

K-7A.4.2 Joan Discher Curriculum Vitae

Joan M. Discher

Executive Director

EXPERIENCE

Executive Director, Magellan Behavioral Care of Iowa 1997 - Present

Vice-President of Program Management 1995 - 1997

- Responsible for the mental health and substance abuse contract with the State of Iowa including all program contract activities, services development, and relationships with stakeholders.
- The Iowa program has been recognized as an example of innovative mental health service development for the seriously and persistently mentally ill and the seriously emotionally disturbed populations in Iowa. In 1998, Magellan's Iowa effort was awarded the Eli Lily Award.

Executive Director, Coalition for Family and Children Services 1988 - 1995

- Responsible for influencing social policy and legislation in regard to children and family programs on behalf of 39 private, human services agencies which operate over 100 programs.
- Additional responsibilities include: planning, public relations, and the media; maintaining relationships with the Executive, Judicial and Legislative Branches of government; negotiating Coalition positions with the 39 agencies; and office management.

Executive Director, Iowa Foster Care Review Board 1985 - 1988

- Responsible for developing the Foster Care Review Board for the State of Iowa from a piece of legislation to a credible state agency with over 160 volunteers, five staff, and 18 Boards.
- Duties included: training, writing legislation, developing computerized data systems, office management, liaison with the Department of Human Services, Judicial Branch, and private sector. Served on the National Association of Foster Care Reviewers Board for three years.

Family Services Director, Four Oaks, Inc. 1979 - 1985

- Responsible for the family therapy component, treatment foster family care, home-based, and after-care programs, and five family therapists.
- Other duties included: counseling families and children, licensing and training foster families, policies and procedure manuals and other administrative duties.

Youth Service Supervisor and Caseworker, Iowa Department of Human Services 1974 - 1979

- Responsible for the supervision of five caseworkers, counseling children adjudicated delinquent or CINA, administration of DHS policies and procedures, liaison between the juvenile institutions, police department and the DHS District Office.

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

University of Iowa

Master in Social Work – 1980

Iowa State University

B.S. Psychology and Sociology – 1974

Alfred Adler Institute

Certification of Adlerian Psychology – 1978

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Friends of Foster Children Foundation – founded and served on the Board of Directors

Big Brothers Big Sister Board of Director

IOWA PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Iowa Federation of Insurers - past President and current Board member

Iowa Managed Care Association - past President

PUBLICATION(S) AND PRESENTATION(S)

Presentations:

“Self-Directed Care”, Albuquerque, New Mexico, October 2007

“Joining Hands: Recovery and Resiliency”, Iowa Empowerment Conference. Marshalltown, Iowa, August 2007

“Rebalancing Health Care in the Heartland”, Iowa City, Iowa, November 2006

“Child Welfare, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Services: Integrating Treatment, Magellan Public Sector Conference, Avon, Connecticut, August 2006

Recovery and Intensive Psychiatric Rehabilitation: Experiences in Iowa, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, March 2004

“States Introduces Management and Financial Options to Enhance Results: Options for Children and Family Services”, Cincinnati, Ohio, June, 2001

“Lessons Learned: Expanding Services – The Iowa Experience”, Magellan Public Sector Conference, Maryland, October 2000

“Managing Care in Public Sector Systems of Care”, Des Moines, Iowa, September, 1999

“Implementing Managed Care in Public Sector Systems of Care”, Orlando, Florida, June 1998

“Integrating Medical, Behavioral and Support Services for Special Needs Populations”, Washington DC, January, 1998

“Iowa Managed Substance Abuse Care Plan and the Mental Health Access Plan”, New Orleans, LA, December, 1997

“A Challenge and An Opportunity in Iowa: Partnering, Planning, and Blending Funds to Serve Kids”, Washington DC, September, 1997

“Managed Behavioral Care”, Door County, Wisconsin, July, 1997

“The Evolution of Iowa’s MHAP and Changing to a Managed Care Environment”, Austin, TX, November, 1996

“The Impact of Managed Care on Public Sector Health Systems”, American Psychiatric Society, Chicago, Illinois, October, 1996

“Where Does Child Welfare Fit In? Children’s Services in a Managed Care Environment”, San Antonio, October, 1996

“Public Private Partnerships in Foster Care”, Atlantic City, New Jersey

“How to Start a Foster Care Review Board”, Lexington, Kentucky

“An Overview of Early Review”, “The Importance of Permanency Planning”, and “How to Conduct a Foster Care Review Board Meeting”, Anchorage, Alaska and Marysville, Washington

“Permanency Planning Training”, Iowa City, Storm Lake, Ankeny, Iowa City, and Waterloo, Iowa

“Services for Independent Living”, Baltimore, Maryland

“Permanency Planning: Families for Children”, Des Moines, Iowa

“Crisis Intervention for Foster Care Workers”, Des Moines and Cedar Rapids, Iowa