

Arizona DDPC Members and Friends:

On behalf of Chairman Stephen Tully, I am pleased to announce the selection of Larry Clausen as the new Executive Director for the Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council. Larry comes to the Council with over thirty years of experience in health care executive management and administration. Early in his career Larry managed services for children and adults with developmental disabilities who lived in community based residential settings. He has since gained significant experience in grants and contracts management, budget development, and proficiency in the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS), the Arizona Long Term Care System (ALTCS), and Medicaid/Medicare eligibility requirements.

In his multiple roles with the Arizona Department of Corrections, Larry has worked as a Facility Health Administrator, managing health care delivery in the prison setting. He recently served as the Health Education Program Administrator where he managed numerous grants for health education programs designed for the inmate population. He was in charge of developing and coordinating curriculum for varied health education topics that promoted inmate wellness. Larry also administered transitional case management services provided through the Ryan White Grant, and administered release planning services statewide to assure that inmates with significant health problems attained necessary medical care upon community reentry.

Prior to his work at the Arizona Department of Corrections, Larry was the Nursing Home Administrator for the Arizona State Veteran Home where he oversaw a 200-bed Medicare/ALTCS/VA skilled nursing facility. There he worked closely in supervising services that were offered by medical providers that were granted privileges to practice in the facility, and developed policies and procedures for the delivery of services and operation of the facility.

In the early 1990's Larry was appointed to the Minnesota Board on Aging (MBA) for two terms. During that period he acted as the MBA representative on the Minnesota Council for Developmental Disabilities. He also served as a board member for the Phoenix Area Agency on Aging where he was involved with issues related to special populations and elderly persons with developmental disabilities. He worked as a volunteer for the Crisis Response Units for both Phoenix and Glendale Fire Departments and is currently a volunteer for Hospice of the Valley.

Larry has a B.A. in Social Work from Concordia College, a M.A. in Management from St. Mary's University, is a Certified Public Manager with certification awarded by Arizona State University. He is also a Licensed Nursing Home Administrator in the State of Arizona.

Arizona looks forward to having Larry on board and feels confident that his experience will bring to the Planning Council a renewed commitment to working with stakeholders and the community to achieve sustained capacity building, advocacy, and systems change to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

Larry begins his new role as Executive Director on Tuesday, February 16th and can be contacted at the Arizona Council Office at 602-265-3176.