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NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH
OCTOBER 1994
PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

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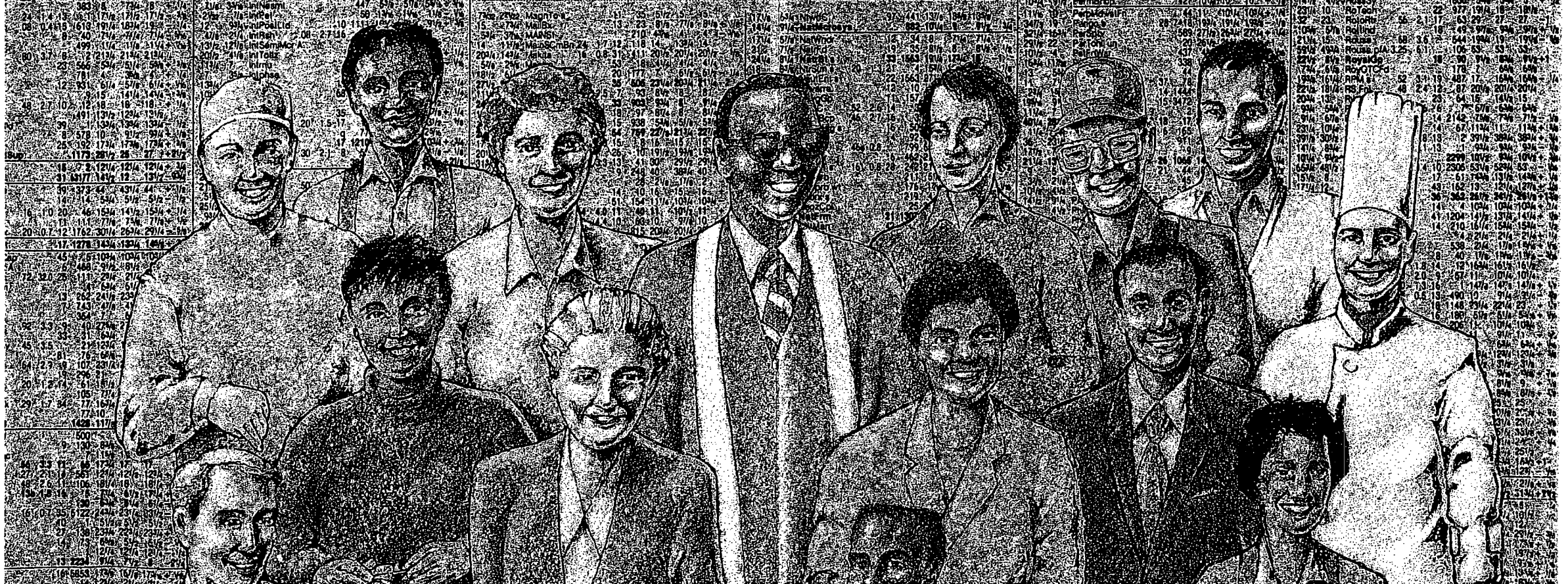
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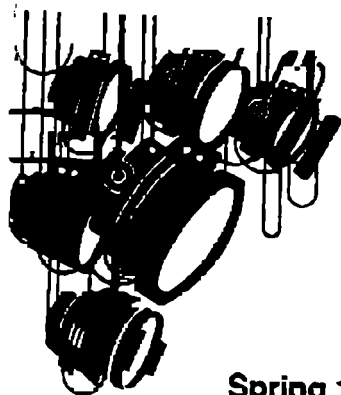
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Document Title:

Ability + Diversity = Economic Strength
NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH
OCTOBER 1994
PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES





PRES. COM. MENTAL RETARD.

Spotlight

Spring 1996

Volume 1 Issue 2

Bringing Ability In-sight

PCMR Reaching Out to Future Leaders

The President's Committee on Mental Retardation will hold a **NEXT GENERATION LEADERSHIP SYMPOSIUM**, bringing together future leaders in the mental retardation field under the age of 35. The symposium will be held on September 27, 1996, in Washington, D.C., at the American University Washington College of Law, preceding the National Collaborative Academy on Mental Retardation.

PCMR plans to invite future leaders from a variety of professional and advocacy communities including service providers, direct support workers, State agency personnel, State legislators, State legislative staff, professional associations, self-advocates and family members. In conjunction with Reaching Up, Inc., a private foundation headed by PCMR Committee Member, John F. Kennedy, Jr., PCMR has been focusing on supporting initiatives to help better train direct support staff in the mental retardation/developmental disabilities field and to help train new leaders in the mental retardation professional, advocate and self-advocate communities.

The President's Committee is being assisted by two direct support workers, Sally Jochum of Olathe, Kansas and



Herminia Torres of New York City, in planning symposium topics relevant to future leader training. Ms. Jochum is employed as a Community Living Coordinator by Johnson County Developmental Services. Ms. Torres is employed as a Developmental Disabilities Program Specialist by Metro New York DDSO. Both will assist the Committee in providing direct support input on training topics and symposium faculty members. Tentative symposium topics include: effects of public policies on future leadership, direct support workers in decision making roles, effective strategies for community organizing, leaders advocating prevention strategies, leadership in

continued on page 3

1996 National Collaborative Academy States Selected

The President's Committee recently announced the 1996 National Collaborative Academy on Mental Retardation participating States would include Massachusetts, Mississippi, Wisconsin, Oregon, Wyoming, Pennsylvania, and Nebraska; and the District of Columbia. The second National Collaborative Academy on Mental Retardation will be held in Washington, D.C. on September 27-30, 1996.

The goal of the Academy series is to promote lifelong inclusion and participation of persons with mental retardation in community living.

Delegation team members, selected by each State's Governor, will include legislators, budget directors, business community leaders, key staff members from each Governor's office as well as Self Advocates, family members, State Developmental Disability and Mental Retardation directors, service providers, and direct support personnel.

State Teams will meet prior to the Academy in each respective State to begin work on developing a State Collaboration plan to enhance inclusion in each local community. PCMR, with the assistance of United Cerebral Palsy Association (UCPA), will provide an on site State facilitator to assist in team training initiatives. Additional information may be obtained from PCMR State Collaboration Director Laverdia Roach at 202-619-3636.



Developing Individualized Supports.....	page 2
In Memoriam: Elizabeth Boggs.....	page 3
Post-Academy Action Plans.....	page 5
Cultural Competence.....	

President Issues New PCMR Executive Order

President Bill Clinton has issued a new Executive Order governing the President's Committee on Mental Retardation. Signed on March 21, 1996, the Executive Order establishes national goals for the President's Committee and the mental retardation field which include: 1) Full participation of people with mental retardation in their communities. 2) Providing all necessary supports to people with mental retardation and their families for such participation. 3) Reducing the occurrence and severity of mental retardation by one-half by the year 2010. 4) Assuring the full citizenship rights of all people with mental retardation, including those rights secured by such landmark statutes as the Americans with Disabilities Act. 5) Recognizing the right of all people with mental retardation to self-determination and autonomy; to be treated in a non-discriminatory manner; and to exercise meaningful choice, with whatever supports are necessary to effectuate these rights. 6) Recognizing the right of all people with mental retardation to enjoy a quality of life that promotes independence, self-determination, and participation as productive members of society. 7) Promoting the widest dissemination of information on models, programs, and services in the field of mental retardation.

In addition to the 21 citizen members appointed by the President, membership was expanded to also include new ex-officio members including the Commissioner of Social Security, the Chair of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and the Chair of the National Council on Disability.

President Clinton's Executive Order also designated that the chair of the President's Committee will be one of the 21 citizen members.

PCMR Committee Member T.J. Monroe Meets with President Clinton



PCMR Member T.J. Monroe meeting with President Bill Clinton

PCMR Committee Member T.J. Monroe was invited to meet with President Clinton, in the Oval Office, during the President's weekly Saturday morning address on March 30, 1996. The President's radio address concerned couple's issues and the minimum wage.

T.J. Monroe used the opportunity to meet with the President to express the concerns of himself and fellow self-advocates regarding Medicaid and Supplemental Security Income Programs (SSI) that have enabled many individuals with mental retardation to leave restrictive State institutions and establish independent lives in the community. Mr. Monroe shared with the President his own experiences as a former resident of a State institution as well as his experiences as a Vista Volunteer, a member of AmeriCorps and the first self-advocate appointed to PCMR.

PCMR Issues Advisory Regarding Medicaid & Welfare Proposals

The President's Committee recently issued a policy advisory concerning Medicaid and Welfare Reform. The Committee expressed concern that current proposals being discussed may negatively impact citizens with mental retardation.

The Committee cited particular concern regarding proposed changes to Medicaid that may result in the loss of a Federal entitlement to waiver services, ICF/MR services and other critical services. The Committee also warned that some proposals allowing States to establish disability definitions may result in possibly 50 different State definitions of disability. The Committee also cited concern regarding limited rights of action for individuals or classes for eligibility.

In June 1995, the PCMR also issued a policy advisory concerning Children's SSI, proposed changes to the program and PCMR's belief that Children's SSI had played a singular success at reducing admission of children with mental retardation to State institutions.

Copies of PCMR policy advisories may be obtained from the PCMR office.

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primarily to work in the field of international relations. He worked for a considerable period for the United Nations, where he was involved in the disarmament negotiations. He was also involved in the work of the International Atomic Energy Agency, the International Labour Organization, and the World Health Organization. He was a member of the International Commission on the History of the Holocaust, and he was a member of the International Commission on the History of the Holocaust. He was a member of the International Commission on the History of the Holocaust, and he was a member of the International Commission on the History of the Holocaust.

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Germany offers extensive health insurance, but the cost of the health insurance supplement program is considerable. Many citizens are unable to afford the program and are forced to pay out of pocket for health care. The cost of health care in Germany is high, and the cost of the health insurance supplement program is even higher. The cost of the health insurance supplement program is approximately 10% of the cost of the health insurance program. The cost of the health insurance supplement program is approximately 10% of the cost of the health insurance program. The cost of the health insurance supplement program is approximately 10% of the cost of the health insurance program.

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It is a good idea to have a good understanding of the local market and the needs of the community. This will help you to develop a business plan that is realistic and achievable. It is also important to have a good understanding of the legal and financial aspects of starting a business. This will help you to avoid common pitfalls and to make informed decisions about your business.

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Night Cook
Must be hard

Public Relations Bureau, 1000
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PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES
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**PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON MENTAL RETARDATION**

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Administration for Children and Families
Washington, D.C. 20201-0000

TO: Bill White
Office of Public Liaison
The White House

FROM: Gary Blumenthal, Executive Director
President's Committee on Mental Retardation

Yolande Bestgen, Director-Special Projects
President's Committee on Mental Retardation

DATE: October 1, 1997

SUBJECT: Activities of the President's Committee on Mental Retardation

It is my pleasure to present to you an update on the activities of the President's Committee on Mental Retardation (PCMR).

National Collaborative Academy on Mental Retardation

The third PCMR Academy was held on September 5-8, 1997 in Washington, D.C. Governor's of six States and the Principal Chief of The Cherokee Nation sent teams to work on issues related to people with mental retardation and related conditions.

The PCMR Academy brought together State teams from Oklahoma, Nevada, Florida, New Hampshire, Georgia, Kansas and The Cherokee Nation. A powerful gathering of team members represented key people to address all aspects of service delivery for people with mental retardation. For four intense days Governor's representatives, State Legislators, State Budget Directors, Medicaid Directors, people with mental retardation, family members, business leaders, Commissioners of MR/DD, Education, Health and Vocational Rehabilitation, service providers and representatives from key organizations including Developmental Disability Councils and Protection and Advocacy were educated on cutting edge policy and service delivery issues.

It is rare for these primary decision makers to devote such quality time to an in-depth evaluation of their State's service system and to the development of an action plan for service direction, philosophy and viability of lifelong inclusion for people with mental retardation.

PCMR

Oct. 1, 1997

Page 2

One example of many unique events during this one-of-a-kind Academy occurred when a young woman with mental retardation and a wheel chair user personally explained her frustration with the service system while attempting to obtain a new wheelchair. Sitting 'at the table' in an informal setting with the Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee and the State Budget Officer, afforded this young woman the opportunity to offer these public servants a personal and first hand understanding of the needs of real people in their State's social service system.

The word of the President's Academy is brought back to each State. At a recent meeting the Executive Director of the New Orleans Chamber of Commerce introduced himself as a member of President Clinton's PCMR Louisiana State Team. Such ownership and pride reflects the collaborative nature of the Academy, the positive impact of this experience for each participant and ultimately for people with mental retardation.

Attached to this memo is an overview of the PCMR Academy which explains in further detail the event and the activities. In the two years prior to the 1997 Academy fourteen States, the District of Columbia and The Navajo Nation were touched by this event. It is the goal of PCMR to bring teams to the Academy from all States in the Union, Puerto Rico and other Native American Tribes over the next three years.

Real outcomes for real people. Action plans specific to each State's unique needs. A future service system with principals and values established to serve the best interest of citizens with mental retardation. That is the long term value of the National Collaborative Academy on Mental Retardation.