INABC Liaison TidBits 05/18/07

COMINGS & GOINGS: Lilia Teninty's last day as Chief of Staff for DDRS was May 4th – she will be starting her new position as the DD Director for the State of Illinois later this month. Adrienne Shields has been promoted into her position – and is currently acting as Chief of Staff AND continues her role as Director of Client Services, until this position is posted and filled.)

VISION 20/10 EVENT: Gail and I were able to attend the Vision 20/10 Event this week. National experts in Best Practices and Technical Assistance spoke – pointing to Indiana as the current "movers and shakers" in the national spotlight. This is due to cross disciplinary cooperation on major state initiatives under strong fiscal leadership. This is exciting. Further – we just became the 10th state (and largest state) in the country to officially be "deinstitutionalized" of any MR/DD Developmental Centers. The last person moved from FWSDC on 4/18/07! In case you haven't heard – its important to know that the core values of all that we do under the DDRS umbrella have been firmly established:

1) Self Advocacy/ Self Determination
2) Work First – getting people jobs!!
3) Risk Management/ Dignified Risk
4) Quality Outcomes/ Quality Improvement

SELF ADVOCATES PICNIC & INABC: July 27th We will be partnering with Self Advocates and helping them with break out sessions to learn more about self confidence. Any and all support – including your attendance – would be helpful and appreciated.

QUALITY OUTCOMES SUBCOMMITTEE (Vision 20/10) We have met a couple of times as a state subcommittee and have not progressed beyond trying to identify what exactly "quality" is…at this point, we are looking at reading assignments and what other states are doing. Much attention from the BQIS perspective at this point surrounds the upcoming promulgation of 460 IAC 6 and BQIS currently wrapping up the last of the agency wide surveys for all existing providers. The INABC subcommittee is "on hold" until further direction is received at a state level.

OASIS/RATE SETTING (Vision 20/10): July 1st as you know will kick off the pilot in District 4 where "parallel systems" will run and the rate setting methodology for Indiana will begin to take shape. With regard to behavioral rates, Gail and I had dinner with Norm Davis of Davis & DeShais and our INABC subcommittee has had some great discussion, including a conference call with Dave Gootee and Lilia Teninty. Although NOTHING IS OFFICIAL at this point – it seems the "climate" of things for BMAN will NOT require us to go back to ¼ hour units. (However at this point – please remember the importance of documenting the time you support an individual - per service definitions of BDDS. Also remember that services MUST be delivered monthly to be billed monthly!) What we are currently working on is two fold: 1) Collecting information from other states – and how behavioral rates are set and paid; and 2) Streamlining the "Milar Document" that was presented a few years ago as a "menu of services" needed per individual based on need and intensity of support need. Our hope is to have someone from Davis & Deshais at our next INABC meeting.

OTHER NEWS! This past week hundreds individuals awaiting waiver slots received letters announcing: For the first time in years, new slots are being released. In addition new "priority waiver" criteria was approved. For any people currently at home with care givers over the year of 80….services will be available. Secondly – any slots "vacated" over the last few years (ie due to death, leaving services or moving to a differently funded setting) will be released to those at the top of the list. This in addition to the 600 released earlier this year continue to move us in the right direction of getting new people into services. If you are taking referrals – be sure your agency is communicating with Kathy Davidson (Provider Liaison) so that you get calls to serve these folks!