

Volume 31, Number 8, October 2006

Newsbreak

A publication of the Illinois Association of Rehabilitation Facilities, Inc.
Important information for MH and DD professionals.



**2.2 million people
deserve to be heard –
“One Illinois”
delivers the
message**

**Governor Rod
Blagojevich (D)**

**Treasurer Judy
Baar Topinka (R)**

**Richard
Whitney (G)**

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Newsbreak Magazine October 2006

From The President

Election Day is less than a month away.....seems difficult to believe that it's been four years since we last elected a governor in Illinois. This issue of *Newsbreak* is dedicated to the election, and its intent is to educate and advocate for your involvement in the process. The umbrella campaign, titled One Illinois and spearheaded by the

Association, is a coalition of advocacy and trade associations that are involved in disabilities work. We do not endorse candidates, but we do attempt to learn what the candidates think about the issues that are important to our industry. To summarize from an IARF document:



Brian Allen
IARF President

What do we want? The One Illinois campaign is calling on all the gubernatorial candidates to adopt our platform, which will provide the needed supports and services to assure equal opportunity for persons with disabilities and mental illness to live, learn, work and recreate in the community. You can view this platform at www.oneillinois.info.

So what should we be doing to ensure that our voice is heard?

Well, first and foremost, VOTE. Encourage your staff, clients and Boards of Directors to register and vote. Some other key suggestions include:

1. Make sure your internal communications – newsletters, websites, intranet, etc. educate staff and clients about the registration process – it has changed. For instance, early voting is now allowed between October 16 and November
2. Schedule events with local legislative candidates at your organization.
3. Attend a debate between the gubernatorial candidates and educate yourself on issues of importance to you and the state as a whole.
4. Highlight the needs of your agency and the industry through editorials to the local press, interviews with media, and presentations to local clubs – use personal stories from the people you serve!
5. Don't copy letters verbatim from the website, but use them as a model to put your thoughts into a personalized message.
6. Participate in IARF and One Illinois activities – you'll be hearing from the coalition weekly (or more) over the next weeks.

There is a harsh reality in politics and that is if you don't belong to a constituency that is viewed as involved and influential, your issues are often ignored or drowned out by other, more organized groups. We have huge voting numbers in the community serving persons with disabilities – staff, clients, boards, vendors, concerned citizens – thousands who believe in what we do and the needs of the persons we serve. Yes, they also have other issues dear to them, but most people want to know that the most vulnerable of our communities are served well. I believe that is true of candidates – they just need to be reminded occasionally.

By the time I write again, we will have elected a governor, there will be substantial change in the House and Senate at the federal level, and the Illinois House will have new members. Will we have made a difference? I believe that depends on what each of us has done and will do to ensure that our message is brought forward – clear and concise – what it is we want, why it's important and why a candidate should support the One Illinois platform. Be respectful, be accurate, but above all, be involved.

Brian

From The Executive Director



Janet S. Stover

The One Illinois campaign has been an education for me – which proves that you are never too old to learn. When we started talking about the gubernatorial elections this year and the need to put community services into the discussions, I knew that we were biting off a lot. As I've related to members in updates at meetings of the membership, the process along the way has been fascinating. For instance, when we asked our political pundits to review the platform, the questions they asked and the notes they made ranged from simple to complex. *You need to write out what the acronym IARF means. Why would I as a candidate want to support this platform; what's in it for me?* It's been good for me to have to defend the issues – not because I don't believe they are valid but because it has honed our message.

Working with our media consultant has opened my eyes to a world that's new and different. Typically, my interaction with the press is on a particular issue – usually funding and why we need more. During an election cycle the perspectives are different, as nearly everything relates to a position or project announced or sponsored by a candidate. But it has also taught me new ways to bring the message into a conversation and the genius of the campaign theme – you can't talk about education, jobs, housing, health care and human rights without talking about community services – has given me a number of opportunities to weave the campaign goal into many conversations.

The effectiveness of the website (www.oneillinois.info) has been amazing as well. We have hits on the site daily, and each day someone new signs up to receive more information about the campaign or to download information. I encourage each of you to go to the site often and keep up to date on what's new. I also encourage you to post information about the website and have your staff and consumers sign up on the site. In these last few weeks before the election, every chance we get to bring our issues to the media, local groups, and interested citizens is critical. If the candidates are going to pay attention to our issues, they are going to have to feel the watchful eyes of 2.2 million voters.

The One Illinois campaign will live on beyond November 7. After the election, it's almost as if our work will begin all over again. We must hold the next governor accountable for statements made during the election, and we will need to press the newly-elected governor to take up the issues as priorities in his/her administration.

The campaign swings into high gear in these last few weeks and our grassroots teams will be working hard to keep the message in the public's eyes. Your involvement is very important. The media is the pressure point now and stories about your work and the challenges faced in supporting individuals with disabilities are extremely important.

Our goal is to get the candidates to state their position on our issues. Our ultimate success will be sending informed voters to the voting booths on November 7. I urge you to stay involved – or get involved – in this One Illinois campaign. It's about the future of community services and supports...it's about the future of those you serve.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janet S. Stover". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned in the lower right quadrant of the page.

FOREWORD

The Association asked two election experts – Mike Lawrence, Director, Paul Simon Public Policy Institute, SIU Carbondale and Dr. Ronald Michaelson, former Executive Director of the State Board of Elections and currently Visiting Professor of Political Studies at UI-S – to share their thoughts on the upcoming election with our membership and here's what they had to say.

Mike Lawrence

This is one of the most important gubernatorial elections in recent Illinois history. A deficit-dogged state is facing major funding challenges in the areas of education and human services. There has been no moment when the need for strong, conscientious, straight-forward leadership has been more urgent.

Illinoisans should make sure they vote, but they also should take extra steps to inform themselves. Newspapers throughout the state have explored the candidates' positions. Many interest groups have questioned them. Much of the material is available on the web sites of newspapers and various organizations and associations throughout the state. All of us owe it to our kids, grandkids and the most vulnerable of our citizens to go beyond TV ads, the platitudes, the empty rhetoric, the attacks and the eight-second sound bites. We need to understand the priorities of the candidates and how they would meet them.

Dr. Ronald Michaelson

Democratic Governor Rod Blagojevich is attempting to do something that hasn't been done in Illinois since 1964 – become the first Democratic Governor to successfully seek re-election. Since Otto Kerner's re-election in 1964, the Democrats have held the Governor's Mansion only for a single term – Dan Walker (1972-76). The year 1976 marked the beginning of a long Republican domination of the office which lasted 26 years, only broken when Blagojevich was elected in 2002.

The chances that the Democrats will retain the office for another four years appear good at this writing, but Illinois politics is noted for its surprises. For example, the recent federal indictments of close associates to the Governor have added a wild card to the race, and it is difficult to predict the extent of the damage to the Governor's reputation. But it is clear that damage has been done. State Treasurer Judy Baar Topinka is the GOP candidate, and this is notable as it is the first time the Republicans have nominated a female for the office. In fact, Illinois has never had a female governor, and the Democrats only once nominated a female for the office, Dawn Clark Netsch in 1994, and she was trounced by incumbent Governor Jim Edgar.

The current campaign has featured an extensive amount of negativity as the Governor, who holds a massive fundraising advantage, has spent millions attempting to tarnish Topinka's image. He has hammered away at the negative legacy of former Governor George

Ryan, recently convicted of several felony charges, and has tried to tie Topinka to Ryan. At the same time, Topinka has blasted the Governor's claim as a true reformer, noting the presence of several active federal investigations into state hiring practices during his first term. While both candidates have advanced proposals for substantive changes in a number of areas, so far the negativity has seemed to drown out these more positive messages.

The campaign has featured the emergence of a new party, the Green Party, with its gubernatorial candidate Richard Whitney. The Green Party successfully met Illinois' rigorous ballot access requirements for new parties and also fought back a challenge to its place on the ballot, largely supported by Democratic Party adherents. Whitney's campaign has been largely positive, focusing mostly on programmatic proposals while avoiding constant attacks on his other opponents. New parties historically have not done well in Illinois, and absent a strong funding base, it is difficult to argue they will play a determining role in this election.

In fact, the Green Party so far has not been able to claim a seat at the debate table. Last summer it appeared that many gubernatorial debates were likely, with the Governor boasting that he would prefer a dozen debates throughout the state. Since Topinka appeared willing to join, many observers were cheered with the prospect of major issues being debated throughout the campaign. Not only has the Green Party been excluded, but suddenly the candidates, and particularly the Governor, have lowered their sights markedly. Although Topinka is clamoring for more, it appears there will only be two additional statewide debates, and this is disheartening to many.

Of course, in any election, voter turnout is crucial. It remains to be seen to what extent voters will be turned off by the tenor of the campaign and thus not bother to vote. Since there are no other "higher" offices on the ballot (President, U.S. Senate), the Governor's race gets top billing. But the rhetoric will heat up as we get closer to the election, and it appears neither candidate will do anything but campaign vigorously to the end.

Will Blagojevich persevere and win re-election, something the Democrats have not done since 1964? Or will Topinka rally and send the Governor packing after a single term? We'll find out shortly! In the meantime, resolve to exercise your franchise and vote on November 7!

COMPARISON OF THE CANDIDATES' POSITION ON HEALTHCARE, EDUCATION, JOBS, HUMAN RIGHTS AND HOUSING

By Lora McCurdy, Senior Government Issues Analyst, and Heather Eagleton-Helmy, Government Issues Analyst

HEALTHCARE

BLAGOJEVICH:

- Expanded health care coverage for women, seniors and children during his tenure – he has made healthcare his top priority as Governor. The expansion of FamilyCare, the creation of Illinois Cares Rx for Seniors, and the implementation of the “All Kids” Program, which makes health insurance available for all children regardless of their family income, are examples of the Governor’s prioritization of healthcare.
- The Medicaid payment cycle has been reduced under the Governor’s tenure – from 125 days to under 50 days for **selected** Medicaid vendors. The Governor targeted a 30-day or less payment cycle for physicians participating in the All Kids Program. In addition, in FY 2007, the payment cycle was reduced to no more than 60 days for all “clean” claims by participating physicians who serve people receiving Medicaid.
- The Hospital Assessment Program, supported by the Administration, has provided additional funding for the hospitals. The legislative intent of the Hospital Assessment Program is to also provide additional funding for community disability services, address the Medicaid backlog, and additional funding for nursing home providers.
- Supports state funding for stem cell research. He has directed \$15 million in state funds over the past two years for stem cell research.

TOPINKA:

- Supports the efforts to expand health care coverage to uninsured children; however, she is recommending

that there be an income cap of \$100,000 to be eligible to participate in the program.

- Supports block granting the Medicaid program; reducing the growth in Medicaid spending by \$2.9 billion and as a result paying Medicaid vendors in a timely manner.
- Plans to launch a “Healthy Babies” campaign to better serve expectant mothers and ensure more children are born healthy and tighten eligibility for the Medicaid program.
- Supports state funding for stem cell research; however, she supports a transparent process to determine funding level.

WHITNEY:

- Advocates for a single-payer health insurance system that would allow individuals to choose their own provider and services and would be run by the government.
- He is not interested in trying to fix All Kids. He does not support patchwork “solutions” to the healthcare crisis – a program for poor kids, another one for middle-income kids, another one for veterans.
- Does not support reducing eligibility for Medicaid services. He plans to address the Medicaid backlog in payments by generating more state revenue.
- He supports consulting the medical research community to determine whether stem cell research should be funded with state dollars.

Facts to consider:

- According to Dan Long, executive director for the Government Accountability and Forecasting Commission, the timeliness of payments to providers is cyclical. The administration has shifted the priority of paying other bills to the Medicaid program in order to shorten the payment cycle. The rainy day fund is the fund used to pay Medicaid bills, and as that gets tapped, the payment cycle will go back up.

According to Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services spokesperson Amy Rosenband, “We’ve brought our Medicaid backlog down to \$1 billion.” The current Medicaid payment cycle is 47 days on average. As of Friday, October 6, the backlog was \$977 million, of which \$375 million was more than 30 days old. Source: *The Southern and Bloomington Pantagraph*. The 47 day payment delay does not include time for the Comptroller to process payment.

- According to a forecast by Illinois Comptroller Dan Hynes, the growth rate for Medicaid – its expanded programs coupled with deferred liabilities – would consume at least 5 percent more per year. Dollar for dollar that growth would be \$250-\$275 million more per year.

EDUCATION

BLAGOJEVICH:

- Increased funding for schools by \$3.8 billion during his tenure; introduced the Universal Preschool legislation this past session; reformed the Illinois State Board of Education by stressing more accountability and streamlining rules and regulations; and changed the composition of the Board through his own appointment of seven new members.
- Proposes to continue increasing funding for schools by \$6 billion over the next four years through selling or leasing the state lottery. Additionally, he has proposed \$1.5 billion for new school construction.

- Proposes to help schools afford special education teachers.

TOPINKA:

- Plans to increase funding for education through awarding the state’s now unused tenth casino license to the city of Chicago and by letting existing Illinois casinos add slot machines and table games. A significant portion of the \$8.2 billion generated through the expansion of gambling would be used to increase funding for education. Topinka also wants to implement a \$2.4 billion two-year freeze on property taxes. She plans to increase funding for school construction by \$3 billion, and her plan expands early childhood education (3-5 year olds). Additionally, Topinka plans to restore the independence to the State Board of Education.

- Proposes to double the reimbursement rates for special education. The state reimbursement rates for special education teachers and aides hTNEYve not been raised since 1985. Additionally, she has proposed to substantially increase the state’s investment in children’s mental health initiatives.

WHITNEY:

- Supports legislation (House Bill/Senate Bill 750) that would raise the state personal and corporate income tax, expand the sales tax on certain services, and reduce school districts’ reliance on property taxes. Whitney opposes gambling expansion and he opposes selling or leasing the state lottery to provide funding for education.
- Under HB/SB 750 the state would assume 51% of the cost of funding education (the national average) and the education Foundation Level would be increased by more than \$1,000 per child. Under this approach, Illinois would gain more school funding fairness, narrowing the gap in school funding.
- Supports efforts to consolidate school districts.

Facts to consider:

- Illinois' General Funds education spending increased from \$4.1 billion in fiscal year 1997 to \$6.8 billion in fiscal year 2005 (an increase of 66%), while the share of the total General Funds state budget spent on public education increased by 3.4 percentage points during the same period. However, from a local school district perspective, the state contribution towards total local district revenues only increased from 32.7% to 33.8%, and that ratio actually declined over the past three years. *Source: Illinois State Comptroller.*

- For the 2004-2005 school year, local revenues from property taxes provided \$11.5 billion or 55.5% of total revenues while state sources provided just under \$7 billion or 33.8% and federal sources contributed \$2.2 billion or 10.7%. *Source: Illinois State Comptroller – Fiscal Focus. The national average of state revenues used for education funding is 51%.*

- Illinois ranks 47th among the 50 states in the amount of funding provided for education. State funding in Illinois covers on average just 36 percent of the cost of educating a student, far less than the national average of about 50 percent.

- After adjusting solely for cost increases caused by inflation from Fiscal Year 1995 to the current Fiscal Year 2006, Illinois state spending has declined on all public services other than education, healthcare and the pensions. *Source: Center for Tax and Budget Accountability.*

JOBS**BLAGOJEVICH:**

- Supported raising the minimum wage from \$5.15 an hour to \$6.50 an hour – impacted 450,000 individuals. Additionally, he promoted equal pay for women.
- Since January 2004, Illinois has added more than 115,000 jobs.

- Instituted a number of fee increases on the business sector during his tenure.
- Proposed a \$2 billion plan to create 230,000 jobs by rebuilding Illinois' roads, bridges and schools.
- Promised to raise the minimum wage to \$7.50 if re-elected.
- Floated a plan to use the state's natural resources to provide energy. He estimates it would create 10,000 permanent jobs and 20,000 construction jobs.

TOPINKA:

- Proposed to disband the current economic agency – the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity and launch the “Illinois Jobs Partnership.” The focus of the Partnership will be jobs creation.
- As State Treasurer, doubled the resources for banks to help businesses in local communities through the State Treasurer's Economic Loan Program (STEP), which deposits state dollars into local financial institutions that agree to loan money at below market rates to businesses creating jobs and growing the Illinois economy.
- Like Blagojevich, Topinka's plan calls for the creation of manufacturing jobs. A Manufacturing Jobs Tax Credit would be created for adding manufacturing jobs to the workforce as well as creating a state-wide Enterprise Zone for manufacturing jobs. The tax credit related to manufacturing would provide companies that keep existing jobs for at least five years or create new ones with a tax break worth 5 percent of the wages associated with those jobs.

- Opposes raising the minimum wage.

WHITNEY:

- Proposed a ten-point plan – Creating Good Jobs for All. The concepts included in the plan are: renovating our infrastructure – similar to Blagojevich's Capital Jobs Plan; building new, high-speed rail systems; improving energy conservation; supporting the development of clean, renewable energy; supporting small

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businesses – for real; promoting capital improvement and public works; creating more, better-paying social service jobs (Whitney speaks to how understaffed Department of Human Services is currently); raising the minimum wage to \$7.50 an hour; passing a living wage law; making corporations accountable and encouraging other forms of business ownership.

- Supports reducing or eliminating some taxes levied against small business owners.

Facts to consider:

- Illinois' current unemployment rate – as of August 2006 – was 4.7%. The national unemployment rate for August 2006 was 4.7%. The Illinois economy expanded by 4,600 new jobs in August 2006 according to data released by the Illinois Department of Employment Security. Total job gain this year (2006) now stands at more than 75,000 jobs.

HUMAN RIGHTS

BLAGOJEVICH:

- Signed into law a bill to expand the civil rights enforcement powers of the Office of Attorney General. Specifically, the law authorizes the Attorney General to file civil action suits in the name of the people of Illinois for pattern and practice violations of civil rights laws under the Illinois Human Rights Act.
- Additionally, signed into law a bill that protects Illinoisans from discrimination based on sexual orientation.

TOPINKA:

- Was the first statewide constitutional officer to add “sexual orientation” to her office’s non-discrimination employment policy. She secured \$10 million in low-interest loans to finance the Center on Halsted, a community center in a predominantly gay neighborhood in Chicago. She strongly opposes a constitutional amendment on gay marriage, both at the state level and federally, but she supports civil unions and

supported the Employment and Housing Non-Discrimination Act.

WHITNEY:

- Supports gay and lesbian couples having the right to marry. Additionally, he supports providing same-sex partners of executive branch employees the same benefits as partners of heterosexual employees and he would work to expand such protections to the people of Illinois through legislation.
- Supports the Illinois Department of Human Rights (IDHR) becoming a more pro-active investigatory agency. He recommends that IDHR have well-trained field investigators and “testers” for race and other forms of discrimination to actively ferret out discrimination by lending agencies, real estate agencies and landlords, as well as other places of public accommodation and employers.

Facts to consider:

- Human rights issues also relate to people with disabilities. A housing study released by HUD in 2005 found that people with disabilities face more discrimination in the Chicago area rental market than African Americans and Hispanics. In order to be successful in integrating Illinois’ residents with disabilities into the community, state political and departmental leaders need to recognize that anyone can live successfully in the community, and then make the controversial political choices to make this happen. According to Equip for Equality, an important factor in the successful closing/downsizing of state-operated institutions is a governor’s commitment to take a strong, sometimes unpopular, stand to implement the process and legislators’ willingness to provide fiscal support.

HOUSING

BLAGOJEVICH:

- Signed into law the Comprehensive Housing Planning Act, which transforms Illinois’ existing housing planning requirement by making it a permanent measure. The law identified six priority populations

for planning purposes – low income people with disabilities, homeless people and those at risk of becoming homeless were among those identified as priority populations.

- Signed into law the Location Efficiency Incentive Act, which provides incentives for businesses that locate in areas with affordable housing and access to public transportation.
- Created Illinois' first statewide affordable housing taskforce and extended the Illinois Affordable Housing Tax Credit for an additional five years. Blagojevich has scheduled the first annual Governor's Conference on Affordable Housing for mid-October 2006.
- Created the new I-LOAN mortgage and I-LOAN certificate program that increased homeownership production 85% since 2003, from \$125 million to \$224 million in 2005.
- Supported increased funding for services in supportive housing projects every year to \$13.84 million in FY07 to provide a home and support to almost 2,000 additional persons with a mental illness or formerly homeless individuals and families.

TOPINKA:

- As Treasurer, leveraged the state's investment funds to pay for programs such as Our Own Home Program – which helps people with less than perfect credit buy a house, prevents them from losing it and protects them from predatory lenders.

WHITNEY:

- Supports the restoration of funding to the Department of Human Services, the Office of State Guardian and the Guardianship and Advocacy Commission to expand community support services for the mentally ill and developmentally disabled.
- Supports being more proactive in increasing the stock of low-income housing and homelessness prevention. He does not view affordable housing as being in a vacuum. Whitney supports affordable hous-

ing being an integral part of the “smart growth” urban planning policies that need adoption.

- Proposes a comprehensive program to expand economic opportunities that includes more and better public works programs, new industrial jobs in an expanding clean energy sector, single-payer universal health care, and raising the minimum wage.
- Whitney also supports greater state support to expand the stock of affordable housing, with an emphasis on programs that promote home ownership.
- Supports the development of an action plan to address Illinois' lack of compliance with the Olmstead decision. Specifically, Whitney supports an action plan that would attain compliance and ensure adequate, community-based residential homes where each resident would have his/her own room and a modicum of privacy. He supports the passage of HB/SB 750 to generate revenue to address this issue. He does not believe that budgetary constraints are an excuse for not complying with the law (Olmstead).

Facts to consider:

- Over 10,000 individuals have been identified as needing supportive housing in Illinois. Public schools in Chicago alone are serving 3,000 more homeless children. Last year, well over 17,000 households needing emergency assistance to prevent homelessness were turned away, and thousands of households remain on waiting lists of subsidized housing. Yet, the Illinois Department of Human Services received a reduction in federal funding and cut \$1.8 million from homeless service programs, including shelter beds outreach, and drop-in services. *Source: Chicago Coalition for the Homeless.*

PROFILES OF THE GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATES

Rod R. Blagojevich



Current Elected Office: Governor

Party: Democrat

Education: JD, Pepperdine University School of Law, 1983
BA, Northwestern University, 1979

Professional Experience: Assistant Cook County State's Attorney, 1986-1988
Attorney, Private Practice, 1984-1986

Political Experience: Governor, State of Illinois, 2003 – Present
Representative, U.S. House of Representatives, District 5, 1993-2003
Representative, Illinois House of Representatives, District 33, 1993-1997

Organizations: Former Member, Chicago Bar Association
Chicago Historical Society
17th District Advisory Committee
Illinois Bar Association
Independent Voters of IL Independent Precinct Organization (IVI-IPO)
Lincoln Park High Boosters
Personal Political Action Committee

Judy Baar Topinka



Current Elected Office: Treasurer

Party: Republican

Education: BS, Northwestern University Medill School of Journalism, 1966.

Professional Experience: Journalist
Founder, Public Relations Firm
Public Affairs Executive, American Medical Association
Public Relations Advisor, Various Political Candidates and Organizations

Political Experience:

Treasurer, State of Illinois, 1994 – Present
Senator, Illinois State Senate, 1984-1994
Representative, Illinois House of Representatives, 1980-1984
Chair, Illinois Republican Party

Organizations:

Member, Chicago Council on Foreign Relations
Member, City of Chicago Government Finance Officers Association
Former President, Midwest Region of the National Association of State Treasurers
National Conference of State Legislators
Treasurer, National Association of State Treasurers
Member, West Suburban Chapter of the Alpha Gamma Delta Sorority
West Suburban Chiefs of Police Association

Richard J. Whitney



Current Elected Office:

None

Party:

Green

Education:

JD, Southern Illinois University, School of Law, 1996
BA, Michigan State University, 1977

Professional Experience:

Partner, Speir and Whitney, 1997-Present
Journalist, 1981-1993

Political Experience:

Chairman, Platform Committee, Illinois Green Party, 2000-2002, 2005-Present
Candidate, Illinois State House of Representatives, District 115, 2004
Chairman, Shawnee Green Party, 2002-2004
Candidate, Illinois State House of Representatives, District 105, 2002

Organizations:

Legal Chair, American Civil Liberties Union, Southern Illinois, 1999-Present
Member, Jackson County Bar Association, 1997-Present
Member, Illinois State Bar Association, 1997- 2000

GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATES RESPOND TO IARF QUESTIONNAIRE

Editor's note: IARF staff forwarded a questionnaire to Gov. Rod Blagojevich, Judy Baar Topinka and Richard Whitney. Following are the questions and the responses that were received in the order the candidates submitted them.

JUDY BAAR TOPINKA



Leadership

I {X} support { } oppose working with stakeholders to develop a 4-year plan within the first six months of my term with measurable outcomes for improving the community infrastructure so that it may best serve persons with disabilities and mental illness. This includes a commitment to updating the plan in each annual State of the State and funding the plan in the annual Budget Address accordingly.

Answer: This makes sense. As you know, I am the first gubernatorial candidate to prepare a 4-year budget plan, so I believe in thinking long-term. I would direct that a 4-year plan be prepared and I would expect my Administration to involve IARF and community agencies in that planning process.

I {X} support { } oppose initiating and passing legislation with stakeholder input that defines community services for persons with disabilities and mental illness as core and essential. Whereas the community is providing more of the services and supports formerly provided by the state, such a shift should be acknowledged by the state as a clear priority through legislation that states the value of community services and supports for persons who choose to live and work in those settings, with the needed resources following the individual.

Answer: This also makes sense. The state has placed more focus on community services and that should be acknowledged.

I { } support { } oppose establishing a department that focuses specifically on disability services as a state agency to be headed and staffed by people with

relevant experience/expertise, professional training, and contemporary knowledge of services and supports which will efficiently prioritize the needs of persons with disabilities and mental illness. This new department would include developmental disabilities, mental health, alcohol and substance abuse, rehabilitation services, and early intervention services for adults and children. (Candidate did not check box)

Answer: I am willing to give this idea consideration. It has been nearly a decade since the state reorganized its human services agencies and it is time to conduct a review of the reorganization, its effectiveness and alternative structures. We cannot ignore, though, that the state has immense budgetary problems and any reorganization plans must also consider cost implications. The Blagojevich Administration will leave the next governor with billions of dollars in unpaid bills. Rod Blagojevich has also added more than \$15 billion of new state debt during the last four years. I will listen to your ideas about the state's structure for serving human service needs, but the next governor must get the state's fiscal house in order.

Investment

I { } support { } oppose increasing funding for community services 10% every year for the next four years to build the community infrastructure through rates and reimbursement review and enhancement, increases to staff wages and benefits to market levels, and expansion of the system for those who wait. This action will begin to bring Illinois to the median of states nationally in terms of funding for community services. Services are eligible for federal Medicaid matching funds. (Candidate did not check box)

Answer: I am very sympathetic to the need to increase direct support for community services. The state has placed greater pressure on community services, and strengthening local infrastructure is essential. I also understand Illinois is lagging behind other states in support. The Blagojevich Administration has created a mountain of debt and the bill will come due in the next couple of years. Until the state's backlog of bills is paid and the state has stopped borrowing to pay today's expenses, I cannot commit to a specific 10% annual increase for each of the next four years. I will, though, try to find resources to increase annual funding and "catch up" to the support found in many other states.

I { } support { } oppose protecting the capital investments by community agencies to support persons with disabilities and mental illness by providing \$50 M to help fund renovations, upkeep, new residences, equipment, and vehicle needs. (Candidate did not check box)

Answer: I agree with your point and I will seek to find state resources for capital investments for community agencies. I am reluctant to commit to a specific sum of money so long as the state has billions of dollars in unpaid bills and growing debt. I will consider ways to shore up community services and increase state investment in these capital needs. Instead of community services having to fight for "member initiatives" for local capital needs, I would prefer to explore the idea of an annual line item for community capital projects. I would like to discuss this approach with IARF.

I {X} support { } oppose legislation that would provide an annual increase for all developmental disabilities, mental health, alcohol and substance abuse, rehabilitation services, and early intervention reimbursements to keep pace with economic pressures (e.g. Employment Cost Index) and prevent erosion in quality and availability of services and supports.

Answer: I support increasing state support for these services but don't know if it is realistic to expect the legislature to lock in a specific guaranteed

increase. I will pledge to you to make every effort to provide yearly adjustments for these services in my annual budget proposals. I recognize that when the state does not provide annual adjustments, there can be erosion in the level of community support and the quality of services provided. I will also commit to you that my Administration would meet with IARF prior to the annual budget preparation to discuss your fiscal priorities. Rod Blagojevich has not been accessible; I will be accessible to you. The incumbent likes to rule by fiat; I prefer to work with groups and develop consensus.

I {X} support { } oppose appointing a commission within the first six months of my term with representation from the Department, the General Assembly, persons with disabilities and mental illness, community providers, and trade associations to develop rate and reimbursement methodologies that reflect the cost of providing services and supports, recognize individual disability needs, consider geographic differences, transportation costs, required staffing ratios and mandates not currently funded.

Answer: This makes good sense. I will commit to putting such a group together and giving them a charge to examine rate structures, reimbursement methodologies and services which the state does not currently fund. I would hope this group could also look at other issues concerning persons with disabilities and mental illness and not be restricted to finance issues alone. The beginning of a new administration is a critical time for discussing issues, and this panel would be encouraged to present other policy issues and recommendations for consideration. I value the good work of IARF and the community agencies you represent and I would seek your help during the transition period and beyond.

RICH WHITNEY



Leadership

I {X} support { } oppose working with stakeholders to develop a 4-year plan within the first six months of my term with measurable outcomes for improving

the community infrastructure so that it may best serve persons with disabilities and mental illness. This includes a commitment to updating the plan in each annual State of the State and funding the plan in the annual Budget Address accordingly.

Answer: I don't know that it is the place for the Governor to provide a version for persons with disabilities and/or mental illness. That strikes me as presumptuous. It seems to me that the goals and vision have already been largely developed by persons with disabilities and/or mental illness, their family members and advocacy groups, such as your own, and the Illinois Olmstead Coalition and its constituent organizations. I would prefer to work to enact your vision rather than attempt to impose my own. As a candidate of a movement-based party, the Green Party, whose values include respect for diversity and grassroots democracy, this approach seems most appropriate.

As I understand that vision, we want to see an Illinois where persons with disabilities and/or mental illness are provided a greater range of choices about where to live, with a view toward reducing institutionalization, supporting housing and living arrangements in the least restrictive or, where appropriate, unrestricted environments, and providing full, high-quality, individualized assistance to persons who choose a community setting, so that they can thrive in such a setting, and be more integrated into the life of their community – as opposed to being isolated, segregated and warehoused.

I {X} support { } oppose initiating and passing legislation with stakeholder input that defines community services for persons with disabilities and mental illness as core and essential. Whereas the community is providing more of the services and supports formerly provided by the state, such a shift should be acknowledged by the state as a clear priority through legislation that states the value of community services and supports for persons who choose to live and work in those settings, with the needed resources following the individual.

Answer: The state-supported Centers for Independent Living seem to me to be providing quality services and supports, at least for the 24 areas, and specific populations served. This illustrates the positive potential for community-based agencies to serve persons with disabilities and/or mental illness. Generally speaking, community-based agencies will tend to be more responsive to their clients' needs and the input of family members and friends than Springfield- or Chicago-based administrators. Therefore, community agencies should play a central role in the provision of services and supports.

I {X} support { } oppose establishing a department that focuses specifically on disability services as a state agency to be headed and staffed by people with relevant experience/expertise, professional training, and contemporary knowledge of services and supports which will efficiently prioritize the needs of persons with disabilities and mental illness. This new department would include developmental disabilities, mental health, alcohol and substance abuse, rehabilitation services, and early intervention services for adults and children.

Answer: It is indeed troubling that the Department of Human Services covers everything from Community Health and Prevention to HIPAA enforcement to the Office of Hispanic and Latino Affairs. I would rather see such departments relocated to more appropriate agencies, so that the Department of Human Services can be more focused on delivering care to persons with disabilities and/or mental illness, as well as other persons with special, individualized needs.

Investment

I {X} support { } oppose increasing funding for community services 10% every year for the next four years to build the community infrastructure through rates and reimbursement review and enhancement, increases to staff wages and benefits to market levels, and expansion of the system for those who wait. This action will begin to bring Illinois to the median of states nationally in terms of funding for community

services. Services are eligible for federal Medicaid matching funds.

Answer: I am the only candidate in this race who is campaigning on behalf of House Bill 750 – a comprehensive tax reform plan that, among other things, will eliminate the structural deficit as well as allow us to restore some of the devastating cuts in social services that we have suffered over the last several years. By fixing our budgetary problems through this fiscally responsive plan, which involves raising new tax revenue, we will have the income stream that we need to provide real increases in the budget for community-based services.

I also support the Olmstead Implementation Act, and would fight to get it adopted – which would also go a long way in solving the funding problem for community-based programs.

I {X} support { } oppose protecting the capital investments by community agencies to support persons with disabilities and mental illness by providing \$50 M to help fund renovations, upkeep, new residences, equipment, and vehicle needs.

Answer: Plainly, we need to begin by fairly and accurately assessing and inventorying the actual needs and costs of the operations of state-supported community-based agencies, subject to audit, and basing our budgetary plan on those actual assessed needs.

I {X} support { } oppose legislation that would provide an annual increase for all developmental disabilities, mental health, alcohol and substance abuse, rehabilitation services, and early intervention reimbursements to keep pace with economic pressures (e.g. Employment Cost Index) and prevent erosion in quality and availability of services and supports.

Answer: Ideally, we would hope that workers at community-based agencies would have some success in labor organizing of their own, to address this imbalance. Short of that, the state can be proactive and simply emulate the terms and condi-

tions of employment for staff in state institutions voluntarily, by job designation or title.

I {X} support { } oppose appointing a commission within the first six months of my term with representation from the Department, the General Assembly, persons with disabilities and mental illness, community providers, and trade associations to develop rate and reimbursement methodologies that reflect the cost of providing services and supports, recognize individual disability needs, consider geographic differences, transportation costs, required staffing ratios and mandates not currently funded.

Special Report

Following is a letter received by Governor Blagojevich as a response to IARF's questionnaire. The Association will continue to follow up with the campaign for direct responses to the questions.

October 16, 2006

Dear Ms. Stover and Members of the Illinois Association of Rehabilitation Facilities,

Four years ago in the face of a record \$5 billion deficit, I made a commitment to the people of Illinois to provide services in a more efficient and timely manner, to improve services quality, and to control costs. This has not been an easy task but one where I believe that we have made great progress.

I signed a series of laws to protect seniors and persons with disabilities from abuse and neglect. The new laws increase the reporting of abuse or neglect, strengthen the state's investigative powers and help prevent financial exploitation of seniors. I also signed a law requiring criminal background checks for employees at long-term care facilities who have contact with residents, to make our nursing homes safer.

I also helped to spearhead the disabilityworks initiative. I have consistently stressed the importance of opportunity for people throughout the state. I believe that everyone deserves an equal chance and an equal opportunity. The initiative will bring together businesses and service providers to increase the economic and employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

I have also been sensitive to the medical needs of those with disabilities. When the Federal Government passed the Medicare Part D programs that created gaps in coverage, I created the Illinois Cares Rx program to provide these citizens with the prescription drug coverage they need and deserve.

I announced \$28.7 million in new capital projects for the Illinois Department of Human Services. The funds were for construction work to be done at 10 state-operated facilities serving people with mental illness and developmental disabilities. The projects involve making improvements and repairs to both the buildings and their systems.

I have worked hard to reduce the Medicaid payment cycle. I inherited a health care debt of \$2.2 billion and a payment cycle of 125 days from the previous Republican administration. During the overtime session two years ago, the Republican legislators refused to fully fund health care expenditures so an additional \$250 million was added to the debt. I have fully funded Medicaid expenditures in all my budgets since I have been Governor. Despite objections from the Treasurer, I fought to have the General Assembly pass a bill ordering the Treasurer to release funds that she had held up that provided us \$500 million to pay down the state's Medicaid bill. This effort reduced the billing cycle from 79 day to 59 days. Last month, we became the first administration to commit to keeping the payment cycle to doctors below sixty days. We are committed to paying Medicaid providers and providing health care to those who need it.

Treasurer Topinka's Medicaid cut plan would be devastating for the citizens of Illinois. Her proposed \$2.9 billion of cuts would mean that 450,000 children or 275,000 parents or 44,500 persons with disability or 100,000 seniors would be cut off from vital service next year.

Block grants do not make financial sense; they are risky, unreliable and inflexible. The state is reimbursed by the federal government by a 50% match on every state dollar spent on Medicaid. However, block grants do not adjust from one year to the next when prescription drug prices or the cost of medical services increase.

Therefore, when healthcare costs rise, state taxpayers will be stuck making up the difference. Under our current system the federal government shares half of our Medicaid costs. In addition, a block does not increase if there is a slow down in the economy and increased unemployment. A block grant puts pressure on states to cut health care benefits, to no longer provide or cover medicine, to avoid covering the sickest and frailest, as recently seen in Missouri where the Governor cut 90,000 people off the health care roles.

I look forward to continuing to work with you, through the Illinois Disability Services Advisory Committee and other means, so we can build upon the success we've had, to better serve those with disabilities in our community.

Sincerely,

Rod R. Blagojevich

Rod R. Blagojevich



**Donors Forum of Chicago
2006 Gubernatorial Candidate Survey**

Illinois has over 26,000 active charitable organizations serving Illinois' citizens and communities. As a membership association representing more than 1,300 foundations, corporate giving programs, and other nonprofit organizations, the Donors Forum of Chicago strongly believes that foundations and nonprofit organizations, along with government and business, enhance the capacity and vitality of our state. In some ways, government and state legislators make grants to Illinois communities around such issues as education, health care, immigration, criminal justice, welfare, the environment, the arts, etc., much like foundation members. The Donors Forum aim is to find ways to work together, through shared knowledge, information, and resources, towards our mutual goals of strengthening our state, its institutions, and its communities.

The State Budget

Q. Our state continues to face major fiscal constraints. The apparent recovering economy has not relieved pressure on employment, government contracts and human service delivery. What opportunities are there to provide new funds to relieve these pressures?

Gov. Rod Blagojevich: When I was elected governor almost four years ago, Illinois faced a \$5 billion deficit and the start of a recession that would cost us more than 200,000 jobs. By reprioritizing state government, cutting 13,000 state jobs, and closing corporate loopholes I found creative ways to dramatically increase funding for health care, education, and many other programs that help working people. I am committed to continue to find innovative ways to fund important programs. Earlier this year, I proposed leasing or selling the Lottery to dramatically increase education funding in Illinois, while still holding the system accountable. Under my watch, the economy has improved and Illinois has created 118,000 jobs since 2004, the highest job growth rate in the Midwest. Things are getting better but there's still a long ways to go. If I am re-elected, I will continue to find ways to do more for less, to improve health care, increase education funding and support our police and other vital services. I've done it -- and if re-elected will continue to do it.

St. Treasurer Judy Baar Topinka: The best hope is for a better economy and better fiscal management. Illinois is facing difficult economic times and the state's budget mess is getting worse. These problems are not just related to regional or national economic issues. The two central problems are related directly to Illinois and the mismanagement of Illinois state government.

First, the state's economic rebound is weak and is trailing all of our border states. Since January 2003, Illinois is 45th in the nation in its job creation rate – putting us at the bottom, along with Louisiana and Michigan. Every one of our border states has created jobs at a higher rate than Illinois during the incumbent's term in office. This is critical because I believe we have to reverse this trend in order to create more jobs and expand the state's tax base. We must make Illinois a jobs-friendly state.

The second problem is the state's lack of fiscal management. In four years, total state debt has grown by more than \$15 billion. In the next three years, annual pension payments will rise by \$2 billion. Medicaid costs are exploding by \$500-600 million per year and the state's share of education funding is dropping. The Rockford Register Star recently reported Illinois' fiscal problems were the worst in the nation.

If we do not get our budget under control, there will be no new dollars for programs you and I consider to be priorities. We must stop borrowing against tomorrow to pay today's bills, stop raiding pension funds and get Medicaid spending under control.

My approach will be to create an environment that welcomes new business development and encourages job expansion.

Q. As Governor, how will you tap foundation and nonprofit expertise in the budget development process – for example by holding annual budget briefings for the sector early enough to allow time for discussion and input?

Gov. Rod Blagojevich: As you know, the state works closely with a wide range of foundations and other nonprofit organizations to help working families improve their lives. One extension of this close relationship comes when we set budget priorities. I am proud of the opportunities and input that we receive from a diverse group of nonprofit groups to help fund organizations that serve vital programs. I am also willing and happy to meet with groups to discuss their needs and concerns.

St. Treasurer Judy Baar Topinka: As Governor, I will fight to open up the state budget process and involve the public in the development of the budget. The current process has become too secretive and acts to serve special interests more than the general public. State budgets are too important to be hatched by three or five people behind closed doors.

Four years ago, candidate Blagojevich promised to make the state's budget process more transparent. Instead, it has become more secretive, with hidden agreements and hidden money. The budget is not merely a balance sheet; it is a blueprint for the state and a roadmap to its priorities.

I agree with your suggestion there should be budget briefings for the foundation and nonprofit sector. Your organizations should be brought into the budget preparation process and kept informed as the budget is developed. In addition, I have presented a detailed plan for reforming the budget process. I have proposed a constitutional amendment to ensure transparency and time for public scrutiny of the budget.

My initiative is called "Seven Days of Sunshine" because one major provision would provide the public seven days to scrutinize the budget before it could be passed. As Governor, I will throw much-needed sunshine on the budget process, so organizations such as yours can participate and provide input into the budget discussion.

Policy Development

Q. As Governor, how will your administration develop relationships and work with Illinois foundations and nonprofits on state policy decisions that affect the communities served by these organizations?

Gov. Rod Blagojevich: I have worked closely with various foundations and nonprofits throughout my administration. I have worked to identify groups that are stakeholders on policy issues on which I am working and have attempted to include them in the development process. Examples include the drafting of the All Kids legislation, the creation of the Keep Illinois Warm and Cool Programs, and development of the New American immigration initiative.

St. Treasurer Judy Baar Topinka: I will have strong relationships with Illinois foundations and nonprofits. As Governor, I will make it a priority and include the organizations in formulating policies that impact the communities they serve.

To remake government into an instrument that works for people, it is necessary to listen and incorporate their input. I have long recognized the valuable work performed by foundations and nonprofits, and I have worked

to ensure they receive the proper support from government. As State Treasurer, I created the Targeted Initiative Program to provide nonprofit organizations access to affordable capital. The state of Illinois should help organizations that help the state's citizens.

Through your good work, foundations and nonprofits strengthen our communities and enhance the quality of life for Illinois citizens. As Governor, I will continue to support these organizations because I recognize state government cannot be all things to all people and cannot provide all the services people need. We rely on philanthropic organizations and foundations to fill that void.

Q. As Governor, how will you work with foundations and nonprofits to address federal policies that are relevant to Illinois communities, such as immigration, welfare reform, and the impact of the estate tax on charitable giving?

Gov. Rod Blagojevich: I worked with immigrant rights groups to pass the New American initiative and with other nonprofits on the expansion of FamilyCare and KidCare, to provide health coverage for an additional 400,000 working families.

St. Treasurer Judy Baar Topinka: First, I recognize the philanthropic sector is in the trenches every day, working closely with society's most vulnerable citizens. Foundations and nonprofits have a perspective different from that of state and federal officials.

Second, philanthropic organizations have insights about state and federal policies, and state officials should take time to listen to those insights. Foundations and nonprofits understand the everyday needs and challenges faced by the communities they serve. It's just good common sense for government to listen to them.

Immigration policy, welfare reform and taxation impacts on charitable giving are important issues and your organizations have important insights about them. A Topinka Administration will be open to your opinion and will work with you as we formulate state positions on these federal policy issues.

Q. As Governor, how will your office ensure that federal dollars continue to flow to state programs that involve the nonprofit sector?

Gov. Rod Blagojevich: I maintain an active office in Washington, D.C. and have often met with foundation and nonprofits before traveling to Washington to lobby on behalf of the state.

St. Treasurer Judy Baar Topinka: The most effective way to ensure federal funds continue to flow to the state of Illinois is for the state to play a more active role in Washington, D.C. The incumbent governor has not been visible in the nation's capital and his ineffectiveness seeking federal support has been embarrassing.

One critical role a governor plays is to organize the state's federal agenda. A governor must unite multiple players behind a state agenda and then lead. Illinois has great strengths in Washington, and the governor should be using those strengths to benefit the state and its citizens. Instead, the incumbent has squandered opportunities, frustrated lawmakers by not showing up to meetings and failed to lead. As Governor, I will work to restore our relationship with the Illinois congressional delegation and with policymakers in Washington.

Part of the Illinois agenda should be to secure federal dollars for programs in which the nonprofit sector is involved. I understand the importance of these dollars to the nonprofit sector and the people they serve.

Government and the Sector Working Together

Q. As Governor, how will you work with the Donors Forum to identify leaders in the philanthropic sector to serve in your Administration as appropriate?

Gov. Rod Blagojevich: I will continue to solicit the recommendations of the Donors Forum and other community-based groups in order to identify the most qualified candidates to help serve in my administration.

St. Treasurer Judy Baar Topinka: As Governor, I will work with the Donors Forum to ensure that the philanthropic sector has a strong voice in my administration. I will tap leaders from many fields – from education, the world of business, foundations and nonprofits – to build an administration that can move this state forward.

An administration is only as good as its people. I value quality staff and will recruit the best people I can to work in my administration. I would appreciate your advice and recommendations for key positions.

Q. As Governor, will you appoint nonprofit leaders to appropriate statewide boards or commissions?

Gov. Rod Blagojevich: I will continue to appoint nonprofit leaders to appropriate statewide boards or commissions, such as the Illinois Arts Council, and the Illinois Housing Development Authority and other Boards that are relevant to the nonprofit community.

St. Treasurer Judy Baar Topinka: Yes, absolutely. As Governor, I will recruit many voices into Illinois state government. I will select people based on their qualifications and abilities, not based on politics. To restore integrity to Illinois state government, get the state's fiscal problems under control and move the state forward, I will seek the knowledge and wisdom of others. I will rely on experts and leaders drawn from many walks of life to give me input on policymaking. Nonprofit leaders will be an important part of this process and will have a vital role in my administration. I will welcome your ideas for people who can serve effectively on boards and commissions.

ONE ILLINOIS NEEDS THE SUPPORT OF EVERYONE

What is One Illinois?

One Illinois is an awareness campaign aimed at uniting the 2.2 million voters statewide in Illinois that are touched by and care about disability issues and the general public who may or may not have a relationship with someone who has a disability or suffers from mental illness. More information about the background of this campaign can be found at www.oneillinois.info.

What do we want?

The One Illinois Coalition is calling on all the gubernatorial candidates to adopt our platform, which will provide the needed supports and services to assure equal opportunity for persons with disabilities and mental illness to live, learn, work and recreate in the community. You can view this platform at www.oneillinois.info.

Why do we need change?

You can't talk about education, healthcare, housing, jobs or human rights without talking about community services for persons with disabilities and mental illness. A true measure of a fair and responsible gov-

ernment is how it promotes policies and prioritizes resources that support citizens who are otherwise vulnerable without its involvement. We have developed a platform that will ensure Illinois can move forward and provide persons with disabilities and mental illness the supports and services they need to fully integrate into the community.

What can you do to help?

1. Sign up on the One Illinois website at www.oneillinois.info to receive updates and information related to the One Illinois campaign!
2. Vote! You can now vote early starting October 16 to November 2. You may also vote on Election Day, November 7. No matter when you choose to vote, just make sure you vote!

Who can you contact for more information?

You can sign up to receive updates on the One Illinois website, but if you still have questions about our awareness campaign, you can call us at (217) 753-1190.



FY 2008 - 2011 GUBERNATORIAL PLATFORM

You can't talk about education, healthcare, housing, jobs or human rights without talking about community services for persons with disabilities and mental illness. A true measure of a fair and responsible government is how it promotes policies and prioritizes resources that support citizens who are otherwise vulnerable without its involvement. Because of chronic under-funding for community services for persons with disabilities and mental illness, IARF has developed a platform that will ensure Illinois can move forward and provide persons with disabilities and mental illness the supports and services they need to fully integrate into the community.

Therefore, the One Illinois Coalition is calling on all the gubernatorial candidates to adopt this Illinois agenda that will provide the needed supports and services to assure equal opportunity for persons with disabilities and mental illness to live, learn, work and recreate in the community.

Leadership

- Work with stakeholders to develop a four-year plan within the first six months of the term with measurable outcomes for improving the community infrastructure so that it may best serve persons with disabilities and mental illness. The Governor will commit to updating the plan in each annual State of the State and will fund the plan in the annual Budget Address accordingly.

- Initiate and pass legislation with stakeholder input that defines community services for persons with disabilities and mental illness as core and essential. Whereas the community is providing more of the services and supports formerly provided by the state, such a shift should be acknowledged by the state as a clear priority through legislation that states the value of community services and supports for persons who choose to live and work in those settings, with the needed resources following the individual.

- Establish a department that focuses specifically on disability services as a state agency to be headed and staffed by people with relevant experience/expertise, professional training, and contemporary knowledge of services and supports which will efficiently prioritize the needs of persons with disabilities and mental illness. This new department would include Developmental Disabilities, Mental Health, Alcohol and Substance Abuse, Rehabilitation Services and Early Intervention services for adults

and children.

Invest for Success

- Increase funding for community services 10% every year for the next four years to build the community infrastructure through rates and reimbursement review and enhancement, increases to staff wages and benefits to market levels, and expansion of the system for those who wait. This action will begin to bring Illinois to the median of states nationally in terms of funding for community services. It is also necessary to protect the capital investments made by community agencies to support persons with disabilities by providing \$50 M to help fund renovations, maintenance, new residences, equipment and vehicle needs. Services are eligible for federal Medicaid matching funds.

- Support legislation that provides an annual increase for all Developmental Disabilities, Mental Health, Alcohol and Substance Abuse, Rehabilitation Services, and Early Intervention reimbursements to keep pace with economic pressures (e.g. Employment Cost Index) and prevent erosion in quality and availability of services and supports.

- Appoint a commission within the first six months of the term with representation from the Department, the General Assembly, persons with disabilities and mental illness, community providers and trade associations to develop rate and reimbursement methodologies that reflect the cost of providing services and supports, recognize individual disability needs, consider geographic differences, transportation costs, required staffing ratios and mandates not currently funded.

The Return on this Investment of Leadership and Resources

- Increase in the stability and quality of community services provided. Less staff turnover and increased continuity of supports/services.

- Increased community capacity through a continual investment in rates and reimbursements that reflect the cost of providing quality services.

- Decrease in the waiting list for those with urgent needs through properly funded expansion of the system.

- Increase in community integration consistent with the spirit of Olmstead.

URGENCY IN COMMUNITY SERVICES

IARF and the community agencies it represents, along with agency boards of directors, staff, persons with disabilities and mental illness, family members, and local communities are 2.2 million voters that seek all gubernatorial candidates' immediate attention to the platform issues. At stake are not just people's votes or politics, but rather the quality daily life for persons with disabilities and mental illness.

Education

- There were 16,180 children enrolled in the Early Intervention system from June 2005 to May 2006.
- An estimated 24,000 students per year exit the special education system and may require interagency transition services and/or long term services and supports in the community.

Healthcare (Long Term Services and Supports)

- Over 15 years, admissions to state psychiatric hospitals have declined approximately 60 percent, and the state has reduced inpatient capacity proportionally. Funding for these individuals in state hospitals has not followed to the community to provide the necessary supports. The National Alliance for Mental Illness has given Illinois a grade of "F" for its mental health services (reflects the average grade of the following categories: infrastructure, information access, services, and recovery supports).
- State institution populations of persons with developmental disabilities and mental illness dropped from 4,348 in 1992 to 2,876 in 2004. The state experienced a 7 percent drop in state institution population from 2002 to 2004. These individuals are now supported in a community living facility and/or at home.
- Crisis prevention, intervention, and stabilization services statewide are severely lacking, leading to unnecessary institutionalization and re-institutionalization. For instance, in a six-county region, 6 percent of persons with developmental disabilities had behaviors defined as dangerous to themselves or others in 2005 but had no options for stabilization.

Housing

- An estimated 3,200 persons with a developmental disability have urgent needs for residential services/supports as reflected in the June 26, 2006 Prioritiza-

tion of Urgency Needs for Services (PUNS) data.

- A huge gap between supply and demand of supportive housing for persons with mental illness exists in Illinois. It is estimated that 10,400 units of permanent supportive housing are needed, nearly double the 5,466 units that exist today.
- The lack of affordable/accessible housing throughout the state is a major crisis preventing many persons with disabilities from living in their own homes with supports.

Jobs

- In Illinois, direct support professionals working in the public sector earned an average of \$16.52 an hour. Based upon a 40-hour work week, that translates to an annual income of \$34,362.
- In Illinois, direct support professionals working for private community agencies earned an average of \$10.12 an hour. Based on a 40-hour work week, that translates to an annual income of \$21,050.
- Health insurance premiums for a family of four now average almost \$11,000 a year, about equal to the full-time earnings for a minimum wage worker.
- The Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) only accepted 25 percent of referrals for vocational training from the mental health provider community and successfully found work for only 11 percent of those accepted.
- According to a Harris Poll conducted for the National Organization on Disability, over 70 percent of working age adults with disabilities are unemployed.

Human Rights

- Recent Prioritization of Urgency Needs for Services (PUNS) data shows there are 1,863 people over 60 caring for a family member with a developmental disability.
- Approximately 28,000 persons with mental illness reside in nursing homes or an institutional setting.
- In 2005, 21 percent of Illinois nursing home residents with disabilities indicated a preference to return to the community.
- The Supreme Court, in the Olmstead decision, requires states to have a working plan that provides persons with disabilities and mental illness options to choose to live in the most integrated setting appropriate to the individual.

WHO AND WHEN

GENERAL ELECTION –

NOVEMBER 7, 2006

1) **Constitutional Officers**

Governor
Lieutenant Governor
Attorney General
Secretary of State
Comptroller
Treasurer

Term begins: Second Monday of January after the election – January 8, 2007 – 4-year term.
(Ill. Constitution, Article V, Section 2)

2) **Representatives in Congress** – all 19 districts

Term begins: Noon, January 3, 2007 – 2-year term.
(U.S. Constitution, Amendment XX, Section 1, 2)

3) **State General Assembly Members:**

A) State Senators:

State Senators – 2-year term: Districts – 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 21, 24, 27, 30, 33, 36, 39, 42, 45, 48, 51, 54, 57.

State Senators – 4-year term: Districts – 1, 4, 7, 10, 13, 16, 19, 22, 25, 28, 31, 34, 37, 40, 43, 46, 49, 52, 55, 58.

B) Representatives in the General Assembly – all 118 districts – 2-year term.

State Legislators' terms begin: Second Wednesday of January after the election – January 10, 2007.

IL Constitution, Article IV, Section 5 (a): “The General Assembly shall convene each year on the second Wednesday of January.”

IL Constitution, Article IV, Section 6 (b): “On the first day of the January session of the General Assembly in odd-numbered years, the Secretary of State shall convene the House of Representatives to elect from its membership a Speaker of the House of Representatives as presiding officer, and the Governor shall convene the Senate to elect from its membership a President of the Senate as presiding officer.”

*Information from the
Illinois State Board of Elections - 2006 Candidate Guide
& the
Constitution of the State of Illinois*

ILLINOIS CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICER CANDIDATES

Governor:

Democrats

Rod Blagojevich
2934 Sunnyside Ave.
Chicago, IL 60625

Green

Rich Whitney
1801 New Era Road
Carbondale, IL 62901

Republicans

Judy Baar Topinka
380 Herrick Rd.
Riverside, IL 60548

Lieutenant Governor:

Democrats

Pat Quinn
1852 Nashville
Chicago, IL 60707

Green

Julie Samuels
613 South Lombard Ave.
Oak Park, IL 60304

Republicans

Joe Birkett
1944 Chippewa Dr.
Wheaton, IL 60187

Attorney General:

Democrats

Lisa Madigan
4122 N. Rockwell St.
Chicago, IL 60618

Green

David Black
107 W. 4th Street
Belvidere, IL 61008

Republicans

Stewart Umholtz
910 Washington
Pekin, IL 61554

Secretary of State:

Democrats

Jesse White
300 West Hill St. Apt. 714
Chicago, IL 60610
Comptroller:

Green

Karen "Young" Peterson
4419 North Racine Ave #1N
Chicago, IL 60640

Republicans

Dan Rutherford
13266 E. 950 North Rd.
Chenoa, IL 61726

Democrats

Daniel W. Hynes
2020 Bradley Place
Chicago, IL 60618

Green

Alicia Snyder
538 Linden Ave.
Centralia, IL 62801

Republicans

Carole Pankau
1287 St. Andrew Cir.
Itasca, IL 60143

Treasurer:

Democrats

Alexander Giannoulis

Green

Dan Rodriguez Schlorff

Republicans

Christine Radogno

Illinois Senate – Overview by District

	<u>Democrats</u>	<u>Green</u>	<u>Republicans</u>
S-1	Antonio “Tony” Munoz	Dorian Breuer	Rose Pappas
S-2	Miguel Del Valle	Seat Not Up For Re-Election	
S-3	Mattie Hunter		Chad Jackson Surles
S-4	Kimberly A. Lightford		Antoinette Ruback
S-5	Rickey R. Hendon	Seat Not Up For Re-election	
S-6	John J. Cullerton		William S. Hackney
S-7	Carol Ronen		Frank Thomas
S-8	Ira I. Silverstein	Seat Not Up For Re-election	
S-9	Jeffrey M. Schoenberg		No Opposition
S-10	James A. DeLeo		No Opposition
S-11	Louis S. Viverito	Seat Not Up For Re-election	
S-12	Martin A. Sandoval		No Opposition
S-13	Kwame Raoul		Charles Kinzer
S-14	Emil Jones, Jr.	Seat Not Up for Re-election	
S-15	James T. Meeks		No Opposition
S-16	Jacqueline “Jacqui” Y. Collins		Matthew M. Szydagis
S-17	Donne E. Trotter	Seat Not Up For Re-election	
S-18	Edward D. Maloney		No Opposition
S-19	M. Maggie Crotty		Eric M. Wallace
S-20	Iris Martinez-D	Seat Not Up For Re-election	
S-21	No Opposition		Dan Cronin
S-22	Michael Noland (was Rauschenberger’s (R) seat)		Billie Diane Roth
S-23	Seat Not Up For Re-election (Running for Comptroller)		Carole Pankau
S-24	No Opposition		Kirk W. Dillard
S-25	Frank Craig		Chris Lauzen
S-26	Seat Not Up For Re-election		William Peterson
S-27	Peter Gutzmer (was Wendall Jones’ (R) seat)		Matt Murphy
S-28	No Opposition		John J. Millner
S-29	Susan Garrett	Seat Not Up For Re-election	
S-30	Terry Link		Charles Fitzgerald

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Illinois Senate – Overview by District

	<u>Democrats</u>	<u>Green</u>	<u>Republicans</u>
S-31	Michael Bond	(was Geo-Karis' (R) seat)	Suzanne D. Simpson
S-32	Seat Not Up For Re-election		Pamela Althoff
S-33	Dan Kotowski	(was D. Sullivan's (R) seat)	Cheryl Axley *
S-34	Daniel A. Lewandowski		Dave Syverson
S-35	Seat Not Up For Re-election		J. Bradley Burzynski
S-36	Mike Jacobs *	(was Denny Jacobs' (D) seat)	James M. Beals
S-37	Bob Sheehan		Dale Risinger
S-38	Seat Not Up For Re-election		Gary G. Dahl
S-39	Don Harmon		Jim Rowe
S-40	Debbie DeFrancesco Halvorson		Joseph M. Maun
S-41	Seat Not Up For Re-election (running for State Treasurer)		Christine Radogno
S-42	Linda Holmes	(was Petka's (R) seat)	Terri Ann Wintermute
S-43	Arthur "A.J." Wilhelmi		Christian A. Smith
S-44	Seat Not Up for Re-Election		Bill Brady
S-45	No Opposition		Todd Sieben
S-46	David Koehler	(was Shadid's (D) seat)	Ernest E. Russell
S-47	John M. Sullivan	Seat Not Up For Re-election	
S-48	No Opposition	(was Roskam's (R) seat)	Randall "Randy" Hultgren **
S-49	Deanna Demuzio *	(was VinceDemuzio's (D) seat)	Jeff Richey
S-50	Seat Not Up For Re-election		Larry K. Bomke
S-51	No Opposition		Frank Watson
S-52	Michael W. Frerichs	(was Winkel's (R) seat)	Parnaruskis-Green Judith A. Myers
S-53	Seat Not Up For Re-election (running for Sec. of St.)		Dan Rutherford
S-54	Bart Wright		John O. Jones
S-55	No Opposition		Dale Righter
S-56	William R. "Bill" Haine Seat Not Up For Re-election		
S-57	James F. Clayborne, Jr.		No Opposition
S-58	No Opposition		David Luechtefeld
S-59	Gary Forby	Seat Not Up For Re-election	

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Illinois House of Representatives – Overview by District

	<u>Democrats</u>	<u>Green</u>	<u>Republicans</u>
H-1	Susana Mendoza		Suzanne Ramos
H-2	Edward J. Acevedo		No Opposition
H-3	William “Willie” Delgado		No Opposition
H-4	Cynthia Soto		No Opposition
H-5	Kenneth “Ken” Dunkin		Keely Drukala
H-6	Esther Golar * (was Pat Bailey’s (D) seat)		No Opposition
H-7	Karen A. Yarbrough		No Opposition
H-8	La Shawn K. Ford (was Giles-D)	Nathan Helsabeck	Glenn L. Harris
H-9	Arthur L. Turner		Myra Bland
H-10	Annazette R. Collins		No Opposition
H-11	John A. Fritchey		Ashur S. Odishoo
H-12	Sara Feigenholtz		Richard A. Caner
H-13	Gregory Harris	(McKeon (D) to retire)	No Opposition
H-14	Harry Osterman		James R. Batek
H-15	John C. D’Amico		No Opposition
H-16	Lou Lang		No Opposition
H-17	Judith-Rae Ross		Elizabeth Coulson
H-18	Julie Hamos		No Opposition
H-19	Joseph M. Lyons		No Opposition
H-20	Mark Dobrzycki		Michael P. McAuliffe
H-21	Robert S. Molaro		Charles “Charlie” Johnson
H-22	Michael J. Madigan		Robert P. Famiglietti
H-23	Daniel J. Burke		No Opposition
H-24	Elizabeth “Lisa” Hernandez (was Chavez’s (D) seat)	John Paul Ledvina	
H-25	Barbara Flynn Currie		James Sanders
H-26	Elga L. Jefferies* (was Lou Jones’ (D) seat)		Gregory McClure
H-27	Monique D. Davis		No Opposition
H-28	Robert “Bob” Rita		Christopher G. Newhall
H-29	David E. Miller		Raymond Tibbs
H-30	William “Will” Davis		No Opposition

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Illinois House of Representatives – Overview by District

<u>Democrats</u>	<u>Green</u>	<u>Republicans</u>
H-31 Mary E. Flowers		No Opposition
H-32 Milton “Milt” Patterson		Andrew Grant
H-33 Marlow H. Colvin		Nathan Peoples
H-34 Constance A. “Connie” Howard		Philman Williams II
H-35 Kevin Carey Joyce		No Opposition
H-36 James D. Brosnahan		No Opposition
H-37 Kevin A. McCarthy		No Opposition
H-38 Robin Kelly		No Opposition
H-39 Maria Antonia (Toni) Berrios		No Opposition
H-40 Richard T. Bradley		No Opposition
H-41 No Opposition		Robert A. “Bob” Biggins
H-42 Thomas E. Hanlon		Sandra M. Pihos
H-43 Laurel Bault		Ruth Munson
H-44 Fred Crespo		Terry R. Parke
H-45 Rob Bisceglie	(was Jenisch’s (R) seat)	Franco Coladipietro
H-46 Joe Vosicky	(was Daniels’ (R) seat)	Dennis M. Reboletti
H-47 Carol DiCola		Patricia R. “Patti” Bellock
H-48 No Opposition		James H. “Jim” Meyer
H-49 Christine M. Adelman		Timothy L. Schmitz
H-50 Joseph Serra		Patricia Reid Lindner
H-51 Amanda Howland		Ed Sullivan, Jr.
H-52 No Opposition		Mark H. Beaubien, Jr.
H-53 Michael MacDonald		Sidney H. Mathias
H-54 Jeffry D. Ketelsen		Suzanne “Suzie” Bassi
H-55 No Opposition		Randy Ramey
H-56 No Opposition		Paul Froehlich
H-57 Elaine Nekritz		No Opposition
H-58 Karen May		William M. Griffin
H-59 Kathleen A. Ryg		No Opposition
H-60 Eddie Washington		No Opposition

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Illinois House of Representatives – Overview by District

<u>Democrats</u>	<u>Green</u>	<u>Republicans</u>
H-61 No Opposition		JoAnn D. Osmond
H-62 Sharyn I. Elman (was Churchill's (R) seat)		Sandy Cole
H-63 Jack D. Franks		No Opposition
H-64 No Opposition		Michael W. Tryon
H-65 No Opposition		Rosemary Mulligan
H-66 No Opposition		Carolyn H. Krause
H-67 Charles E. "Chuck" Jefferson		No Opposition
H-68 No Opposition		Dave Winters
H-69 Greg Tuite		Ronald A. Wait
H-70 Charles "Chuck" Sauer		Robert W. Pritchard
H-71 Mike Boland		Steven "Steve" M. Haring
H-72 Patrick Verschoore		No Opposition
H-73 No Opposition		David R. Leitch
H-74 No Opposition		Donald L. Moffitt
H-75 Careen Gordon		Jason Briscoe
H-76 Frank J. Mautino		Patricia "Pat" Wagner
H-77 No Opposition		Angelo "Skip" Saviano
H-78 Deborah L. Graham		No Opposition
H-79 Lisa M. Dugan		Sam T. Nicholas
H-80 George Scully		Marc A. Wiley
H-81 No Opposition		Renee Kosel
H-82 Kim Savage (was Eileen Lyons' (R) seat)		Jim Durkin*
H-83 Linda Chapa LaVia		Robert "Bob" Mitchell
H-84 No Opposition		Tom Cross
H-85 Karen Karlstad Gonzalez		Brent Hassert
H-86 Jack McGuire		No Opposition
H-87 No Opposition		Bill Mitchell
H-88 No Opposition	Phil Huckelberry	Dan Brady
H-89 No Opposition		Jim Sacia
H-90 Kenneth J. Novak		Jerry L. Mitchell

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Illinois House of Representatives – Overview by District

<u>Democrats</u>	<u>Green</u>	<u>Republicans</u>
H-91 Michael K. Smith		Daryl Dagit
H-92 Bill Spears		Aaron Schock
H-93 Kelly Street	(was Tenhouse's (R)seat)	Jil Tracy *
H-94 Gail L. Russell		Richard P. "Rich" Myers
H-95 Dirk Enger	(was Hultgren's (R) seat)	Mike Fortner
H-96 No Opposition		Joe Dunn
H-97 No Opposition		Jim Watson
H-98 Gary Hannig		No Opposition
H-99 Sam Cahnman		Raymond Poe
H-100 No Opposition		Rich Brauer
H-101 Robert "Bob" Flider		Dick Cain
H-102 No Opposition		Ron Stephens
H-103 Naomi D. Jakobsson	Tom Abram	Rex A. Bradfield
H-104 No Opposition		William B. "Bill" Black
H-105 No Opposition		Shane Cultra
H-106 Mike Phillips		Keith P. Sommer
H-107 Kurt M. Granberg		John Cavaletto
H-108 Brandt E. Patterson		David B. Reis
H-109 No Opposition		Roger L. Eddy
H-110 No Opposition		Chapin Rose
H-111 Daniel V. Beiser		No Opposition
H-112 Jay C. Hoffman		Carol Kugler
H-113 Thomas "Tom" Holbrook		No Opposition
H-114 Wyvetter H. Younge		Dennis Bielke
H-115 No Opposition	Charlie Howe	Mike Bost
H-116 Dan Reitz		No Opposition
H-117 John Bradley		No Opposition
H-118 Brandon W. Phelps		Rhonda E. Belford

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