

Utah Developmental Disabilities Council

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.



**2015-2016
Annual Report**



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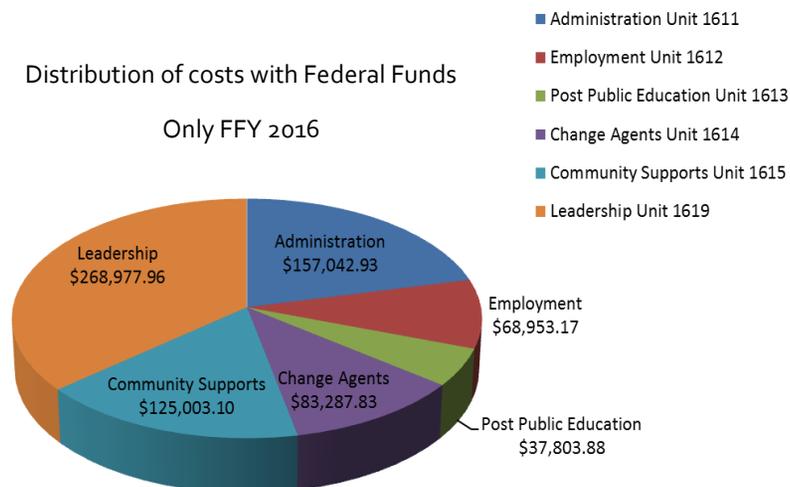
2015-2016 OVERVIEW

The 2012-2016 5-Year Strategic Plan goals are listed below. This is the final year of work on these goals.

- (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 becoming 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

Only FFY 2016



A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

In 2016, the Utah Developmental Disabilities Council had the opportunity to create, present and ultimately finalize our new 5-Year Plan! The plan took effect in October and will guide the Council's focus and efforts for the next five years. We sincerely appreciate the members of the Council who helped us through this year-long process and for the Council staff who supported us and massaged our thoughts into a plan approved by the National Association for Councils on Developmental Disabilities.



The 5-Year Plan was conceived after receiving input from surveys, focus groups and Council membership. The new goals focus on: supporting increased access to health services (including dental, vision, behavioral and mental health), collaborating on Utah's Employment First Initiative (increasing the awareness of employment opportunities), and building leadership and self/community advocacy skills, all for people with disabilities and their families. We are excited by the challenge of fulfilling these goals and look forward to the new projects and activities that will lead us to their successful completion.

The Council is pleased with the completion of our previous 5-Year Plan, which focused on post-public school educational opportunities, development of self-advocates to become effective change agents and leaders, empowering self-advocates and families to lead more independent lives in their communities, and encouraging opportunities for jobs. We were able to support the creation of a post-public school program at the Southwestern Applied Technology College in Cedar City, help develop a "Speakers Network" for people with disabilities to train others on disability issues, start a Community Garden in the 4-Corners area, provide input and direction to multiple disability agencies and organizations, and support the establishment of the Employment First task force. These are only a few examples of the many activities and accomplishments our staff and Council members have instigated and we are grateful for the difference it has made for Utahns with disabilities.

As always, we owe a great debt of gratitude to our Executive Director, Claire Mantonya, for her vision, wisdom and skill in guiding us to the successes we have experienced! We also recognize the wonderful efforts of Libby Oseguera, Frank Long, Eric Stoker and Jamie Winn, along with adopted Utah State University staff, Amy Notwell. You make an outstanding team!

Looking forward to the next 5 Years!

Deborah Bowman, Chair



ABOUT THE COUNCIL

Pictured: Council Staff Frank Long, Libby Oseguera and Jamie Winn



COUNCIL VISION

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

POST PUBLIC EDUCATION

With the initial year of Workforce Foundations at the Southwest Applied Technology College (SWATC) in Cedar City up and running, the Council provided gap funding for the new post-secondary educational program to finish out the state fiscal year. Workforce Foundations has had many successes and has positively impacted 53 students through continuing their post-secondary education in order to get a good job.

Workforce Foundations started last year as a result of an initial \$100,000 appropriation from the Utah Legislature to pilot a post-secondary educational program for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities at the Applied Technology college level. Recognizing the success of the initial pilot project year, the 2016 Legislature appropriated \$200,000 to continue a second year of the program. SWATC is committed to the program and its benefits and they hope that the program will receive an ongoing money appropriation in 2017 and beyond and that the Utah Legislature will consider adding additional pilots to other applied technology campuses to engage more students with disabilities around the state.

This year Aggies Elevated, a pilot project at Utah State University, graduated six students from the first class of students with intellectual disabilities to complete their two years of study at the Logan campus this spring.

Post-secondary educational opportunities for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities are now a reality in Utah! These two pilot programs have demonstrated success and will drive additional institutions to explore ways to include students with disabilities. Post-secondary educational programs contribute to the individual's increased opportunity to prepare for and obtain a good job and work career.

The systems are changing to include post-secondary opportunities for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities as the Council can proudly note that this 5-year goal has been achieved!

CHANGE AGENTS

Certified Disability Advocate

The Certified Disability Advocate Certificate is a joint project among the Council, the Disability Law Center, and the Utah State's Center for Persons with Disabilities. Staff from each of these sister agencies worked with professor, Dr. Tanya Whitehead, to develop an online eight-week college course to learn about social power and the disability world. The pilot class was held in the spring and 11 people graduated and were awarded their lapel pin and certificate of completion during the Council's September annual meeting.



Adult Sibling Network

This year, the Utah Sibs redesigned their approach of educating and reaching sibs statewide by creating a workgroup that has been meeting quarterly. This work group is made up of 8 siblings statewide and represent a variety of brother/sister perspectives. As part of the group we have a sibling as young as 15, a person with a developmental disability who also has a brother with DD and a sibling that can bring voice to the unique challenges of supporting a sibling with both mental health and a developmental disability. The work group's mission continues to focus on outreach, educational opportunities and access to information that could be valuable to siblings in Utah.

This year the group created new outreach materials that were promoted by local businesses and service providers to bring awareness to the Utah Sib's purpose and mission. We also had the opportunity to partner with People First of Utah's self-advocacy organization in planning and attending their Quality of Life Conference at the Trefoil Ranch in the Provo mountains in August. Throughout the year we have been providing sib related information through our postings on our Facebook page and continue to be a member of the National Sibling Leadership Network.

ABOUT THE COUNCIL



2015-2016 Council Members

Alice Hirai	Jennie Gibson	Nels Holmgren
Adina Zahradnikova	Jessica Bowman	Noel Taxin
Brian Wood	Judith Holt	Paul Smith
Bryan Dial	Julia Pearce	Rita Bouillon
Darin Brush	Kayci Lynam	Tracy Johnson
Deborah Bowman	Kelie Hess	Tracy Justesen
Denell Miles	Kimberly Belliston	Trevor Buit
Ginny Rouse	Kris Fawson	Vicki Clayson
Glen Larsen	Kristen Hone	Rep. Paul Ray
Greg Smith	Lenny Jones	Sen. Luz Escamilla
James McFadden	Linda Hansen	
Janet Wade	Lori Packard	



EMPLOYMENT

Employment Project

The Council partnered with the Division of Services for People with Disabilities to support the work with their contract with Griffin-Hammis Customized Employment. This new pilot project focused upon the new approach of working with the process of helping parents and families learn how to figure out 'discovery' with their family members. Discovery is a method utilized by employment specialists to engage with a person to figure out their unique gifts, talents, skills, and interests related to potential employment skills and tasks. Discovery information can help people supporting a person with a significant disability determine what sort of job match might work well for that person taking into consideration their interests in looking for a good job fit. This unique family focused project learning about discovery has engaged four families and Easter Seals of Utah staff to learn how to support individual families for coaching and utilizing the customized employment process.



CHANGE AGENTS

2016 Legislative Successes

In order to strengthen the backbone of Medicaid waiver services, the Legislature appropriated an additional \$5 million dollars to make the second year of a three year effort to increase direct care staff wages by at least \$1 per hour per year. Most starting wages now are at least \$10 which provider agencies are noting that they have experienced a decrease in staff turnover rate from 80% to now 50%. Utah's economy is stronger so we hope to reach that in 2017. Starting wages must be over \$11 to attract quality staff!

Advocates were very close to the restoration of dental benefits for adults with disabilities in the Medicaid waiver, but the \$1.5 million dollar appropriation was pulled at the last minute. The University of Utah Dental School is partnering with advocates and planning on returning to make this a priority in 2017.



LEADERSHIP

People First of Utah

Three Utah People First members participated in a technical assistance grant awarded by Administration of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD) to the Southwest Institute for Families and Children. The purpose of this effort is to increase self-advocacy and leadership in the intellectual disability communities in Utah, Arizona, Colorado, Texas and New Mexico. The various state teams worked both individually and together to develop trainings intended to increase leadership skills and further the self-advocacy movement. 154 surveys were administered, collected, and used to assess the needs for self-advocacy training among Utahns. The group also developed and presented two webinar trainings: "Driving Safely on the Information Super Highway" (Internet safety) and "Help Wanted: Applying and Interviewing to get the Job". Two short video blogs were also created discussing community advocacy and setting and achieving goals.



Kelly Holt, Eric Stoker and Kayci Lynam attend a SWI grant meeting in Phoenix, AZ

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

ABCD Navajo Project

Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) Navajo Project – Community connector, Elsie Dee, has completed three years working with the people on the community garden at the Homer Dale Farm, located outside of Bluff, Utah, on the grounds of the St. Christopher's Mission. The project naturally included people with disabilities, veterans, and community members. Participants used traditional Navajo gardening rituals and connected with the community and the land. In the picture below you can see that interest and gardening skills were also spread into the local schools.



Homer Dale Farm participants

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Abuse and Neglect Project

2016 marked the conclusion of the final year of the joint prevention training project among the Council, the Disability Law Center, and Utah State. The final safety focus this year was on training families with special outreach to Spanish-speaking families. The project provided 9 trainings around the state and reached over 150 people. Over this 5-year project over 900 Utahns (individuals, family members, community members and professionals including law enforcement) received this important safety training.

Mini-Grant for PC ALL

A mini-grant was awarded to PC ALL (Park City), a parent group working to engage their adult children in lifelong learning activities. The grant funded a nine week program that taught 6 participants about preparing land, planting, maintenance, harvesting and selling produce at the local farmer's market. Participants also had the opportunity to make a clay pot so that they could each take home a plant that they had grown from a seed.



PC ALL participants

LEADERSHIP



Eric Stoker, Libby Oseguera and colleagues from New York at the Leadership Symposium

National Leadership Symposium

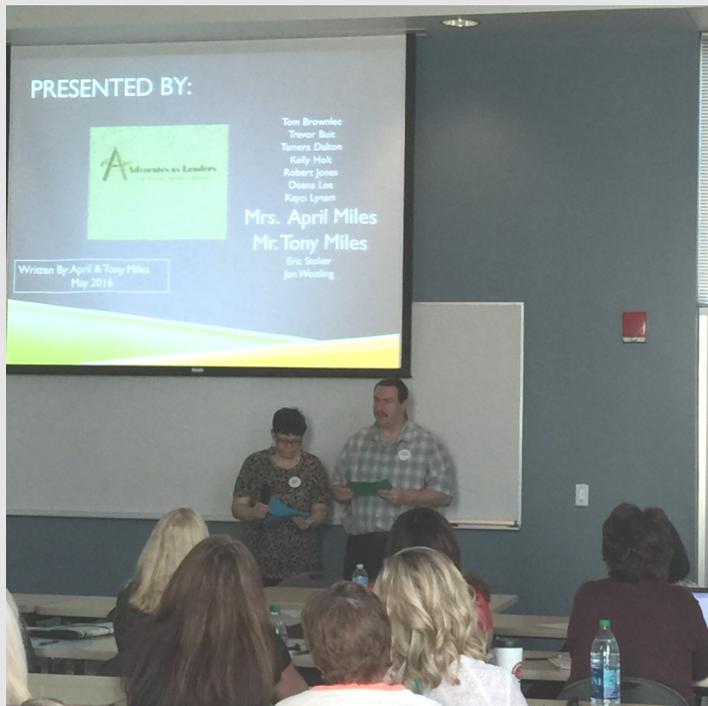
Council Staff participated in the University of Delaware National Leadership Symposium, a week long intensive nationally recognized training. Council Information Specialist Eric Stoker was selected to receive a scholarship from the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD) to attend January 2016. Libby Oseguera, Program Manager, also participated with a class of professionals from all around the country. We are proud that our Council staff are now recognized as young emerging national leaders in the disability community!

Eric Stoker was invited to present at the national conference of Councils on Developmental Disabilities in July. Eric's presentation focused upon the Advocates as Leaders Speakers Bureau. As a result of that presentation, the Colorado DD Council invited him to present this information to their Council.

LEADERSHIP

Advocates as Leaders Speakers Network

Advocates as Leaders is a Utah based self-advocate speakers network that was created this year. Ten individuals with disabilities were hired and nine unique presentation topics were researched, prepared, and delivered on various disability issues ranging from living with autism to promoting higher expectations for people with disabilities. Over the course of the year 400 people were trained. Audiences included individuals with disabilities, family members, and the general public.



April and Tony Miles, Advocates as Leaders Speakers, present at a Support Coordinator training on what it is like being parents with disabilities raising children.

LEADERSHIP



Quality of Life Conference

The 2016 Quality of Life Conference was held August 15-16 on the property of the Utah Girl Scout's Trefoil Ranch in Provo Canyon. 60 people attended. Participants learned together through team building activities and presentations and had loads of fun. People First Board members planned the breakout sessions and activities which included a dance, a campfire sing along and a leadership themed scavenger hunt. Everyone had a wonderful experience meeting new friends and developing leadership and team building skills.