In 2006-2007, the North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities (NCCDD) worked in partnership with its grantees to carry out activities that make life better and promote community inclusion for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). NCCDD awarded federal grants to grass roots advocacy groups, government agencies, disability non-profits and other community groups. These awards are designed to support effective, innovative initiatives, under the authority vested in Councils by the United States Congress in the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (PL 106-402). Each year, the work of the North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities changes lives -- and the way services and supports are provided. At NCCDD, we call what we do “building bridges to community.”

EMPLOYMENT

People with I/DD make great employees and want to work. NCCDD’s TEAMING UP FOR SUCCESS project assisted students in transitioning from school to integrated employment or post-secondary education. By providing catering services for county meetings, students demonstrated the benefits of and need, among this age group, for increased transition services and supported employment. Through its ACTION NETWORK FOR ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGE, the Council worked with community rehabilitation programs across the state to transform services and to transition 1,163 individuals from Adult Day Vocational Programs to jobs in the community.

HOUSING

A home of one’s own is a big part of almost everyone’s quality of life. Having a home assists people in achieving other life goals, including education, employment, relationships, and personal development. People with disabilities and many elders choose to live in homes they rent or own -- but very little affordable, accessible, safe housing is available. If someone finds a home, he or she may then have trouble getting the supports in place necessary to live there. NCCDD supported the Council to collaborate with groups such as the NC Department of Health and Human Services’ Housing Workgroup to build capacity in neighborhoods throughout the state. The Council also contributed to the development of the NC Housing Coalition’s AFFORDABLE HOUSING PRIMER.

HEALTH

More and more people with intellectual and developmental disabilities grow up, live, work and retire in communities. Finding health care providers who welcome people with I/DD, whose offices are physically accessible and who have the necessary training can be challenging. The Council funded three projects in this area. The ACCESS DENTAL project brought high quality dental care to people with I/DD in their communities; pinpointed policies that needed change; and, with support from seniors who also benefited from this approach, leveraged $200,000 from the NC General Assembly. The Council’s ACCESS TO PRIMARY HEALTH CARE project created a “mini-fellowship” for physicians and other strategies for educating health care providers, while the PRIMARY HEALTH CARE MANAGEMENT initiative strengthened linkages between families and community health practitioners. The Access to Health Care projects were also evaluated on their impact on target populations. NCCDD’s MEDICAID EARLY AND PERIODIC SCREENING, DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT (EPSDT) project increased the numbers of families and children using the Medicaid Health Check program by training parents, advocates and providers.

The LIVING WELL initiative’s four projects and evaluation team made significant headway in advancing the benefits of community wellness activities. PEER CONNECTIONS taught healthy living to self-advocates, using peer mentoring, while HEALTHY LIVES, HEALTHY FUTURES promoted fitness activities along with participation in the arts. The ADVANCING PHYSICAL FITNESS & WELLNESS project included a health education class where 10 individuals showed improvement in body weight, energy levels, flexibility, and knowledge of nutrition and exercise. LIVING WELL/NC assisted people in taking responsibility for their own health through personal planning, while also offering classes for high school and college students interested in health careers.

PARTNERSHIPS OF THE YEAR

Through ongoing funding, the NCCDD is continually building its partnership throughout North Carolina communities. In 2006-2007, we were pleased to award funding for the following projects and work in collaboration with them to build and strengthen “bridges to community.”

QUALITY ASSURANCE

Upholding its belief in quality of life, the Council focused on activities in the area of quality assurance. The Asheville Coalition, facilitated by the “People Can’t Wait” demonstration project application. This work resulted in North Carolina receiving $16.9 million from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services over the next five years to assist in transitioning people from institutions to homes in the community.

The Council’s COLLEGE OF DIRECT SUPPORT created the state’s first competency-based, on-line curriculum for frontline staff (direct support professionals). Other initiatives included development of the NORTH CAROLINA DISABILITY ACTION NETWORK (NC-DAN), a grassroots, cross-disability community action network, while the PARTICIPANT INVOLVEMENT FUND made it possible for people with I/DD and their family members to attend advocacy and educational events of their choice.

COMMUNITY SUPPORTS

GROWING OLDER AT HOME WITH SUPPORTS was designed to aid older adults with I/DD, as well as aging caregivers, by offering activities to increase participants’ community involvement. AGING DOING IT MY WAY also focused on older adults by providing respite for families, while PROJECT VOICE identified exemplary options for leisure, wellness and companionship. LIFE GUARDIANSHIP: DOING IT THEIR WAY ensured that planning for later life was personalized to each person’s unique needs. The Council’s ASSET BUILDING COLLABORATIVE project successfully presented information to over 300 self-advocates, family members and professionals on ways to “earn money, save it, and watch it grow.” PARTNERS IN JUSTICE organized the first collaborative conference in NC for judges, attorneys, law enforcement officers, magistrates, corrections officers, and human service professionals to improve the outcomes for people with disabilities who interact with the criminal justice system.

COMMUNICATIONS

NCCDD’s COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC AWARENESS project generated greater awareness of the Council, its goals, and its projects. During the year, NCCDD published its highly popular AFFORDABLE HOUSING PRIMER, which drew national attention. The Council also continued to use publications such as “People First,” “People First for Teens” and “People First, K-5” to increase public awareness and heighten understanding.

VISIT THE COUNCIL’S WEB SITE AT WWW.NCCDD.ORG OR CALL 1-800-357-6916 OR 919-420-7901

This publication is produced by the North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities, established by the Developmental Disabilities Assurance and Bill of Rights Act (PL 106-402) to promote interpersonal, communication, self-determination, integration and inclusion into the community for citizens with developmental disabilities. The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services. Fifteen hundred copies of this publication were printed at a cost of $67 per copy.

ELLEN PERRY, FORMER NCCDD MEMBER: PEER CONNECTIONS

Ms. Perry knows that the key to healthy living and physical activity is an active social life. “My friends and I help each other stay healthy. That’s what peer support is about - friends helping friends lead good lives.” “Peer Connections” teaches healthy living to self-advocates through peer mentoring at monthly wellness meetings.

SAIDIE BREMINGTON, HARBOUR NOC MEMBER: MEDICAID EPSDT

Parent Saidie Barbour, a professional working with North Carolina’s American Indian community, knows the importance of services to children, 6-21, who live in rural areas.

“Learning about programs like EPSDT has been life changing for the youth who might not have known about them. Getting a child the services he needs and seeing the difference it makes brings hope to the whole family.”

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**COUNCIL OF COMMUNITY PROGRAMS**

North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities
2001 Lake Boone Trail, Suite 250
Raleigh, North Carolina 27607

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**REPORT FROM THE COUNCIL**

**DAVID HOROWITZ, M.D., NCCDD MEMBER: ACCESS TO PRIMARY HEALTH CARE**

Dr. David Horowitz, pediatrician and father of a young woman with developmental disabilities, saw patients with I/DD and their families struggle to find quality, barrier-free, primary health care. “Pediatricians regularly provide care coordination to people of varying developmental levels; but adult medical providers do not have this type of training. Finding doctors for adults with developmental disabilities can be particularly difficult.”

Dr. Horowitz saw the need for the Access to Health Care initiative. It has reduced barriers in medical care, increased quality dental care and provided training on I/DD for health care professionals.

**GREG OLLEY, PH.D., CHAPEL HILL—Center for Development and Learning, UNC-Chapel Hill—Self-Advocate**

**RANDY POWELL, ROCKY MOUNT—Self-Advocate**

**ROBERT J. (Bob) RICKELMAN, PH.D., CHARLOTTE—NCCDD Chairman, Parent-Advocate**

**KEVIN RYAN—NC Division of Public Health, DHHS**

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**RESPECTFULLY,**

The North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities

2001 Lake Boone Trail, Suite 250
Raleigh, North Carolina 27607

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**Holly Riddle, J.D., M.Ed.**
Executive Director
**Robert Riddle, M.D., M.Ed.**
Chairman
**Jennifer Angell, Parent-Advocate**
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