

NACDD 2007 Annual Report



**Results that Speak for
Themselves**

DD Councils: Making a Difference

Robert Frost:

Two roads diverged in a wood, and I... I took the one less traveled by, and that has made all the difference.

Dear Friends,

Taking the road less traveled underscores what DD Councils are all about. Councils are systems change agents, innovators, problem solvers, capacity builders, advocates, policy developers, funding sources and influence brokers. When others say something can't be done, Councils are the ones to find a solution. And over time, it has become an expectation that if there are barriers to inclusion, the Council is the "go to" group within a state or territory.

NACDD is proud to tell the story of its 54 state and territorial councils on developmental disabilities. Through our Governor appointed DD councils, hundreds of women and men across the country are volunteering their energies to make a difference in the lives of people with developmental disabilities. NACDD is grateful and thankful for their commitment to making a positive change in their communities.

On the following pages of our 2007 Annual Report, you will learn about the transformation in the lives of several women and men because of the work of DD Councils. For over 35 years, DD Councils have changed lives and made a difference.

Sincerely,

Karen Flippo

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MARYLAND – Project Include Me

The Wicomico Partnership for Families and Children, with funding from the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council, has launched a new and exciting program whose main goal is to increase opportunities for children with developmental disabilities and/or delays to be included in child care with children who do not have disabilities.

A kick-off seminar was attended by 53 child care providers, educators and community partners. The projected goals for the first year of Project Include Me were to provide opportunities for community education, to train professionals and, in some cases, to acquire the equipment necessary to maintain fifteen children with disabilities in child care settings. Six months into the program, the project has sustained twelve children in child care settings by utilizing the resources available from Project Include Me. The children benefiting from the project have various disabilities such as autism, Asberger's syndrome, visual impairments, cognitive impairments, muscular atrophy and epilepsy.

In the coming months, the program will provide county-wide trainings on the inclusion of children with disabilities in community child care settings. The trainings will be offered to child care providers, early childhood professionals and family members. Project Include Me has worked closely with The Kindness of Strangers, a local non-profit organization, that purchases equipment for children with disabilities. With this collaboration, matching funds have been obtained that will enable the purchase of a variety of equipment, ramps and reading material for children with visual impairments.

Before the Easy Pivot chair was acquired, Jared was at risk of being dismissed from the community child care center he loves. Project Include Me helped to provide an Easy Pivot chair which is being used by two children at the Stepping Stones Learning Center. It is a specialized piece of equipment that is designed to lift children out of a chair and transfer them in the bathroom or to a seat other than their wheelchair. Now that the chair has been installed, Jared will be able to remain included with his classmates.

Rhode Island – Junior Reserved Officer Training Corps (JROTC) Service Learning Project

The Rhode Island Developmental Disabilities Council's Service Learning project of national significance provides an experiential opportunity for high school students to learn about developmental disabilities and to affect lifelong attitudes by the completion of service projects with children with developmental disabilities. The model was created in order to provide knowledge and skills related to child development and personal support, and to increase the inclusion of people with developmental disability in the community. The Leadership Academy, JROTC at Hope High School in Providence, partnered with Family Service RI, Inc. to establish the initial affiliation.



The project's extensive community collaboration has contributed to its success. During a recent academic year 16 JROTC Cadets participated in classroom learning about gross and fine motor skills, speech and psychological development. They earned an Adapted Swim Aide Certificate from the University of Rhode Island Aquatics Program, and CPR through the Rhode Island Hospital.

At the end of the core learning, students participated in eight weeks of two-hour service blocks at one of three sites: an Early Intervention pool program, a therapeutic playgroup and a hospital waiting room. Through classroom instruction and weeks of hands-on experience with working with children, the cadets earned 50 credits toward promotion in the JROTC ranks. To learn more about the Project and to access materials, visit its website at learningthroughassisting.org.

NEBRASKA — Technology, Choice and Opportunity

The Nebraska Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities funded a grant with an Educational Service Unit in central Nebraska that serves a number of small rural school districts. The project provided awareness and training for families and students as to how technology can provide choices, supports and opportunities for youth with disabilities to be included in school, community, and the workforce. In a locale where there is limited information on assistive technology for parents and students, 200 students and 80 parents attended the one day event. Local students demonstrated to other youth how they were using Power Point presentations at their IEP meetings to lead these meetings. *One student with an intellectual disability shared his past experience in which he sat quietly at the table while his teachers and parents discussed his future. He now shares information about himself and his future plans incorporating them into a PowerPoint presentation prior to the meeting.* He is able to let the PowerPoint do the talking for him without being overwhelmed by the adults at the meeting. Students and but parents left the workshop thinking about the new opportunities available.

ARIZONA — Youth in Transition

The University College/Academic Community Engagement Services of Arizona State University (ASU) is supporting the Arizona Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities to implement the Youth in Transition mentoring program. Young women from the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections Black Canyon School for Girls are matched with mentors from ASU. This program provides support and advocacy to young women with developmental disabilities in a juvenile correctional facility as they prepare for and transition back into their home communities. During the facility phase, mentees and mentors meet on a weekly basis to engage in relationship building, reentry planning, and portfolio development. In the community phase, once the mentees are released, the mentors and mentees continue to meet on a weekly basis to implement the goals the young women have set in their reentry plans. Youth in Transition has served a total of forty-five young women. Young women who have previously been leery of adults have learned to trust and build relationships with their mentors and program partners. In addition to developing enduring relationships, the young women in

The mentors are really positive. I look up to them. I think of my mentor like a sister. It gives you a chance to meet positive people, like role models to look up to. ~Mentee

the program have experienced many other successes as well. Thirteen of these young women served have obtained their GEDs or high school diplomas, and one young woman has obtained her eighth grade diploma. Eleven young women were enrolled in either secondary schools or GED programs for varying lengths of time. Four young women enrolled in community college. Finally, seventeen young women have held jobs for varying lengths of time. Participating in the program has led many of the mentors to become strong advocates of court-involved youth with developmental disabilities, and it has even steered some of the mentors in a new career direction, to working with this population. Through our partnership we have gained the trust of the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections., and as a result, one interagency partner told us the Agency is now more willing to let other organizations in to work with their youth.

Delaware – Junior Partners

Thirteen high school students graduated from Junior Partners, a week long program held on the campus of the University of Delaware. They participated in a program that taught them advocacy skills modeled after the adult Partners in Policymaking Program. The students lived in a dormitory and ate in a dining hall on campus. The week culminated with the students presenting testimony at Legislative Hall.



Photo: Delaware 's Junior Partners Graduates

”Before it was hard for me to talk for myself, but now I feel like I can do it.”

Massachusetts – Self-Advocacy Leadership Series (SALS)

The Self-Advocacy Leadership Series (SALS) is an initiative of the Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council. The original series was designed by a self-advocate specifically to prepare other self-advocates to serve as leaders in their communities. Today there are over eighty graduates from dozens of local self-advocacy groups across all five regions of the state.

Held on college campuses whenever possible, the series is led by self-advocate trainers. Participants move from sessions designed to help them better understand themselves (Who I Am, Feelings and Values) to the keys for being an effective advocate and leader (Communication, Team Building, Defining Leadership), and finally to understanding the system and how to influence change (Rules and Laws, Legislative and Budget Advocacy). Participants write a speech and give a presentation to the full class as a condition of graduation, a first for many self-advocates. They not only learn the fundamentals of leadership, but they also build relationships with others in the sessions. Many graduates have reported that they feel more confident and equipped to handle everyday challenges as a result of completing the SALS.

One SALS graduate has been hired by an area office of the Department of Mental Retardation to work as a speaker and mentor to other self-advocates.

NORTH CAROLINA — Beyond Academics

It was evident to us that 20 year old DeMario was trying to “fit in” somewhere when he interviewed for the Beyond Academics (BA) program. We were confused as to which direction this young man was headed. On one hand, he was quiet, reserved, and a hard working man who held two paying jobs and two volunteer jobs. On the other hand, he was verging on the need for a “crisis plan” because of his outbursts toward his mother with whom he lived. A review of his 2006 CAP plan revealed that DeMario wanted to move into his own apartment some day, obtain his drivers license, date women, and obtain a job related to sports. However, his plan also stated that he needed one-to-one services to keep him living at home successfully. Without words, DeMario made it clear to us that he wanted to attend Beyond Academics at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG). After two interviews during which DeMario spoke little to no words, he was accepted into the program because it was clear that he was becoming “stuck” in the service system although he had the desire and potential to move beyond that.

In August 2007, DeMario moved into University Village, one block from UNCG. De Mario has participated in the Beyond Academics program for nine months. He is studying the driver education manual with a continued plan to someday get his license. He had made friends with students at UNCG and met a young woman soon after his move into UV, quickly learned the challenges that come with maintaining a relationship while attending school. He recently signed a lease for a two bedroom townhouse and is looking for a roommate, preferably a college student. To prepare him for this, he has attended four classes a week on the UNCG campus, two of which included UNCG students. He also attended individual classes that provide intense skill development instruction. DeMario is most proud of his volunteer work with the UNCG men’s basketball team which may turn into a paying job. Those duties include assistance with practice sessions, setting the shot clock, passing out uniforms, and getting towels for the players. During the games, he runs important errands as directed by the team managers. He has done such an excellent job that the head coach is willing to participate in a newspaper article highlighting DeMario’s work with the team. Recently, DeMario was offered a job at Emerald Pointe and will start work in April 2008. Job duties will include grounds work, including maintenance of flowers and grass. He is looking forward to being around people and being outdoors.

DeMario is helping to build the BA program as we “pilot” these first few years. He speaks out when he sees changes needed and has helped to expand our staff recruiting efforts in order to find African American men. He participated in the development of a process for BA students to follow when they have concerns or suggestions about BA and was the first to use the process. DeMario’s progress has surpassed our expectations. He simply cannot hide his excitement when asked the question “Do you consider your time with BA successful so far?” He answers, “Well, yeah!” and flashes a huge grin. He is a young man well on his way to realizing his dreams.

TENNESSEE — Project Opportunity

Modeled after a similar and highly successful program at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, Tennessee's Project Opportunity provides educational, developmental and employment opportunities to individuals with disabilities within the Vanderbilt University Medical Center. Project Opportunity consists of two distinct yet overlapping components: a job training program for high school students with developmental disabilities and job placement/follow-up for Project Opportunity graduates who qualify for open positions. The program began in 2005 and has been well-received and well-established thanks to a two-year Establishment Grant from the Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS). Project Opportunity funding is now a collaboration among the Tennessee Council on Developmental Disabilities, the Division of Special Education and DRS.

In 2006-07, six students graduated from the program and all six graduates went on to employment at Vanderbilt Children's Hospital. In total, 15 participants with developmental disabilities have completed the job-training portion of the program and 12 have been hired into full- or part-time, regular positions at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

Micheal (pronounced "Michelle") Williams is a proud graduate of Project Opportunity's inaugural class of 2006. Micheal also knows Vanderbilt Children's Hospital (VCH) on a very personal level because it is where she has received medical care her entire life.



After a successful internship with Project Opportunity in VCH's Linen Services, Micheal was quickly offered a placement. Unfortunately, departmental restructuring eventually resulted in the elimination of Micheal's part-time position. However, her reputation and work ethic, combined with assistance from the Project Opportunity staff, soon landed Micheal a full-time placement in Nutrition Services.

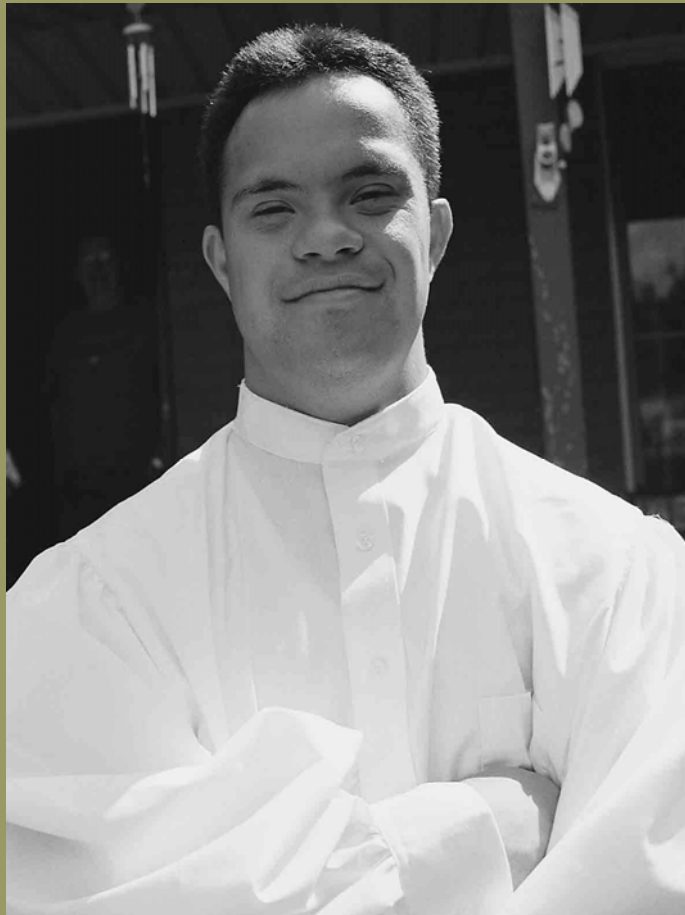
Today, as a Service Aide in the Vanderbilt University Hospital cafeteria, Micheal delights in seeing nurses and doctors she knows from her medical care on a daily basis. She now takes pride in calling these same nurses and doctors "coworkers"!

Employment, Asset Building

UTAH – Employment Tips 101 for Families

Using the principles of self-determination as a guideline, the Utah Developmental Disabilities Council piloted a training developed for individuals and their circles of support to teach them about the nuts and bolts of getting and keeping a job. The Council's Employment Committee worked with a vocational rehabilitation professor from Utah State University, Dr. Jared Schultz, to conceive of and develop this pilot training. Dr. Schultz approached the Council about developing a training for circles of support that would teach many of the principles that professional vocational counselors use to seek and secure employment supports for people with developmental disabilities. The goal of the training was to get people jobs without waiting for "professional" help from a system that maintains a waiting list for employment services. Dr. Shultz helped training participants focus upon ways to find jobs in the hidden job market. Other topics included: benefits planning issues; taking the fear out of ADA accommodations; approaching potential employers; and getting a job and keeping that job with limited supports.

The eighteen circles of support who experienced this training left feeling that the mystery of getting and maintaining employment was no longer a looming crisis for their families. The Council will continue to pilot this project in other regions throughout Utah. It is a project that helps people break down barriers to employment and helps individuals and families reach their employment goals, even as available supporting resources are becoming more scarce.



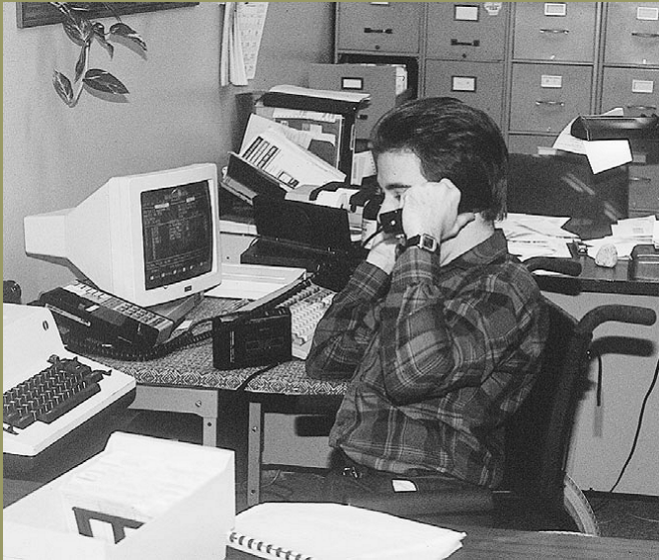
Reed Hahne and his parents participated in Employment Tips 101 to get a sense of available options. Reed said, "I want the same things everyone else does. I want to know what's available for me. I want to work."

A few years ago Reed volunteered at a neighborhood Title I school helping first graders with reading and math. That experience set the stage for him. He decided to get a degree in Early Childhood Education so that one day he could be a teacher's aide. Reed is currently pursuing an Associates Degree from Utah Valley State College (UVSC). He is active in the UVSC Acappella Choir, which recently returned from a brief tour.

Reed's family has supported him in living a regular life which includes participating in a religious mission the same as other youth his age. The photo was taken as Reed prepared to go on a church mission.

OHIO – Transition to Employment

The Kent State University Center for Innovation in Transition and Employment (CITE) received two years of funding from the DD Council and during that time 22 high school students with DD were employed on the Kent State University campus and in the surrounding communities. With the funding, a model for persons with developmental disabilities known as “Supported Job Clubs” was developed (www.supportedjobclub.com), two major person-centered planning retreats for families and high school students with disabilities were conducted, and transition services to students with DD were developed or improved at four sites in Ohio.



Michael was employed through a DD Council grant to UCP of East Central Ohio and Kent State University called “The DD Job Project.” This project was funded to develop supported employment options for persons with physical and multiple disabilities in Ohio. In this picture, Michael is shown working as a customer service representative for an office supply company. When orders came in, Michael would repeat them back to the customer in order to record the order on a tape recorder. At the end of the day, these orders would be transcribed and filled. Mike was an excellent sales person and remained with this company until it closed in the late 1990s. He has been working since that time, although he is now

employed at Walmart as a customer service representative. Since he obtained his job with the support of the DD Council, he has purchased a home, is married, and is now supporting a step-daughter with an emotional disability. The approach developed through the DD Job Project was updated through a recent DD Council grant called “The Center for Excellence in Transition” and a manual is available on-line at www.supportedjobclub.com.

Three participants in this program, moved out of an ICF/MR nursing home and into an apartment with personal care attendants, one was able to purchase a home and get married, and two participants were able to marry after leaving the ICF/MR. Overall, disposable income of the 48 persons with disabilities who participated in this three-year project more than doubled even after SSI benefit deductions. The program director keeps in touch with one person Mike M. who now has a house, a wife, and a full-time job and has presented at Supported Job Clubs for the 2006-2007 project. When the director first met Mike, he was told that Mike would never be employable due to his cognitive and physical disabilities. Without the DD Council, Mike’s life would be dramatically different today.

KENTUCKY — Start-up Funds for New Businesses

The Kentucky Council on Developmental Disabilities gave five individuals with developmental disabilities grants to start up their own businesses. Kevin Webb received one such grant and is now, with his father, co-owns the Webb-Taylor Stables. Senator Jim Bunning read a letter into the Congressional record congratulating Kevin on his accomplishments.

Excerpt from the Congressional Record:

Mr. President, I wish to congratulate Mr. Kevin Webb of Glasgow, KY. Mr. Webb was recently chosen to be one of eight speakers at the first ever Ticket to Work Partners Summit held in Louisville, KY. In March 2008 the Social Security Administration launched the Ticket to Work Partners Summit to bring together over 400 of Social Security's partners who actively engage Social Security disability beneficiaries in work through the Ticket to Work Program. Mr. Webb was chosen to be one of eight speakers nationally to discuss how they have benefited from this program. With the help of the Social Security Administration, Mr. Webb was able to start his own business in April 2006. Today he is a proud co-owner with his father, Ron Taylor, of Webb/Taylor Horseback Riding and Boarding. Prior to becoming a successful business owner, Mr. Webb was faced with a number of difficult challenges in finding employment. Despite all of the setbacks and obstacles he had to overcome, Mr. Webb never gave up on his dreams and continued to search for a job that made him happy.

Mr. Webb applied for a grant given to five individuals each year by the Kentucky Council on Developmental Disabilities and the State vocation rehabilitation for startup funds for new businesses. With the grant and a fully funded Plan for Achieving Self Support from the Social Security Administration, Mr. Webb and his father were able to launch the Webb/Taylor Horseback Riding and Boarding. Besides starting his own business, Mr. Webb has also worked with elected officials in the Kentucky State Legislature on behalf of individuals with disabilities. In 2003, the Kentucky State Legislature passed the Kevin Webb and Kim Brown Self-Determination Act to require the Commission on Services and Supports for Individuals with Mental Retardation and Other Developmental Disabilities to make recommendations to the Department of Medicaid Services for the implementation of a self-determination model for individuals who are receiving services through the Supports for Community Living waiver program. I would like to congratulate Mr. Webb for his hard work and dedication as he celebrates the two year anniversary of opening Webb/Taylor Horseback Riding and Boarding. Mr. Webb is truly an inspiration to all Kentuckians and I wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.



"I would like to thank the Kentucky Council on Developmental Disabilities being a part of funding Project Assets. It was the first grant money I received to begin my business endeavor of becoming self-employed. Not only me but for 14 other individuals as well." ~Kevin Webb

WASHINGTON — Life Opportunities Trust

The Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council manages a most unique trust program. Washington's Developmental Disabilities Life Opportunities Trust (DDLOT) was established in 1999 and already has over 1000 accounts. DDLOT is a way for families and individuals with developmental disabilities to save for the future. Money invested in the trust doesn't count toward resource limits for federal programs. Money invested in DDLOT is managed by the Washington State Investment Board. The Arc of Washington helps with enrollment, deposits, and disbursements. The program is also able to provide incentives by offering some financial off-sets to the cost of the Trust. This match makes this program one-of-a-kind.

"I feel the name Life Opportunities Trust is very appropriate. It truly will be the money invested in this trust that will bring about more life opportunities for Lacey."

~ Mom/Trust Investor

The Trust also takes a lot of pressure off planning for the future. Just like everyone else, Alexa will actually reach retirement age and we want her to be financially ready."

~ Mom/Trust Investor

NEW JERSEY — Success of Savings (SOS) Club

Historically, people with developmental disabilities have been served by systems which promote dependence and have disincentives built in. As people with developmental disabilities move into employment, there is an urgent need to provide incentives for savings accounts that will complement and stabilize their move into the workforce. Income-based social policy should be complemented with asset-based social policy. While income-based policies ensure that consumption needs, including food, shelter and health care are met, asset-based policies provide the means to achieve some degree of economic self-sufficiency.

The Success-of-Savings (SOS) Club is a program to teach the benefits of saving for the future to New Jersey residents with developmental disabilities. The program uses two complementary strategies. The first strategy is classroom instruction aimed at raising the financial literacy of the participants. The second strategy is a structured savings program in which participants save for a personal savings goal and receive a two-to-one match for the savings they accumulate. In year three of the project (ending in 2008) the program has expanded through a partnership with the NJ Department of Community Affairs. As a result, the program has been able to draw down an additional \$500,000 in matching funds for a full Individual Development Account program focused on people with DD in New Jersey.

Every one of the program's forty participants completed the classroom component, prepared a personal budget, and opened a savings account. As a group, participants saved \$17,879 prior to making personal purchases. The SOS program provided matching funds of \$33,599 for overall pre-purchase savings of \$51,478. Measured as an average per participant, this represents a personal contribution of \$447, with a matching contribution of \$840, for a total savings of \$1,287. Program-wide, 73% of participants saved the maximum allowable amount.

New York – Parent Partners in Health Education

The New York State Developmental Disabilities Planning Council (DDPC), through its Parent Partners in Health Education (PPHE) grant, set out to change the training medical residents received. The PPHE curriculum seeks to help medical residents gain a greater understanding of disability issues through building partnerships with caregivers and the community agencies that provide supports and services to individuals with disabilities and their caregivers. Core features of the curriculum include a series of interviews between resident physicians and parents who have children with developmental disabilities or individuals with disabilities and staff from residential programs. In most cases, each resident is assigned to work with their partner outside of a medical setting in order to get a more intimate view of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. The purpose of the parent/residential interviews is to help the residents gain an understanding of the experiences of raising a child with a disability from the perspective of the family and the strengths and needs of adults who live in residential programs.

It was very valuable for me as a physician in training to see how having such a condition affects the entire family structure... I was made to feel very comfortable and strongly agree with this being part of the rotation.

~ Medical resident who was involved in the PPHE training.

DDPC also has an evaluation, technical assistance and sustainability grant with the NYS Council on Graduate Medical Education (COGME). COGME has made a number of recommended changes to the graduate medical education requirements of primary care residents based on their work on this initiative. The result, assuming these recommendations will be incorporated into training protocols of medical residents, will be an infusion of our PPHE components into graduate medical education requirements within NYS.

IDAHO – My Voice, My Choice

Self determination and self advocacy have been major initiatives of the Idaho Developmental Disabilities Council for the past several years. One result is the design and implementation of a new self-directed waiver option, *My Voice My Choice*. *My Voice My Choice* was developed by the DD Council and the Idaho Medicaid program, collaborating through an Independence Plus federal grant. Idaho's traditional Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waiver was modified to give eligible adults with developmental disabilities another way of getting their services – one that put them in the driver's seat. This waiver allows greater personal flexibility and responsibility for users and has required the service system to undergo a major shift in its thinking.

Thomas McKnight, the first person in Idaho to enroll in the self-directed option, describes it well: *"You determine what support you want and when you want it. You select the people you want to attend your person-centered planning meeting, and you set the agenda. The person defines their real needs. You control the money in your budget. You have a lot more choices. You are the supervisor of your life."*

OREGON — Educating Policymakers about Health Needs

"The Oregon Council played a leadership role in educating policy makers about the need for a Medicaid waiver for medically involved children. In 2007, legislation passed that directs the state to apply for a Medicaid waiver to create an in-home support program for children who require significant levels of medical support. The program will offer options other than nursing homes and foster care for the families of these children. Thanks to the work of the Council and partner agencies, Oregon now has three Medicaid waiver in-home support programs for children who are medically involved, children who are medically fragile and children who require intensive behavioral supports."

Sabrina's Story — *When my daughter, Alyssa and I were asked to meet with legislators and testify before legislative committees about the positive impact a medically-involved children's waiver would have on our family and other families, I was very excited. You see, Alyssa had Cerebral palsy, along with other disabilities, including seizures, tone management issues and vision impairment. She was fed only by feeding tube and had multiple surgeries in her short life. My fiancée and I would not marry unless this waiver program was created because our combined incomes would put us just over the limit for Alyssa's SSI and Medicaid benefits. Without these benefits, we would not be able to provide for Alyssa's needs and still provide for our other two children and their futures. The option of placing her in a program outside of our home was out of the question.*



When I got the call from the Council's policy analyst saying the bill had passed, I said "I have to go – my future husband just walked in the door!" Alyssa was going to be one of the first 25 to be served. We immediately set a date for our wedding.

Our family was invited to the bill signing ceremony on July 12, 2007. When I woke that morning, I checked on my children, as I did every morning. I discovered that my Alyssa had passed away during the night.

The months since her passing have been tough, but it is comforting to know that Alyssa had a part in making things better for so many other families. In the past few months, I was invited back to Salem to help with the program criteria and administrative rules. This has been difficult but at the same time, a wonderful way to honor my little girl's memory.

Pennsylvania – Personal Care Homes Demonstration Project

The Personal Care Homes Demonstration Project was funded by the Pennsylvania Developmental Disabilities Council in July of 2006. Since then the grantee, Disability Rights Network of PA, has been actively engaged in working on the three dimensions of this project: (1) demonstrating that people with disabilities will choose to live independently when afforded the opportunity and that they can live in a place of their own when provided appropriate supports, (2) demonstrating that “money follows the person” is a viable option, and (3) highlighting the significance of local advocacy including the participation of residents of personal care homes in learning about their rights and personal care home regulations, then using this knowledge to make changes within homes, at the local level, and to educate policy makers in the state.

Though all three areas of the project are exciting, perhaps the most obvious impact has been felt by those individuals who have successfully moved from a personal care home to a home of their choice. Two ladies, one under age 30 and another over age 50, moved from an unlicensed personal care home into an apartment together. They, for the first time in their lives, had an opportunity to shop for their own new household items, compromising when determining what furniture they would like to have in their new home. A husband and wife purchased a doublewide and received help from their son to make it accessible. The husband now brags about his wife’s cooking! This couple invited another couple from their previous personal care home to visit overnight and was proud of their accomplishment. A woman moved from a personal care home of over 80 people to a quiet, peaceful one bedroom apartment that affords her comfort, order and calmness. She looks forward to replacing her clothing that was ruined in the basement of her previous personal care home. While all of these people experienced challenges in their move out of personal care homes to homes of their choice, they each have grown from that experience. All have made connections with their community and continue to receive the necessary supports to live independently.

In response to the question, what’s the difference between living on your own and living in a PCH, LP said, *“I can do what I want, go out when I want, and not have to tell anyone.”*

Couple in the double-wide trailer: *“We love living here. We can put out our family pictures and Harold can hang up his artwork. The neighbors are nice, too. They helped us when it snowed by shoveling our walk and ramp. Thank you so much for all of your help.”*

After commenting that RT’s apartment looked like a bachelor’s pad, only clean, RT said in a tearful voice, *“I’ve been through a lot in my life and have not lived on my own or with my family for a long time. My mother taught me how to cook, clean, do my laundry and keep myself looking nice. When I lived in a personal care home I didn’t get to do these things for myself. At first I was scared that I had lost all the skills that my mother had taught me, but after moving in here, I found that I hadn’t lost those skills at all. That made me so happy. I didn’t expect that my life could be so good.”*

Louisiana – Landmark Legislative Session

Louisiana's 2007 Legislative Session will long be remembered as one that made a difference in the lives of thousands of people with developmental disabilities and their families. For many people with developmental disabilities who had been waiting for waiver services for as long as twelve years, relief came this year. Four waivers administered by the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) received funding for additional slots – 200 Children's Choice, 200 Supports Waiver and 200 Residential Waiver slots were all included in the Governor's Budget when it was presented to the legislature. The House Appropriations Committee then added funding for 1,500 New Opportunities Waiver (NOW) slots to House Bill (HB) 1 and these funds remained in the bill throughout the rest of the legislative process. For the remaining thousands on the waiting list who will not receive one of these 2,100 slots, hope for the future came in the passage of Senate Bill 98 by Sen. Tom Schedler and co-authored by almost every other member of the legislature. This bill directs the state treasurer to deposit twelve percent of all recurring state general fund revenue, not to exceed \$50 million per year, as recognized by the Revenue Estimating Conference at the beginning of the fiscal year, into the New Opportunities Waiver Fund to fund additional NOW slots. In other words, in every year there is a budget surplus, money will be deposited into the fund and additional people will receive waiver services. *(Fifty million dollars was deposited into the New Opportunities Waiver fund in May 2008 and will fund thousands of new waiver slots next year.)*

The Governor's Budget also included increased state funding to allow OCDD to provide individual and family support services to all individuals with developmental disabilities whose needs are classified as a priority one or two. It also contained continuation funding for the Direct Support Professional wage pass through that was implemented in the Spring of 2007 and is so vital to the quality of community and family supports. And last, but certainly not least in importance for many families of children with disabilities in Louisiana, was the inclusion of funding for implementation of the Family Opportunity Act (FOA). *(Implementation of the FOA in Louisiana was a direct result of Council advocacy with the administration.)*

How did Louisiana achieve such phenomenal success? The Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council has built relationships with legislators and has educated them on the needs of people with disabilities on the waiting list. In addition, this year's well orchestrated advocacy campaign was carried out by citizens from every corner of the state. This organized grassroots advocacy and its leadership is sponsored and funded by the Louisiana Council. The grassroots network is called LaCAN for Louisiana Citizens for Action Now and includes over 2,500 members, a list serve, ten regional leaders, an annual rally and much more.

South Dakota – Housing Workgroup

Since 2004, the South Dakota Council on Developmental Disabilities has worked with a Housing Workgroup facilitated by SD Advocacy Services that included staff from Rural Development, the SD Housing Development Authority, the Division of Developmental Disabilities, local housing agencies and parents. This workgroup completed a set of Questions and Answers for families and individuals with developmental disabilities who were looking at options for community living. In 2007, a subcommittee of the Housing Workgroup met and developed a "Guide to Home Ownership for People with Limited Income in South Dakota." This guide provides information about resources and an outline to follow when considering home ownership. One thousand copies were disseminated and presentations were made focusing on people with disabilities living as independently as possible, whether they are considering an apartment with a roommate or alone, or looking into purchasing a home of their own. The guide is available for download from the Council's website (<http://dhs.sd.gov/ddc>).

Individual & Community Supports

Texas — Community Integration Project (TCIP)

The Texas Community Integration Project (TCIP) addresses one of the most basic – but difficult – challenges faced by Councils for Developmental Disabilities: facilitating the transition of citizens with developmental disabilities out of nursing facilities and other institutions and into homes in the community in which they wish to live. TCIP began in 2000 as a collaborative project between the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities (TCDD), the Texas Center for Disability Studies at The University of Texas, and Advocacy, Inc. (Texas’ Protection and Advocacy agency). The three network partners originally designed the project to provide direct assistance to people who wished to move to the community but did not have the support to do so. However, project personnel quickly realized that systems change was necessary – policy changes and/or re-interpretations were needed; professional staff working in institutions frequently did not understand or know about community-based supports and options; and technical assistance was needed to identify and/or develop resources in the community. The project quickly grew to address these needs and thus was able to bring about systemic change which also benefits individuals not directly targeted by the project.

Since TCIP’s inception, project staff have provided training and technical assistance that helped 321 Texans with disabilities who were living in institutions to be able to live in their own homes in communities in multiple areas of the state. Thousands of people received training to be able to play active roles in helping other people leave institutions, and at least one institution that was closing requested the assistance of project staff to help residents find and choose new places to live. In addition, TCDD and its partners were able to respond to the needs of 58 people who had been placed in institutions after being displaced from their own homes – community homes – due to damage caused by Hurricane Katrina. Subsequent to this experience, the TCDD grant provided support for “**Tips for First Responders,**” a tool that provides quick and easy information about assisting individuals with disabilities in an emergency, as well as during routine encounters. This tool was developed and widely distributed by the Center for Disability Studies (CDS). Last, but not least, project staff were able to successfully advocate for most individuals affected by the closure of a 200-bed ICFMR to receive offers of community-based services.

Stella went all out for the first Christmas in her own apartment. She wrapped the front door like a package, made a festive wreath, filled a tiny white tree with lights and ornaments, and played her two prized Christmas CDs day and night. Showing off the stockings carefully hung in the hall, Stella joyfully proclaimed what she hoped Santa would bring. "I want it ALL!"

Stella, 55, has an intellectual disability. She spent many years living in institutions, most recently a 100-bed Intermediate Care Facility for persons with mental retardation. She dreamed of "a more normal" life — one that included more contact with her family, a social life and a job. But Stella didn't know her dream could come true until she met staff from the Texas Community Integration Collaborative (TCIC). The project, operated by Advocacy, Inc, Texas' protection and advocacy organization, and funded by the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities and Advocacy, Inc., helps people with disabilities get the services and supports they need to move out of institutions and nursing homes into the community.

Stella was overjoyed when she learned she could get support to live in her own apartment through the Home and Community-Based Services Medicaid waiver program. She created a personal plan with assistance from staff at the Texas Center for Disability Studies, another member of the TCIC collaborative. Using that plan to guide her decisions, she chose the part of town and apartment complex she wanted to live in. She chose the service provider who assists with cooking, cleaning, grocery shopping, bill paying and similar tasks. TCIC staff worked closely with Stella every step of the way. They helped her navigate through the waiver process and understand the choices and decisions before her. They helped her get a housing voucher, locate furnishings for her apartment, and even helped her move in.

Stella beams with pride as she shows off her apartment. She says she likes the privacy and being able to decide who gets to come in. She goes to church, loves to dance and sing karaoke, and is actively looking for a job. She has reconnected with her family and cherishes every minute she spends with them. Stella gets misty when she talks about her "friends" from TCIC. She says she doesn't think she could have made this move on her own. "They just helped and helped," she says. "I am so happy now."



Stella beams as she shops for items to furnish her new apartment.

ILLINOIS — New Visions

New Visions is a statewide initiative funded by the Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities that empowers persons with developmental disabilities to envision, express and realize the dreams that they believe will enrich their lives in the community. *New Visions* includes several components:

- *Full Life Future Planning*[™], developed by the Center for Independent Futures, is an interactive person-centered planning process where a person and the support network they choose work together to make the person's dreams a reality.
- *Dare to Dream* workshops are designed to motivate people with developmental disabilities to dream bigger and to identify people who can help support their dreams and help make them come true.
- *Dreaming New Visions* workshops focus on supporting families and guardians of people with developmental disabilities as they help turn their self-advocates' dreams into reality.

Sometimes it's the simple things that make the biggest difference in someone's life. "Mary" is a bubbly, friendly woman who went through the Full Life Future Planning[™] process with her "dream team" during the past year. This was made possible through New Visions. Mary voiced several dreams that were important to her, dreams that she had for many years, but that were not supported by her other "team." She wanted to meet some new people, get out and do more fun things, and get a motorized wheelchair. Mary's dream team, a small group of people that she chose to help her, offered emotional and physical support. Mary's persistence also played a huge role in making her dreams become a reality.

Just recently, Mary proudly visited friends in her brand new motorized wheelchair! Mary's new chair is making it easier for her to achieve her other two dreams -- meeting new people and getting out more often. Because of her new chair, she has become more independent, and it is easier for her to get places and do things. She is less reliant on others and is very happy about that. She sits up taller and is very proud of the things that are happening in her life.

"If it wasn't for Full Life Future Planning, I wouldn't have been able to follow my dream." ~Mary

California — Client Rights Advocacy Project

Through their Client Rights Advocacy project, the San Jose Area Board office 7 is taking a lead role in advocating for individuals living at Agnews Developmental Center to move into the community. Their Volunteer Advocacy Services project builds a network of personal relationships for people at the Center who would otherwise have only paid staff in their lives. The Agnews Developmental Center, once one of the largest in California, is slated to close in 2008.

North Dakota — Disability Justice Initiative Disaster Preparedness

During 2007, the North Dakota State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) successfully concluded the 5th and final year of a Disability Justice Initiative (DJI). This Initiative was a 3-way collaboration project involving the SCDD, North Dakota's University Center for Excellence, the North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities (NDCPD), and the North Dakota Protection and Advocacy. The purpose of the Disability Justice Initiative was to improve ongoing interaction between the law enforcement/criminal justice system and persons with disabilities.

Using the Disability Justice Initiative as a model, beginning in 2007, the SCDD initiated a Disaster Preparedness Planning Project. This project emphasizes capacity building for community first response systems and training for first response personnel to enable them to best meet the unique needs of persons with disabilities during disaster and emergency situations. Like DJI, this Disaster Preparedness Planning Project is also a multi-year three-way collaboration involving the SCDD, NDCPD and the N.D. Protection and Advocacy.

MICHIGAN — Health Care Coordination Project

For one rural, middle aged Native American gentleman, the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Health Care Coordination Project (HCCP) has provided the support necessary for him to access and follow through with his wellness needs and maintain his independence. Having numerous serious chronic conditions, living alone with no phone or reliable transportation, unable to read and understand pre surgery directions, Charles easily became frustrated and angry. Almost as frustrated were his doctors when he would regularly miss vital appointments or leave the hospital, angry and refusing surgery.

The HCCP located a discount phone service, provided Charles with a landline phone, and programmed it to assure that he would be able to make routine and emergency medical calls. With a little assistance, his problem with transportation was resolved. He has had the necessary surgeries, as the HCCP's outreach worker accompanied him to translate the written information, and to explain the medical procedures, thus reducing his fear. Charles' lack of a natural support system became painfully clear when he had no response to the nurse's question, "Who do you want contacted in case of an emergency?" Charles now has a friend and resource (HCCP) that is used not only by Charles, but also by his providers to assure he receives the coordinated care and wellness checks that are essential for maintaining health and well being.

Charles' new peace of mind is apparent. When asked if there was anything else I (HCCP) could do for him, he replied, "Thanks to you, I have everything in the world I need now."

MINNESOTA — Cultural Outreach

Since 1999, the Minnesota Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities (GCDD) has funded a Cultural Outreach Program in the Latino Community. Most participants are first generation from Mexico, Ecuador, and Central America. The father is usually bilingual due to employment demands. Families and family members take care of each other; they are not familiar and not always comfortable with asking for assistance, and the range and variety of services that might be available can be overwhelming. The terms "independence, self determination, productivity, integration and inclusion" are not understood and don't translate easily; to some extent, they are contrary to family values and family systems.

This program is designed to respect the beliefs, interpersonal styles, and language of the participants in the program, and achieve certain goals: 1) Provide basic information about programs, services, and service delivery systems and how and where to access them; 2) Teach introductory leadership, networking, and communication skills; 3) Affirm and foster the personal strengths and knowledge that participants bring to the program, and use the training program to build on individual abilities, and connect participants with opportunities to contribute productively to their communities; 4) Serve as a step to participating in the Partners in Policymaking program, a more intensive leadership training program.



Participants in the Minnesota Council's Cultural Outreach Program

"After being in the program for a year, I feel ready to help my son to improve his life, and to help other families, too."

"I am starting to understand the benefits of independence for the future of my daughter."

"I am looking forward to participate in activities that will influence the elected officials on behalf of children with disabilities."

Oklahoma — Dream Night at the Oklahoma Zoo

The “Dreamnight” concept began in The Netherlands in 1996 as an effort to support families of children with disabilities. Dreamnight is an evening of fun for children with disabilities and their families; it is held annually worldwide on the first Friday in June. While some advocates might see this as an “exclusionary” practice, Dreamnight is rather about providing a recreational opportunity to entire families, free of charge. The staff of the Oklahoma City Zoo, one of the top zoos in the nation, contacted the Council office after learning of this event at a conference of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). While the zoo is ADA-accessible and promotes itself as such, this was the first large scale effort of the zoo to reach out to persons with disabilities and their families. The Council funded the original proposal in the small amount of \$2500, which included funding to survey the handful of U.S. zoos that were implementing Dreamnight and include this information in a manual that could be offered at no charge to all zoos. (This manual is now available on the Council’s website.) The Council funding also provided a series of trainings about basic “disability etiquette” and “people first” language skills for all zoo staff and volunteers – which number several hundred. This course was so well-received that it is now incorporated into the “new employee” training for all zoo staff.

The very small investment of the Council has resulted in thousands of Oklahoma families having a free recreational opportunity, one that includes the brothers and sisters of a child with a disability. It has provided the opportunity to teach a large organization’s staff about people with disabilities and inclusion into their communities. And it has created educational opportunities about people with disabilities among private businesses, which now co-sponsor this event annually. It should be noted that Dreamnight at the Oklahoma City Zoo is NOT a media event, and therefore the support from these private businesses has not been broadly publicized – the partners contribute because they believe in the effort, not for any professional gains.

“If it weren’t for Dreamnight, my family, and probably many others, would not have been able to take our children to such a wonderful event.”

“My children called the evening ‘magical.’”

INDIANA – Disability Awareness

The Indiana Governor's Council for People with Disabilities sponsors Disability Awareness Month annually each March to help change how people think and react to people with disabilities. This statewide campaign takes place at the decree of Indiana's Governor, and serves as a way to encourage Hoosiers to host events and conduct activities in their communities directed at increasing awareness of people with disabilities.

The 2008 theme, "Attitude is Everything," was designed to help overcome stereotypes and start seeing people with disabilities as people first. Campaign materials pictured Amy Mills, a high school freshman who has a prosthetic leg, playing a backyard game of football with a group of teenagers.

This year's materials were sponsored by the 2006 world champion Indianapolis Colts, enabling the Council to provide free posters, bookmarks and other collateral materials to communities statewide. They were used by more than 1,100 advocates and organizations throughout the state, and were seen by tens of thousands of Hoosiers.

IOWA – InfoNET

The Iowa Council's infoNET publication and web presence have continued to grow as a public policy resource to Iowans with disabilities and their families. Readership doubled to more than 2,500 last year for this integral part of the Council's efforts to promote grassroots participation by linking constituents with information they can use to take action. infoNET continues to focus, during the session, on information about relevant public policy being considered by the Iowa General Assembly. Expanded interim issues round out the year with reports on current state and federal policy news and other opportunities, such as elections and appointments, for political and civic action. A redesigned website offers users additional advocacy resources in a toolkit that includes links to elected officials, a schedule of local legislative forums, tips for successful advocacy and other opportunities for readers to make a difference. Consumer satisfaction with infoNET is consistently positive, with overall reader satisfaction at over 95%. A number of the Council's advocate partners also report that they regularly quote and credit portions of infoNET in their communication with their own constituents.

"I appreciate all the work that you do to help people with disabilities. It can be overwhelming at times. I do the best I can to stay abreast of what's going on with legislation, but without your help it would be impossible."



ATTITUDE IS EVERYTHING

To be a champion, you have to think like one. On and off the field, you have to know that the only thing that can stop you... is you. And when you champion a winning attitude for yourself and your team, you can achieve anything.

CELEBRATE DISABILITY AWARENESS MONTH 2008



Indiana Governor's Council
for People with Disabilities

www.in.gov/ipcpd/

materials sponsored by the Indianapolis Colts

MISSOURI — Messaging Campaign

Members of the Missouri Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities frequently expressed concern that Missouri legislators and public policymakers as well as the general public seemed unaware of the needs of people with developmental disabilities and how budget and policy decisions impacted individuals with disabilities and their families. Our statewide needs assessment demonstrated that individuals with DD and their families, as well as other stakeholders, felt that cuts to Medicaid, and openness to inclusion in the schools, places of work, social opportunities and even places of worship showed a lack of understanding rather than a lack of sensitivity.

As the Council laid out its five-year plan, members agreed that we needed assistance in developing a message that would increase understanding and awareness of developmental disabilities. The Council invested in a communication project that was focused on developing a strong message for appropriate audiences. We worked with a messaging company that assisted our membership in first reaching an understanding of the message we wanted to convey and the audiences that needed to be targeted. A messaging campaign was developed that addressed major concerns and a public awareness campaign was launched that used the most appropriate forms of media to get the message to the right audience.

As with all public awareness campaigns, it is difficult to see immediate results, but the Council has been very pleased with the results that we can observe. We have received positive input from our state Department of Education, complementing our inclusion efforts. Many individuals and families have expressed appreciation for our willingness to tackle the really tough issues of institutionalization of people with developmental disabilities, and we have had contacts from others wanting to partner with us to achieve common goals on transportation and employment. The project taught members and staff a great deal about communication and we now see this project as

“The messaging campaign has really changed the way the Council looks at the work that we do. Now, we are concentrating on how to communicate what we would like to see changed along with what project will bring about change. I think we are more likely to see “change” due to this new way of thinking.”

~ Shelly Shetley, Chairperson

a beginning rather than a culmination of our effort. For instance, the Council supported the development of a booklet of brief, attractive stories about people successfully transitioning from large institutions to community settings to emphasize that all people can live in the community. We held a transportation summit about successful transportation solutions and then invested in three pilot projects that support communities to develop their own transportation solutions. We invested in multiple education projects that support inclusive classrooms and will eventually host an Inclusive Education Summit that will help others learn from the project outcomes.

The Council now approaches its communication in a more strategic manner and does a better job of investing in projects that not only focus on systems change, but also look at how we will communicate the need for change and project outcomes with key stakeholders to bring about the changes we desire.



Missouri spends over \$100,000,000 each year to keep people who have committed no crime locked away from society.

The real crime here is thinking that it's necessary.

Some believe that placing 1,000 Missourians with developmental disabilities in habilitation centers is best for them. It's simply not true. Moving people from institutions to a community setting generally leads to a better quality of life, while saving taxpayers millions of dollars.
**Be aware. Get involved. Find out more. Visit us at www.mpcdd.com.
Let people with disabilities live real lives.**



MISSOURI PLANNING COUNCIL FOR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES



When children with disabilities go to public schools something happens in the community.

The individuals with disabilities become a part of it.

Those with developmental disabilities depend on the school system for their introduction into the community and for their social and intellectual development. It's not only necessary, but it's the law. Let's be sure we're all obeying it.
**Be aware. Get involved. Find out more. Visit us at www.pcd.com.
Let people with disabilities live real lives.**



MISSOURI PLANNING COUNCIL FOR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Public Policy

Anticipation — Public Policy

With changes in the composition of Congress, the DD Councils approached 2007 with optimism. Hopes of increased appropriations and a Reauthorized DD Act drove the public policy activities for most of 2007. The Reauthorization Team continued its discussion about the DD Act, and NACDD publicly endorsed a new title in the Act calling for authorizing Information and Training Centers directed by self-advocates. *Changing Lives*, a new public relations brochure, documented the influence of the DD Councils in the lives of children and adults with developmental disabilities. The brochures were strategically distributed to Members of Congress and state legislators to call their attention to the wide ranging outcomes in systems change, capacity building and advocacy that are achieved through Council action.

Framing the Councils' message is a priority of the NACDD Board. Achieving increases in appropriations becomes more challenging during times of economic instability. And for the first time in several years, the DD Councils experienced a small increase in its appropriations. This victory paves the way for advocacy work in 2008 which includes continuing to inform the Councils and its grassroots leaders through the Legislative Action Weekly (LAW), training and technical assistance on informing and educating policymakers including using the Legislative Action Center, maintaining strong linkages with Congressional Members and their staff at home and in the Capitol, and developing stories explaining Councils' extraordinary work. While the DD Act did not come before the Congress in 2007, the NACDD members look forward to working collaboratively with other individuals and organizations in drafting a reauthorized Act to further the work of the Councils and its network partners.

2007 Public Policy Activities

- NACDD engaged a public policy firm, Sonnenschein Nath Rosenthal, to conduct its public policy activities and guide the NACDD grassroots network in advocating for DD Act Reauthorization and increased appropriations.
- NACDD collaborated with The Arc, UCP, the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD), and the Association for University Centers on Excellence to host a Disability Policy Conference in March. Twenty eight Councils were represented and joined an audience of approximately 600 people to learn about issues impacting people with developmental disabilities in housing, employment, social security, autism and budget items.
- NACDD increased its subscribers to the Legislative Action Center resulting in greater numbers of responses to alerts and advisories.
- NACDD developed a legislative agenda and categorized priorities into three levels, helping to clarify the level of attention and action across an array of disability legislation and regulations.

NACDD joined other advocates in opposing weakening activities of the protection and advocacy systems and the Medicaid program. NACDD advocated for mental health parity, funding of life-span respite programs, authorizing new supports and services for people with autism, increased support for the CLASS Act, the Direct Support Professional Act, and a range of other disability related issues.

NACDD's involvement in national public policy issues remains of paramount importance to the organization. Hiring a renowned public policy firm helped to increase NACDD's visibility on Capitol Hill and the understanding of DD Councils by Members of Congress.

Council Services

NACDD provides services designed to assist Councils in their efforts to promote the interests and rights of individuals with developmental disabilities and to inform policymakers and the public about the results of these efforts. Information and resources are disseminated to Councils, other advocacy organizations, policymakers and the public via several venues, including conferences, teleconferences, and NACDD's website.

NACDD Website

NACDD's website can be found at www.nacdd.org. The website provides information about upcoming national events, links to valuable resources for Councils and for people with developmental disabilities, contact information for Councils, including links to their websites, and information derived from the Technical Assistance contract. A Members Only section of the website offers resource material specifically for Council use.

Executive Directors' Quarterly Teleconference

In 2007, two teleconferences were held to address topics of interest to our members. These topics included

- *Emergency Preparedness* – Julia Bell, Executive Director of the Maine DD Council, moderated a discussion about issues related to emergency preparedness for people with developmental disabilities. Members from various States described the efforts in their respective States and identified ongoing issues related to this topic. As follow up to this call, Brian Parsons of the US Department of Homeland Security, was invited to speak at NACDD's fall conference. Mr. Parsons addressed how individuals and Councils can create a culture of preparedness.
- *Project Sustainability* – Mary Gordon, Executive Director of the Nebraska DD Council, facilitated a discussion about how projects initiated with Council funds can be sustained for the long term. Models were presented by the Alaska, New York and North Carolina Councils, and participants on the call discussed the process of applying for funding for a project, how to monitor ongoing projects, the consequences for grantees who are not able to sustain their projects, and technical assistance to assist projects develop sustainability.

NACDD 2007 Annual Conference

NACDD's 2007 annual conference was hosted by the California State Council on Developmental Disabilities. The conference was held in San Diego, California and the theme was *Sailing into the Future*. This Conference had the highest attendance of any NACDD annual conference to date with 280+ individuals attending from 47 states, Guam and Puerto Rico.

Technical Assistance Contract

Training and technical assistance services are available to all 55 State Councils on Developmental Disabilities through ITACC (Information and Technical Assistance Center for Councils). Services provided through ITACC are funded by the Administration on Developmental Disabilities and provided through a contract administered by the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities.

Technical Assistance to Councils

During FY 2007, 12 Councils requested and received technical assistance through self-prescribed technical assistance plans. Topics addressed through the TA Plans included: facilitator to assist Council in improving effectiveness, focus and meaningful participation of all members in Council meetings; training for Council members on their roles and responsibilities; DD Suite implementation; facilitation of Council structure changes; self-determination and self-directed services for individuals with developmental disabilities; and, working with people with developmental disabilities who have committed crimes (forensics).

Information Dissemination

Eight topical reports were disseminated by ITACC staff through a variety of methods including electronic mail, list serves and ITACC Web-site topical pages. Topical reports included: dental initiatives, family support, training judges, stipends, code of ethics, customized employment and information on funding staff for self advocacy organizations. Two additional reports on the prevalence of guardianship among various populations and indirect cost rates for Universities were disseminated to the Councils via email.

Rapid Response System

ITACC staff provides rapid response to information requests from members of the Council network. During FY 2007, 32 of the 55 Councils requested and received information and or resources through the ITACC staff. Information was requested on the following topics: Poverty and non-poverty areas, simple definition of productivity, lobbyist registration information, TA Plan request information, state plan dollar allocation, fiscal information, fiscal reports to Council, membership composition, consumer satisfaction, Chairperson information, DSA and placement in government, network collaboration information, DD definition and eligibility for services, RFP/Grants information, evaluation of the Executive Director as well as other topics.

Technical Assistance Institute

The 2007 Technical Assistance Institute was held at the L'Enfant Plaza Hotel in Washington, DC on June 11-12, 2007. The theme for the Institute was "Essential Elements for Councils on Developmental Disabilities: Strong Leadership, Effective Operations and Achieving Outcomes." One hundred fifty three individuals attended this event.

Topical Meetings

ITACC hosted two topical meetings during FY 2007. "Key Components of Council Leadership" was hosted in Washington, DC for Council Chairpersons and Council Members/Leaders. A topical meeting for Councils using the DD Suite data collection system was also held in Washington, DC.

Letter from NACDD's President

Dear Friends,

For many of us, the measurement of time is in accordance with predictable events—a legislative session, decision about community investments, and quarterly council meetings to name a few. It is the complexity of the thought and actions leading up to and through these events that characterize the operations of the DD Councils. The resulting outcomes of the activities, events, projects and programs are the Councils' response to its mandate under the Developmental Disabilities and Bill of Rights Act of 2000. In this 2007 NACDD Annual Report, you will read several stories that are indicative of a Council's work. NACDD is extremely proud of the 55 state and territorial councils that joined us in membership in 2007. Each of these Councils, in accordance with the unique needs of its citizens with developmental disabilities, implemented distinctive plans to achieve systems change, capacity building and advocacy for community inclusion. Whether it was leading the fight to close a state institution or fund a project to build accessible homes, the DD Councils remained leaders for positive and inclusive change.

While DD Councils foster collaboration to achieve results at the state and territorial level, NACDD's purpose is to build collaborative bridges between states and territories. In the past year, NACDD held or cosponsored three conferences: the Fall Conference in San Diego, California, the Technical Assistance Institute in Washington, DC and the joint public policy conference in Washington, DC. We increased participation in each of these events from the year before. We began a marketing initiative with the publication of our new brochure, *Changing Lives*, and we gained the first increase in appropriations in several years. We continued to discuss the Reauthorization of the Developmental Disabilities Act among ourselves and network partners and strengthened our relationship with Self Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE). We increased our public policy presence and influence in Washington, D.C. with the hiring of Sonnenschein Nath and Rosenthal, a highly respected public policy firm. The Board engaged in ongoing strategic planning sessions to map out goals and objectives over the next three years and we began the hiring process for a new Chief Executive Officer.

NACDD remained on strong financial footing and for the third year in a row, added funds into its reserve account. The NACDD Committee structure remains strong and each of the standing and ad hoc committees has active members who give us hundreds of hours of labor each year. The Board and staff are grateful for the commitment and passion of our volunteers and we owe them our thanks for helping us fulfill our mission.

2007 represents another year of achievement for the DD Councils and its national association. The pictures and words in this report are inspirational but also instructional. The Annual Report reinforces what we in the DD Council network already know, and that is that each and every day, we make a difference.

Best,

Becky Harker

Marian Wright Edelman

We must not, in trying to think about how we can make a big difference, ignore the small daily differences we can make which, over time, add up to big differences that we often cannot foresee.

2007 Board of Directors

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President — Becky Harker (IA)
 Vice President — Matthew Wangeman (AZ)
 Secretary — Bill Lynch (OR)
 Treasurer — Deborah Swingley (MT)
 Past President — Eric Jacobson (GA)

At-Large Directors

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 Brian Cox (MD)
 Althea McLuckie (NM)
 Millie Ryan (AK)
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2006 Board of Directors

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2007 NACDD Staff

Karen Flippo — Chief Executive Officer
 Phyllis Guinivan — Council Services Liaison
 Pat Brown — Office Manager
 Sheryl Matney — Technical Assistance Contract Manager
 Valerie Billmire — Technical Assistance Program Specialist

Financial Statements

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNCILS
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2007

ASSETS

	2007	2006
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 408,625	\$ 304,349
Investments	2,778	2,778
Accounts receivable	40,556	66,895
Employee loan receivable - current portion	2,400	2,400
Prepaid expenses	9,091	20,415
Total current assets	463,450	395,837
FIXED ASSETS		
Furniture and equipment	14,853	13,491
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(7,411)	(4,576)
Net fixed assets	7,442	8,915
OTHER ASSETS		
Employee loan receivable	1,980	4,380
Deposits	2,500	2,500
Total other assets	4,480	6,880
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 475,372	\$ 412,632

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

	2007	2006
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable	\$40,109	\$29,300
Accrued salaries and related benefits	10,646	11,000
Deferred income:		
Membership	174,247	178,996
Conference	51,651	50,100
Other	540	1,000
Total current liabilities	277,193	270,396
LONG-TERM LIABILITIES		
Deposit held in escrow	—	2,700
Total liabilities	277,193	273,096
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted	192,690	134,320
Temporarily restricted	5,489	5,216
Total net assets	198,179	139,536
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 412,632	\$ 412,632



**225 Reinekers Lane, Suite 650-B
Alexandria, VA 22314**

**Phone: 703-739-4400
Fax: 703-739-6030
www.NACDD.org**

NACDD'S mission is to provide support and assistance to member Councils in order to promote a consumer and family centered system of services and supports for individuals with developmental disabilities.