SPOTLIGHT ON CATHY BODINE

Each month we try to "spotlight" someone who is making a difference with ICF. This month, we spotlight Cathy Bodine, Ph.D., CCC-SLP [Certificate of Clinical Competency – Speech-Language Pathology], who is an Assistant Professor and Section Head in the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center in Denver. Professor Bodine also serves as Director of Assistive Technology Partners, located in Denver, which is the home for the Colorado Assistive Technology Project and provides robust programs of teaching, fellowships, and research and development in AT design and use.

Dr. Bodine has served as Principal Investigator on several projects funded by the Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Foundation, Watson Research Centre-IBM, and four federal Small Business Innovation Research grants. We previously described Professor Bodine and a few of her grant-funded projects related to AT and the ICF in our September-October, 2003 edition of this ICF Clearinghouse Newsletter. You can review that entry at this website:
http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/icd9/ICFSept-Oct2003.pdf

Currently, Professor Bodine is Co-Principal Investigator on two NIDRR-funded projects organizationally located at the Rehabilitation and Engineering Center for Recreational Technologies, hosted at the University of Illinois-Chicago. Cathy is also the Principal Investigator on a NIDRR Field Initiated Development Project using the ICF to measure AT outcomes. That project, entitled "Development of an assistive technology outcomes measurement system utilizing the International Classification of Functioning," is complete, and the investigative team is currently drafting manuscripts about the results. From one such unpublished manuscript shared with us by Professor Bodine, she and the investigative team wrote that "The purpose of this Field Initiated Development project is to further the development of a secure, HIPAA-compliant (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996), multi-site, web-based AT outcomes system. This system was designed to capture data that will enable the measurement and analysis of an AT client's short- and long-term outcomes. The outcomes data can be used to:

- track a client's clinical progression;
- proactively identify upcoming medical needs;
- provide researchers with a universal baseline of comparison; and
- improve the overall effectiveness of client care."

The investigators continued, writing that "The initial focus of our outcomes system is to measure the impact of assistive technology devices and services for children and adults with disabilities. The two key elements in the organization and design of this project are a clinically proven data entry interface and a data model based on an industry-accepted classifications framework. The data entry interface seamlessly integrates with the clinical processes, enabling clinicians to enter client data during evaluations, assessments, and

interventions. The information collected by clinicians is correlated with industry-accepted classifications [and] frameworks such as ICF, ISO 9999, ICD-9, and CPT." Challenges include obtaining concurrence from those persons who would enter outcomes data, generally clinicians, who need a user-friendly interface with and for the ICF. Beyond such an interface, though, the new outcomes system "involves developing a solution that is interoperable with other clinic operations." Subsequently, data generated by the outcomes system on a cohort or population level would enable researchers to analyze such data based on the types of stratification that would be important to them, such as age or disability status.

Certainly, Professor Bodine and her investigative colleagues are at the cutting edge of applying the ICF to the complex, multi-faceted world of assistive technology. Their next steps include preparing for a large-scale clinical trial oriented toward the ICF and incorporating both the ICF conceptual framework and the coding structure.

For more information about these exciting projects, contact Professor Bodine at:
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