Funding aftercare and support services; Innovative program models; Assisting with the housing search. On Wednesday January 23rd from 1:30pm – 5:00pm, CWLA will hold a pre conference session called "Housing Options for Emancipated Youth" focusing on strategies to tap federal and state funding, including short-term Section 8 vouchers, to build programs that help youth leaving foster care develop the tools necessary to obtain and maintain permanent housing. Hotel reservation (Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill (202) 737-1234) must be made by December 15, 2001 in order to receive the special conference rate of \$169.00. A copy of the registration form is also contained with this Update.

PHEAA's Regional Offices

PHEAA maintains six regional offices across the Commonwealth. Below is a list of the names, e-mail and numbers of your local PHEAA representative. These individuals could prove very useful as youth in your agency begin to consider education plans for the 2002-2003 school term.

LOCATION	CONTACT	PHONE	E-MAIL
Carlisle	Bruce Diefenderfer	717-245-0062	carlireg@pheaa.org
Sharon	Daniel Johnston	724-347-5891	shororeg@pheaa.org
Philadelphia	Cheryl Mobley-Stimpson	215-735-2877	philareg@pheaa.org
Pittsburgh	CA (Jim) Cardinale	412-881-5279	pittsreg@pheaa.org
Wilkes-Barre	Thomas O'Donnell	570-826-1476	wbreg@pheaa.org
Williamsport	Donald Shade	570-323-7001	wmpreg@pheaa.org

PROJECT CONTACT INFORMATION

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Extension 217