

Interagency Committee on Disability Research (ICDR)

Executive Committee Meeting

Potomac Center Plaza, 10th Floor
550 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20202

In-Person & Adobe Connect Webinar

Wednesday, February 25, 2015
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Meeting Participants

Leadership:

- John Tschida, ICDR Chair, National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR)
- Constance Pledger, EdD, PhD, ICDR Executive Director, National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR)

Participants: See Appendix A

Meeting Purpose:

- Promote interagency coordination, collaboration, and communication;
- Enhance awareness about the federal disability, independent living, and rehabilitation research portfolio;
- Review policy and procedural changes; and
- Determine future directions.

Welcome and Introductions

John Tschida, ICDR Chair, thanked attendees for joining the meeting and encouraged all to introduce themselves. He noted the changing landscape of the Department of Education (ED) due the recent passage of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). This new legislation includes the transfer of the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) to the Administration for Community Living (ACL) within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). NIDRR is now known as the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR) to reflect its expanded responsibility for independent living research.

Tschida reviewed the meeting agenda and purpose to focus on initiating a strategic planning process for the ICDR. The first steps are to draft ICDR principles, and initiate a dialogue about the ICDR mission.

Review of WIOA Changes and Status of the NIDILRR Transition to HHS

John Tschida, ICDR Chair

In July 2014, President Obama signed the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), an act designed to help job seekers access employment, education, training, and support services in the labor market. Tschida provided an overview of this new legislation that represents a fundamental alteration of the rehabilitation field.

NIDRR employees officially moved to NIDILRR within the Administration for Community Living (ACL) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in February 2015. The ED contracts and grant systems will also transfer in the near future.

ICDR-Specific Changes

The chair of the ICDR has traditionally been the Director of NIDRR. WIOA elevates the ICDR chair as the Secretary of HHS or the Secretary's designee. Tschida noted that he hopes that elevating the chair to the Secretary level will bring statutory members and other necessary members to the ICDR in a meaningful way.

Tschida explained that the core mission of the ICDR will not change in the transition, but will now include independent living research. The following members will be added to the Statutory Membership:

- Assistant Secretary of Labor, Disability Employment Policy
- Secretary of Defense
- Administrator, Administration for Community Living
- Administrator, Small Business Administration

The legislation requires a Comprehensive Government Wide Strategic Plan. The strategic plan must include measurable goals and objectives, identify agencies involved, outline timetables for task completion, and describe the allocation of funds. WIOA also specifies the need for more accountability and input on the strategic plan. The ICDR is required to seek input on the strategic plan from policymakers, representatives from other Federal agencies conducting similar research, individuals with disabilities, organizations representing those with disabilities, researchers, and providers at least once every two years.

Tschida also discussed the WIOA requirement for a coordinated interagency research database. The ICDR has discussed the concept of a database in years past. Related to this topic is the requirement for coordination of the research agenda. Mark Leddy and John Hough articulated that the WIOA legislation implies an increased commitment and responsibility by the member agencies to approve and determine the work of the ICDR. Hough wondered if statutory agencies involved could have a "veto" authority on the collaborative projects in which the ICDR participates. Tschida explained that his presentation

pulls the language from the WIOA statute and that the ICDR will have to determine its processes for moving forward.

Tschida noted that WIOA does not authorize funding for the ICDR or mandated activities. NIDILRR continues to fund the ICDR within its own budget and future funding for the ICDR is being considered as NIDILRR moves to ACL. WIOA requires the ICDR to describe funding contributions to the work of the ICDR by each agency.

The presentation is in the attached “ICDR Reauthorization” PowerPoint document.

Facilitated Work Session: ICDR Strategic Plan

ICDR Executive Committee members began the strategic planning process outlined WIOA. Greg Brittingham, Senior Consultant with the Performance Management Group at Virginia Commonwealth University, led the members through a series of facilitated discussions. Members separated into small groups to brainstorm regarding the two primary topics for discussion:

1. Determining the guiding principles that ICDR should follow to be successful in their planning efforts and fulfilling their legislative mission and mandates
2. Defining the characteristics of a successful planning effort to help identify ways to measure progress.

The product of the planning process is contained in “Guiding Principles for Success” document.

Harvey Schwartz, ICMR co-chair, stressed the need for defining specific roles and responsibilities of statutory members and mechanisms for allocating funds to support the work of the ICDR. Clear communication about resources and expectations about how the member agencies can share the responsibility, authority, and accountability of the ICDR is important. Tschida suggested the need to consider the historical context of what the ICDR has done as the ICDR moves forward. He noted the tremendous amount of work to be done, and the importance of engaging with the statutory members for the ICDR. With this foundation toward creating a successful and meaningful strategic plan, the group agreed that a follow-up meeting to continue this work would be helpful.

Research Database

During the discussion about measures for success, the group also discussed the Congressional mandate for a searchable electronic database system. The database would allow systematic analysis in order to gain knowledge about disability rehabilitation and independent living research being conducted by members of the committee and other Federal departments and organizations. The group discussed how the ICDR might build upon the existing Federal RePORTER developed by NIH.

- The database needs to be useful to multiple agencies, and minimize data points.
- The ICDR should be able to use it to find out what agencies are funding in the priority areas.

- Universal classifications need to be considered so that users can compare information across agencies and databases.
- Currently, there is no funding identified within the ICDR budget to implement the database.

Upcoming Events and Partnership Activities

Disability and Employment Symposium Update

Cherise Hunter, PhD, ICE co-chair, Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP), U.S. Department of Labor

Cherise Hunter, Interagency Committee on Employment (ICE) co-chair announced the Employment Symposium State of the Science meeting, planned for June 24, 2015. The event will explore the interactions among employment research, practice, and policy. It will address how research-based knowledge can affect practice and policy, and how practice and policy can influence research. Federal government representatives, researchers, people with disabilities, employers, and workforce professionals are encouraged to attend. The one-day meeting will take place at the U.S. Department of Labor. ICDR Contract staff will disseminate further details as they are confirmed.

International Disability Research and Programs Status Report

Angelica Herrera-Venson, DrPH, MPH, New Editions Consulting, Inc.

Angelica Herrera-Venson shared an update on the status of the Compendium of International Research and Programs. Herrera-Venson is working on a compendium describing Federally funded international research and programs targeting priority themes from the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The ultimate goal is to target international programs that do not have a specific disability focus, in order to determine if or how they might potentially apply disability-related interests, data collection, or focus.

Herrera-Venson identified a number of international programs and research that involved disability. To narrow the focus, Herrera-Venson identified seven of the 23 “priority themes” under the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities that were most closely aligned with the ICDR scope (accessibility, awareness, data and statistics, decent work, HIV/AIDS, health and mental health). An environmental scan of Federal resources and databases, such as NIH’s Federal RePORTER and Grants.gov, identified research and programs using the following eligibility criteria:

- Funded by a U.S. Federal agency;
- Involves at least one other country outside of the U.S.;
- Active/ongoing outreach completed in 2014;
- Includes all age groups, gender, racial/ethnic groups; and
- Not currently/actively collecting or studying a disability, but has potential to do so.

Herrera-Venson identified 110 grant-level programs, projects, and research studies that met the eligibility criteria. She asked for participant suggestions to identify more eligible programs within the priorities in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with

Disabilities. The ICDR leadership hopes to make the compendium available to ICDR members, stakeholders, and interested parties through an online, searchable database.

Suggestions

- Use the following databases to expand the inclusivity and time range of sources collected:
 - Medline
 - AIDSLINE
 - PsychInfo
 - Cochrane Reports
 - Conference Central
- Perform a pilot search on certain themes and compare the output with topics identified through standard research and key informants.
- Add to the list of seven priority themes: “Information and Communication Technology,” “Education,” and “Community Living.”
- Consider the biases of the search being skewed because the search was limited to English language sources.

Close of Meeting and Adjournment

John Tschida, ICDR Chair

John Tschida thanked everyone for their efforts during today’s meeting and work session. He noted that the ICDR’s future begins with the development of the Strategic Plan and the recruitment of representatives of the new statutory members. He noted that ICDR leadership will send a brief document for attendees to share with their agencies regarding information and expectations of the ICDR. This brief will also outline what the ICDR hopes to accomplish in terms of interagency participation and commitment with the new legislation and the move the ACL.

Adjournment

Action Items

Action Items	Responsibility
Poll the ICDR co-chairs and Statutory Members to determine interest in scheduling the next meeting.	New Editions
Send ICDR co-chairs and Statutory Members a one-page brief on what the ICDR hopes for interagency participation and commitment.	ICDR Leadership

Appendix A

Statutory Members and Co-chairs

- Timothy Brindle, PhD, Scientific Program Manager, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
- Leslie Caplan, PhD, Rehabilitation Program Specialist, NIDILRR
- Alison Cernich, PhD, Director, National Center for Medical Rehabilitation Research
- Susan Daniels, PhD, Director, Office of Autism Research Coordination, NIMH
- Carl V. Hill, PhD, MPH, Director, Office of Special Populations, National Institute on Aging
- John Hough, DrPH, Statistician, DHHS CDC National Center for Health Statistics
- Cherise Hunter, Social Science Research Analyst, DOL/ODEP
- Lyn Jakeman, PhD, Program Director, NIH/NINDS
- Mark H. Leddy, PhD, Program Director, Division of Human Resource Development, Directorate for Education and Human Resources, National Science Foundation
- Kathy McCoy, PhD, NIDILRR
- Harvey Schwartz, PhD, Senior Advisory, Priority Populations, Agency for Healthcare Research & Quality, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
- Cassandra Shoffler, Management and Program Analyst, Rehabilitation Services Administration, U.S. Department of Education
- Katharine Stout, PT, DPT, NCS, MBA, Neuro-musculoskeletal Portfolio Manager, Clinical & Rehab, Medicine Research Program, USAMRMC

NIDILRR Staff

- Kristi Wilson Hill, PhD, Deputy Director, NIDILRR, U.S. Department of Education

Speakers and Guests

- Dawn Beraud, Science Policy Analyst, NIMH
- Greg Brittingham, Senior Consultant with the Performance Management Group at Virginia Commonwealth University
- Angelica Herrera-Venson, PhD, Senior Research Analyst/Project Manager, New Editions Consulting, Inc.
- Kipchumba Kitur, Operations Coordinator, NIMH
- Stephanie Mok, Science Policy Analyst, NIMH
- Shelia Newman, President, New Editions Consulting, Inc.
- Savi Swick, Director, Policy Planning and Research, DOL/ODEP
- Betsy Tewey, Vice President, New Editions Consulting, Inc.

New Edition's Consulting, Inc. Staff

- Cherie Takemoto, MPA, Project Director
- Sadie Hagberg, Standing Committee Coordinator
- Rachel Saenz, Standing Committee Coordinator
- Robin L. Toliver, Conference Manager