

Illinois Imagines

May 2016



Pictured from left to right: Top row: Teresa Tudor, Shirley Paceley, Lisa Cesal, Marge Parker, Alice Kieft and Linda Sandman. Bottom row: Cathy Saunders, Theresa Sies and Caprisha Williams.

Self-Advocates in the Lead

On May 9-11, six self-advocates representing Illinois Imagines teams across the state met with two staff from the Vera Institute of Justice's Center on Victimization and Safety in Springfield. The purpose of the three-day meeting was to gather input from people with disabilities on performance indicators for rape crisis centers and domestic violence services. What would it look like if victim services served people with disabilities in the most accessible, effective, compassionate manner?

.... **MORE LEAD PAGE 2**

Webinars

○ **June 15th, 10:00-11:00 a.m.**
Topic: History of the disability right movement. Registration information will be sent in the coming weeks.

Spotlight

Mini-Grants Available

The Illinois Imagines project is accepting applications from community teams for a mini-grant of up to \$10,000.

Application packets have been e-mailed to teams. If your team needs an application, please contact Shirley Paceley at spaceley@maconresources.org. The applications must be completed and returned to the ICASA administrative office by **June 20, 2016**. Applications do not have to be for the full \$10,000 amount. At least 5 grants will be awarded. The grants will run from July 1, 2016-June 30, 2017. For questions about the grant, please contact Teresa Tudor at teresa.tudor@illinois.gov or Sean Black at sblack@icasa.org.

Resource

○ Four American Bar Association entities jointly have developed a new resource to help lawyers identify and implement decision-making options for persons with disabilities that are less restrictive than guardianship. The PRACTICAL Tool is a product of the ABA Commission on Law and Aging, Commission

.... **MORE RESOURCE PAGE 2**



Above: Illinois Imagines statewide and community team members Caprisha Williams, Linda Sandman, Lisa Cesal, Marge Parker, Shirley Paceley and Theresa Sies. Below: Teresa Tudor, Kieft and Cathy Saunders.

How can we measure if victim services are making improvements in serving people with disabilities?

These are just some of the questions that were answered in the voices of those in attendance. The information will be used in a nationwide project. The outcome, in part, will be a tool and resource for rape crisis centers and domestic violence services to implement performance indicators within their organizations. The goal? Improved access and responsiveness to people with disabilities who seek



services. Self-advocates were excited to contribute to this project. One self-advocate stated: "I want to know I've helped change something." And another added: "Empower means to

listen to us, have us at the table, and act — follow through."

Illinois Imagines is deeply grateful to Cathy Saunders, Lisa Cesal, Caprisha Williams, Theresa Sies, Marge Parker and Alice Kieft for sharing their time, energy, wisdom, stories, ideas and passion. Thanks for making a positive difference for survivors and victim services agencies across the nation. Your voices matter!

Thanks to VERA Institute for allowing Illinois Imagines to be a part of this national project.

on Disability Rights, Section on Civil Rights and Social Justice, and Section on Real Property, Trust and Estate Law, with assistance from the National Resource Center for Supported Decision-Making. The four-page Tool can be used in the case interview process and assist in case

analysis. The 22-page Resource Guide expands on the information and includes links to key resources. PDF and Word versions of the PRACTICAL Tool are available for no-cost download at <http://www.ambar.org/practicaltool>.