

Congratulations to Direct Care Worker/Professional Education Review Committee Members

I am pleased to introduce you to the members of the new Direct Care Worker/Professional Education Review Committee! This committee is important because it ensures that people working in the field of direct care are leading the changes in their profession. The Education Review Committee will serve as an advisory group to a team of people that are developing curriculum and competencies for the new Direct Care Career Pathways.

The Pathways were developed by a group of experts, including direct care workers, at the direction of the Iowa Legislature and in partnership with the Iowa Department of Public Health.

I am amazed and excited about the talent and experience that these six individuals will bring to the work. I want to congratulate and thank them for taking the leap to do this!

And I want to thank all who submitted an application and those who make an effort every day to 'go the extra mile' and make a difference in your profession. We need all of your participation and input – we can't do this without you!

Erin Drinnin

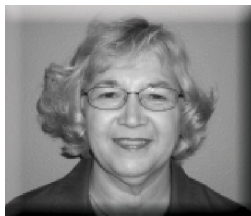
Project Manager
Direct Care Workforce Initiative
Bureau of Oral and Health Delivery Systems
Iowa Department of Public Health
321 East 12th St., 4th Floor
Lucas Building
Des Moines, IA 50319
515-281-3166
1-800-308-5986
Erin.Drinnin@idph.iowa.gov



Erin Drinnin is pictured here with Fran Mancl, member of the DCW Education Review Committee, at one of ICA's recent regional conferences.

State Selects First Direct Care Worker/Professional Education Review Committee

Direct Care Workers/Professionals will, for the first time, play a key role in what the future content of the Direct Care Worker education standards will be in Iowa. Congratulations to the following who have been selected to serve on this committee.



Connie Brennan

Connie is a Certified Hospice and Palliative Nurse Aide at HCI Care Services in Des Moines (formerly Hospice of Central Iowa), where she has worked since 1993. In 2004, she was presented the very first National Certified Hospice & Palliative Nursing Assistant of the year award by the National Board for Certification of Hospice & Palliative Nurses. With 30 years' experience as a CNA, Connie became a committee member because she believes that the bar for all aides needs to be drastically improved. Connie says, "I believe that with high standard credentials, we will draw high quality workers who will be proud of what they do and we all (patients, families, workers, and employers) will benefit."



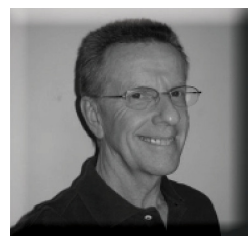
Becky Johnson

Becky has 10 years' home health experience and 30 years total direct care experience. She is currently a Home Care Aide III at Mitchell County Home Health Care/Public Health in Northeast Iowa, where she is a mentor to many of her co-workers. Becky also serves on the Iowa CareGivers Association's Leadership Council. Says Becky, "I'm so honored and excited to be part of the Committee. I hope that through my years of experience I can provide valuable input as we develop the standard credentials and curriculum for the direct care profession."



Stephanie Lange

Stephanie, who is from Dubuque, is a Caseworker for Lutheran Services in Iowa. She provides supports to children who are non-verbal or developmentally delayed and also works with persons who have severe autism or who are behaviorally challenging. Stephanie has a 2-year Associate of Arts Degree in Early Childhood and a 4-year Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Work. Stephanie's agency encouraged her to apply for the Committee. She believes one of the Committee's greatest challenges will be changing the thought that direct care is "only" direct care and creating a value for direct care. Says Stephanie, "After all, if not for the direct care workers, who would provide the very needed services for the people we work with?"



Fran Mancl

Fran has been involved in human services all of his adult life. For the past 15 ½ years, Fran has been employed as a CNA at Stonehill Franciscan Services in Dubuque. Fran has 11 years' experience as a CNA Mentor and has been responsible for helping new CNAs learn about residents and their individual needs, activities, and behaviors. He provides training and orientation to new CNAs and assists with updating the Care Center's mentor training manual. Fran has a BA in English Literature and a Master's of Divinity degree. He has a love and desire for direct caregiving and for offering support to his co-workers. Fran says, "I feel I can offer a male caregiver voice and perspective on the Committee and thus enrich the Committee's efforts and outcome."

State Selects First Direct Care Worker/Professional Education Review Committee (cont.)



Scott McDowell

Scott, who is from Cedar Rapids, is a Direct Care Support Supervisor at REM Iowa Community Services. He supervises the Brain Injury Program and an MR house. Scott is currently enrolled to be a licensed pastor in the United Methodist Church. Says Scott, "My membership on the committee is an opportunity to be a voice for direct care workers and to improve training opportunities in the direct care field." Scott notes that getting everyone on board with the same standards will be an important accomplishment.



Cindy Ramer

Cindy accepted the challenge of becoming a committee member so as to give her input on the needs of direct care staff. Cindy says, "Getting the job needs of the different settings sorted out and determining the training needs for each setting will be a rewarding challenge." Cindy is from Northeast Iowa, where she is a Life Skills Coordinator/CNA at Harmony House Health Care, providing support for individuals with mental and physical disabilities. Cindy served on the Iowa CareGiver's Association's Leadership Council from 2004-2010 and in 2005, received the Iowa CareGiver's Association's Leadership Award.

New State Education Standards Would Eliminate Barriers for Home Care Aides

by Suzanne Zimmerman, Home Care Aide

I'm Suzanne and I've been a Certified Nurse Aide (CNA) for 33 years. I work for Sac County Health Services which is located in Northwest Iowa. I started working in Home Care in 1991, at that time there was not an established license or registry for this profession. Currently there is not a way for me to become registered on the state's Direct Care Worker Registry. I have been working for 20 years in this position, however, I would be required to take the CNA test again and work one 8 hour shift at a Nursing home. This regulation is a barrier for Home Care Aides in the state. Home Care Aides need to be on the registry to ensure their future employment opportunities in other care settings. The duties of a Home Care Aide are the same as a CNA in the Hospital or Nursing Home but take place in the home setting. Home Care Aides receive competency testing of all their skills and receive close supervision by Registered Nurses.

I think the State is doing a wonderful job with establishing consistent education standards for all direct care workers in every setting, but we need to change the regulation to include Home Care Aides.

E-Updates are THE SOURCE for news on the Direct Care Workforce Initiative. These updates are the only source of news and information about the Direct Care Workforce Initiative to improve direct care worker training and education in Iowa. The Direct Care Workforce Initiative is led by the Iowa Department of Public Health.

Stay informed about what the State is doing to address direct care workforce issues by signing up for the Direct Care Workforce Initiative E-Updates by contacting Jennifer Furler at jfurler@sppg.com.