### NCCDD INITIATIVE 2023



### "Unmet" Film Project

6/1/2022 - 12/31/2022

#### System Gap Addressed

- People with developmental disabilities typically benefit from various home and community-based services or Medicaid Waiver services that allow them to access healthcare and live successfully in their community of choice as defined by Olmstead.
- Currently, many individuals and their families who wait (often for over a decade) for a Medicaid Waiver in North Carolina, suffer and are at risk with minimal support.
- The Registry of Unmet Needs (RUN), also referred to as the waitlist of the Medicaid Innovations Waiver, is 17,000 and growing.
- Overall, it is difficult for individuals and their families to find and understand information about I/DD services and navigation.
- There is further disparity in access to I/DD services for minority populations.
- The ability for those with I/DD to live more independently in communities is impacted by the direct support professional workforce crisis, affordable housing, etc.
- All of these factors have led to significant unmet service and support needs for North Carolina's I/DD community.

#### Initiative Goals and Timeline

- The film tells the stories of individuals with unmet needs who are either on the Registry of Unmet Needs or who are supposed to receive services but their needs are unmet due to the Direct Support Professional workforce shortage.
- The film will be used to educate and increase awareness about how individuals with unmet needs struggle to live full and meaningful lives in the community.
- The film gives an honest portrayal of the lives of people in North Carolina who desire to live full lives in the community of their choosing but who, due to lack of resources resulting either from not having Waiver funding for Home and Community-based Services or from having funding but not being able to secure staff are living lives that are below the level of engagement, health, access, and connection that they desire.

## **Description** of Activities

- Met with Advisory Committee to review individuals who expressed interest in being in the film.
- Traveled to home locations to obtain film footage of several individuals in their home setting.
- Captured footage in authentic settings in which the participants were authentically shown going about their everyday lives.
- Held conversations and shared draft versions of film with leading industry experts.
- Interviewed State experts to include data and policy perspective in the film.
- Provide updates and edits according to input from stakeholders.
- Added open captions to film
- Attended many film showings to speak to audience, both in person and virtual.
- While attending NC film showings, photographed more local people with I/DD.
- Prepared Short versions of profile stories from the film
- Added Spanish Voice Over to the film.

# Achievements and Outcomes to Date

- Delivered draft of film to national news leader.
- Posted still images from film to national publication clearinghouse.
- Participated screening of film with advisory committee and additional invited guests.
- Added technology that will allow NCCDD to capture demographic data from those who review the film and respond to survey request.
- Winner of Los Angeles International Film Festival Outstanding Achievement Award for Documentary Short
- Translated full dialogue into Spanish with captions and vocal recording overlay in Spanish

# Expected System Change as Result

Meet the Unmet Service and Support Needs of the I/DD community in North Carolina.

Updated October 2023 984-920-8209 • pam.dempsey@dhhs.nc.gov • www.nccdd.org