



Building Bridges to Community

North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities

North  
Carolina  
Council on  
Developmental  
Disabilities  
2007-2008  
Annual Report

[www.nccdd.org](http://www.nccdd.org)

Toll free number for families  
and self-advocates:

1-800-357-6916 or 919-420-7901



## REPORT FROM THE COUNCIL

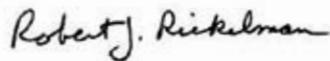
The 2007-2008 program year was a year of significant achievement. While the North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities (NCCDD) notes the progress made, it is mindful of the challenges ahead. Even before the economic alarms sounded, both nationally and regionally, the Council facilitated "Looking Forward: A Summit on North Carolina's Developmental Disabilities System." This coming together of leading voices on developmental disabilities policies bodes well for future progress. The Council will fulfill its role of advocating for those systems changes and capacity building activities that will bring positive outcomes for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families. This new direction in policy for North Carolina will be a result of work with all of our stakeholders, including families, self-advocates, professionals, providers and policymakers, who make up the Council.

The Council wishes to thank the many whose contributions of visionary thinking, time, and energy have helped to bring about the accomplishments discussed in this annual report. The NCCDD pledges to continue its work to improve and strengthen North Carolina's DD system for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and to fulfill its commitment to building bridges to community.

Respectfully,



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



*Robert J. (Bob) Rickelman, Ph.D.  
Chairman*



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Council members Catherine Goldsmith, Vicki Smith, Laura Yates, Lawrence Shockey and Sadie Brewington Barbour.



Executive Committee: at front, Jonathan Ellis, Monica Foster, and, at back, Rosemary Bernauer, Bob Rickelman, Chair, Tom Whitley, Sadie Barbour and Adonis Brown.

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Cover artwork: "Summer in the Mountains," Sharon Campbell, Winston-Salem, N.C. Her pieces are included in many corporate and private collections and are on display at Gateway Gallery and other community venues in Winston-Salem. The NCCDD thanks Ms. Campbell for permission to use her work.

# A REVIEW OF THE 2007-2008 YEAR

In furthering its mission of improving the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and advancing the goal of full community inclusion, the North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities (NCCDD) partnered with grantee organizations across the state to promote meaningful change. Grants were awarded to an array of private and public sector groups, including human service organizations, grassroots advocacy groups, government agencies, universities, disability non-profits and other community groups. These financial awards promote initiatives and bring about positive and innovative change in the lives of people with I/DD. The authority to fund systems change, capacity building and advocacy activities is vested in Councils by the United States Congress in the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (PL 106-402). The NCCDD recognizes the importance of its role, with its Network partners<sup>1</sup> in helping to reshape the policies, services and supports that benefit people with I/DD and their families and bring about full participation in the community.

## EMPLOYMENT

Demonstrating sustainability in the wake of an NCCDD grant, the [NC NETWORK FOR ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGE](#) continues to find new paths to economic opportunity for people with I/DD. NCCDD has formed a collaboration with the NC Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services and the Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse to chart future directions. The NCCDD continues to offer stakeholder groups information on leading edge approaches to creating, or locating, economic or employment opportunities for people with I/DD and anticipates new investments growing out of these partnerships.

## HOUSING

The NCCDD has continued to serve as advisors to the Center for Medicaid Services' Real Choice System Change Grant to the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Housing Workgroup: [INTEGRATING LONG-TERM SUPPORTS WITH AFFORDABLE HOUSING](#). In partnership with the Statewide Independent Living Council and the NC Housing Coalition, NCCDD partnered in an information campaign that resulted in additional funding for low-income, affordable and accessible rental units across the state.

## HEALTH

Promoting healthy lives, the [LIVING WELL IN NC](#) projects are laying the foundation for effective information sharing, opportunity and access to health and wellness activities for people with I/DD in communities across the state. Activities have included information and outreach to people with disabilities, as well as direct support professionals, to highlight the importance of health and wellness for positive life outcomes. The project also fostered relationship building between

<sup>1</sup> The NCCDD is part of NC's federally funded Administration on Developmental Disabilities (ADD) Network, along with Disability Rights North Carolina and the Center for Development and Learning, UNC-Chapel Hill.

## PARTNERS IN POLICY MAKING

*Known for its achievements in cultivating self-advocate and family leadership in developmental disabilities in North Carolina since 1995, PARTNERS IN POLICYMAKING is continuing to make history. Fulfilling its mission of providing quality leadership training, Partners in Policymaking provided 21 participants with eight months of advocacy training on issues ranging from federal policies to community organization and assistive technology. Sessions, led by nationally recognized experts, provided guidance on how people can make their views known. All participants practiced giving testimony before legislators and made commitments to post-graduation service projects.*



people with I/DD and other community members, with wellness activities as the common bond, and integrating people with disabilities into traditional community wellness activities. An evaluation plan will develop qualitative and quantitative measurements, means of gauging project success and participant satisfaction.

## SUMMIT ON I/DD AND MFP TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Seeking to offer the next Governor recommendations for advancing positive policy change in the state I/DD system, the Council facilitated a statewide Summit on I/DD, pulling together, professionals, self-advocates and agency leaders. Through the **MONEY FOLLOWS THE PERSON (MFP) PLANNING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE** project, Summit participants produced a document outlining the state-level policies and practices needed for a cost-effective, accountable, participant-driven and person-centered I/DD system. The consensus document was presented to North Carolina's gubernatorial candidates and the NC General Assembly's Legislative Oversight Committee on Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services (MH/DD/SAS).

## QUALITY ASSURANCE

Working together, **INNOVATIONS IN WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT** and **THE COLLEGE OF DIRECT SUPPORT** established a foundation for building capacity, competency and stability among the direct support professionals (DSP) who support people with I/DD. The Innovations project used a variety of stakeholders (e.g., people who receive services, DSPs, and administrators) in developing a comprehensive report on workforce barriers and recommendations for improvement. The report was shared with the NC General Assembly's Legislative Oversight Committee on MH/DD/SAS and subsequently included in the state's Workforce Development Initiative, a document addressing workforce issues throughout the MH/DD/SAS.

The **MAKING SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION WORK** project empowered people with I/DD to build connections and enterprises in their home communities. The project was successful in securing \$60,000 in legislative funding for peer-to-peer advocacy technical assistance. The project is going forward

## PARTNERSHIPS FOR 2008

**2008 NC ASSOCIATION FOR PERSONS IN SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT CONFERENCE: "STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS WITH VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION PARTNERSHIPS & WORKING WITH AUTISM"** *OE Enterprises*

**ADVANCING PHYSICAL FITNESS AND WELLNESS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN FORSYTH COUNTY** *YMCA of Northwest North Carolina*

**ADVANCING STRONG LEADERSHIP IN DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES INITIATIVE** *Univ. of Delaware, National Leadership Consortium on Developmental Disabilities*

**BEYOND ACADEMICS** *University of North Carolina at Greensboro*

**COLLEGE OF DIRECT SUPPORT NORTH CAROLINA DEMONSTRATION** *NC Providers Council*

**COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNICATIONS PLAN** *The Wallace Group*

**EVALUATION FOR LIVING WELL IN NORTH CAROLINA** *DD Consultation & Psychological Services*

**FAMILIES FORGING AHEAD TO A BRIGHTER FUTURE-EASTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY CONFERENCE** *East Carolina University*

**HEALTHY LIVES, HEALTHY FUTURE** *Cabarrus Co. Dept. of Aging & Senior Center*

**INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT AND ASSET BUILDING, COLLABORATIVE OF NORTH CAROLINA** *MDC, Inc.*

**KENAN FELLOWS PROGRAM IN ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY** *North Carolina State University*

**LIVING WELL IN NORTH CAROLINA** *Stevens Center*

**MAKING OUR VOICES HEARD: STRENGTHENING ASSOCIATION OF SELF ADVOCATES NORTH CAROLINA** *Human Services Research Institute*

**MONEY FOLLOWS THE PERSON PLANNING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE** *Community Resource Alliance*

**NORTH CAROLINA ADA NETWORK** *Partnerships in Assistive Technology*

**NORTH CAROLINA DISABILITY ACTION NETWORK (NC DAN)** *Disability Rights & Resources*

**NORTH CAROLINA YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM** *Alliance of Disability Advocates*

**PEER CONNECTIONS** *Human Services Research Institute*

**SEEING IS BELIEVING: BUILDING PROVIDER CAPACITY** *Community Resources Alliance*

following the end of Council funding through the support of the NC Consumer Advocacy, Networking and Support Organization. **NORTH CAROLINA DISABILITY ACTION NETWORK** continued to make headway toward becoming an independent non-profit organization and bolstering grassroots activities across the state. The new **SEEING IS BELIEVING** project uses the tools developed in Money Follows the Person, along with national best practices, to move individuals out of congregate facilities and into homes of their own in the community.

## COMMUNITY SUPPORTS

Pioneering in asset development policies and programs to assist people with disabilities to earn money, save it and watch it grow without compromising their benefits, the **INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT AND ASSET BUILDING COLLABORATIVE OF NORTH CAROLINA** and **MDC, INC.** came forward with an Asset Building Toolkit, developed with the National Disability Institute. The kit has six modules, covering topics from basic finances to tax credits, such as the Earned Income Tax Credit, together with free tax preparation services available to people in the various areas of North Carolina. Efforts to build awareness of these asset building strategies for people with disabilities were conducted, and 168 legislators were contacted by mail to inform them of the NC Asset Building Policy Initiative.

## COMMUNICATIONS

Conveying information about public policy issues, supports and opportunities involving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities is a critical need. The Council's **COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNICATIONS** project took key steps in the year, including redesign of NCCDD's annual report and newsletter to make them more readable, effective and interesting. Efforts to promote communication and build support and understanding for new initiatives were advanced by media exposure, including opinion/editorial page articles and coverage of Council activities and programs in the media.

## BEYOND ACADEMICS



*An exciting new program, a collaborative effort involving the University of North Carolina-Greensboro and a local service provider, is breaking new ground on campus. The **BEYOND ACADEMICS** project has eight students taking part in a range of activities on campus, from career development to academic, social and recreational opportunities. All of the students have intellectual or developmental disabilities.*

*While attending classes keyed to their interests and desires for new skills, the students live in housing near campus and learn self sufficiency while taking part in college life. In view of the success of the program, the number of participants is going from eight to 20 for the second year of operation.*

*Above, **Beyond Academics** students work jointly with students gaining advanced communication degrees. Below, a father visits his son, a freshman in **Beyond Academics**.*



This publication is produced by the North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities, established by the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (P.L. 106-402) to promote interdependence, contribution, self-determination, integration and inclusion into the community for citizens with developmental disabilities. The NC 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. One thousand copies of this publication were printed at a cost of \$ 0.91 per copy.