

NCCDD INITIATIVES

EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT

The *Learning and Earning After High School: The Role of Transition Services in Raising Expectations and Attitudes for Students with Intellectual Disabilities* initiative narrowed down its list of potential partners to 13 Lead Education Agencies (LEAs). Western Carolina University, leading this initiative, will collaborate with LEAs and continue working with Department of Public Instruction, families, schools and community partnerships.

Reaching the Summit of Success: Transition to Work and "Employment First" Action convened a 20-member multi-stakeholder steering committee that conducted a review of the literature and began planning and implementing two summits. The project exceeded its goal and held three summits in September providing key guidance for the development of a strategic plan for transition to employment for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) in NC. The Steering Committee was an essential partner in this work, supporting the development of the model used for the summits, assisting with the identification of speakers and conducting outreach in NC that led to greater attendance and participation.

The initiative will focus on planning and promoting a statewide conference in partnership with the Post-Secondary Education Alliance (PSEA).



The *State Employment Leadership Network (SELN)* came together to provide leadership in building capacity and improving employment opportunities for people with I/DD in North Carolina.

The network provided education and awareness to families, individuals and provider communities. Presentations were made at conferences and state level policymakers were provided information by SELN on a regular basis.

SELN developed a statewide NC Employment First Technical Assistance Center to help guide training and consultation around best practices implementation of employment services. In addition, the initiative began creating a work plan for school-to-work transitions to increase the number of students leaving school directly into supported employment and best practice planning for transitions from center based programs to supported employment in I/DD.

FAMILY SUPPORT

The *Family Support: Coming of Age* initiative was tasked to increase awareness of and access to natural and formal supports for people with I/DD who are aging and/or their aging caregivers. The initiative worked closely with a 14-member expert Stakeholder Taskforce to identify opportunities to cross train those in aging services on the needs of people with I/DD and their caregivers. It presented at nine conferences and meetings on the initiative; participated in the Aging and Disability Resource Center (Community Resource Connections for Aging and Disabilities (CRC) in NC) collaborative; and conducted 41 Future Chats with self-advocates and caregivers throughout the State to both identify barriers to accessing services and share information on relevant resources and the importance of future planning.

First In Families of NC (FIFNC) staff played an integral role in the evolution of a CRC program for Durham County and continues to serve as a key disability partner in the program. The initiative held three workshops on wills and estate planning and its goals were modified to focus more directly on policy outcomes related to the sustainability of family support in NC's new managed care system.



PUBLIC POLICY & ADVOCACY

During 2013, the *Public Policy* initiative worked to support Council members, staff and the communications team on policy and best practice models. The public policy team was responsible for:

- Legislative tracking issue briefs and statements of principles
- Newsletter articles
- Action alerts

- Letters to elected officials and decision makers
- Public comment to state service agencies on proposed rule changes
- Policy presentations and resources for Council members and grantees
- Maintenance of policy materials on the website

Under the direction of the Council, the initiative created multiple letters to members of Congress for the Chairman's signature. The public policy initiative also supported an informal group of nine Council members interested in public policy and led a team of five Council members and staff to Washington, DC for the National Disability Policy Summit.

The *Alliance of Disability Advocates (Alliance)* served as fiscal agent and intermediary for small grassroots groups and people with disabilities involved in the NC ADA Network Project. Under the direction and authorization of the NC ADA Network Coordinator, the Alliance processed reimbursement requests and in-kind match documentation from NC ADA Network projects within 15 days or less of remittance.

This was very significant for individuals with disabilities and small grassroots groups with limited cash flow. In addition, the Alliance provided cash advances to individuals with disabilities for participant travel and ADA project expenses upon request.

In Greenville, NC, the NC ADA Network's local group collaborated with Easter Seals Project Action (Transportation Project) in Washington, DC to improve access to accessible transportation in their community. The Disability Advocacy and Resource Center worked with the City of Greenville to host ADA training for local taxi companies. Taxi company representatives attended the ADA training at City Hall and Easter Seals Project Action provided the training via live web cast.

Since the training, there have been no reports of taxi companies' price gouging or offering limited hours of service to people with disabilities. One taxi company bought the first accessible taxi in Greenville, NC.

The *Jean Wolff Rossi Fund for Participant Involvement* provided resources for people with I/DD and their families to participate in diverse learning forums, garnering information necessary to make informed choices, enhancing advocacy and positively impacting public policy.



The *Advancing Strong Leadership* program recruited and selected 24 participants representing 18 North Carolina organizations. Each person developed and addressed two leadership challenges – one relating to organizational change and one relating to their own leadership skills/style. In addition, each person identified a mentor and developed a mentoring relationship. Resources were provided to both the mentees and the mentors.

In September, staff met with the Division of Mental Health/Developmental Disabilities/Substance Abuse Services and Disability Rights North Carolina, the State's protection and advocacy organization, and both have agreed to support the *Advocacy Ambassador* initiative in a collaborative manner. Multiple self-advocacy organizations were contacted to participate in the process as a part of a "coalition."

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

North Carolina Emergency Management (NCEM) was awarded an Emergency Preparation grant in August 2013 by NCCDD. Collaborators and possible champions for this work include former members of a statewide task force who completed work on a report that focused on a Disability and Elderly Emergency Management (DEEM).

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The *Medical and Health Homes for People with Intellectual and Other Developmental Disabilities: Coordination, Collaboration and Community* initiative is a statewide effort designed to ensure that people with I/DD receive the right care at the right time in the right setting.

Its efforts resulted in a review of state and national information related to medical homes, health homes, Affordable Care Act, Medicaid reform and managed care compiled in 2014.

The team presented at two 2014 conferences: the Janet Reaves Quality & Chronic Disease Conference, sponsored by the NC Community Health Center Association; and the Clinical Update and Psychopharmacology Review 2014, hosted by the South Regional Area Health Education Center (AHEC).

The *Mini-Fellowship in Adult Developmental Medicine* initiative executed through Mountain

PARTNERSHIPS 2013-14

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 NORTH CAROLINA

JEAN WOLFF ROSSI FUND FOR PARTICIPANT INVOLVEMENT

NATIONAL CURRICULUM INITIATIVE IN ADULT DEVELOPMENT MEDICINE

- MOUNTAIN AREA HEALTH EDUCATION CENTER

PARTNERS IN POLICYMAKING

- ADVOCACY INSTITUTE, INC.

ROUTE TO SUCCESS

- HUMAN SERVICES RESEARCH INSTITUTE

STATE EMPLOYMENT LEADERSHIP NETWORK

- DIVISION OF MH/DD/SAS
- NC VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION
- NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE DIRECTORS OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
- INSTITUTE ON COMMUNITY INCLUSION, UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS – BOSTON

Area Health Education Center (MAHEC) was a pilot program designed for the medical profession and the I/DD community.

The residency training curriculum in developmental medicine was forged in the previous year(s) by a collaborative of MAHEC, the Family Medicine Education Consortium (FMEC) and the American Academy of Developmental Medicine and Dentistry (AADMD). This year saw a first test of the curriculum at three family medicine residency programs in North Carolina (MAHEC Family Medicine, Moses Cone Family Medicine, and Eastern Carolina University (ECU) Family Medicine).

A total of 85 residents in training received some level of education specific to developmental disabilities and four emerged as resident champions for peer-to-peer support and training.

The success of web pages on the curriculum was unexpected. Since its launch in April 2013, the website has received 7,511 hits, which presented a breakthrough opportunity to project data points on persons who receive primary care in the context of family medicine residency programs.

COUNCIL

NCCDD used the *Route to Success* approach to help applicants and grantees think about other groups or agencies who might already be working on the issue in some way; to describe outcomes of the proposed initiative; and to think about the initiative's long-term sustainability, post NCCDD funding.

As an innovative, logic model developed by Human Services Research Institute (HSRI), *Route to Success* assists Councils on Developmental Disabilities in developing, implementing and evaluating initiatives.

The *Council Development Fund* is an in-house initiative that increases the knowledgebase and enhances the decision-making skills of NCCDD's members with regard to the practices and policies affecting the lives of people with I/DD and their families. Information from these events enhances NCCDD's development and oversight of its systems change initiatives.

During 2013-14, Council members participated in diverse events at the state and national level. Conference training events, public forums and informational sessions were selected based on their relevance to the NCCDD's goals and objectives, as articulated in the NCCDD's Five-Year Plan.

Through its *Communications* initiative, NCCDD educated and informed individuals with I/DD, their families, policymakers and the general public about the mission and systems change initiatives of the Council which has increased targeted marketing efforts. Through this initiative, the NCCDD also built a functional and accessible web presence. The Communications Initiative received several national awards for the educational videos it produced on behalf of the NCCDD.

THE COUNCIL

- **Caroline Ambrose**, self advocate
- **James Bodfish**, Carolina Institute for Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD)
- **Crystal Bowe, MD**, guardian-advocate
- **Sherry Bradsher**, Division of Social Services, NC Department of Health and Human Services
- **Robert Bradstock**, self-advocate
- **Adonis Brown**, self-advocate
- **Lisa Byrd**, self-advocate
- **John Carbone**, Division of Prisons, NC Department of Public Safety
- **Christina Carter**, NC Council of Community Programs
- **Eric Chavis**, self-advocate
- **Al Delia**, Acting Secretary, NC Department of Health and Human Services
- **Jonathan Ellis**, self-advocate
- **Lourdes Fernandez**, parent-advocate
- **Wilson Finks**, self-advocate
- **Crystal Foreman**, self-advocate
- **Mike Groves**, self-advocate
- **Elizabeth Harpootlian**, self-advocate
- **Linda Harrington**, Div. of Vocational Rehabilitation, NC Department of Health and Human Services
- **Rep. Verla Insko**, NC House of Representatives
- **Jim Jarrard**, Division of Mental Health/Developmental Disabilities/ Substance Abuse Services
- **Tara Larson**, Division of Medical Assistance, NC Department of Health and Human Services
- **Renate Macchirole**, Direct Support Professional
- **Sen. Eric Mansfield**, NC Senate
- **Michael McNeill**, self-advocate
- **Samuel Miller**, parent-advocate
- **Desiree Peterson**, self-advocate
- **Randy Powell**, self-advocate
- **Ronald Reeve**, NCCDD Chair, parent-advocate
- **I. Azell Reeves**, parent-advocate
- **Walter L. Ruff, III**, parent-advocate
- **Kevin Ryan, MD**, Division of Public Health, NC Department of Health and Human Services
- **Vicki Smith**, Disability Rights North Carolina
- **Dennis Streets**, Division of Aging and Adult Services, NC Department of Health and Human Services
- **David Taylor, Jr**, self-advocate
- **Mary Watson**, Division of Exceptional Children, NC Department of Public Instruction
- **Mike Whitley**, provider representative
- **Tracy Parker Willets**, parent-advocate

New Governor Begins Term in North Carolina

In January, Governor Pat McCrory (R) was inaugurated as the 74th governor of the State of North Carolina. Governor McCrory ran on a platform to improve North Carolina's economy and services for all the people in the State.

New Council Members: Governor McCrory appointed four new Council members to NCCDD to continue the Council's work in advocacy for the I/DD community.



Anna Cunningham, parent of a child with DD



Kerri Bennett Eaker, parent of a child with a DD



Senator Ellie Kinnaird



Kelly Woodall, self-advocate

From the NCCDD Leadership

The 2013 – 2014 year was a productive year for the North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities. Through NCCDD's funded initiatives that promote innovation in policy and practice, there was significant progress in fulfilling the Council's mission of bridging to communities where people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) can lead self-determined lives.

The initiatives focused on closing barriers for the I/DD community and it resulted in some great progress. Through education and advocacy in Greenville, taxi companies were educated on serving people with I/DD. The Mini-Fellowship in Adult Developmental Medicine initiative executed through Mountain Area Health Education Center (MAHEC) was a pilot program designed for the medical profession and the I/DD community. NCCDD also awarded a grant to North Carolina Emergency Management to help first responders be better prepared to serve the I/DD community in case of a natural disaster.

These are all great steps towards inclusion for people with I/DD in their communities. Other Council initiatives continued focusing on issues like advocacy, employment, education, leadership and more.

Advancing system-wide innovations, building capacity of communities across the State and advocating for changes that make a real and positive impact for North Carolinians with I/DD continues to challenge and focus NCCDD's work. The Council, led by the state's finest advocates, community and professional leaders, embrace the work it takes to build a inclusive and integrated North Carolina for people with I/DD.

Yours truly,

Ron Reeve
NCCDD Chair



North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities

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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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