



FRIDAY FOCUS

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NYSRA and NYSACRA Keynotes Data Metrics and Performance Outcomes at their Community Integration Leadership Institute

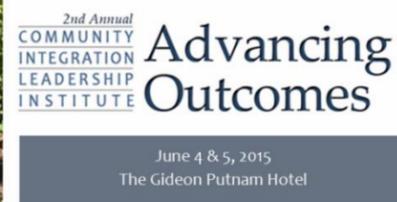
In This Issue
[NYSRA and NYSACRA Keynotes Data Metrics and Performance Outcomes at their Community Integration Leadership Institute](#)

[Wage Board Holds Hearings: NYSRA Members Asked to Present Testimony](#)

[NYSILC Seeks Candidates](#)

On Thursday and Friday, June 4 and 5, NYSRA and NYSACRA co-hosted the 2nd Annual Community Integration Leadership Institute: Advancing Outcomes at the Gideon Putnam Resort. The two-day event included presentations on the value of connecting with DSRIP, coordinating care for individuals with complex needs and other timely and important topics.

Our keynote speaker, Danny Abelson of The Abelson Company offered the audience a leading and thought-provoking look at the realities of data and information. Through compelling stories, Danny pointed out that the data or answers are available all around us if we know where to look and what questions to ask. He challenged us to meet this process head on and not fear it! Part of Danny's message included an idea we are familiar with - coordination of systems. Many other systems including corporate, health, media, etc. are already gathering data and using it to influence their business plans in major ways. It's time for our field to embrace and engage how to not just gather the data but collect the correct data to answer the questions that move our field and services forward to meet the individualized needs of people with disabilities. Michael Seereiter said "The root issue is how to improve the lives of the people we support. It is the core to what leads us!"



Commissioner Kerry Delaney was a panelist on the Institute's OPWDD Transformation "Panelogue" along with a surprise participation of Steve Kroll, Executive Director of NYSARC, Steve Holmes and Clint Perrin of SANYS who are members of OPWDD's Transformation Panel where a honest discussion on the progress of Transformation occurred. The second day, facilitated by Maureen Corcoran, President of Vorys HealthCare Advisors LLC, gave attendees an understanding of the foundational elements of managed care readiness emphasizing the actions provider organizations must take to remain competitive.

Conference goers shared the following perspectives about their experience at the Institute:

"What I enjoyed about the whole thing is it's taking a very complex subject matter and broken it down into sizable bits so we have better tools to understand it" stated Edward Lukomski, President & CEO, Pathways, Inc.

Salvatore Vitti, Chief Executive Officer, PrecisionCare Software stated he *"found this very insightful. It's driving me back to the table to rethink how we do the software. There's a lot more intricate and cost related data that's being collected but not reported right now. I look forward to working with NYSRA members to get what they really need to move into a managed care world."*

Additionally, Russ Hahn, Co-Chair of NYSRA-NYSACRA Managed Care Council & Chief Strategy Officer for the ReHAbilitation Center felt that *"the information that was shared was well targeted, useful and beneficial. I get a sense that a lot of the participants walked away with a better understanding."*

Wage Board Holds Hearings: NYSRA Members Asked to Present Testimony

The Wage Board empaneled by Governor Cuomo last month is holding hearings and receiving testimony regarding a proposal to increase the minimum wage for workers in the food services industry. NYSRA is strongly encouraging members to submit testimony, either in person at one of the upcoming hearings, or in writing (send to wageboard@labor.ny.gov), that reflects the tone/approach taken in [NYSRA's draft testimony](#). Members are encouraged to use any/all of the language contained within NYSRA's testimony, but to also provide some information and perspective from your organization, as well. For a schedule of hearings being held by the Wage Board [click here](#).

NYSILC Seeks Candidates

The New York State Independent Living Council, Inc. (NYSILC) is seeking candidates to fill vacancies and terms on the Council. NYSILC is an independent, non-profit, state council that is required by federal law. Their primary responsibility is to work with state partners to develop, monitor and evaluate New York's 3 year Statewide Plan for Independent Living (SPIL). The council seeks membership with priority given to qualified individuals with various disabilities, further enhanced by diverse cultures, ages, and gender, geographically distributed across the State. Particular categories include parent/guardian, organizations serving individuals with disabilities, other appropriate individuals, and CIL representatives - with one having a working relationship with a Native American reservation. The deadline candidate submission is June 19, 2015. For more information email: bradw@nysilc.org.