



Rising to the Challenge

NACDD Annual Conference

Albuquerque, New Mexico

October 29-30 2009



**National Association of
Councils on Developmental Disabilities**





October 28, 2009

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the 2009 NACDD Annual Conference. This year's theme, *Rising to the Challenge*, is especially appropriate given these tough economic times. Indeed, DD Councils are rising to the challenge by working hard to advance programs and policies that benefit people with developmental disabilities, their family members, caretakers and communities. In this time of challenge, it is essential that as a society we not forget people with developmental disabilities as we work toward more inclusive communities and specifically an economy that includes and values everyone.

This year's conference focuses on employment, self advocacy and system rebalancing. We are fortunate to have outstanding presenters and keynote speakers and thank each of them. We hope all participants will benefit from this opportunity to learn, share ideas and resources, and network with old and new friends and colleagues.

We're especially grateful to the many volunteers from New Mexico and beyond who have given their time and talents to ensure a successful conference. We want to take this opportunity to give a very special thanks to Anna Lobosco, the Deputy Executive Director of the New York State Developmental Disabilities Planning Council, who served as this year's Conference Planning Team Convener. Anna has once again done an outstanding job in leading the team's effort to plan a timely and useful conference program. We also want to acknowledge and thank the NACDD staff, especially Eboni Morris (Program Manager) and Pat Brown (Office Manager/Meeting Planner) for all their hard work in organizing and implementing this year's conference.

Most of all, we want to thank *you* for taking the time and effort to join us in Albuquerque. Together, we are rising to the challenge.

Best wishes,

Deborah Swingley
President
NACDD

Pat Putnam
Executive Director
New Mexico DD Planning Council

Michael Brogioli
CEO
NACDD

2009 Conference Agenda

Wednesday, October 28

11:00am – 2:00pm NACDD Board of Directors Meeting

Room: Taos

12:00pm – 3:00pm Conference Registration

Ballroom Foyer

3:00pm – 5:00pm NACDD Business Meeting

Room: Salon A-F

6:00pm – 8:00pm Welcome Reception:

Anderson Abruzzo International Balloon Museum

9201 Balloon Museum Drive, Albuquerque, NM

Thursday, October 29

7:30am - 5:00pm Resource Room

Room: Carlsbad

7:30am - 2:00pm Conference Registration

Ballroom Foyer

7:30am - 8:30am Continental Breakfast

Ballroom Foyer

8:30am - 10:00am Welcome & General Session

9:00am - 10:00am Opening Keynote

Partners for Inclusive Communities

This session will discuss the importance of self advocacy. Participants will hear about where people with developmental disabilities have been in the past, where they are today, and where they are going in the future.

Presenter: **Julie Petty**, Self Advocate

Room: Salon A-F

10:00am - 10:15am

Break

Ballroom Foyer

Thursday, October 29

10:15am – 11:30am

Concurrent Sessions

Employment First: From Policy to Practice

Representatives from California will highlight how peer advocate leadership has become integral to advancing legislative focus on employment of people with developmental disabilities as well as service system implementation. Oregon, Washington and Alaska have also promulgated employment initiatives aimed at maximizing person-centered employment opportunities and creation of small businesses.

Presenters: **Alan Kerzin**, Executive Director, California State Council on DD
Bill Lynch, Executive Director, Oregon Council on DD
Ed Holen, Executive Director, Washington State DD Council
Millie Ryan, Executive Director, Governors' Council on
Disabilities and Special Education (Alaska)

Room: Sandia Ballroom

Innovative Collaborations to Promote the Principles of Self Determination, Self Advocacy and Leadership

Attendees will learn about a model of collaboration between a self advocacy program and an institution of higher education that promotes self determination from the perspective of self advocates and the educator. This model has been implemented in classroom settings in the past five years and is now being used by self advocates in the public school system as they become mentors in special education classrooms teaching issues related to self determination.

Presenters: **Susan Copeland**, Associate Professor, University of New Mexico,
Albuquerque, New Mexico
Connie DeHerrera, Center Coordinator, Center for Self Advocacy,
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Room: Salon A-D

Looking Forward: A Summit on the DD System in North Carolina

The North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities convened a Summit of experts on North Carolina's Developmental Disability System to craft policies that should guide North Carolina's delivery of services and supports for people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. This session will discuss the recommendations that came out of the Summit.

Presenters: **Holly Riddle**, Executive Director, North Carolina Council on
Developmental Disabilities
Jill Rushing, Program Manager, North Carolina Council on
Developmental Disabilities

Room: Salon G-J

Thursday, October 29

10:15am – 11:30am

Concurrent Sessions

How is the Economic Crisis Affecting People with Developmental Disabilities and their Families:

DD Councils are facing unprecedented pressures due to the current fiscal and economic climate. State governments are cutting back on services and programs that are vital to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. Session participants will hear how the economic downturn has affected public programs that people with DD rely on. Participants will also learn how they can tailor their work accordingly to remain effective advocates for the DD community.

Presenters: ***Vendella Collins***, Executive Director, Michigan DD Council
Michael Brogioli, CEO, NACDD, Washington, D.C.

Room: Las Cruces/Cimarron

11:45am – 1:15pm

Luncheon Keynote

Employment First: Realities and Implications

A number of states are now considering an Employment First policy that places a priority on the allocation of resources in helping persons with disabilities enter and remain in employment. Such a change in focus will have significant implications on how services are provided and what the role of the key stakeholders will be as this effort advances. This presentation will review some of the data on how we are doing and not doing in increasing the number of persons with disabilities who are able to enter employment.

Presenter: ***William Kiernan***, Director of the Institute for Community Inclusion and Research (University Center on Excellence in Developmental Disabilities), University of Massachusetts, Boston

Room: Salon A-F

1:30pm – 2:45pm Concurrent Sessions

Rural Illinois Customized Employment Sustainability (RICES) Project

The RICES project is an initiative creating change in employment practice and outcomes in rural communities throughout Illinois. This project, invested in by the Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities (ICDD), is a partnership between Health & Disability Advocates, Griffin Hammis Associates, and Marc Gold & Associates to assist 8 cornerstone communities to build capacity to leverage generic community resources, multiple funding braids, cooperative relationships, and inventive service delivery to enhance both wage and self-employment outcomes.

Presenters: ***Tammara Geary***, Project Consultant, Griffin Hammis Associates, Yorktown, VA
Marsie Frawley, Project Manager, Health & Disability Advocates, Chicago, IL

Room: Sandia Ballroom

Thursday, October 29

1:30pm – 2:45pm

Concurrent Sessions

Advancing Strong Leadership in Developmental Disabilities

This session will discuss the Advancing Strong Leadership in DD initiative, a three year leadership developments program for early career professionals in North Carolina, that provides emerging leaders with the knowledge and skills needed to become transformational agents of change who will have significant impact on the lives of North Carolinians with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.

Presenters: **Jill Rushing**, Program Manager, North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities
Nancy Weiss, MSW, Co- Director of the National Leadership Consortium on Developmental Disabilities at the Center for Disabilities Studies, University of Delaware

Room: Salon A-D

Use of Technology and Social Media

The rapid development of internet-based and mobile technology and the growing widespread use of social media dramatically expand the range of strategies through which individuals and DD Councils may address existing challenges. Participants will hear about the most recent findings from a survey commissioned by Minnesota Governor's Council on People with Disabilities that compares information technology usage among people with disabilities to the general population in the state of Minnesota. In addition, the session will provide an overview of Social Media and how Councils might choose to use Social Media to compliment other activities.

Presenters: **Colleen Weick**, Ph.D, Executive Director, Minnesota Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities
Joanna Cordry, Planning Coordinator, Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities

Room: Salon G-J

DD Suite 4.0: System Overview, Functions and Features

The DD Suite was initially designed by and for the Massachusetts Council to respond to the need to improve data management and performance reporting. Introduced to Councils in 2005, the DD Suite has grown to a partnership of over 40 Councils. This session will provide a brief historical overview of the development and replication of the DD Suite; the successful Council collaboration to further enhance and expand its functions; an overview of the on-line version now in use by members of the DD Suite National Partnership; and a live demonstration of the DD Suite 4.0.

Presenters: **Craig Hall**, Chief Financial Officer, Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council
Ed Morgan, Project Manager, DD Suite National Partnership, Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council

Room: Las Cruces/Cimarron

2:45pm - 3:00pm

Break
Ballroom Foyer

Thursday, October 29

3:00pm – 4:15pm

Concurrent Sessions

Project SEARCH High School Transition Program

Participants will hear the history and background of how Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center partnered with Great Oaks Career Campuses to create meaningful jobs for people with disabilities and change business culture. The DD Councils from Florida, Georgia, Ohio and Tennessee will demonstrate how they have replicated Project SEARCH in their states to improve the employment outcome for youth with disabilities.

Presenters: **Dottie Adams**, Individual and Family Support Director,
Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities
Alicia Cone, PhD, Grant Programs Director, Tennessee Council on
Developmental Disabilities
Michael Kiser, Statewide Coordinator, Florida Project SEARCH,
Florida Developmental Disabilities Council
Erin Riehle, Director of Disability Services, Cincinnati Children's
Hospital Medical Center
Susie Rutkowski, Co-Director, Project SEARCH, Cincinnati Children's
Hospital Medical Center

Room: Sandia Ballroom

From Me to We: Self Advocates Take the Lead Towards Systems Change and Sustainability

This presentation will focus on some of the key areas of work of SANYS over the last five years. Four key points will be discussed: 1) supporting grass roots statewide self-advocacy capacity and leadership development is critical; 2) increasing choices of various individualized supports is key to transforming traditional systems; 3) partnerships are necessary for system change; and 4) we all need to work together with a spirit of selflessness—from me to we.

Presenters: **David Liscomb**, President, Self-Advocacy Association of New York State
(SANYS)
Steve Holmes, Administrative Director, Self-Advocacy Association of
New York State (SANYS)

Room: Salon A-D

Tough Economic Times? Why Not Take What's Already There

The Kentucky DD Council and the New Mexico Council on Big Brothers Big Sisters will present its successful mentorship program that has been replicated in various communities. The Kentucky Council has implemented the program in both urban and rural areas and the New Mexico Council has implemented the program in tribal regions. The Kentucky Council will also provide an update on the research that has been completed by the University of Kentucky about the program.

Presenters: **Patricia Seybold**, Executive Director, Kentucky DD Council
Adam Jones, Staff, Kentucky DD Council
Alica Hurle, Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Bluegrass
Jeff Edwards, Kentucky Protection and Advocacy

Room: Salon G-J

Thursday, October 29

3:00pm – 4:15pm

Concurrent Sessions

RoboWaiter: The Assistive Mobile Robot Competition

RoboWaiter is a new robot competition that focuses on the rapidly growing area of assistive robotics. This session will discuss the high potential of the RoboWaiter competition for demonstrating assistive robotics technologies, inspiring their development, and providing a fruitful environment for robotics education and social interaction.

Presenters: **Edward Preneta**, Executive Director, Connecticut Council on DD
David Ahlgren, Karl W. Hallden Professor of Engineering at Trinity College and Director, Trinity College Fire-Fighting Home Robot Contest, Hartford, CT
Igor Verner, Associate Professor at the Department of Education in Technology and Science at the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology

Room: Las Cruces/Cimarron

4:30pm – 5:30pm

Self Advocates Panel

“Advogirl Meets World”

Patterned after her local cable access show, “Advogirl Meets World,” Martinez’s presentation will include a compilation of many of her TV interviews with various policy makers and advocates and interviews with three individual self advocates who are working throughout the state.

Presenter: **Marilyn Martinez**, Disability Advocate, Albuquerque, NM
Room: Salon A-F

6:00pm - 7:00pm

Reception/Silent Auction

Room: Sandia Ballroom

Friday, October 30

8:00am - 12:30pm **Resource Room**
Carlsbad

8:00 am - 12:00pm **Conference Registration**
Ballroom Foyer

8:00am - 8:30am **Continental Breakfast**
Ballroom Foyer

8:30am – 9:30am

Keynote

It Can’t All be About Medicaid, Can it? Working Toward Sustainable Futures

Demand is steadily increasing for developmental disability services. Meanwhile, states are having trouble finding the funding for additional services, and stuck with outdated service models that people increasingly don’t want. In response, states are increasingly looking for ways to provide adults “in home” supports, very often involving supports offered within their family home. Still, going forward the public sector cannot easily address the needs of all its citizens with disabilities. What can be done? This session addresses these circumstances and describes actions that may be taken in response.

Presenter: **John Agosta**, Vice President, Human Services Research Institute, Cambridge, MA
Room: Salon A-F

Friday, October 30

9:45am – 11:00am

Concurrent Sessions

An Interactive Website for School to Work Transition

The Florida Developmental Disabilities Council, Inc. initiated a statewide strategic plan "to educate youth, family, and community members about transition issues, roles, responsibilities, services and resources" through the development of a highly interactive and engaging transition web site: <http://www.fyitransition.org>. This project has provided much-needed and engaging information for students with disabilities and their families on effective practices, laws, policies, issues, and training to develop other needed skills to participate more meaningfully in the decisions and planning for exiting the public school system.

Presenter: **Dale DiLeo**, President, Training Resource Network, St. Augustine, FL
Room: Sandia Ballroom

Wisconsin's Advocacy Network - On the Ground and in Ether

Wisconsin faces numerous challenges in grassroots organizing because of its vast geographic size and limited transportation in numerous areas. This session discusses how advocacy leaders have connected youth from different communities across the state. Participants will hear: (1) why community organizing is more powerful than traditional advocacy; (2) how people with a variety of abilities and disabilities can successfully use social networking; and (3) how disability advocates can be more successful by connecting to a broader community of social justice advocates.

Presenters: **John Shaw**, Director of Grassroots Advocacy for the Wisconsin Board for People with DD
Caroline Leung, Youth Coordinator, Wisconsin Statewide Transition Initiative
Room: Salon A-D

Wanted: Big Changes in State Systems

Service systems for citizens with developmental disabilities must be re-designed to make the most efficient use of state resources and assure that the needs of these individuals are addressed. Re-design first requires study of present circumstances in a state followed by development of a series of strategic action steps in response. In this session this process is described along with findings and action steps developed in three states (IL, TX, FL). In addition, focus is placed on a particular action involving resource allocation and establishing individual budget allocations.

Presenter: **John Agosta**, Vice President, Human Services Research Institute, Cambridge, MA
Room: Salon G-J

Friday, October 30

9:45am – 11:00am

Concurrent Sessions

Seeing is Believing: Transformation from Congregate to Individualized Services and Supports

This session will discuss a project, conceptualized and funded by the NC Council on Developmental Disabilities, that provides “hands on” consultation, technical assistance and peer mentoring to support participating organizations to transform their services so more people with I/DD can live in their own homes. Participants will also learn about the different and similar challenges of transformation for large ICF-MR providers and gain information on addressing the challenges of working with state agencies in waiving and changing rules, regulations, policies and procedures that are barriers to transformation.

Presenters: **Dr. Michael Mayer**, Senior Partner, Community Resource Alliance, Mebane, NC
Larry Swabe, Assistant Director for Program Management, North Carolina Council on DD

Room: Las Cruces/Cimarron

11:00am - 11:15am

Break

Ballroom Foyer

11:15am– 12:30pm

Concurrent Sessions

Developmental Disability Councils Rising to the Challenge of Creating Postsecondary Education Opportunities/Dylan Then and Now

Attendees will learn about postsecondary education opportunities emerging across the country for students with developmental disabilities and the important role DD Councils are playing in developing new opportunities, with a focus on Tennessee and South Carolina. Participants will also learn from a student with a disability on how his choice to attend “regular” college was realized. Participants will hear why and how an inclusive Pre K – 12 education can lead to a rich life after high school and learn strategies on how students with developmental disabilities can develop problem solving and decision-making skills while enjoying life in their communities.

Presenters: **Stephanie Smith Lee**, Senior Policy Advisor, National Down Syndrome Society (NDSS) Policy Center, Washington, DC
Wanda Willis, Executive Director, Tennessee Council on Developmental Disabilities
Dylan Thaner, Self Advocate, Colorado Springs, Colorado
Charmaine Thaner, Mother of Dylan Thaner, Colorado Springs, Colorado

Room: Sandia Ballroom

A Collaborative Process Model with Multiple Rural Mental Health Centers

There are unique challenges in providing mental health care to individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities throughout New Mexico. Participants will learn the steps and strategies of the collaborative process that resulted in ongoing services using this model. This session will provide the opportunity to share ideas and experiences in providing mental health services to people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities in rural and frontier areas.

Presenters: **Jill Ryan**, PhD, MPH, Clinical Director, New Mexico Department of Health
Wendy Corry, MA, Disability Services, OptumHealth, Albuquerque, NM
Alya Reeve, MD, MPH, Co-Investigator, Continuum of Care Project, Dept. Psychiatry and Neurology, University of New Mexico

Room: Salon A-D

Friday, October 30

11:15am– 12:30pm

Concurrent Sessions

Rebalancing the Service Systems to Support People with Developmental Disabilities Live in the Community: A Comprehensive View

The Developmental Disabilities Councils of Illinois, Texas, and Florida have each embarked on a comprehensive examination of their state's developmental disabilities system for the purpose of building support and a strategic approach for their vision for individuals with developmental disabilities. Each state included an analysis of the circumstances in the state and a review of the state's performance against system benchmarks conducted by Human Services Research Institute. The focus of the rebalancing for each state may be different, but common among each is a vision of achieving community inclusion, an opportunity to create partners, and an effort to initiate strategic planning for system reform.

Presenters: **Debra Dowds**, Executive Director, Florida Developmental Disabilities Council
Shelia Romano, Ed. D., Executive Director, Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities
Roger Webb, Executive Director, Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities
John Agosta, Vice President, Human Services Research Institute, Cambridge, MA

Room: Salon G-J

Understanding the Power of Naturally Occurring Communities (NOLC's)

This presentation will focus on the intersection of aging and Intellectual Disabilities. Participants will develop a further understanding of the parallel connections between aging and Intellectual Disabilities and the presentation will focus on the role of Naturally Occurring Living Communities (NOLC's) in providing support to older adults with Intellectual Disabilities.

Presenters: **Lawrence T. Force**, Ph.D., Gerontologist/Founder, AgePlan, Inc., Chappaqua, NY
Roger Monthie, MBA, President, AgePlan, Inc., Chappaqua, NY
Bert Dennis, New Mexico Department of Health
Mikki Rogers, New Mexico Department of Health

Room: Las Cruces/Cimarron

Resource Room Special Presentation: "Songs on Self Advocacy and Self Determination" The Self-Advocacy Association of New York State (SANYS)

Presenters: **David Liscomb**, President, Self-Advocacy Association of New York State (SANYS)
Steve Holmes, Administrative Director, Self-Advocacy Association of New York State (SANYS)

Room: Carlsbad

Friday, October 30

12:30pm – 2:00pm

Luncheon Keynote

Tomorrow is Halloween...Trick or Treat: We Face More Than One Challenge.. The Darth Vader Approach.

Trick: It's not just the economy that challenges us as a disability community. We're faced with many challenges: health reform, education backlash, community options, a lousy job market, and the question of basic human rights. *That's lots of tricks!* *Treat:* Challenges create opportunities. As individual advocates and as a disability community, let's take our own experiences in overcoming barriers to seize these opportunities and together change the world. That's our treat!

Presenter: **Polly Arango**, Co-Founder, Family Voices
Room: Salon A-F

Presentation of the 2009 Tecla Jaskulski Award

Recipient: Jan Newsom, Immediate Past Chair,
Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities

Closing Remarks

Deborah Swingley, President, NACDD

Speaker Biographies

Dottie Adams is the Individual and Family Support Director and lead staff for Project SEARCH State-wide Initiative at the Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities. She has worked in the field for 32 years, doing a variety of intake and evaluation with families. Through all her work, she has a large network of families and professionals for support and advocacy throughout the state. Dottie received her undergraduate degree in Special Education and her Master's degree in Early Childhood Education from the University of Georgia in Athens, GA.

John Agosta, Ph.D. is a Vice President at the Human Services Research Institute. Dr. Agosta completed his doctorate in Rehabilitation Research at the University of Oregon and has worked with people with disabilities for over 30 years. Employed at HSRI since 1983, Dr. Agosta has worked under contract with state and federal agencies on a variety of projects focusing on community integration for persons with disabilities. His specialty areas include strategic planning, program evaluation, family support, self-advocacy and self-directed supports. Most recently, he helped to establish a center in Oregon for families of children with developmental disabilities and found *The Riot!*, a free national newsletter for self-advocates (www.theriotrocks.org).

David J. Ahlgren is the Karl W. Hallden Professor of Engineering at Trinity College and is Director and Host of the Trinity College Fire-Fighting Home Robot Contest. Professor Ahlgren has been a faculty member at Trinity College since 1973. His current professional interests include educational robotics with real-world applications. Professor Ahlgren received a B.S. in Engineering from Trinity College; a M.S. in Electrical Engineering from Tulane University; and a Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Polly Arango is a writer, speaker, and advocate for improving the quality of life for children and families for 25 years, with a special focus on education and health care for youngsters with disabilities or chronic conditions. In 1992, Ms. Arango co-founded Family Voices, a national grassroots network with more than 45,000 families and friends working together to keep families at the center of children's health by improving health and related systems for children and youth with disabilities and special health care needs. Ms. Arango is the co-author of several books, including: *New Mexico, A New Guide to the Colorful State*; *Touring New Mexico*; *Family/Professional Collaboration*; and *Partners at Work*, as well as many articles on health, the state of New Mexico, and the family. She was Executive Producer and Writer for *What Does Normal Mean*, a recent documentary film. She has a bachelor's degree from the University of New Mexico and owns a family business in Wisconsin.

Michael Brogioli has been Chief Executive Officer of the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD) since October, 2008. Prior to joining NACDD, which represents 53 State and Territorial DD Councils, Brogioli served as Vice President, Policy and Government Relations, for Special Olympics International. Brogioli previously served as Executive Director of the Autism Coalition for Research and Education in New York. In addition to over 20 years of experience working in the nonprofit sector on health and human services issues, he served as a Jacob Javits Fellow and legislative assistant on health care reform to U.S. Senator Tom Daschle. Michael holds a B.A from the University of Notre Dame and a Master's of Public Policy from Duke University.

Alicia A Cone, Ph.D., is the Director of Grant Programs at the Tennessee Council on Developmental Disabilities. Alicia has worked in the field of mental retardation and developmental disabilities for nineteen years. She has taught at the University of Mississippi and conducted research into disability policy and practice at Virginia Commonwealth University's - Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Workplace Supports (former RRTC on supported Employment). She was also Director of Independent Support Coordination for the Tennessee Division of Intellectual Disability Services. Alicia has a Ph.D. in Urban Services Leadership from the Virginia Commonwealth University and a Masters in Education Psychology from the University of Mississippi.

Speaker Biographies

Susan Copeland is an Associate Professor at the University of New Mexico. Her research interests include developing strategies that allow individuals with developmental disabilities to provide their own supports, direct their own lives, and enhance their active participation in their families, schools, and communities. Professor Copeland teaches courses in reading/ literacy instruction, advocacy and empowerment of individuals with moderate or severe disabilities, applied behavior analysis, history and current understanding of intellectual disability. Susan has worked in the disability field for many years including as a home manager, coordinator of a Medicaid waiver program and as a special educator in public schools.

Joanna Cordry has worked in the disabilities field for over 18 years. For the last eight years, she has served the Texas Council for Developmental Disability (TCDD) in a planning capacity, providing support and technical assistance to the Council, developing and implementing innovative strategies that will further the Council's mission. She is a long time user of social media and helped to fashion a new TCDD "Communications Coordinator" position to expand communications and outreach efforts, including managing TCDD's presence on Facebook and Twitter. Joanna has a Master's of Education in Personality, Developmental, and Social Psychology and a Graduate Certificate in Applied Behavior Analysis.

Wendy Corry, M.S. is currently the Director of Disabilities for OptumHealth in New Mexico, the single state-wide entity managing Medicaid services for behavioral health in New Mexico. Ms. Corry has been a strong advocate for people with disabilities for over 25 years in a variety of roles including direct care staff, state employee, advocate with Protection and Advocacy for People with Disabilities and Manager of an end-of-life care program for people with disabilities in hospice. Her current role with OptumHealth focuses on building a system of care in New Mexico for people with a dual diagnosis of behavioral health issues and Developmental/Intellectual disabilities or Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Connie DeHerrerra is currently Center Coordinator for the Center for Self Advocacy. She has worked in the disability field since 1977, in Colorado and New Mexico. Previously, for fifteen years, Connie owned a consulting business providing medical case management for people with catastrophic injuries.

Bert Dennis serves as the Special Projects Coordinator for the Department of Health/Developmental Disabilities Supports Division (DDSD). In this role, she oversees project development data collection methodology and database support. Prior to this position, Bert was a consultant to the Office of Behavioral Services at DDSD. She has worked with consumers and Interdisciplinary Teams as a member of the Statewide Urgent Response team. In addition to her membership in the American Counseling Association, she has been a member of the Forensic Counseling Association since 2004.

Dale DiLeo, is the President of Training Resource Network. Mr. DiLeo is an national leader in the supported employment movement. He is the Past-President of the Board of the Association for Persons in Supported Employment (APSE), and is the lead author of that organization's highly respected Ethical Guidelines in Supported Employment. He has developed several innovative web courses and sites in supported employment and transition and presents internationally on community inclusion, employment, and supported living. His most recent book is: *Raymond's Room: Ending the Segregation of People with Disabilities*.

Debra Dowds is the Executive Director for the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council. She has served as Executive Director since July, 2004. Previously, Debra was the Council's Prevention Specialist then Public Policy Director from 1988 to 1999. Other positions she has held include: Senior Legislative Analyst with the Florida Senate Committee on Children and Families and as Community Services Specialist with the Leon County Board of County Commissioners. Ms. Dowds, holds a Bachelor of Science in Social Work from Florida State University, lives in Tallahassee with her husband, David and her daughter, Danielle.

Speaker Biographies

Marsie Frawley is a Senior Policy Analyst for Health & Disability Advocates (HDA), formerly the SSI Coalition for a Responsible Safety Net. HDA advocates for policies that promote economic security and provide health coverage for low-income older adults, children and adults with disabilities. She has more than 20 years experience in employment services, including benefits planning for persons with disabilities. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from North Central College, in Naperville, Illinois. Currently, she is Project Coordinator of the Rural Illinois Customized Employment Sustainability Project, an investment of the Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities. Marsie has served as President of the Board of Directors and meeting facilitator of the Self-Employment Resource Network (SERN) from 2001 – 2007. She continues now as a Board Member.

Dr. Lawrence T. Force, a Gerontologist, has worked in the field of aging and developmental disabilities for over 25 years as a practitioner, academician, administrator, and researcher in both the public and private sector. Dr. Force is the founder of AgePlan, an advocacy and training network that promotes successful aging across the lifespan and is a nationally recognized leader in the area of end-of-life care for people with developmental disabilities. He is a co-author of *End-of Life Care: A Guide for Supporting Older People with Intellectual Disabilities and their Families*. Dr. Force completed his graduate training in Psychology at the New School for Social Research and holds a doctorate in Social Welfare from the Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy at SUNY/Albany and is a National Board Certified Clinical Hypnotherapist. Presently, Dr. Force is a Principal Investigator (PI) on a National Institute of Health (NIH) funded grant that is conducting a nationwide study of the Area Agencies on Aging (AAA's).

Tammara Geary is Lead Associate/ Consultant with Griffin Hammis Associates, specializing in working with organizations to learn, implement, and manage new and better ways to serve people focusing on improved customized wage and self-employment outcomes. She is a nationally recognized trainer, consultant, and author. Tammara is co-author (with Cary Griffin and Dave Hammis) of the widely-acclaimed book, *The Job Developer's Handbook: Practical Tactics for Customized Employment* (Brookes Publishing, 2007). In addition, she coordinates a technical assistance team that focuses on Native American/tribal communities through the WIPA National Technical Assistance center. Tammara is the former Executive Director of the Association for Persons in Supported Employment: The Network on Employment. Tammara is also the primary support person for her sister with DD.

Craig Hall is the Chief Financial Officer for the Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council and co-architect of the Developmental Disabilities Suite (DD Suite). He has been with the Council since 1996 and is an expert on government innovation and performance management. Craig serves as an evaluator for the Innovations in American Government Awards program and program reviewer for the Association of Government Accountants. He has served as team leader for a number of nationally recognized projects, and in 2008 received a CIO Magazine Top 100 Award. Craig has presented at several ADD Technical Assistance Institutes and has conducted training on the DD Suite to Councils in 27 states. He lives in Weymouth, Massachusetts with his wife Julie and son Tyler.

Ed Holen is the Executive Director of the Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council and has served in that position since 1991. Ed is also the Administrator of the Washington State Developmental Disabilities Endowment Trust Fund. Prior to being appointed Executive Director, he was a Program Manager with the Council since 1986. Before coming to work for the Council, Ed was the Executive Director of the Epilepsy Association of Western Washington. Ed is a native of Seattle. He and his family live in Southeast Seattle and he has an adult step-son with a developmental disability.

Steve Holmes has been the Administrative Director of SANYS for over the last 15 years, providing administrative oversight of the organization and supporting board members and officers in their leadership roles. He has also been an attendant at an institution, a live-in group home staff, an apartment manager, and an executive director of two provider organizations, one in Massachusetts and one in New York. Steve has written and performed many songs about self-advocacy and self-determination.

Speaker Biographies

Alan Kerzin is the Executive Director of the California State Council on DD. He has worked for the California council for over 6 years and been the Executive Director for 4 years. For over 30 years, Mr. Kerzin has worked in the public advocacy field for people with Developmental Disabilities.

William E. Kiernan is the Director of the Institute for Community Inclusion (University Center on Excellence in Developmental Disabilities) and Research Professor in the Graduate College of Education and the McCormack School of Policy Studies at the University of Massachusetts at Boston. He is the author of more than 125 articles and reports in the field of disabilities with a specific emphasis on transition, employment, public policy development, workforce development and systemic change. Dr. Kiernan has served as the President of the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) as well as the President of the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD). He holds a Ph.D. in Rehabilitation and Special Education from Boston College.

Michael Kiser, is a contractor with the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council and has been the Florida Project SEARCH Statewide Coordinator for two years. He has a background in rehabilitation, job placement and job coaching. Before coming to the Florida DD Council, Michael worked for the Association for Persons with Disabilities (APD) providing training and support services throughout Florida.

Caroline Leung is the Youth Coordinator for the Wisconsin Statewide Transition Initiative. After assisting with one Youth Leadership Forum (YLF), she became Director of the YLF and the Youth Leadership Council in Wisconsin. Caroline encourages and teaches youth to get connected through e-networks, emphasizing safety in online relationships.

Stephanie Smith Lee is the Senior Policy Advisor to the National Down Syndrome Society (NDSS) Policy Center and the project leader for an NDSS postsecondary project in South Carolina. She is also the former Director of the U.S. Office of Special Education Programs. Stephanie is a nationally-recognized expert in postsecondary education for students with intellectual disabilities, with over 30 years of experience in public policy,

David Liscomb has been a leader in the self-advocacy movement for fifteen years, from a local self-advocacy group leader to regional leadership roles to his current position as SANYS Board President. David works for a provider organization as a self-advocacy consultant, a staff trainer and volunteers at his church as a religious educator, supporting people with disabilities. David's favorite expression is "nothing about us without us".

Dr. Michael Mayer is the Senior Partner for Community Resource Alliance. Prior to joining CRA, Dr. Mayer was the Executive Director of the Institute on Complex Disabilities for 12 years. He has been directly responsible for overseeing the development of community residential, vocational, and other support and treatment services for over 500 people who have disabilities, specializing in individuals with more severe and/or complex disabilities.

Marilyn Martinez, is a disability advocate, author, public speaker, TV host who speaks on behalf of the rights of people with developmental disabilities. A long-time resident of Albuquerque, Marilyn's self-declared life mission is "*to be a disability advocate.*" She sets forth to educate self-advocates, public officials, and the general public about ways to build productive, self-fulfilling lives for people with disabilities. Marilyn is non-relenting in her efforts to talk with others about how people must define and realize their own "dreams and path" in life.

Speaker Biographies

Roger A. Monthie has worked for over 35 years in education, health care administration and developmental disabilities as a clinician, administrator and consultant in the public and private sector. Mr. Monthie's career has included executive management and leadership positions for the State of New York, including the Director of the Capital District Developmental Disabilities Office, Associate Director and Deputy Director in the Hudson Valley and Broome regions of New York. Currently, Mr. Monthie consults in the areas of strategic management, leadership and organization effectiveness for public and private enterprises with an emphasis in system and technology solutions. In addition, Mr. Monthie teaches graduate school courses on the topics of Management and Business Ethics.

Edward Morgan is the Project Manager for the DD Suite National Partnership, and an expert in open source computing, user-oriented design, and business process analysis. He has been developing web-based applications since 1997 and is currently employed at the Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council. Ed is the author of 'Enterprise Resource Planning for Small Government Agencies', and he has received a number of awards for web application development, including a CIO Magazine Top 100 Award in 2008.

Julie Petty has been a leader in the self-advocacy movement in Arkansas and nationally for several years. She served as the President of SABE (Self Advocates Becoming Empowered), from 2006-2008. In 1998, she helped to establish Arkansas People First, a self-advocacy organization for people with disabilities. She has organized several state conferences, served on boards and advisory councils related to disability policy, and co-developed a training curriculum for self-advocates. In 2007, Julie joined the staff at HSRI (Human Services Research Institute), where she worked on self-advocacy projects and became Chief Editor of *The Riot*, an online newsletter for self-advocates. Currently, Julie works for Partners for Inclusive Communities, the Arkansas UCEED, on the Safety and Sexual Violence Prevention Project. Julie has been married to her husband Brian for 8 years. They have two sons: Logan 6 and Warren 4. Julie graduated from the University of Arkansas with a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism.

Edward Preneta has been Director of the Connecticut Council on Developmental Disabilities since 1978 and has been working in the field of disabilities since 1964. Ed was Program Director for the United Cerebral Palsy Association of Greater Hartford from 1972 to 1978. Mr. Preneta has lived in Connecticut since 1955 and has been active in local community associations where he has used his professional expertise to make various public places wheelchair accessible and welcoming to people with disabilities. Ed has a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Stonehill College, North Easton, Massachusetts, and a Masters in Public Health from the University of Connecticut's School of Medicine. Ed and his wife Barbara have been married for 36 years and have 3 grown children.

Alya Reeve, M.D., F.A.N.P.A. is an Associate Professor and Co-Investigator for the Continuum of Care Project and a Neuropsychiatry Consultant for P. E.R.C.S. (Partnerships for Education, Research, and Community Services). The Continuum of Care Project serves to promote health and medical care for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the state of New Mexico. Dr. Reeve has authored numerous publications and has served on several boards and professional organizations including: the New Mexico Guardianship Association; NM Brain Injury Association; American Association for Mental Retardation: Technology and Classification Group; American Neuropsychiatric Association and Physicians for Social Responsibility, Inc.

Speaker Biographies

Holly Riddle is the Executive Director of the North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities. She has been a member of the NC State Bar since 1988 and served as a member of the American Bar Association's Commission on Mental and Physical Disability Law. She has served on many advisories to the State of North Carolina, and worked on diverse national initiatives including: the Beach Center on Families and Disability, University of Kansas; Virginia Commonwealth University's Regional Research and Training Center on Supported Employment, the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services, and the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities. During the nineteen years that she has directed the North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities, the Council has earned state and national recognition for advancing a wide variety of innovations in systems change, advocacy, and capacity building.

Erin Riehle is the Director of Disability Services at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center and has worked at Cincinnati Children's Hospital for almost 30 years as a critical care nurse and Director of the largest pediatric Emergency Department in the country. While working in the Emergency Room she created Project SEARCH, the award winning training and employment program for people with cognitive disabilities. Due to her efforts, the program has received many state and national awards including "Large Employer of the Year" from APSE and the "New Freedom Initiative" from the Department of Labor. She believes passionately in the ability of people with disabilities to be included in all aspects of life and works to create policy and culture change in order for that to happen. Erin received her Bachelor's of Nursing and Masters in Nursing Administration from the University of Cincinnati.

Mikki Rogers is the Director of Developmental Disabilities Supports Division with the New Mexico Department of Health. She oversees all programs and services provided through the Developmental Disability Support Division for individuals with developmental disabilities. Mikki has 13 years experience in the DD provider community in both Texas and New Mexico. She established the incident management system for New Mexico and served as Chief of the Division of Health Improvement/ Incident Management Bureau at the New Mexico Department of Health for five years. Mikki has worked as a consultant for individuals with Prader-Willi Syndrome and is certified in TEACCH (Treatment and Education of Autistic and related Communication-handicapped Children) for children with autism. She also has experience in team coaching and operational oversight.

Shelia Romano, Ed. D, is the Executive Director for the Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities. Prior to joining the Council, Dr. Romano worked on fostering inclusion for people with disabilities in public education. She has also taught as an adjunct professor, focusing her lectures on school inclusion. In 1997, The White House invited her to join the "Young Leaders in the Field of Disabilities" Symposium. In addition to her doctoral degree from Loyola University, Dr. Romano holds a Certificate of Advanced Study (C.A.S.) in Educational Leadership from National-Louis University, a Master's of Business Administration for Rehabilitation Services from DePaul University, and two Bachelor of Science Degrees from Northern Illinois University.

Jill Rushing is a Program Manager for the North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities. She is a graduate of the Leadership Institute offered by the National Leadership Consortium on Developmental Disabilities at the University of Delaware. Her Leadership Institute experience inspired her to create a similar program based in North Carolina. She is currently pursuing a Master's of Science in Adult and Higher Education at North Carolina State University.

Speaker Biographies

Susie Rutkowski is Co-director of Project SEARCH at the Great Oaks Career Campuses and is the former District Manager of Disability Education for Great Oaks Career Campuses. While holding that position for 12 years she created employment programs and services for youth and adults with a variety of barriers to employment. Susie has a Bachelors degree in Special Education from Bowling Green State University and a Master's in Educational Administration from the University of Dayton. She has also done post-graduate work at Wright State University and Xavier University. Susie has also participated in the OCTELI (Ohio Career and Technical Leadership Institute), class of 2000.

Millie Ryan is the Executive Director of the Alaska Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education. In addition to serving as the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, the Council serves as Alaska's Special Education Advisory Panel and the Interagency Coordinating Council for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities. Previously employed by the Alaska Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Millie has extensive experience in developing, implementing and evaluating Alaska's service delivery systems for supported employment, independent living and transition from school to adult life. She has also worked as the executive director of employment and residential programs for adults with disabilities in Alaska and Oregon.

Patricia 'Pat' Seybold is the Executive Director of the Kentucky Council on Developmental Disabilities. She has held this position for the past five years. She holds a Master's in Therapeutic Recreation and a Master's in Dispute Resolution. Her career focus has been providing supports and services to individuals with disabilities. She has been a supports coordinator, a teacher, an affordable housing provider and a service provider. Prior to coming to Kentucky, Pat has lived in Colorado, Arkansas, London, England, Kansas and Michigan. Pat lives in Frankfort with her husband. She has one son who resides in Scottsdale, Arizona. In her spare time she enjoys therapy work with her dogs, hiking and gardening.

John Shaw is Director of Grassroots Advocacy for the Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities. John deploys grants, community organizers and technology to build grassroots advocacy groups around Wisconsin. With these tools, we have for the first time organized central city families in Milwaukee to advocate with the public school system. An enthusiastic user of social networking, John is connected to hundreds of other disability advocates online.

Larry Swabe is the Assistant Director for Program Management for the North Carolina Council on DD. He has an interest in Self-Determination, Medicaid, Organizational Transformation and Systems Change. He has been working with the NC Council on DD for twelve years and has been instrumental in the development of Council projects relating to self-directed services and supports. Larry's background in DD comes from a parent/provider perspective. Larry and his family served as an "alternative family home" for 8 years for a child with multiple developmental disabilities.

Charmaine Thaner, mother of Dylan Thaner, a student who has successfully transitioned to higher education is a graduate of Partners in Policymaking in Colorado and a retired special/ general education teacher. Currently, she is the Education Specialist at PEAK Parent Center, Colorado's Parent Training and Information Center and adjunct special education instructor at the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs. Charmaine is a passionate advocate for the inclusion of all people with disabilities in all areas of life.

Dylan Thaner is a student at the University of Colorado – Colorado Springs, who happens to have Down Syndrome. Dylan is a dynamic public speaker who has enjoyed a life of inclusion, interdependence, and self direction. With humor and honesty, Dylan shares his life story of inclusion.

Speaker Biographies

Igor Verner is Associate Professor at the Department of Education in Technology and Science at the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology. He received the M.S. in Mathematics from the Urals State University and the Ph.D. in computer aided design systems in manufacturing from the Urals State Technical University (1981), Ekaterinburg, Russia. Dr. Verner is a certified teacher of mathematics and technology in Israel. His research interests include experiential and situated learning, cognitive and affective development, design projects and robotics. He is involved in organization of international robot competitions and guidance of school teams.

Roger Webb has been Executive Director for the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities for 24 years. He is responsible for coordinating the Council's public policy, advocacy, public information and grants activities, providing support to the 27 member governor-appointed Board, and serving as the Council's liaison with the Governor's Office, state legislators, consumer and provider organizations, and various state and federal agencies. Mr. Webb's previous experiences include directing a community-based employment program for individuals with developmental disabilities in Grand Rapids, Michigan, serving as a houseparent for teens with serious emotional disturbances, a child treatment worker for youth with serious emotional disturbances, and as a jail counselor. Mr. Webb grew up in east central Illinois, receiving a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of Illinois and a Master of Science in Rehabilitation Administration from the University of North Texas.

Colleen Weick, PhD, is the Executive Director of the Minnesota Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities, a position she has held for 27 years. Dr. Weick has produced over 135 publications with the DD Council, five videotapes and a two disk CD winning several national media awards. She is the primary creator of Partners in Policy Making, a leadership training program for adults with disabilities and parents of young children with developmental disabilities. Partners in Policymaking began in Minnesota in 1987 and has now been replicated in several locations in the United Kingdom, Netherlands and New Zealand. In 2007, the Minnesota DD Council received a national and state award for the Partners in Policymaking online courses.

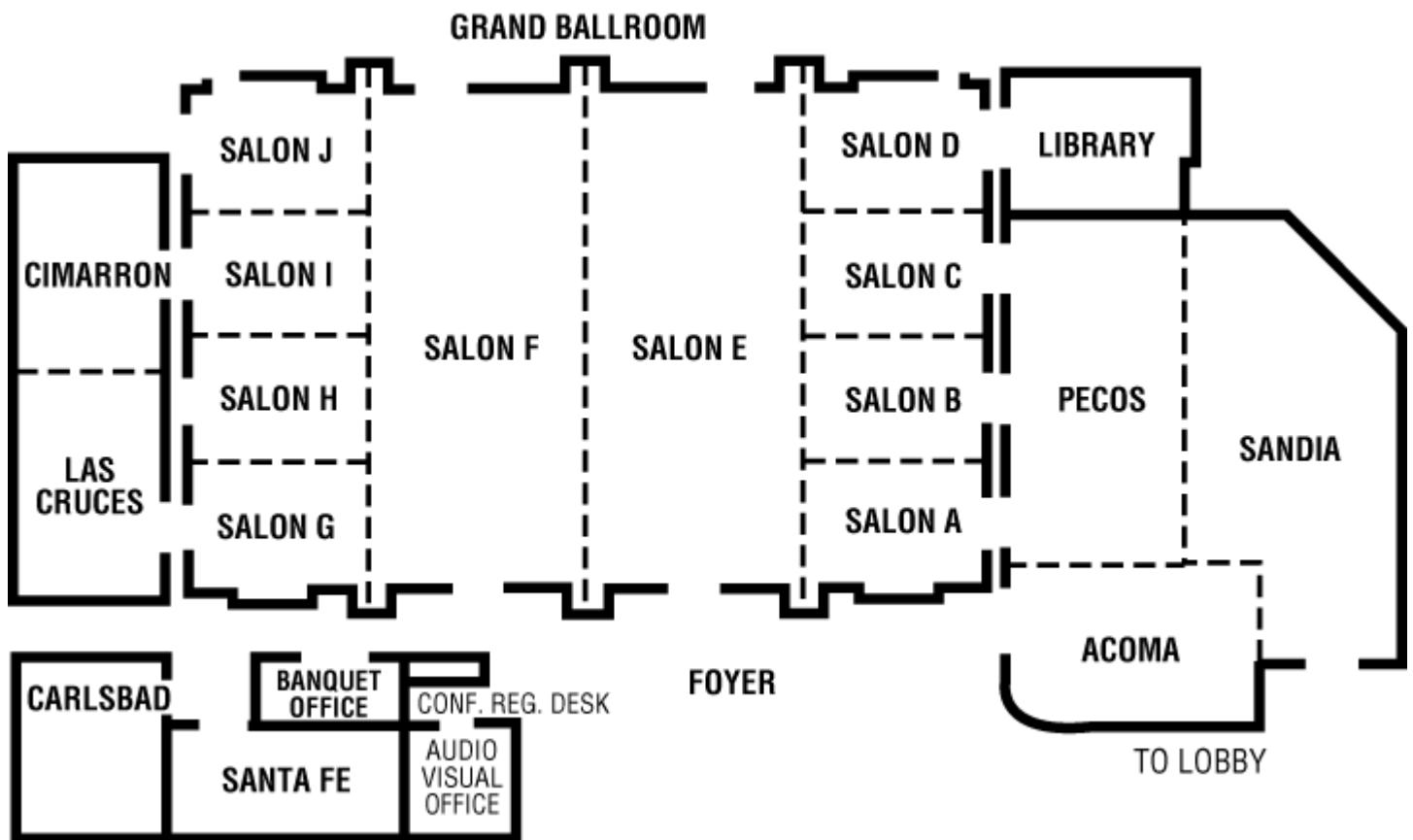
Nancy R Weiss, MSW is the Co-Director of the National Leadership Consortium on Developmental Disabilities at the Center for Disabilities Studies, University of Delaware. The National Leadership Consortium is a partnership of eleven national organizations focused on assuring the quality and commitment of the next generation of leaders for government and non-profit organizations serving people with developmental disabilities. Ms. Weiss has worked in the disabilities field for over thirty years. Prior to her affiliation with the University of Delaware, she was the Executive Director of TASH, an international advocacy association committed to full inclusion for people with disabilities. Ms. Weiss also served as an adjunct faculty member at Johns Hopkins University and was the Director of Community Services for the Kennedy Krieger Institute in Baltimore. Ms. Weiss is the former Executive Director of Community Systems, Inc., an agency providing progressive supports for adults with disabilities in Delaware. Ms. Weiss advocates for person-centered, ethical, and humane supports; she has written and spoken extensively on these topics.

Wanda Willis is the Executive Director of the Tennessee Council on Developmental Disabilities. She has worked in the disability field for over 30 years in a variety of program and executive positions. Her leadership at the Tennessee Council for the past 20 years has resulted in several innovative approaches to practices in the state, including the post - secondary education initiative. Wanda has a M.Ed. in Mental Retardation from the University of South Carolina.

National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities

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Notes



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