

**Summary of Comments at DRW Board Listening Session  
Racine, Wisconsin  
September 24, 2010**

Approximately 35 people attended the DRW Board's Listening Session in Racine on September 24, 2010. This included people with disabilities, family members, and local advocates.

Family Care in Racine and Kenosha

- The MCOs are not paying bills to providers in a timely manner
- Problems getting necessary equipment via Family Care
- Problems getting long term physical therapy (even if the lack of PT is life endangering)
- Examples of people having services cut
- Family Care has eliminated 8 year long waiting lists for people with developmental disabilities
- A lot of MCO case managers don't know enough about best practices for services for people developmental disabilities

Employment

- MCO Case Manager wanted their daughter to leave the sheltered workshop after 15 years and go into integrated employment
- Government is hostile to self-employment ("self employment earnings would endanger my benefits")
- Concern that the new rules on prevocational services will result in some people being arbitrarily removed from sheltered workshops

State Centers for the Developmentally Disabled

- I oppose DRW's goal of reducing the number of people in DD Centers
- Downsizing Committee of SWC is now inactive
- Some SWC residents have opportunities to leave the campus and participate in community recreational activities, and to visit their families at home
- WATTS Reviews have concluded that some older residents with health problems should not leave SWC (i.e. SWC is the "most integrated setting")
- Some DD Centers residents will never be able to live in the community, so we will always need to have DD Centers in Wisconsin
- Why haven't DRW's Board members visited DD Centers?
- We should do what's best for each individual

- Some judges in WATTS reviews are not respectful of guardian’s views
- Median age of SWC residents = 53
- Why hasn’t DRW Executive Director accepted invitation to visit Southern WI Center?
- We need a long-range plan for the future of services for elderly residents in ICF/MRS
- Milwaukee County guardians ad litem are always saying SWC is too “restrictive”

### Special Education

- Racine school district is putting more and more students on “reduced day” schedules
- Some students have had success in alternate school programs that unfortunately is often only a half day program
- Inclusions Team in Racine has a goal of having all students with disabilities through 4<sup>th</sup> grade in regular classrooms this year
- A lot of parents don’t know their rights (DRW is planning a parent training event in Western Racine County)
- Waterford School District is trying to use more positive behavioral approaches for students with challenging behaviors
- Students in Racine High School sent home by teachers without a formal suspension (in violation of the law)
- No organized group of parents of school age children to raise issues with Racine with Racine school officials (DRW and Arc–Racine offered to help organize one)

### IRIS

- Problems getting IRIS consultants
- Some people are enrolling in IRIS as a result of exasperation with Family Care

### Mental Health

- 8 year old boy transferred to Winnebago Mental Health Institute, in the same van with adult prisoners