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Utah Developmental Disabilities Council

2015

Annual Report



A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

The Utah Developmental Disabilities Council continues to lead in creative and effective ways to make our community more welcoming to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Below are highlights of some outstanding accomplishments by our members and staff during the past year.



The Council took an active role in acquiring funding for a new program at the Southwest Applied Technology College for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The “Workplace Foundations” program opened in June 2015 on this college campus to 34 students with a waiting list of 95. Already, 14 of these students have secured employment and the program is receiving state and even national attention!

In 2015, the Council made great strides in improving and providing effective leadership development to individuals with disabilities. Several People First members were invited to present at the National Association for Councils on Developmental Disabilities and did a superb job outlining a newly developed training for Advisors to People First groups. These young people formed a panel, presented the materials and answered questions independently – audience members, including myself, were amazed and impressed!

The Council awarded 4 “Impact Grants” in 2015 to support innovative and meaningful opportunities for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. These projects included: teaching 40 children with disabilities to learn to ride a two-wheeled bike, creating a reading center at a camp for individuals with disabilities, supporting a program to build self-esteem for young women with disabilities, and supporting a program to explore science for youth and adults with disabilities.

We are so appreciative of the outstanding staff of the Council, led by Claire Mantonya, our Executive Director. Please take a few minutes to read through the Annual Report and get acquainted with the Council and its many activities. We always welcome comments and suggestions for Council efforts. The Council is committed to continuing advocacy, building capacity and contributing to meaningful and positive change for Utahns with disabilities!

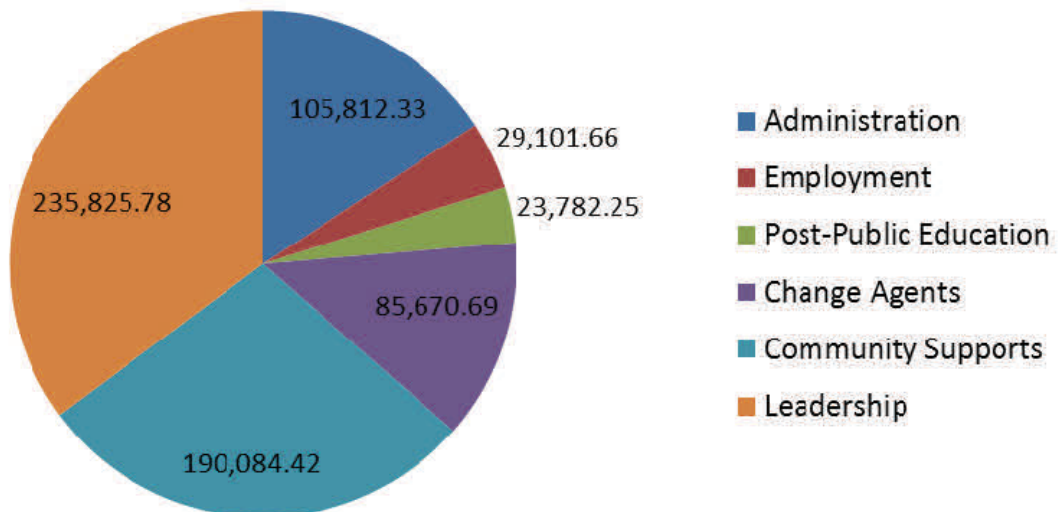
Most Sincerely,
Deborah Bowman, Chair

2015 OVERVIEW

This is the fourth year of work on goals from our 2012-2016 5-Year Strategic Plan:

- (1) Support the development of opportunities for people with disabilities to pursue a range of post-public school education experiences.
- (2) Support the development of networks of self-advocates and advocates to become effective change agents.
- (3) Support self-advocates and advocates in leadership opportunities.
- (4) Support the evolution of community resources and supports that empower people with developmental disabilities to lead independent lives in the community.
- (5) Support the development of opportunities for people with disabilities to get and keep jobs.

Distribution of Costs with Federal Funds



POST PUBLIC EDUCATION

Governor Herbert's goal is to have 66% of working age Utahns hold post-secondary degrees or certificates by 2020. Our education goal dovetails with this. Both K-12 public schools and colleges are encouraging individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) to consider post-public educational opportunities. Aggies Elevated, a program at Utah State University, is in its second year. Utah Valley University has started a program for students with autism, and the University of Utah opened a program in the Fall of 2015.

The Legislature appropriated \$100,000 to develop a pilot program to serve people with I/DD in our Utah Applied Technology Colleges (ATC). Many Colleges applied for the competitive grant award. Council staff and a past Council member actively participated in writing the criteria for the grant awards program, as well as helping to select the awardee. The Southwest Applied Technology College (SWATC) in Cedar City was the campus selected! SWATC 's " Workforce Foundations," program is currently serving 34 students, and already has a waiting list of 95 students who are ready to attend college and get to work! There obviously is a demand for post-secondary education opportunities in rural Utah.



Council Members Touring the SWATC facility

POST PUBLIC EDUCATION



Jacob Burney (right) at SWATC

The Council anticipates that the success of the SWATC program will encourage additional similar programs at ATC campuses around the state.

Workforce Foundations student, Jacob Burney, the first student to complete the course, described his experience at SWATC:

“Class for me wasn’t difficult. Initially I tried to avoid everybody, but I’ve grown and now I want to help other students - like helping the 70 year-old learn to type. I’m more willing to communicate. When I help other people I feel like I am being useful.” He says, “It has made me feel more responsible. It makes me feel like I have potential,” Jacob continued. “My internship experience makes me feel like I can actually accomplish what I need to in order to perform well in the field I am interested in.”

CHANGE AGENTS



Eric Stoker with
Rep. Tanner

During the 2015 Legislative Session, the UDDC, along with the disability advocacy community, focused efforts on educating the policy makers about the importance of increasing the wages for direct support staff. Direct support staff are the lifeline of disability services, and with Utah's booming economy and almost full employment rate, the low starting wage of \$8.00 per hour cannot

attract well qualified staff. Service providers report that the starting wage should be at least \$11.00 per hour to be competitive, but it didn't seem feasible to ask for \$15 million in appropriation needed to fund this in only one year. The advocacy community talked with legislative leadership and developed a compromise proposal requiring a \$5 million appropriation, each year for three years, to increasing wages by approximately a dollar per year. The Legislature supported this approach and the first \$5 million appropriation occurred during the 2015 session.



Barbara Toomer, a legendary Utah and national disability rights advocate, was the Council's keynote speaker at the annual meeting celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the American's with Disabilities Act passage!

CHANGE AGENTS

Council Member,
Ginny Rouse, and
staff meeting with
Representative
Rob Bishop



Council Members with
Lieutenant Governor Spencer Cox



LEADERSHIP

With the management of People First of Utah back in-house with the Council, the focus this year was on building up the membership of the State Board for People First and increasing their leadership skills. At the People First of Utah's Board retreat in August, strategies were developed to increase membership in local chapters, build the strength of the Board and to host a leadership conference in 2016. Five new members were added to the Board who are professionals, agency representatives and community advocates, and they will assist with developing and implementing People First business practices. People First of Utah is still working on becoming a self-supporting non-profit organization. Putting together a management structure for the Board that supports members in managing the non-profit is the key component in the ultimate success of People First of Utah. Dr. Tanya Whitehead worked under contract with People First members to identify and detail the major training issues needed to attract and retain qualified People First Advisors. In addition, Dr. Whitehead produced a three session video training starring our own Utah People First leaders. These videos are available on the Utah People First YouTube Channel. Advisors now participate in a certification process which includes viewing the videos, reading the manual and passing a test.

Starting chapters in local high schools as well as developing post-high transition programs is a People First of Utah goal. A twelve session curriculum was

developed allowing chapters and school based groups to share monthly leadership skill-building topics, as well as ideas about how to use these new skills in their communities. The curriculum was

completed in August 2015 and is currently being tested by 5 school programs and seven People First of Utah Chapters to provide feedback to Council staff.



LEADERSHIP

People First of Utah leaders present at the NACDD Conference in Reno, NV



The “Next Step Leadership project”, managed by Amy Notwell, provided opportunities for self-advocates to develop their own trainings to teach other self-advocates about the importance of leadership skills. Training was provided to 18 self-advocates in St. George at the Red Rocks Independent Living Center. Where, self-advocates voiced their wish to continue to develop and present trainings to peers, parents, siblings, professionals and community members. The project received an Interagency Outreach and Training Initiative (IOTI) of \$21,000 to develop a speaker’s bureau of self-advocates. Eight people with disabilities received two days of specialized training to become part of the speaker’s bureau called “Advocates as Leaders.” One of the speakers has also been hired as the Presentation Coordinator, a position funded under the IOTI grant.

Five “Advocates as Leaders” members presented two trainings at the Division of Services for People with Disabilities provider conference in April. They developed the presentations “No Limits: Raising Expectations of People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities” and “Safety is a Package Deal.” The development of the safety presentation was in partnership with Utah Coalition Against Sexual Assault, Utah Domestic Violence Coalition and the Disability Law Center. Feedback was very positive and demonstrated the importance of including self-advocates when training service providers.

LEADERSHIP

Additional trainings were presented to the Utah Independent Living Center and Kari Sue Hamilton School. “Language Matters, Respect is the New “R” Word” was presented to 30 self-advocates and was redesigned by the “Advocates as Leaders” members to present to a group of professionals. Positive feedback was received by both groups and participants appreciated the buttons that were given out to keep the message fresh in people’s minds.

The Council supported 12 people, including seven self-advocates, to attend national SABE (Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered) Conference in October. Our group presented at three different break-out sessions. The feedback received reported that each of the three presentations was professionally delivered and was well received by the audience.



Council Members visit Utah House of Representatives

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Council staff sit on the Home Choice Loan committee that utilizes Home Choice and the Olene Walker Housing Trust Fund in the state to support individuals with disabilities in purchasing and/or renovating their own homes. Eighteen families received this support during 2015.

This is year four of the Prevention of Abuse and Neglect grant project, a three-way collaborative project between the Council (UDDC) the Disability Law Center (DLC) and the Center for Persons with Disabilities (CPD). A needs assessment survey was developed and disseminated to the 16 domestic violence shelters across the state to determine their needs for training staff to understand how to accommodate and communicate with people with disabilities about their individual rights and privacy. Trainings were then conducted with 169 staff at the domestic violence shelters throughout Utah during 2015.

The Council provides support to siblings of people with disabilities through the Utah Sibling Leadership Network and communication through the Utah Sibs Facebook page. In April, a "True Colors" campaign was advertised to encourage sibs not only to recognize the National Sibling Day, but also to comment about their brother's/sister's attributes on the Utah Sibling Leadership Network FB page. A book club opportunity was organized to read "The Sibling Survival Guide" written by Don Meyers. The Council bought 10 books to distribute to siblings who are interested in participating. The Council sponsored two adult sibs, Bryan Dial (Council Member) and Laura Henrie (Disability Law Center attorney) who attended the National Sibling Leadership Network Conference in Lexington, KY. Bryan and Laura presented at the September Annual UDDC meeting about their experience. Engaging and recruiting adult sibs is a challenge!

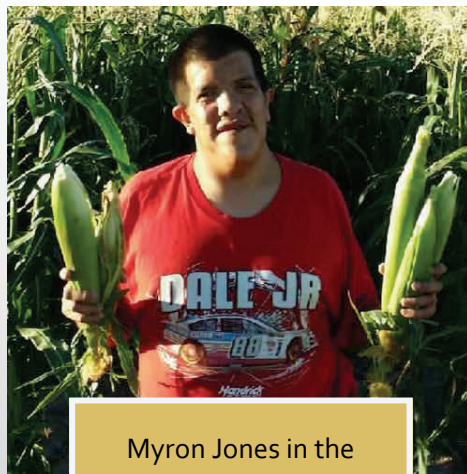
To find out more information visit:

<https://www.facebook.com/UtahSiblings>

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

This is year two of the Council's three year Navajo ABCD (Asset Based Community Development) project. This year focused on the inclusion of people with disabilities into the greater community, specifically, the Homer Dale Farm in Luff. Community connector, Elsie Dee, is working to increase communication among the Navajo Tribal leadership, the school system, the local DSPD provider, St. Christopher's Navajo Episcopal Mission in order to increase participation in community gardening. A major mine spill upstream in Colorado this summer turned the San Juan River red with pollutants—the source of irrigation for the garden! This contaminated water was a disaster for many families on the Navajo Reservation. Emergency relief provided trucked in water, but the incident negatively impacted the garden.

Leon Sampson (of St. Christopher's Mission), Elsie Dee and her son Myron Jones presented at the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities Conference in Reno in July. They shared the success story of how ABCD principles have created partnerships and increased communication to connect a community disadvantaged by extreme poverty and lack of infrastructure. Leon has utilized the Episcopal Church connections and received a \$90,000 grant to outfit a commercial kitchen with the goal of growing blue corn as a specialized commercial crop marketed as blue corn pancake flour. This partnership, led by the Council's Community Connector, has broadened the resources available to make this project successful and our investment is impacting lives. People with disabilities are included and welcomed. This project has been more successful than we ever dreamed!

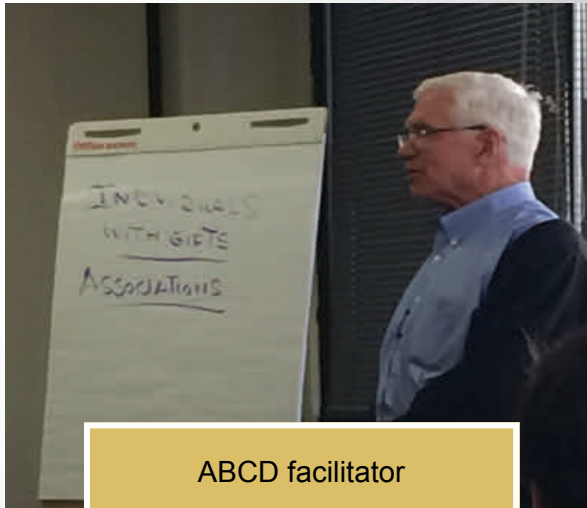


Myron Jones in the garden

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Mike Green, an ABCD facilitator, provided a training on ABCD principles in Salt Lake in April that was hosted by the Utah Parent Center. Many Council members attended along with people in the greater disability community and Rep. Becky Edwards of the Utah State Legislature. Attendees came away excited and inspired by the basic principles.

The Utah Caregiver Alliance (UCA) completed their three-year grant May 1, 2015. UCA established a number of innovative products that have helped a significant number of Utah families find supports to help improve the overall well-being of their loved ones who have disabilities.



ABCD facilitator
Mike Green



ABCD
Community
Connector
Elsie Dee

EMPLOYMENT

The Council funded a pilot project with DSPD and Griffin-Hammis Associates to train families and Easter Seals Utah staff about how families can develop customized employment for their own family member. The first eight months of this project has been a time of learning and developing strategies and ideas that might work. Five individuals in DSPD services, their families, their support coordinators and Easter Seals staff spent a day training together and learning about Customized Employment principles.

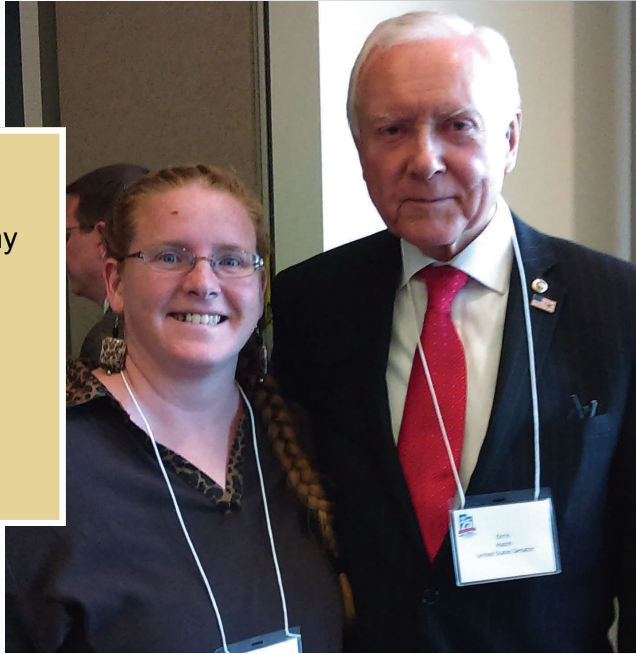
During the summer, on-site technical assistance was provided to Easter Seals staff. Following updates with individual families, DSPD staff and Cary Griffin, the group identified what was going well and what needed work. In September, Easter Seals started online Customized Employment training and continued working with families. All families who started the process want to continue. This project will be completed during 2016. Two of the five individuals participating are beginning to engage in informational interviews and early job development. Each family has faced varying barriers and challenges towards progress, including confusion about roles and responsibilities, difficulty identifying a key SAS (self-administered service) staff person who can (not parents- although they must be involved), and dealing with fears, behavior challenges, health issues, etc. Easter Seals staff is evaluating best practices in terms of timing, length of meetings, when to check in, development of task lists for SAS staff, etc. This project will continue and be completed in 2016 and will be a great way for families to take a bigger role in finding employment for their family member with disabilities!

COUNCIL VISION

A world where all people have what they need to get what they want from life.

ACTIVITIES

Pictured: Ginny Rouse and Senator Orrin Hatch



Deborah Bowman, Ginny Rouse and Representative Edwards

COUNCIL MISSION



Pictured: Denell Miles, Libby Oseguera, Tony Miles, Eric Stoker, Claire Mantonya, Karla Stoker with Representative Mia Love.

COUNCIL MISSION

“The Utah Developmental Disabilities Council will advocate, build capacity and encourage systems change to support people with disabilities and their families to fully and independently participate in their communities.”

ABOUT THE COUNCIL



2015 Council Members

Alice Hirai	Jennie Gibson	Noel Taxin
Adina Zahradnikova	Jessica Bowman	Paul Smith
Brian Wood	Julia Pearce	Rita Bouillon
Bryan Dial	Kayci Lynam	Tonya Hales
Bryce Fifield, PhD.	Kelie Babcock	Tracy Johnson
Cheryl Hansen	Kimberly Belliston	Tracy Justesen
Darin Brush	Kristen Hone	Vicki Clayson
Deborah Bowman	Lenny Jones	Rep. Paul Ray
Dustin Erikson	Linda Hansen	Sen. Luz Escamillia
Ginny Rouse	Lori Packard	
Greg Smith	Nels Holmgren	
James McFadden	Nevah Stevenson	





UTAH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL

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