

Informing Policymakers Report 2004

Council activities around informing and educating state policymakers and legislative bodies

Introduction:

This report is reflective of states submitting information regarding the information and education of state policymakers and legislative bodies. The report is organized by summary format with products generated by Councils that are distributed to policymakers and legislative bodies, a summary of appointments to committees, councils, panels, workgroups etc., programs supported by state Councils; a summary of activities conducted by State Councils with regard to the informing and educating of state policymakers and legislative bodies as well as specific activities organized by State with the specific result of that activity.

States submitting information:

Illinois	Oregon
North Dakota	Georgia
Minnesota	Hawaii
Maine	Arizona
Nebraska	Iowa
District of Columbia	Kentucky
Kansas	Texas
Virginia	Tennessee
South Dakota	Connecticut
Mississippi	New York
Colorado	Idaho
Louisiana	Missouri
Rhode Island	Florida
Maryland	Vermont

Products

- Legislative performance target report
- Annual Report
- Newsletters
- Reports related to systemic change for individuals with developmental disabilities
- Legislative Update re: council grants and awards
- Handwritten notes re: council grants/awards to specific legislators w/council funds in their District
- Website
- Email
- Telephone tree
- “Outreach” Calendar
- “One Community: The Olmstead opportunity and what it means for Virginia”
- Mississippi Transportation Guide and Best Practices Video series (developed for Leg’s)
- Policy papers
- Fact sheets
- Calendar of advocacy activity
- Weekly electronic newsletter tracking legislation
- Silver Lapel Pins to show support for people with disabilities

Appointments

- MN** – Governor appoint ED to Citizens Forum on Health Care Costs panel
- ME** – Heads a Commission on DD Prevention at the request of the legislature
- VA** – Olmstead Implementation Team, Part C EI Task Force, MR Waiver Task Force
- MD** - Governor’s Commission on Housing Policy
- NY** - New York Child Care Coordinating Council; Child Day Care Administrations of Medications Workgroup; Most Integrated Setting Coordination Council; Distance Education and Learning; State Rehabilitation Council; Traumatic Brain Injury Coordinating Council
- VT** – Medicaid Advisory Board, Health Access Oversight Committee, Department of Aging and Disabilities Advisory Board, Champlain Valley Long Term Care Coalition

Programs

- Partners in Policymaking
- Youth Leadership Forum
- Youth Leaders of South Dakota
- LaCAN – grassroots legislative advocacy network

Activities

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 1) Staff | 2) Council Member |
| Testimony | Testimony |
| Tracks legislative issues | Council committee tracks legislative issues & gives testimony |

Activities:

- NE, GA, HI:** Disability Day at state capitol
- CO:** Legislative Breakfast
- LA:** Regional legislative training sessions
- OR:** Rallies, coffees with candidates
- AZ:** Legislative Awareness Day luncheon, Legislative Consortium Meetings
- TN:** Monthly public policy conference calls with Legislative Committee from Council
- MO:** Disability Advocacy Day, Freshman Legislator’s Tour, Candidate Forums, Valentines Day Campaign
- FL:** Public Issues Forums, Advocacy training, Legislator appreciation
- NY** – Quarterly report to the Governor; invitations to events such as DDPC Achievement Awards Ceremony; quarterly meetings and special events

Council Staff positions reported:

- Maine has full time Policy and Research Analyst
- Texas has two staff dedicated to public policy activities
- Tennessee has staff position dedicated to public policy

This table is reflective of reported activities that generated results in states, service delivery systems and other areas.

Activity	Results
MN – Gov appointed Council ED to serve on Citizens Forum on health care costs	Governor appointed a Health Cabinet and charged the Commissioners to implement the recommendations from the Citizens Forum
NE - provided testimony	Rebuffed efforts to cut certain optional Medicaid services; clarified and provided additional protections for people in services against sexual abuse by staff by disallowing the defense that it was a consensual act
CO – Participated on a self determination task force convened by the director of DDD	Produced a proposal to implement self-determination in CO, proposal is now in the hands of HHS
MD – Advocacy with Attorney General	Attorney General reversed his decision to join other states in arguing for limited rights for people with disabilities in the U.S. Supreme Court Olmstead case
MD – Collaboration on The Bridge to Excellence in Public Schools Act	Beginning in '05, the legislation will provide a weighted funding formula for students with disabilities which will increase state funding of special education
MD – Collaboration with Governor's Office for Individuals with Disabilities on housing	Produced report, developed strategies and made recommendations for implementation
MD – Advocacy with Secretary of the Department of Housing and Community Development	Obtained commitment to give extra points to housing developers competing for tax credit funding when their projects include people with disabilities. Policy is increasing the amount of integrated housing available to people with disabilities
MD – Led cross disability efforts to impact state housing policy, programs and funding	Created Homeownership for Individuals with Disabilities Program by the Department of Housing and Community Development. Program is funded at 2.5 M
MD – Advocacy with the Governor's Commission on Housing Policy	Successfully advocated for housing needs for people with disabilities to become one of the Commissions priorities.
MD – Advocacy with Legislature	Legislation passed requiring the State to apply for additional federal Medicaid funds and to use those funds to provide additional home and community based service and placements for children with disabilities who are at risk of custody relinquishment
MD – Waiting List Initiative	8900 individuals were served and more than \$102 million dollars dedicated from 99-02 In '04, the Governor began a new Waiting List

	Initiative
OR – Advocacy	Helped avoid cut in programs and services; secured money for the developmental disabilities budget; created programs, services, supports, created and improved policies; educated policymakers on legislation detrimental to people with developmental disabilities and their families
GA – Unlock the Waiting List Campaign	Resulted in funds for over 2,000 people to move from less flexible family support services to access services with more flexibility
GA	Governor Perdue directed the Council, the Departments of Community Health and Human Resources to develop a pilot project for individuals to self-direct their own services
AZ – Advocacy, collaboration with Arizona Disability Network	Opposed efforts to charge a co-pay for families that receive services for their underage child through the Division of Developmental Disabilities. Successful result in altering the original budget proposal. Governor significantly increased the proposed federal poverty requirements and lowered the percentage of payment for the deductible.
Iowa – Advocacy	Advocacy generated the following results: \$4,893,000 in MH/DD growth funds; \$423,000 state dollars for Help America Vote Act; \$47,827 added to the state’s Personal Assistance Services pilot project for uninterrupted services to participants; added day habilitation, prevocational and transportation services to the state’s HCBS/MR waiver; made changes to the manner in which adult day services are regulated; passed first of several bills that requires the removal of the words ‘insane’ and ‘idiot’ from the Iowa constitution and replace with ‘mentally incompetent to vote’.
TN – Tennessee Disability Voters	Advised on draft of state legislation in response to the Help America Vote Act that would address voting issues in Tennessee for voters with disabilities (ongoing)
CT – CT’s Olmstead Coalition and Council testimony	Governor acknowledged the success of the Nursing Facilities Transition Grant and proposed funding the project for an additional 3 years using state funds at a cost of \$800,000. Governor proposed applying to extend CT’s PCA Waiver and expanding it to allow up to 700 people to be reached at a cost of 2.2 million.
CT – testimony	CT General Assembly Committee on Human

	Services introduced legislation to establish a state Commission on Respite – the bill failed, but was re-introduced in the 2004 session – currently, the bill is expected to pass
CT – testimony	CT Governor’s budget recommended a pilot project on congregate housing for families who have children who require significant medical support. The pilot creates a segregated institution for 8-10 children and their families at a cost of \$3 million. This proposal is expected to fail.
CT – testimony	Advocated for a pilot program on in-home personal assistance for people over the age of 65, including people with developmental disabilities.
CT – testimony	Supported application for a 1115 Medicaid “cash and counseling” waiver – the proposal is expected to be successful.
NY	Representation on NYS’s Olmstead related planning body.
NY – testimony	Provides comments on issues presented at the annual NYS Board of Regents Disability Policy Forum
NY – Policy advice	Provides policy advice on training local screening staff on a facilitated application process with Medicaid Buy-In program.
NY – received testimony	ED received testimony in collaboration with the States OMRDD Commissioner in an effort to move the NYS developmental disabilities service system closer to a self-determination model.
Idaho	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. H557 – Amended the Idaho statute governing the Council to make it consistent with current federal law (Council wrote and sponsored, 2002). 2. H577 & H579– Removed discriminatory language in the child custody and adoption statutes in order to guarantee the rights of parents with disabilities. (2002) 3. H679/H171 – Prohibited the death penalty for people with mental retardation (2002, did not pass; 2003 did pass) 4. H740 – Raised reimbursement rate for short-term emergency services in private ICFs/MR to prevent placement at the state school. (2002) 5. S1320 – Clarified the law and

	<p>enhanced the penalty for people violating accessible parking provisions (2002)</p> <p>6. H52 - Changed the reporting responsibilities regarding adult protection. (2003)</p> <p>7. H160 – Prevented termination of parental rights solely on basis of disability (2003)</p> <p>8. H213 – Rewrites the code dealing with involuntary sterilization to protect individual rights. (2003)</p> <p>9. HCR29 – encouraged the Council to establish a self determination task force to design a self-directed waiver</p>
VT – advocacy (funding)	<p>Advocated for the following results: 90,000 for Flexible Family Funding; 80,000 for Children with Special Health Needs respite; 215,500 for the state supplement for Aged, Blind and Disabled; 100,000 for the VT Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired; 100,000 for the Homemaker program; 25,000 for the Adult Day Programs and \$450,000 for state building compliance with ADA.</p> <p>1.5% wage and benefit increase for mental/developmental service workers and 1.5% increase in mental/developmental service operating expenses and 250,000 enhancement to Children’s (MH) Wrap Around Waiver Services</p>
VT – advocacy (improvements)	<p>Established the values of self-determination, independent living, consumer and family-centered services and a trauma sensitive system within the Agency of Human Services Reorganization Bill; changed various policies in the array of personal care and respite programs across the Agency of Human Service departments to bring more equity and parity to the system; improved accessibility in the buildings of community developmental and mental health agencies; securing the release of a long-term care and independent living plan for the Department of Aging and Disabilities</p>
VT – legislative and administrative advocacy	<p>Supported passage of a complete revision of VT’s health care certificate of need process; improvements in a proposed Medicaid premium system; improvements in the pharmaceutical assistance program; blocking of a segregated mental health unit at the state’s</p>

	largest hospital; enhanced federal funding paid into the Health Access Trust Fund
VT – advocacy	Advocated for the budget to include funding to facilitate the transition of June graduates from school to adult services and employment; new model policy for use of restrictive behavioral interventions (seclusion, restraint) in educational settings was developed; legislation authorizing reorganization of the Agency of Human Services recognizes the value of support for transition from school to adult services