



## ***NARRTC News***

**Issue 9, May 2010**

### **Message from the President**

Welcome to another issue of *NARRTC News*. This newsletter has been designed to bring you some of the relevant news from NIDRR and NARRTC members. We will be sharing four issues of *NARRTC News* with members each year.

We hope that you will share with us information that you would like to see included in future issues. Information about your upcoming events, new products, position vacancies, or other relevant information is welcomed. We will be sending you a reminder before each issue to solicit your input prior to each of the upcoming issues.

For all of you that attended our recent NARRTC Annual Conference, I am sure that you join with me in saying job well done! Our conference featured more NIDRR project-related presentations than ever before! Thanks to all of you who presented and a special thanks to Dr. Jana Burke who served as the 2010 Conference Chair.

I hope you enjoy this issue of *NARRTC News*. If you have suggestions for other features or additions to the newsletter, please let me know.

-- John D. Westbrook, PhD

### ***News from NIDRR and ED***

#### **Lynnae Ruttledge Named Acting Director of NIDRR**



Lynnae Ruttledge, Commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), has been named Acting Director of NIDRR. She has previously served as the Executive Director of the Washington Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. She has worked in several states focusing on critical issues of policy development and implementation, workforce development, program management, information and referral, and independent living.

On March 25, 2010, Alexa Posny, Assistant Secretary for the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) in the U.S. Department of Education, announced that Ms. Ruttledge, Commissioner of the RSA, will

also serve as Acting Director of the NIDRR. She was nominated by President Obama to be Commissioner of RSA and appointed on January 4, 2010 after Senate confirmation.

We are very pleased that Ms. Rutledge participated in the 2010 NARRTC Annual Conference and shared some thoughts about her new role.

### **NIDRR announces Knowledge Translation Meeting**

NIDRR will be sponsoring a Knowledge Translation (KT) capacity building event, **“Knowledge Translation Tools for Scientists”** on **Wednesday, August 11 & Thursday, August 12, 2010**, at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Washington DC.

The goal of this hands-on workshop is to provide NIDRR grantees with KT tools and skills that can be used to effectively carry out KT-related activities in their current and future projects. These tools and skills are intended to enhance your success in promoting the effective use of findings from research and development to improve the lives of individual with disabilities.

Details of the workshop content and registration will follow in the next couple of months. There is no registration fee for this event. As with last year's event, *workshop attendance is limited to 80 people on a first-come first-served basis*. More information about the event and registration will be coming soon.

### **National Employment Conference**

The 2010 National Employment Conference has been scheduled for September 15-17, 2010. The event is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education's Rehabilitation Services Administration, the Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation, and The George Washington University. The conference will be held at the Marriott Key Bridge Hotel in Arlington, Virginia. More updates are expected soon.

## **NARRTC News**

### **2010 NARRTC Annual Conference Recap**

NARRTC held its 32nd annual national conference entitled **"Promoting Change Through Research"** on May 3 - 4, 2010 at the Hilton Old Town in Alexandria, VA. Over 115 participants including NIDRR grantees and Federal agency representatives attended three plenary sessions and seven breakout sessions with 21 panels. Six additional projects were represented as poster sessions in the conference foyer. Jana Burke, Program Chair, and Conference Coordinator, Pam Willits, made a great team to bring the event together.

This year marked the first collaboration between the NARRTC annual conference and the National Network of ADA Centers (DBTACs) annual research conference. The conference also included research presentations from RRTCs, Model Systems programs, RERCs and other NIDRR grantees. The agenda focused on the work being done by a range of NIDRR grantees to advance science and improve the lives of individuals with disabilities. Topics included knowledge translation best practices,

innovations in disability training, cultural competency, the state of ADA compliance in America, disaster preparedness, and innovations in disability rehabilitation research methodology. A special thanks to all the presenters and panel moderators that made this conference such a success!

### **Awards Presented at Annual Conference**

At the first ever Awards Luncheon, *David Gray* received NARRTC's **Distinguished Service Award**, presented by Glen White. *Kurt Johnson* received the **Commendation Award**, presented by Alex Libin. Marianne Farkas presented a **Special Contribution Award** to *Joann Starks*. Incoming President John Westbrook also presented a plaque to outgoing President *Marianne Farkas* recognizing her hard work on behalf of NARRTC.

### **Best Paper Awarded by NARRTC Research Committee**

The Research Committee made its "Best Research Paper" award for the third year, selecting from a field of 28 articles submitted for consideration. All were published in 2009 and were primarily funded by NIDRR. Charlie Lakin accepted the award—a check for \$500 to the lead author and plaques for all—on behalf of Roger Stancliffe and the other authors of the paper.

**2009-10 Winner:** Stancliffe, J. R., Lakin, C. K., Taub, S., Chiri, G. & Byun, S. (2009).

Satisfaction and sense of well being among Medicaid ICF/MR and HCBS recipients in six states. *Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities*, 47(2), 63-83. Retrieved from

<http://aaid.allenpress.com/pdfserv/10.1352%2F1934-9556-47.2.63>

**2009-10 Runner-up:** Branski, L. K., Herndon, D. N., Barrow, R. E., Kulp, G. A., Klein, G. L., Suman, O. E., Przkora, R. et al. (2009). [Randomized controlled trial to determine the efficacy of long-term growth hormone treatment in severely burned children](#). *Annals of Surgery*, 250(4), 514-523.

**2009-10 Runner-up:** Kaye, H. S., LaPlante, M. P. & Harrington, C. (2009). [Do non-institutional long-term care services reduce Medicaid spending?](#) *Health Affairs*, 28(1), 262-272.

### **Election Results for NARRTC Executive Committee**

NARRTC officers are elected by the membership during the Business Meeting at the annual conference. Newly elected officers include:

- Vice President/2011 Conference Chair: Kurt Johnson (1 year term)
- Secretary: Jana Burke (3 year term)
- Treasurer: Nancy Arnold (re-elected, 3 year term)
- Members at Large: Suzanne Groah, Paul Baker (3 years); Ivan Molton (1 year)

Also joining the Executive Committee are Research Committee Chair, Alexander Libin, and Training/KT Committee Chair, Pamela Mott (appointed to one year terms.)

NARRTC wants to recognize **Mary Huber** (Research) and **Dennis Moore** (Training), who chaired these committees for the past three years. Both are stepping down as their [RRTC](#) has completed its funding cycle. **Thank you, Mary and Dennis!**

### **NARRTC Executive Committee members for 2010-2011:**

- *President:* John Westbrook (2 years, through 2012 meeting)
- *President-Elect:* (1 year term) To Be Elected at 2011 Meeting
- *Past President:* Marianne Farkas (2 years, through 2012 meeting)
- *Vice President and Conference Chair:* Kurt Johnson (1 year term)
- *Secretary:* Jana Burke (3 years, through 2013 meeting)
- *Treasurer:* Nancy Arnold (3 years, through 2013 meeting)
- *Members at Large:*
  - Suzanne Groah, Paul Baker (3 years, through 2013 meeting)
  - Andrew Houtenville, Robin Jones (2 years, through 2012 meeting)
  - Sally Rogers, Ivan Molton (1 year)
- *Research Committee Chair* (1 year appointment): Alex Libin
- *Training/KT Committee Chair* (1 year appointment): Pam Mott
- *Membership Committee Chair* (1 year appointment): Joann Starks

### **Volunteers needed for NARRTC's committees**

The following Standing Committees are identified in the By-Laws of NARRTC, to “deliberate, formulate plans and submit all reports for consideration by the Board of Governors and final executive action by the President.” We are actively seeking the participation of the membership on these committees to develop and accomplish organizational goals. In addition, there are two ad hoc committees that need member support. Please contact the identified Chair or the NARRTC President, [John Westbrook](#), if you are interested or have any questions about the committee work.

- (a) Nominating (Chair, [Marianne Farkas](#))
- (b) By-Laws and Rules and Regulations (Chair, [Sally Rogers](#))
- (c) Program (Chair, [Kurt Johnson](#))
- (d) Research (Chair, [Alex Libin](#))
- (e) Training (Chair, [Pam Mott](#))
- (f) Legislation (Chair, [Andrew Houtenville](#))
- (g) Liaisons (*inactive*)

#### **Ad hoc committees**

- (1) Membership (Chair, [Joann Starks](#))
- (2) NARRTC Awards (*vacant*)

### **Member Spotlight**

*NARRTC likes to highlight member activities for newsletter readers. Please send information about upcoming conferences, commendations & awards, calls for papers or participants, new publications or products, or any other project tidbit to [Jana Burke](#).*

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**NARRTC News** is developed and prepared by [John Westbrook](#), [Joann Starks](#), and [Jana Burke](#). Email us with your comments, feedback, and suggestions for content!