

IAJVS Executive Quarterly Report • March-May 1998

1845 Walnut Street, Suite 640 • Philadelphia, PA 19103 • voice 215-854-0233 • fax 215-854-0212

Written by Genie Cohen, Executive Director • coheng@jevs.org • edited by Rachel Friedlander • friedr@jevs.org

In This Issue

- My First Three Months: Introducing the IAJVS Executive Quarterly Report
- What's been happening at the IAJVS Office?
- San Francisco Meeting Follow Up
- Washington, D.C. (March 1999) Meeting Update
- IAJVS Networks with Collegial Organizations and Individuals
- Excitement! IAJVS Applies for National Grants with JVS Agency Collaboration
- Notice re Upcoming EDC Meeting
- Thanks for Your Support



My first three months as Executive Director of IAJVS have been a time of making and strengthening connections within IAJVS and between IAJVS and other organizations. **I believe that communication, networking, and information sharing are key to running a successful international office.** In this new series of executive quarterly reports, I will share with you important activities, meetings, etc., coming out of this office, keep you informed of key issues and new legislation important to our field, and remind you of upcoming events to put on your calendars. I also hope that you will share your ideas and your agency news with us via paper mail, telephone, fax or email. The greatest strength for both IAJVS and the JVS network is the combined experience and expertise of our professionals and lay leaders.

What's been happening at the IAJVS office? While the 1998 annual meeting is a fond memory to most of you, we are still busy with post conference activities. **Rachel is collecting San Francisco meeting evaluations.** If you haven't already done so, please send yours in. We want to analyze all the information and send the results back to you. **Your responses are important in helping us plan for our meeting next year in Washington.** We are also gathering copies of the

speakers' presentations. **We hope to compile a proceedings document to send to all conference attendees this summer.**

We have been extremely busy contacting hotels in Washington for March 1999. It's hard to believe that the majority of hotels are already booked, but **March begins the high season in our nation's capital.** It has been a challenge to find an affordable, centrally located, kosher-friendly hotel. I spent May 18 and May 19 in Washington inspecting potential sites and I feel confident that either of the two front-running choices will be comfortable and will serve our needs. **Projected dates for the 1999 conference are March 7 to 10 or March 14 to March 17.** Our final decision may depend significantly upon potential date-related price differentials.

Networking continues, within and beyond the JVS community. I have spent the first three months meeting various people and organizations that I feel will contribute to the future growth, visibility and strength of IAJVS. **Thanks to two recent national conferences** – our own in San Francisco, in March, and the AJFCA annual meeting in St. Louis, in April – **I have made contact with every affiliate in the IAJVS network.** In San Francisco I enjoyed meeting many of you for the first time

and experiencing the IAJVS annual meeting from the new perspective of being its incoming Executive Director. The St. Louis meeting afforded opportunities to visit with Lew Chartock of MERS, meet executive directors from some of the IAJVS Family Service affiliates, and **begin preliminary discussions about IAJVS membership with currently unaffiliated family service agencies.** While in St. Louis **I also met with Diana Aviv, Associate Executive Vice President for Public Policy /Director of the CJF Washington Action Office.** We discussed ways of expanding the working relationship between CJF-WAO and IAJVS.

I have sought to strengthen working relationships between IAJVS and other agencies and individuals, including:

- **The Center for Strategic Change**, a Washington, DC-based organization that helps human resource organizations improve the quality of their delivery systems and services by ensuring the connection to workplace skills. Lori Strumpf, President, and I discussed their ability to provide future technical assistance, leadership training, and partnership facilitation.
- **Council of Jewish Federations (CJF)**, New York, NY. I met with Diana Cohen, Assistant Director of Personnel, to brainstorm ideas for new collaborations between CJF and IAJVS, as well as ways to strengthen the current referral process.
- **Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS)**, New York, NY. Len Glickman, Executive Director, and I agreed that it was important for IAJVS and HIAS to collaborate and partner on national initiatives. Of particular interest are the current national Welfare to Work competitive grant an-

nouncements. We will be meeting again to further discuss how collaboration can benefit both organizations.

- **National Association of Private Industry Councils (NAPIC)**, Washington, D.C. I met with their Executive Director, Bob Knight, to discuss methods of strengthening ties between PICs and JVS agencies.
- **National Rehabilitation Facilities Coalition (NRFC)**, Washington, D.C. NRFC is a coalition of representatives of community based rehabilitation programs, national provider organizations, and advocacy and employment and training organizations. Members of NRFC are particularly concerned with ensuring that appropriate and adequate services are available to individuals with disabilities. IAJVS is a member of NRFC and I attended my first quarterly meeting in February. Thanks to Alan Goldstein for introducing me to the group.
- **U.S. Department of Education, Office of Vocational and Adult Education**, Washington, D.C. Christine Kulick, Chief of Staff, and I talked about funding streams within the Department and contacts both within and outside the Department.

IAJVS submits national grant applications. The most exciting activity so far has been the submission of a national grant, under the auspices of IAJVS, to the U.S. Department of Labor, for providing employment and training services to persons with severe disabilities. **This effort represents two innovations. It is the first time that the IAJVS affiliates have collaborated on a project of national interest and it is the first time that IAJVS has submitted a national grant on behalf of its affiliates.** Five affiliates – Boston, Chicago, Gulf Coast, Philadelphia and San Francisco – collaborated

with the IAJVS office. The proposed project will provide basic computer training and advanced Web design (where appropriate) to 135 individuals. We targeted three groups: people with HIV or AIDS; persons with severe mental health disabilities; and individuals with various physical disabilities. The federal funding source is looking for innovative national initiatives that will address long term quality employment for the severely disabled population. We are requesting a total of \$632,000.00. We hope to hear good news!

As of this writing, IAJVS is preparing a second national grant proposal with 9 affiliates. Under the U.S. Department of Labor, the second round of the welfare to work competitive grants is due July 14. **Our initiative will focus on the employment of hard to place welfare recipients in the health care industry.** We anticipate serving 300-400 clients. Our proposed budget will be between \$4 million and \$5 million.

Reminder – Please Send Mail!

We are still looking for annual reports, audited financials, programming brochures and other materials describing life in your agencies. We'd also welcome public relations materials.

Coming This Fall...

What: Executive Directors Council Meeting

When: Dates to be announced

Where: Chicago

Why: We were all impressed with Gary Tobin's presentation in San Francisco. He raised critical issues for our agencies' futures. How do we respond? How do we implement change? What are the strategies for implementation? These are some of the questions we will be asking and seeking to answer as we spend a day-long working session together.

Many Thanks for Your Many Demonstrations of Support

Support for IAJVS comes in many forms. Many lay leaders made generous donations to IAJVS during the last "Friends of IAJVS" fundraising campaign. Many Affiliate Agency Executives and lay leaders have offered useful suggestions on networking, interagency collaboration, and current legislative trends. The IAJVS Executive Board has been an ongoing source of wisdom and support. We thank you all for your involvement and concern.

How to Contact Us

Genie Cohen: 215-854-0235 coheng@jevs.org

Rachel Friedlander: 215-854-0233 friedr@jevs.org

We Strongly Encourage Your Attendance at this Meeting:

World Council of Jewish Communal Service

November 12-16, 1998, Jerusalem, Israel

**Strengthening Klal Yisrael — Jewish Unity, Israel-Diaspora Relations, Continuity
— Role of the Jewish Communal Professional**

Jay Spector, (Chair, Executive Directors Council, IAJVS) is chairing the committee to assemble speakers for two sessions on vocational services in North America, Europe and Israel. The IAJVS community is being asked to share its collective expertise either as presenters or as attendees. This is a rare opportunity to network with international colleagues. For more information, contact the IAJVS office at 215-854-0233 or Jay Spector at 215-854-1804.

