



May 25, 2007

Dear Consumer, Provider, and/or Advocate:

We are contacting you to invite you to become part of an exciting new undertaking called "Illinois Service Alternatives Advisory Workgroup (ISAAW)." ISAAW will be a collaborative advisory group consisting of consumers, providers, advocates, and leaders from IL Department of Human Services' (IDHS) Mental Health Division, IDHS' Division of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse, and the Department of Healthcare and Family Services.

We all share an interest in ensuring that mental health and addictions services are delivered to persons that are specific to the needs of the individuals served. There are times when the most appropriate service for an individual is hospitalization. However, there are times when an individual enters a hospital because the most appropriate service does not exist, or is not available. ISAAW's job will consist of identification of new service models for Illinois to consider, recommendations about capacity of existing models, or both

Our task is both simple and large. We will identify service alternatives, or service capacity expansions, that ISAAW members believe should be considered. Once these are identified, active study groups will assemble comparable information about each one. Finally, in what is likely to be a lively and enlightening process, the group will reach consensus on recommendations for Illinois' service system. We anticipate that this process will occur for a variety of types of difficulties that currently result in hospital stays, such as psychotic and affective (mood) illnesses, as well as addictive illnesses that might co-exist with other psychiatric problems.

Obviously, the process described above is not a passive one. We are looking for people who: 1) Genuinely want to make a contribution to our state's available mental health and addiction services. 2) Can commit to an ambitious timetable of meetings (biweekly for approximately 4-6 months), as well as to working on deliverables between meetings. 3) Can enjoy lively discussions. 4) Can start the work in the near future.

Our first meeting will be a face-to-face meeting in Springfield on June 13. The location will be: Illinois Education Association; Professional Development Center; 3440 Liberty Drive; Springfield, Illinois.

This is a project that will be enriched by the expertise and backgrounds of the persons who join it. We hope, in particular, to attract people who are willing to share their perspective of having been, or of currently being, consumers of mental health services. This type of expertise, in particular, is one that we see as absolutely essential. If you would like to discuss participation in this extremely worthy project, we would be very glad to hear from you. Please contact Patricia Reedy at 312-814-2707 by phone or at [patricia.reedy@illinois.gov](mailto:patricia.reedy@illinois.gov).

Sincerely,

Patricia Reedy, LCSW  
Chief Social Worker  
Division of Mental Health

PS – If you are a consumer, arrangements will be made to underwrite expenses related to your participation.

# We NEED YOUR HELP.

**Do you have ideas about what services Illinois should have to help people who experience mental health crises?**

**Would you be willing to share your ideas, have them studied, and help to study others' ideas?**



**If your answer to these questions is 'yes,' please consider joining this project.**

- The Departments of Human Services and Healthcare & Family Services are pleased to announce the formation of ISAAW: Illinois Service Alternatives Advisory Workgroup.
- Participants will study a variety of types of service alternatives in order to make recommendations about what might help people in crises besides hospitalizations.
- This will be a time-limited, team effort, with the potential to impact Illinois' mental health service system for years to come.
- The Workgroup will consist of mental health consumers, community mental health providers, hospital clinicians, advocates, professional organizations, family members, and other interested parties.
- Of all the groups that will be represented on this workgroup, the most important group will be the consumers.
- **We are hoping to have the consumer voice be heard loud and clear in this workgroup.**

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## First Meeting Information

Our first meeting will be in person in Springfield.  
(Many of the rest of the meetings will be by phone-in telecalls.)

**When: Wednesday, June 13  
10:00 AM – 3:00 PM**

**Where: Illinois Education Association  
Professional Development Center  
3440 Liberty Dr.  
Springfield, IL 62704**

Please RSVP by June 8 by doing one of the following:

- Use "fax-back form" if it's available.
- E-mail [patricia.reedy@illinois.gov](mailto:patricia.reedy@illinois.gov)
- Call 312-814-2707.

Questions?: call Patricia Reedy at  
312-814-2707

**Illinois Department of Human Services  
Divisions of Mental Health and Alcoholism and Substance Abuse  
Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services**

**FAX BACK/RSVP FORM**

Please RSVP by Friday, June 8

**DATE**

**Wednesday, June 13  
10:00 am – 3:00 pm**

**LOCATION**

**Illinois Education Association  
Professional Development Center  
3440 Liberty Dr.  
Springfield, IL 62704**

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I will attend the June 13, 2007 meeting

**ORGANIZATION** (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I will not attend, but please keep me on the mailing list

**TELEPHONE** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-MAIL ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ No, I will not attend. Please get me off this mailing list.

**FAX** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please check the description that best describes you. Try to check no more than 2.**

\_\_\_ I am a consumer

\_\_\_ I am a family member or loved one of a consumer

\_\_\_ I'm with IL Dept of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ I am with a trade association

\_\_\_ I am a CMHC provider

\_\_\_ I'm a DASA -contracted provider

\_\_\_ I'm a hospital provider.

\_\_\_ I am an advocate.

\_\_\_ I am an interested party

Please notify Patricia Reedy at [patricia.reedy@illinois.gov](mailto:patricia.reedy@illinois.gov) or 312-814-2707 if you need an interpreter or other accommodation.

**Please complete this form and fax back to Patricia Reedy at 312-814-4832.**

***You may also RSVP by calling 312-814-2707***

## **Illinois Education Association Professional Development Center**

3440 Liberty Dr.  
Springfield, IL 62704

### **Directions**

#### **From the North**

Coming into the Springfield area, proceed south on I-55. Merge onto I-72 W at exit number 92AB heading toward Jacksonville. After 3.4 miles, exit right at Illinois Route 4/Veterans Parkway (exit number 93). Turn right (north) on to Illinois Route 4/Veterans Parkway and go approximately .5 miles. Turn left (west) at Lindbergh Boulevard. Continue on Lindbergh as it winds around and becomes Liberty Drive (approximately .4 miles). The Center is located on the left side of the street.

#### **From the South**

Coming into the Springfield area, proceed north on I-55. Exit I-55 at exit 92AB (I-55 Beltline north/6th Street). Take the I-72 west ramp toward Jacksonville. Merge onto I-72 west. After 3.4 miles, exit right at Illinois Route 4/Veterans Parkway (exit number 93). Turn right (north) on to Illinois Route 4/Veterans Parkway and go approximately .5 miles. Turn left (west) at Lindbergh Boulevard. Continue on Lindbergh as it winds around and becomes Liberty Drive (approximately .4 miles). The Center is located on the left side of the street.

#### **From the East**

Coming into the Springfield area, proceed west on I-72. Take the I-55 south exit towards Jacksonville/St. Louis at exit 0A. Proceed 5 miles south on I-55 south/I-72 west. Take the 92AB exit (I-72) toward Jacksonville and go 3.4 miles west on I-72. After 3.4 miles, exit right at Illinois Route 4/Veterans Parkway (exit number 93). Turn right (north) on to Illinois Route 4/Veterans Parkway and go approximately .5 miles. Turn left (west) at Lindbergh Boulevard. Continue on Lindbergh as it winds around and becomes Liberty Drive (approximately .4 miles). The Center is located on the left side of the street.

#### **From the West**

Coming into the Springfield area, proceed east on I-72. Exit right at Illinois Route 4/Veterans Parkway (exit number 93). Turn left (north) on to Illinois Route 4/Veterans parkway and go approximately .5 miles. Turn left (west) at Lindbergh Boulevard. Continue on Lindbergh as it winds around and becomes Liberty Drive (approximately .4 miles). The Center is located on the left.