

NC Council on Developmental Disabilities Annual Report for 2011-2012

With its mission of increasing the independence, productivity, self-determination, integration and inclusion of people with developmental disabilities and their families, the North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities (NCCDD) supports innovations that bring about positive change. Under authority granted in the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act, PL 106-402, the Council advances positions and funds initiatives undertaken by nonprofit organizations, universities and government agencies - that focus on the goals and objectives set out in the NCCDD's 2011-2016 State Plan. During this federal fiscal year, the NCCDD focused on the following areas:

STRENGTHENING HEALTH CARE

Following a nine-year effort, the National Curriculum Initiative in Developmental Medicine was launched in five states, in addition to its home state of North Carolina. Three graduate schools in North Carolina were selected to pilot the country's first comprehensive curriculum to educate physicians in adult developmental medicine.



Developed by the Mountain Area Health Education Center in Asheville, and funded by the NCCDD and others, the program has provided resident physicians and faculty leaders with training in primary health care for adults with I/DD. The initiative's accomplishments have been recognized by the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, the Centers for Disease Control, the American Academy of Developmental Medicine and Dentistry and the Association of University Centers on Disabilities. Upon completion of funding by the NCCDD in 2013, the curriculum and its associated tools and resources will be made available to all medical schools in North Carolina.

INCLUDING EVERY CHILD

The Taskforce on Inclusive Childcare initiative addressed the shortage of quality childcare and afterschool programs that are inclusive of children with, or at risk for, I/DD. Starting with a needs assessment, the Taskforce identified barriers hindering the development of inclusive environments. Comprised of parents, child care and after school providers, advocacy groups and education organizations, the Taskforce created specific recommendations to raise community capacity and advance policies promoting inclusive childcare programs.

SUPPORTING MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIPS

The NC Relationships Initiative arose from the all-too-prevalent sense of loneliness and isolation felt by many with I/DD and the need to find ways to meet new people and develop relationships in safe situations. After engaging with self-advocates, family members and service providers, policy recommendations on establishing safe and supportive environments were developed and shared

with policy leaders and providers. "A Credo for Meaningful Relationships," a statement created by self-advocates, was distributed to service providers and advocates, and widely circulated on the Internet.

EMPHASIZING EMPLOYMENT AND CAREERS

Concerned by data indicating that people with disabilities have an unemployment rate four times higher than the general population, the NCCDD is funding initiatives and taking action to give people with I/DD the same opportunities that others enjoy. The Council is a member of the Alliance for Full Participation, a national movement to double the number of people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities employed by 2015. Working through the State Employment

Leadership Network, a national partnership of 25 states committed to improving integrated employment outcomes, the NCCDD is ensuring that North Carolina's Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services and its

stakeholders have access to experts and peers knowledgeable of the best practices and policies for advancing contemporary employment outcomes.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING PLUS

Education and training efforts met with success in 2011-2012, with Advancing Strong Leadership in Developmental Disabilities graduating its first class of participants. Launched to identify and mentor the next generation of professionals in the field of I/DD. The program brought its first cohort of professionals together with national experts to hone professional and leadership skills.

Beyond Academics™, at the University of North Carolina, Greensboro, provides the country's first certificate program for students with intellectual disabilities, in Integrative and Community Studies. With the end of NCCDD's seminal funding support for this four-year college experience, Beyond Academics™ was able to move forward with its own resources and other support.



NCCDD continued its support for the College of Direct Support (CDS), an educational initiative to enhance the skills and professionalism of the frontline workforce increasingly known as Direct Support Professionals. A competency-based online training system, the CDS - a part of a complement of curricula known as Direct Course™ - has already helped thousands of Direct Support Professionals in North Carolina to improve their understanding and

PARTNERSHIPS 2011-2012

- ADA NETWORK AND FISCAL AGENT/INTERMEDIARY – SOUTHEASTERN ADA NETWORK, ALLIANCE OF DISABILITY ADVOCATES
 - ADVANCING STRONG LEADERS IN DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES – UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE, NATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONSORTIUM ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
 - AGING TOGETHER/SEEKING SUPPORT – FIRST IN FAMILIES OF NORTH CAROLINA
 - ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY EXPO – PARTNERSHIPS IN ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY
 - ASSOCIATION OF SELF-ADVOCATES OF NORTH CAROLINA
 - BRIGHTER FUTURES FOR ALL CHILDREN – EASTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY
 - BUILDING A STRONGER SELF ADVOCATE ASSOCIATION – HUMAN SERVICES RESEARCH INSTITUTE
 - COLLEGE OF DIRECT SUPPORT (CDS) – HEWITT CONSULTING, INC.
 - COLLEGE OF DIRECT SUPPORT PHASE II RESEARCH/ EXPANSION – MONARCH, INC.
 - COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNICATIONS PLAN – THE WALLACE GROUP
 - JEAN WOLFF ROSSI FUND FOR PARTICIPANT INVOLVEMENT
 - MAKING OUR VOICES HEARD- PHASE II – HUMAN SERVICES RESEARCH INSTITUTE, ASSOCIATION OF SELF-ADVOCATES
 - NATIONAL CURRICULUM INITIATIVE IN ADULT DEVELOPMENTAL MEDICINE – MOUNTAIN AREA HEALTH EDUCATION CENTER
 - NORTH CAROLINA ALLIANCE FOR FULL PARTICIPATION – INSTITUTE ON COMMUNITY INCLUSION, UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS, BOSTON
 - REAL RELATIONSHIPS RISKS & RESPONSIBILITIES – HUMAN SERVICES RESEARCH INSTITUTE
 - PARTNERS IN POLICYMAKING – ADVOCACY INSTITUTE, INC.
 - POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION ALLIANCE – CAROLINA INSTITUTE FOR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
 - ROUTE TO SUCCESS – HUMAN SERVICES RESEARCH INSTITUTE
 - STATE EMPLOYMENT LEADERSHIP NETWORK – NC DIVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH, DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES, DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION; NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE DIRECTORS OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND INSTITUTE ON COMMUNITY INCLUSION, UNIV. OF MASSACHUSETTS-BOSTON.
 - STATE PLAN DEVELOPMENT – CAROLINA INSTITUTE FOR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
 - SUMMIT ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COLLABORATIVE – A STRATEGIC ANALYSIS FOR CHANGE, HUMAN SERVICES RESEARCH INSTITUTE
 - TASKFORCE ON INCLUSIVE CHILDCARE – SOUTHWESTERN CHILD DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
- NCCDD SUPPORTED CONFERENCES –**
- PATHWAYS TO PROSPERITY; ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY EXPO; SUPPORT INCLUSION: BRIGHTER FUTURES FOR ALL CHILDREN; ANNUAL EARLY INTERVENTION CONFERENCE; YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE; BUILDING A SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION PROGRAM; 37TH ANNUAL INDIAN UNITY CONFERENCE; EMPLOYMENT FIRST, LAST AND ALWAYS, AND THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON THE NCCAA.

performance - and to find renewed satisfaction with their work.

The Jean Wolff Rossi Fund, established by the NCCDD, made it possible for 53 self-advocates and family members to attend educational conferences and training sessions in North Carolina and across the country, while Partners in Policymaking™ continued to build advocacy muscle and finesse among parents and people with I/DD.

PROGRESS FOR PARTNERS

The Partners in Policymaking program in North Carolina completed another successful year of advocacy training with the graduation of its latest class. Under the direction of Advocacy Institute, Inc., the group was composed of self-advocates and concerned parents of children with I/DD, and received instruction from nationally recognized leaders on presenting their views to the public and testifying before legislative panels. Graduates of the program have gone on to hold leadership positions in the field of I/DD, including posts with nonprofit organizations.



A video on the Partners program in North Carolina, was produced and released during the year. Using excerpts from interviews, the features of the program are explained by people who actually took part, with some describing it as a life-changing event. Partnering for People, produced by grantee The Wallace Group, has won two national awards and has been distributed within the broader disabilities community. The video can be viewed online at nccdd.org/partners.

AGING TOGETHER INITIATIVE

With estimates that between 600,000 and 1.6 million adults who are aged 60 or older have intellectual or other developmental disabilities, the NCCDD launched an initiative during the year to help individuals and families prepare for those later years.

First in Families, a statewide nonprofit, was awarded funding to determine the issues and needs of greatest concern to these families. Significant needs include care and support systems for the individual with a disability, health care planning, social isolation, and wills and estate planning.

One of the qualitative data collection methods includes a series of personal interviews, or "Future Chats," with more than 30 parents and individuals

with I/DD conducted throughout North Carolina.

The interviews revealed a wide range of concerns, including gaps in care and support systems for the individual with the disability, health care planning, wills, and estate planning.

In addition to its data collection, First in Families is connecting individuals to traditional aging and I/DD services, providing assistance with future planning, building natural support systems and developing recommendations on policy and funding changes needed to ensure that families have a plan and do not fall into crisis at the loss of a caregiver.



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THE COUNCIL *

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* COUNCIL MEMBERS AS OF NOVEMBER 2012

Artwork on the cover is by Janie Desmond of Durham, N.C., a sophomore in Beyond Academics™ at the University of North Carolina, Greensboro.

From the NCCDD leadership

In the midst of budget cuts, a change in administration at the state level and a shift to a capitated system for managing Medicaid waiver services, the 2011-2012 year was a productive one for the NC Council on Developmental Disabilities. Through the NCCDD's funded initiatives - each promoting innovations in policy and practice - the NCCDD made significant progress in fulfilling its mission of building bridges to communities where people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities (I/DD) lead self-determined lives; are productive; and are a valued part of everyday life.

Following the Council-funded presentation on the incidence of dementia among people with intellectual disabilities at the National Conference of the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, the Council launched a promising initiative supporting aging caregivers to plan and prepare for their later years and those of their family member with I/DD.

Through its commitment to an Employment First policy for North Carolina, the NCCDD continued to make employment at a competitive wage in an inclusive workplace the gold standard for the state, addressing an unemployment rate of over 70 percent among people with I/DD. This effort requires a strong emphasis on school transitions that help students see college as a viable option and that find work experiences that match the person's skills with the needs of business and industry.

Other Council initiatives for 2011-2012 improved inclusive, post-secondary education options for people with intellectual disabilities; enhanced access to primary health care; ensured that professional, well prepared leadership develops a shared vision, firmly rooted in the outcomes valued by those they serve; developed the knowledge-base and advocacy skills of families and people with I/DD; and built a frontline workforce with the competencies necessary to deliver high quality, participant-directed services and supports.

Advancing system-wide innovations, building the capacity of communities across the state, and advocating for changes that make a real and positive difference in people's lives always present a challenge. The NC Council on Developmental Disabilities, led by the state's finest self- and parent-advocates, continues to embrace that challenge.

Yours truly,

Ronald D. (Ron) Reeve
NCCDD Chairman

Holly Riddle, J.D., M.Ed.
Executive Director, NCCDD



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If you would like a name to be added or removed from this mailing list, contact Cora Gibson at (919) 850-2901, or email info@nccdd.org, 800-357-6916 toll free

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