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# NATIONAL FEDERATION OF VOLUNTARY BODIES

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*Providing Services to People with Intellectual Disability*

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## **Welcome to National Federation Newsletter Issue 34 - Summer 2011**



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### **Strategic Plan 2011 – 2014**

Following extensive consultation and discussion at Board level, the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies recently completed its work in developing a Strategic Plan to cover the period 2011 – 2014. The Strategic Plan was approved by our Board at its meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> July, 2011. It is informed by a set of Guiding Principles and Core Values and contains five strategic priorities as follows:

1. Provide guidance and leadership to our member organisations in the shaping and implementation of national policy.
2. Consolidate our commitment to continuous quality improvement and innovation.
3. Comprehensively review the funding and financial issues affecting the sector.
4. Deepen our relationship with key external stakeholders in addressing issues of mutual concern in meeting the support needs of people with disabilities.
5. Equip the staff employed, and volunteers engaged, by member organisations with the competencies and skills necessary to implement national policy relating to people with intellectual disability.

Each of the strategic priorities is underpinned by a set of detailed objectives, and comprehensive work plans will be developed over the four year period to implement the Strategic Plan.

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### **National Federation of Voluntary Bodies Elects New Chairperson**



At the inaugural meeting of the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies Board of Directors meeting in March 2011, Mr. Christy Lynch was elected as the new Chairperson. In accepting his new position, Mr. Lynch stated that he was both humbled and honoured to be elected to the prestigious office as Chairperson of the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies and committed himself to working hard in promoting the mission of the National Federation during his two year term of office.

Following the resignation of Ms. Maura Nash and Mr. Wally Freyne, due to their retirement, and the co-option of three additional Board Members, the composition of our new Board is now as follows:

**2 Nominations from each of the Federations Area Committees:**

Dublin Mid Leinster: Christy Lynch (KARE) & John Hannigan (Sunbeam House)  
Dublin North East: Pat Reen (Prosper Fingal) & 1 Vacant Position due to Wally Freyne's recent retirement  
Southern Area: Colette Kelleher (COPE Foundation) & Conor Counihan (St. Joseph's Foundation)  
South East Area: Francis Coughlan (SOS Kilkenny) & Trevor Jacob (CWCW Enniscorthy)  
Western Area: Bernard O'Regan (Western Care) & Winifred O'Hanrahan (Brothers of Charity)

**Co-options:**

- Dublin North East: Ms. Patricia Doherty, St. Michael's House
- Dublin Mid Leinster: Mr. Andy Heffernan, Hospitaller Order of St. John of God
- Western Region: Ms. Patricia Lee, Sisters of La Sagesse
- 2 further co-options to be appointed.

## **National Disability Authority Discussion Paper on Commissioning**

Commissioning of services identifies a process whereby the purchasing body, the HSE in an Irish context, first specifies the services and supports it requires and then procures these services from one or more providers.

The National Disability Authority is currently working on a policy advice paper to Government on this topic. The paper will be informed by an expert seminar which will take place on Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2011 and also by feedback by interested parties. The draft paper has been circulated to Federation members for comments which will form the basis of an overall Federation submission to the NDA. We will also be represented at the seminar on 30<sup>th</sup> September.

## **Mental Capacity Scheme of Bill**

The National Federation of voluntary Bodies will be making a detailed submission to the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform on the Mental Capacity Scheme of Bill which was published by the Department in September 2008. The proposed legislation is of critical importance in the process towards Ireland's ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities. The Federation submission will address all key aspects of the Bill including the area of capacity and sexual relations.

## **National Consultative Fora Update**

The National Federation of Voluntary Bodies is represented on the National Consultative Fora by Mr. Christy Lynch and Mr. Brian O'Donnell.

The National Consultative Fora (NCF) agreed that there would be a single committee across the spectrum of disabilities in each HSE Region. The NCF acknowledged this would be challenging as there were differing priorities across the sector but with the right infrastructure and processes in place a single structure would provide the opportunity to understand and value the different perspectives and enhance cohesion. Mechanisms will be put in place such as Task Groups under the auspices of the Regional

Forum to address specific issues. The Task Group will have clear terms of reference, timeframe and reporting relationship to the Regional Forum.

The NCF agreed the membership as follows:

- Regional Forum will be chaired by the Regional Care Group Lead/Disability Specialist as designated by the RDO.
- 1 HSE representative from the SA/LHO areas involved as designated by the SA Manager
- 1 Intellectual Disability/Autism Voluntary representative (Umbrella organisations would nominate people at this level) from the SA areas involved
- 1 Physical & Sensory Voluntary representative (Umbrella organisations would nominate people at this level) from the SA areas involved.
- 1 Service user representative (families/service users - Umbrella organisations would nominate people at this level).

The Federation will be invited by the HSE to make representations on the Regional Fora and it has been agreed that each of the Area Federation Committees will make these nominations.

It was agreed that service user involvement on the NCF will be addressed through the participation of representatives from Inclusion Ireland, PWDI and the National Parents & Siblings Alliance.

The Congregated Settings Report was published on 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2011, and an Implementation Group is now being established, which the Federation will be represented on. Further data is being collated with regard to the New Directions Report (HSE's Review of Adult Day Services) which in turn will be considered by HSE Board at their meeting scheduled for September 2011.

## The Next Steps Project

The National Federation of Voluntary Bodies is undertaking a project called '*Next Steps*' to identify supports and barriers in the change process as our members move to more individualised service provision for people who use our services. The objective of the project is to create shared learning that will assist Federation members in embracing the radical change agenda envisaged in the new vision for services and supports to people with intellectual disabilities in Ireland. The overall aim of these changes is to ensure that people with intellectual disabilities are supported to live a life of their choosing.

In spite of the economic difficulties which we are all experiencing these are exciting times for people with disabilities, their families and the professional and care staff who support them. Many service providers are reconfiguring their services to provide more appropriate community based supports. In addition the publication of reports on Congregated Settings (June 2011) and Adult Day Services (due September 2011) presents exciting opportunities for all concerned. However an important element in availing of these opportunities relates to how well the transitions to new service options that promote community participation and inclusion are managed.

### **Supporting our member organisations and people who use our services through evidence and shared learning.**

We believe that a key factor in supporting our members in moving to new service options is to provide evidence-based guidance for the change management process required to transform services. To this end the National Federation have established the *Next Steps Project*. During the first phase of the *Next Steps Project* we are examining the support and training needs of a sample of our member organisations as they develop more innovative community based supports.

We are developing supports in response to the needs identified (e.g. shared learning, training, management supports). Federation members are working together in new ways to ensure best value is achieved for the initiatives developed and to ensure a multiplier effect for the learning undertaken. We will evaluate the initiatives undertaken and identify supports and barriers in the change process, in order to share the results of the project with the wider Federation membership and with all key stakeholders nationally.

For further information on The Next Steps Project please contact Alison Harnett, Project Co-ordinator, Email: [Alison.Harnett@fedvol.ie](mailto:Alison.Harnett@fedvol.ie)

**Training and Development**

**SKILL Programme – Value for Money Report:**

In late 2010 a Value for Money review of the SKILL Programme was conducted by Ernst & Young on behalf of the HSE. The findings of this review were recently published and the HSE is now commencing a process of implementing the recommendations arising from the report. As a result of this the SKILL Programme training will not now commence in September (as has been the practice in previous years) rather it is anticipated that the next round of training will commence in early 2012. Organisations who had nominated Support Service Staff / Managers for the next cycle of training should bring this delay to the attention of the relevant staff members. Once clarification has been obtained from the HSE in relation to the revised training schedule / timeframe this will be communicated to organisations. A copy of the Value for Money Report can be obtained by contacting Jillian Sexton – [jillian.sexton@fedvol.ie](mailto:jillian.sexton@fedvol.ie)

**Support Contact Persons Training – Autumn 2011**

The National Federation of Voluntary Bodies is running a number of additional programmes for those who have been appointed as Support Contact Persons under the Dignity at Work Policy. The health service Dignity at Work Policy is designed to prevent bullying, harassment and sexual harassment in the workplace and sets out a procedure for dealing with allegations of bullying / harassment. The National Federation is now running 2 programmes to support those who have been appointed Support Contact Persons as follows:

***The Role of the Support Contact Person:*** This is a further programme for SCP who are new to the role of SCP (i.e. persons who have not previously undertaken training or who did so some time ago) and the programme will run as follows:

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Venue</b>
<b>Monasterevin:</b> Wednesday, Sept. 21 <sup>st</sup> 2011 & Thursday, Sept 22 <sup>nd</sup> 2011.	9.30am – 4.30pm	Conference Room, Sisters of Charity of Jesus & Mary, Moore Abbey, Monasterevin, Co. Kildare.

***Review / Networking Day for Support Contact Persons:*** The Federation is also organizing a 1-day Review / Networking programme for SCPs who have previously completed their training. The main aim of the programme is to provide a networking opportunity for Support Contact Persons whereby they can share their experiences of their role, the issues that have arisen for them and build on their existing skills. The 1-day session will take place as follows:

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Venue</b>
<b>Dublin:</b> Tuesday, September 27 <sup>th</sup> 2011.	9.30am – 4.30pm	Dublin Rape Crisis Centre, 70 Lower Leeson Street, Dublin 2.

The closing date for bookings for both programmes is **Friday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> 2011** and further details can be obtained from [jillian.sexton@fedvol.ie](mailto:jillian.sexton@fedvol.ie)

**Trust in Care - Training for Designated Persons / Train-the-Trainers Programme:**

During autumn 2011 the National Federation will also be arranging training for those who have been appointed as ‘Designated Persons’ under the Trust in Care Policy. In particular we will be hosting a 4-day ‘Intellectual Disabilities & Abuse’ Training of Trainers Programme and on completion of the programme participants will be equipped to deliver training within their respective organisations to frontline staff in the area of abuse. Specific areas to be covered include:

- Defining abuse;
- Managing allegations of abuse;
- Effective policies and procedures;
- Allegations against staff members;

In addition to this train-the-trainers programme we will also be running a complimentary training programme focusing on **conducting investigations**. Full details in relation to these programmes will be available in early September 2011.

**Human Resource Matters**

**Public Service Agreement 2010 – 2014:**

At the recent meeting of National Federation Human Resources Personnel which took place on June 2<sup>nd</sup> 2011 in Stewarts Care Ms. Sheila Tracey, Head of IR/HR - Health, Technology and Finance, IBEC, made a presentation on the Public Service Agreement 2010-2014. The main focus of the presentation was on providing an overview of the PSA - the main themes / opportunities / procedures within the Agreement. A copy of the full presentation is available from the National Federation – email: [jillian.sexton@fedvol.ie](mailto:jillian.sexton@fedvol.ie) .

**Health & Safety / Employee Wellbeing Working Group – Workshop, September 13<sup>th</sup> 2011:**

Health & Safety personnel will have the opportunity to meet again on Thursday, September 13<sup>th</sup> next – the focus of the meeting will be a workshop on ‘Risk Assessments’ and the sharing of information in relation to:

- Risk assessment documentation / safety statements;
- Examples of innovative / best practice;
- How organisations are addressing workplace hazards in their Risk Assessments – with examples under the following categories a) Physical, b) Chemical, c) Biological, d) Psychosocial, e) Mechanical, etc;
- Challenges / difficulties with specific hazards/risks which organisations are experiencing to capture in a risk assessment which they would like assistance with.

**Review of NFVB Vhi Corporate Solutions Employee Assistance Programme (EAP):**

As part of the National Federation Employee Assistance Programme which was negotiated with Vhi Corporate Solutions in 2010 we agreed that there would be an annual meeting to review how the EAP is



progressing and to determine if there were any issues arising for Federation members which needed to be addressed.

A meeting has been scheduled with Vhi Corporate Solutions for late summer and feedback is welcome from agencies that:

- (1) Are currently members of the EAP: Comments in relation to the operation of the EAP and the service which the organisation has received and suggestions / recommendations in relation to the EAP?
- (2) Are **not** currently members of the EAP: While the issue of resources maybe a primary factor as to why organisations have not joined the EAP to date if there are other issues / factors which have resulted in organisations not availing of the EAP to date then we can see if these can be addressed with Vhi Corporate Solutions.

### **Seminar entitled “Towards Personalisation in Disability Support: Lessons for Ireland in reforming the sector”**

The National Federation hosted a seminar on 24 March, 2011 on the topic of personalisation of funding and budgets for people with disabilities in Ireland. Dr. Andrew Power from the Centre for Disability Law and Policy at the National University of Ireland, Galway, provided a very informative presentation that covered the topics:

- Personalisation - what is it?
- Individualised Funding Demystified
- Implications for Providers
- Options and Alternatives for Service Reform

This presentation is available from our website to download – [www.fedvol.ie](http://www.fedvol.ie)

### **Shared Innovative Learning 6: “From the Dinosaur era to the Digital Age”**



*Lisa Domican presenting on “Gracie’s App”*



*Delegates at the Event*

Following on from the Masterclass Series the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies hosted a Sharing Innovative Learning Seminar on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2011 in the Tullamore Court Hotel. The aim of this event was to present mainstream technology that supports people with intellectual disability to lead ordinary lives and also to discover the specialist advances of technology that are going to change the way we live in years ahead. This event was very well attended and the feedback was very positive. The presentations from this event are all available on our website [www.fedvol.ie](http://www.fedvol.ie) for download

## Conference: “*Challenging Times: Ensuring Values Support Ordinary Lives*”



*John O'Brien, Carl Dunst, Kathleen Gittens & Bairbre NicAongusa*



*Delegates at the Event*

The National Federation of Voluntary Bodies hosted a One Day Event on 23 June 2011 to explore the progressive values driving children and adult disability support services entitled: *Challenging Times: Ensuring values support ordinary lives - Exploring Family and Person Centered approaches*. The keynote speakers were: Carl Dunst, John O'Brien and Gerard Quinn.

The conference provided an opportunity to hear from inspiring international speakers on the importance of values shaping disability support services and to debate their relevance for children and adults in Ireland today. The format for the day opened with keynote speakers presenting in a joint plenary session and then divided into separate child & family and adult streams. The conference closed with a joint closing plenary session capturing the common themes and linkages.

You can view the programme of the event and see full details of the speakers and presentations on our website – [www.fedvol.ie](http://www.fedvol.ie)

## Seminar entitled “*Whose agenda for disability research? Participation, partnership and progress*”

On Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> July, 2011, the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies hosted a seminar with Professor Mark Priestley, University of Leeds. Mark Priestley is Professor of Disability Policy at the Centre for Disability Studies at the University of Leeds, and Scientific Director of the European Commission's Academic Network of European Disability experts (ANED), in which he leads a programme of research involving 29 European countries. He is an advisor to the UK Office for National Statistics on the 'Life Opportunities' disability survey and has published numerous works in the field of disability studies, many of them resulting from funded research projects that engage disabled people and their organisations as active participants in the research process. In 2008-9 he was a key partner in the EU-funded project 'European Research Agendas for Disability Equality' (EuRADE), conducted in collaboration with the European Disability Forum.

Professor Priestley's presentation can be downloaded from our website – [www.fedvol.ie](http://www.fedvol.ie)

## Member Organisation's News



### Farewell to Wally Freyne

The National Federation of Voluntary Bodies would like to extend our sincere good wishes to Mr. Wally Freyne, Director of Services, Daughters of Charity Services, on the occasion of his recent retirement. Mr. Christy Lynch, Chairperson, at the July meeting of the Board of the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies expressed his sincere gratitude to Wally for the valuable role which he played over many years as a member of the Board and also as a Federation representative on various Committees / Working Groups. Wally, on behalf of everyone in the membership of the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies is wished many years of health and happiness in his retirement.

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### St John of God Community Services Feature at Biomnis Healthcare Innovation Awards



*Speech and Language Therapist Leigh Hagan (left) & Choices Instructor Mary Walsh accept presentations from Biomnis MD John O'Sullivan & Minister of State, Department of Health, Roisin Shorthall TD.*

Congratulations to St John of God Carmona Services staff whose projects featured at the Biomnis Healthcare Innovation Awards in May. MoneyCounts took the Award in the *Healthcare Technology or Products Innovation* category while Making Waves was a finalist in the *Health & Social Care Support Initiative* category.

**MoneyCounts** [www.moneycounts.ie](http://www.moneycounts.ie). - winner in the *Healthcare Technology or Products Innovation Category* developed in partnership with MABS, (the Money Advice and Budgeting Service) to support people with intellectual disabilities and other vulnerable adults in managing their finances Choices Instructor Mary Walsh accepted the Award on behalf of the project which she co-ordinated with Choices Supervisor Audrey Carroll.

**Making Waves** - finalist in the *Health & Social Care Support Initiative category*  
a multi-disciplinary team approach to hydrotherapy for young children with intellectual disabilities demonstrating improved outcomes for children and families

Speech and Language Therapist, Leigh Hagan, accepted an award on behalf of the project developed in partnership with Occupational Therapist Eimear O'Loughlin and Physiotherapist Sonya Meehan.

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### Sunbeam House Service Users Forum:

The Sunbeam House Service Users Forum was set up early in 2010, it was set up with help from two staff, one independent advocate and 5 clients. What we do is meet up once every month and talk about what we want to see happening in our services. We work with SHS managers (at all levels) to make sure that we are all working together. We work with all the units to help them achieve what they want. We help them with all their rights and we give them feedback when we receive it.

All our decisions are made by a majority vote. We make an agenda every month. Some of the things that have been brought up are a campaign and demonstration to get a bus shelter put up outside Sunbeam House Services, we also had a meeting with Dublin Bus to discuss the issues. We also did a video to help people understand about rights in voting and how to vote and we had an appearance on TV as a result of it. We also had 2 meetings with all Wicklow politicians before and after the elections. We also sent letters to the town council about access to Bray dart station at night and we also got wheelchair access to Finbees and all around Sunbeam House Services. We have planned a visit to the Dail for early September. We would love to hear or work with other groups who want the same goals, so please contact us at Sunbeam House Services Tel: 01-2868451.

*Author Stephen Browne – Self Advocate*

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### ***‘Walkways - Creating pathways to employment for individuals with intellectual disability and complex needs’***

Three organisations, Walk in Ireland (formerly Walkinstown Association), AGORIAD Cyf and Anglesey County Council in Wales formed a partnership called Walkways, whose primary objective is to create pathways to employment for individuals with intellectual disability and complex needs.

The rationale for Walkways is fivefold, firstly to provide an employment service that is person centred and places the needs of the individual at the forefront. Secondly, to support the individual to realise their employment potential. Thirdly, to combat barriers that people with intellectual disability face when trying to participate in mainstream society by providing a pathway towards accessing equal rights to employment. Fourthly, to develop, implement and evaluate a supported employment pathway that enables individuals to be supported in career progression through key transitional phases of their young adulthood. Fifthly, the development of social enterprises whose aim will be to bridge the gap of unmet social needs in each organisations local community while simultaneously creating employment opportunities.

Walkways was successful in securing part funding from the European Regional Development Fund through the Ireland Wales programme 2007–2013 (INTERREG 4A). As a result a 3-year employment project designed to achieve the above objectives commenced in March 2011.



*Liam at work*

For more information: [www.walk-ways.eu](http://www.walk-ways.eu)

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## **"New Beginnings" Art Exhibition - St Patrick's Centre, Dean's Gate:**

St Patrick's Centre, Dean's Gate is an adult service for people with intellectual disability based in Kilkenny City. On the First year anniversary of the opening of our new day service we launched "New Beginnings" Art Exhibition on the 29th of July 2011. The Lord Mayor David Fitzgerald officiated at the opening of the exhibition. Eleven artists exhibited a range of works reflecting their lived experiences. The eleven artists worked closely with the in-house art facilitators Gerri Doyle Ryan and Linda Farnon. The Exhibition was a huge success for the artists with numerous members of the public attending throughout "Kilkenny Arts Week". St Patrick's Centre, Dean's Gate appreciates the support they receive from St Canice's Community, Kilkenny.

### **Websites / Resources**



#### **Citizens Information Phone Service**

***Citizens Information is a free, confidential and independent information, advice and advocacy service. You can drop in to one of our nationwide local centres (see Golden Pages), Lo – Call Citizen Information Phone Service 1890 777 121 or log onto [www.citizensinformation.ie](http://www.citizensinformation.ie)***

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce the Citizens Information Phone Service (CIPS) to you. Whilst CIPS is primarily a Lo- Call phone service, I would like to draw your attention to our new Live Advisor service: [www.ciboard.ie/liveadvisor](http://www.ciboard.ie/liveadvisor)

Live Advisor is an instant chat service operating between the hours of 9am and 5pm (Monday to Friday) which is targeted specifically toward people with hearing and speech difficulties and to others who have difficulty communicating by telephone. CIPS provides information on public services and on the entitlements of citizens in Ireland.

CIPS would like to ask that you host a link to our Live Advisor facility on your organisation's website and bring this service to the attention of your members via email. If you need any further information on the Live Advisor service or the work of CIPS please email [phoneservice.admin@citinfo.ie](mailto:phoneservice.admin@citinfo.ie) and we will be happy to help.

*Citizens Information Phone Service (CIPS) is funded and supported by the Citizens Information Board.*

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#### **World Report on Disability released by WHO and World Bank at the United Nations:**

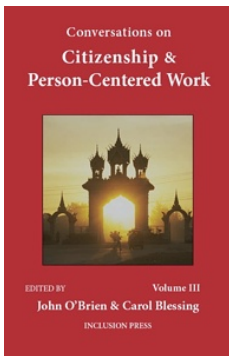
The World Report on Disability has recently been released. It was jointly published by the WHO and the World Bank and its main goal is to provide governments and civil society with a comprehensive description of the importance of disability, rehabilitation and inclusion. It also sets forth recommendations for action to support the implementation of the CRPD.

The full report is available at: [http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2011/9789240685215\\_eng.pdf](http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2011/9789240685215_eng.pdf); while a summary of the report containing the main recommendations can be obtained from

[http://www.who.int/disabilities/world\\_report/2011/report/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/disabilities/world_report/2011/report/en/index.html) (There are easy-to-read, audio, and screen reader compatible formats along with braille versions (English, Spanish and French)).

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**New Publication: Citizenship & Person-Centered Work,  
Edited by John O'Brien & Carol Blessing.**



John O'Brien and Carol Blessing have recently edited a new book entitled 'Citizenship & Person-Centred Work'. The publication contains concise interviews that place person-centered planning and supported employment in the context of community and organizational development and citizenship. A copy of the publication can be obtained from Inclusion Press - [www.inclusion.com](http://www.inclusion.com)

**Events & Dates for your Diary**

***IDS-TILDA 2011 Conference Pre-Announcement – Friday, September 9<sup>th</sup> 2011.***



IDS-TILDA\* will launch its first major report on the lives of people with intellectual disability aged 40 years and over in Ireland as part the study's 2nd International Research Conference to be held in Trinity College Dublin. The report will draw on findings from in-depth interviews with over 700 people with intellectual disability from across Ireland, providing the first comprehensive picture of people's lives across a range of key areas including: health, social, psychological, economic and environmental circumstances. Joining us and presenting papers will be a host of national and international speakers which include:

- Mr. Paul Alford (Ireland)
- Professor Christine Bigby (Australia)
- Professor Heleen Evenhuis (Netherlands)
- Professor Tony Holland (UK)
- Professor Matthew Janicki (U.S.A.)
- Professor Charles Normand (Ireland)
- Professor Gerard Quinn (Ireland)

The study, the Intellectual Disability Supplement to the Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing (IDS-TILDA) is being led by Prof. Mary McCarron, and funded by the Health Research Board and Department of Health and Children.

Conference Website:

**[http://nursing-midwifery.tcd.ie/eventsconferences/ids\\_tilda\\_2011\\_conference/index.php](http://nursing-midwifery.tcd.ie/eventsconferences/ids_tilda_2011_conference/index.php)**

Demand for places at this conference is expected to be high, so early registration is advisable. The conference will take place in the Edmund Burke Lecture Theatre, Arts Building, Trinity College Dublin, Dublin 2. To register your interest and receive updates on the conference please contact: Ms. Jeni Ryan, Tel: (01) 896 3860 / Email: [ryanjen@tcd.ie](mailto:ryanjen@tcd.ie)

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***NDA – Promoting Social Inclusion for people with disabilities:  
National and European perspectives – 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2011.***

The Social Inclusion Division (SID) in the Department of Social Protection, the National Disability Authority (NDA) and the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) are organising a half-day (9.00-12.30pm) national seminar on Wednesday, 21st September, in the ESRI, Dublin.

The programme will review the social and living conditions of people with disabilities and policy responses at national and European levels will be debated. In addition, the seminar will examine labour market barriers for people with disabilities and consider current policies responses to improve their access to employment.

**Aims of the seminar:**

The aims of the seminar are to examine recent findings from national and European research on poverty and social exclusion among this group. These show that people with disabilities have a high risk of poverty, are more likely to be unemployed and are excluded from a range of everyday activities. The programme is designed to provoke thought and debate on the factors contributing to these specific challenges and barriers to social inclusion of people with disabilities. As improving the social situation of people with disabilities is a key theme in the National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2007-2016 (NAPinclusion) and is also relevant to the Europe 2020 Strategy, the debate is timely and topical.

The seminar will provide a platform for the publication of findings from a new study by the ESRI called A Social Portrait of People with Disabilities in Ireland. The seminar will also feature inputs from the ESRI (new research on the social and living conditions of people with disabilities), OECD, Department of Social Protection and the European Commission supported Academic Network of European Disability (ANED) experts. The programme includes a panel discussion with key stakeholders on the way forward. The opening address will be given by Joan Burton, TD, Minister for Social Protection.

Further information on the seminar, including a detailed programme and booking arrangements, will be posted on the NDA's website – [www.nda.ie](http://www.nda.ie)

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**Shared Innovative Learning 7:  
“Effective Participation in Decision Making”- Wednesday, October 5<sup>th</sup> 2011.**

The National Federation of Voluntary Bodies will host the next Sharing Innovative Learning (Masterclass) Event on “*Effective Participation in Decision Making*”, on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2011 from 9.30 am – 4.30 pm in the Tullamore Court Hotel. The keynote speaker will be Rob Greig, Chief Executive of UK National Development Team for Inclusion. Presentations will be made on Participatory Decision Making and the day will provide an opportunity for Sharing Innovative Learning.

Further details & booking can be obtained from our website [www.fedvol.ie](http://www.fedvol.ie) or by contacting Mary or Caroline on (091) 792316.

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**NDA Annual Conference 2011 –  
“People with disabilities participating fully and safely in the community”  
Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup> 2011.**

The NDA Conference 2011 will take place in Croke Park, Jones Road, Dublin, 9:00am–4:30pm, Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> October and the theme will be “People with disabilities participating fully and safely in the community”. Speakers will include:

- Professor Caroline Glendinning, Professor of Social Policy at Social Policy Research Unit at the University of York
- Valerie Bradley, President of the Human Services Research Institute
- Rachel Johnson, Director of Mamre in Brisbane, Australia.

Further information will be available from the NDA shortly: [www.nda.ie](http://www.nda.ie)

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**‘Psychotherapy with People with Intellectual Disability’ – Friday, October 14<sup>th</sup> 2011**

RUA and the Callan Institute are delighted to announce that internationally renowned psychotherapist Valerie Sinason will speak at a conference on ‘Psychotherapy with People with Intellectual Disability’ being held on Friday October 14<sup>th</sup> in Provincial Administration, Stillorgan. Valerie Sinason is a poet, writer, child psychotherapist and adult psychoanalyst. She is Director of the Clinic for Dissociative Studies and specialises in work with abused/abusing and dissociative patients including those with a learning disability. She has written over 12 books and 100 papers and lectures nationally and internationally.

Further details including registration and full programme to follow: Ms. Adrienne Pullen, RUA Administrator, Callan Institute, Tel: (01) 2814139 / Website: [www.ruasiog.ie](http://www.ruasiog.ie)

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**‘CoAction West Cork - Advocacy Conference: Bantry, West Cork  
- Friday October 21 2011**

CoAction West Cork is hosting an advocacy conference in Bantry, West Cork on Friday, October 21<sup>st</sup> 2011. This event is being hosted at the request of self-advocates, who have identified a desire to organise and participate in a professional event that will facilitate discussion and exploration of issues that



affect their lives. The organisers are excited that the conference is taking place at an interesting time in the disability sector; the increasing awareness of the *UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*, the Mental Capacity Bill and the Value for Money Review focus on people having more control over their own supports.

The conference will focus on presentations and participation by self-advocates as well as keynote speakers including Commissioner Patricia T. Rickard-Clarke of the Law Reform Commission who will speak about the Mental Capacity Bill and in particular, the area of Relationships & Sexuality; and a representative from the National Federation of Voluntary Bodies who will focus on the Next Steps Project.

The event will be of particular interest to self-advocates, family members and professionals interested in empowerment.

An application form for attendance at the conference is available to download from the CoAction website [www.coaction.ie](http://www.coaction.ie) or contact Catherine at (027) 50114 for further information.

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***“Mainstreaming Equality: Promoting equality & accommodating diversity in further education, training and labour market programmes” – Tuesday, October 25<sup>th</sup> 2011.***

**Advance Conference Notice**



The Equality Authority is hosting a half day national conference 'Mainstreaming Equality: Promoting equality and accommodating diversity in further education, training and labour market programmes' in Dublin Castle on Thursday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

Implementing equality mainstreaming strategies in the further education and training sector remains a challenge. Building equality considerations into the design and delivery of further education and training provision is essential to ensure that learning opportunities are accessible to all people, taking full account of their diversity. This conference will assist policy makers and practitioners to continue to work towards this by:

- Presenting examples of relevant strategic approaches to developing and achieving equality and diversity in the sector
- Exploring the relevant lessons learned from current practice and identifying strategies for effective equality mainstreaming.

For further information please contact: Stefania Minervino, Development Officer, Equality Authority, 2 Clonmel Street, Dublin 2. Tel: (01) 4173374 / Email: [sminervino@equality.ie](mailto:sminervino@equality.ie)

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***National Advocacy Conference - the Galway Service Users Council***

The National Advocacy Conference is being hosted by the Galway Service Users Council with the theme “*Our Lives, Our Future*”. It will take place on Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2011 in the Radisson Hotel, Galway. For further details please contact Josephine Flaherty: (091) 721492 / Email: [josephineflaherty@galway.brothersofcharity.ie](mailto:josephineflaherty@galway.brothersofcharity.ie)

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## ***Inclusion Ireland – 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary - Art and Poetry Competition:***

Inclusion Ireland is a national organisation promoting rights Independence dignity and equality for people with intellectual disabilities. This year they are celebrating their 50th Anniversary. They are using their anniversary as an opportunity to highlight the achievements of people with intellectual disabilities and the huge untapped potential they have.

Inclusion Ireland is holding an Art and Poetry Competition with a difference - the Art Competition will be adjudicated by two internationally renowned artists, Guggi and Dorothy Cross, who will select 40 to 50 works of art which will then be exhibited as part of the RDS Annual Art Fair in November 2011. Theo Dorgan, the award winning Irish poet, will be adjudicating the poetry which will be exhibited in the National Library in Dublin.

Inclusion Ireland would be grateful and delighted if you would encourage people with intellectual disabilities over 18 to submit their work, based on the theme of "Inclusion" to the competition. All the rules and regulations for the competition are on their website - <http://www.inclusionireland.ie/2011Competitions.asp>.

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## ***Open Training College - HIQA Standards – Training for the Residential Disability Services.***

The Open Training College is to commence offering fundamental training opportunities to support staff in preparation for the implementation of the HIQA Standards.



In a recent survey\* 94% of staff in services for people with a disability indicated a lack of information about the HIQA Standards and a lack of opportunity to discuss them with colleagues. However, the value of the Standards was clearly recognised:

*'It is vital that services for vulnerable people such as people with disabilities are protected by national standards that are inspected.'* (Survey respondent)

The College offers three levels of training to suit your needs, budget and time constraints. Each level, offered ***independently***, or as ***part of a series***, informs participants about vital aspects surrounding the National Qualifications Standards: Residential Services for People with Disabilities. We go where the training is needed, either regionally or within your organisation.

### **■ Introduction to the HIQA Standards (Level 1) – ½ day workshop**

For those wishing to build an essential foundation of knowledge regarding the HIQA Standards, boost confidence and reduce the fear of inspections.

### **■ Exploring the HIQA Standards (Level 2) – full day workshop**

Following on from Level 1, participants at this level will acquire a deeper experience and understanding of the HIQA Standards. Participants will fully analyse and take a detailed look at the 7 Principle Sections to the Standards, learning through simulated inspections and self-assessment questionnaires.

### **■ Managing the HIQA Standards (Level 3) – full day workshop**

Aimed at senior personnel working in residential units such as Service Managers and Heads of Units, this workshop focuses on the additional responsibilities for this group, such as decision-making, implementation, and inspection recommendations.

The Open Training College is a HETAC and FETAC approved specialist provider of professional education and training to staff working in services for people with a disability. We have been steadily growing our courses and reputation since 1992 and now are a well-respected, well-established academic institute of excellence in our field.

Contact Conor today for more information and to reserve your place at the workshops at:

**Tel: (01) 2988544 / Email [cmurray@opentrainingcollege.com](mailto:cmurray@opentrainingcollege.com) /**

**Web: [www.opentrainingcollege.com](http://www.opentrainingcollege.com)**

\*Keating, M. (2010) A Study into how prepared Irish intellectual disability services are for the implementation of the HIQA National Quality Standards: Residential Services for People with Disabilities. Unpublished thesis. MA Public Management. Institute of Public Administration; Dublin.

