



2011 Annual Report

Utah Developmental Disabilities Council

Our Vision

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



Our Mission

The mission of the Utah Developmental Disabilities Council is to be the state's leading source of critical innovative, and progressive information, advocacy, leadership and collaboration to enhance the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities.



Visit the Council's website at www.utahddcouncil.org

or call

801.533.3965 or 800.333.8824



A message from

Sherri Dial - Chairperson 2011

The Utah Developmental Disabilities Council works hard to be the state's leading source of critical innovative, and progressive information, advocacy, leadership and collaboration to enhance the lives of individual with developmental disabilities. I have enjoyed the opportunity to be included in the creative and educational growth of ideas and philosophy. Many wonderful objectives were completed.

This year the Council produced a Telly Award-winning video: "Keep People Home, Keep People Working" that depicts the lives of real Utahns who have the challenge of managing life with a severe developmental disability. It highlights the importance of respite-giving families a break so that they can stay healthy and care for their family member with a disability. The film captures the importance of meaningful day supports, including work, as well as residential options and demonstrates that providing community placements is so much more cost effective than institutional care. Advocates all around the state used the video to teach their policy makers about the importance of funding disability programs, and this video had an impact as the 2011 Legislature appropriated monies for the Waiting List for the first time since 2007! The Council is also active in supporting the development of a grassroots network within the disability community. We are funding a contract to manage the development of the Grassroots Advocacy Partnership (GAP) as well as the self-advocacy groups, "People First, all over the state of Utah.

Much of the year was spent gathering information and input as the Council worked to design a new 5-Year plan for 2012 - 2016. Council members traveled to St. George and to Vernal for Council meetings as well as holding open public meetings to hear and learn about issues in these areas off the Wasatch front. Many hours of deliberation and weighing options helped the Council determine the new goals to guide our work going forward.

2011 marked our 40th Anniversary. We celebrated during our Annual meeting at Thanksgiving Point in September with Lt. Governor Greg Bell speaking about his own personal experience as a young man with a person with a disability. We have a short documentary highlighting our work that can be found on our website: www.utahddcouncil.org



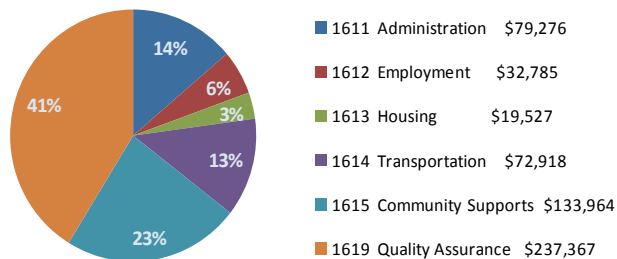
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2010-2011 Year in Review Overview

2011 marks the final year of our 5-Year Plan begun in 2006. Many of our goals were completed and we still have much work to do in the next 5 years and beyond. We celebrated the 40th year anniversary of the DD Council in Utah. Looking back over those 40 years, the Council certainly has positively impacted the community in numerous arenas. Family members started the disability movement – moms and dads trying to get services and supports for their children so that they could be participating members in their communities. These family members who wanted to keep their children at home bucked the conventional professional advice that they should institutionalize their child. These parents fought for basic civil rights – education, access, and opportunities that all Utahns need and deserve.

The Council funded many community supports and services by creating pilot projects. The advocacy community was built through funding of the Legislative Coalition of People with Disabilities, the Grassroots Advocacy Partnership, People First and trainings like Partners-In-Policy Making. Community residential, day supports, and recreational opportunities got their start-up funding through Council projects like Best Buddies. Individual community leaders who started their advocacy careers by serving as Council members went on to become Utah State Legislators: former Rep. Tricia Beck and Rep. Holly Richardson. Self-advocates are leaders within the disability community in Utah and nationally. Kelly Holt, former Council Chairperson from Price was recognized by the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities as their Champion of Equal Opportunity (CEO) award winner this November in Washington, D.C. Former Council Member and Chair, Bryon Murray, from Roosevelt has served for 8 years as a nationally elected Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE) Board member.

Council Resource Allocation: Actual Costs



Leadership Development Quality Assurance

This year the Utah People First Network (PF) and the Grassroots Advocacy Partnership (GAP) management changed from in-house management to an outsourced contract. An RFP was designed, advertised and awarded to Family Advocacy in January 2011. Family Advocacy spent the first year of the contract getting to know the various groups around the state as well as producing publicity pieces, manuals for People First officers and advisors. The paperwork is in process for Utah People First to become a non-profit. The Council accomplished their 5-year goal “to move the self-advocacy movement to the next level”.

Self-advocate leaders are helping local groups and providing technical assistance to build and resurrect groups that have not been functioning. The Council’s Annual meeting and 40th Anniversary Celebration at Thanksgiving Point in September was held in conjunction with a state-wide advocacy training. People First’s silent auction along with other fund raisers, is beginning to move People First into its long range goal of becoming a self-sustaining organization. Combining local People First with the regional GAP organizations is an experiment as a new way to coordinate and build local communities of advocates that will have a better chance in becoming a sustainable organization and network. GAP and PF have websites and use Facebook. Family Advocacy is supporting self-advocate leaders in responsible positions as mentors and trainers for their peers. Self-Advocate Council members are active in many statewide disability groups including serving on the Boards of the Utah Parent Center, the Autism Council, Utah State’s Center for Person’s with Disabilities, and the Board of the Disability Law Center.

The Council continues to support national self-advocacy leadership through National SABE Representative Bryon Murray from Roosevelt. The Council also provides additional resources and support to the Native American community and four local People First groups in southeastern Utah through an ongoing contract with Transitions in Blanding.



Marissa and Council member, Eder Soriano attend a People First Dance.

In May the much anticipated Basin Transit Authority began running buses from Duchesne to Vernal! The Council's grant helped make this happen. The Council's first year investment of \$50,000 leveraged \$203,856 and allowed the Uintah Basin Association of Governments (UBOAG) to purchase the capital equipment. Ridership numbers are up to 1,700 people per month now able to travel along the 65 mile section of Route 40. This project was the dream of former Council member from Roosevelt, Bryon Murray. He got the Council to support a rural transportation project during the 2006 5-Year Planning retreat, and now this project has come into reality through the work and persistence of many different agencies. This project demonstrates a successful rural coalition that we hope will catch fire in additional areas of the state where so many people with developmental disabilities desperately need public transportation.

Council members and self-advocates in the Uintah Basin celebrate the beginning of Eastern Utah's shuttle service between the towns of Roosevelt, Duchesne, and Vernal.



Creating opportunities for people with developmental disabilities to have real jobs and real wages was an important goal emphasized throughout this final year of the 2007-2011 5-Year Plan. This goal will continue to be a major focus going into the Council's 2012-2016 5-Year plan. DD Council members and staff are involved with many ongoing workgroups that are focused on creating supported employment as well as self-employment opportunities.

The Council provided three years of pilot funding to Utah Works to increase the ability of service providers to utilize state use law to obtain service contracts with the state. Utah Works is now self-sustaining. Utah Works reports that there are now 222 people working these contracts, up from 206 in July 2010 in spite of the down-turned economy in Utah. The growth in direct wages for people continues to increase as well: \$307,084 in 2010 to \$400,286 in 2011. Rep. Ronda Menlove sponsored and passed an Employment First bill that requires that Vocational Rehabilitation, Workforce Services, and the Division of Services for People with Disabilities to emphasize employment first policies with their clients. In addition, under Rep. Menlove's leadership, the Legislature appropriated \$250,000 of ongoing monies to support people on the Waiting List who want work. Utah is interested in providing the opportunity for people with disabilities to become employed and active in their communities, and the work of the Council will continue in this critically important area for people's lives.

Utah DD Council Members

Adina Zahradnikova	Eder Soriano	Jennifer Kuhn	Sherri Dial
Jennie Gibson	Elsie Dee	Kristen Hone	Suzanne Smith
Amy Weyrich	Eric Stoker	Lee Stephens	Tom Brownlee
Andrew Riggle	Glenna Gallo	Lenny Jones	Tonya Hales
Bill Young	Holly Williams	Nan Gray	Trevor Spackman
Bryce Fifield, PhD	James O'Neill	Nels Holmgren	Troy Justesen
Clarissa Crisp	Jane Tuttle	Nevah Stevenson	Valarie Tanner
Deborah Bowman	Jeanie Pettit	Reed Hahne	Rep. Paul Ray
Don Uchida	Jennie Gibson	Robert Bucciere	Sen. Pat Jones

Housing

Community Supports Formal and Informal

The Council did not fund any specific housing projects this year, however, ongoing initiatives continue to influence both individuals and systems.

The Home Choice Loan program assists individuals and families impacted with disabilities to buy homes. The Home Choice Loan program works in conjunction with the Olene Walker Trust Fund. This state administered program helps reduce monthly payments through a percentage reduction to make house payments affordable. The Home Choice Loan program helped 22 families obtain homes.

Two years after the Council initiated a housing discussion, the Six County Association of Governments in Richfield began to work toward becoming a housing authority. Six County faced many road blocks in the process, but once the final arrangements are completed, rural central Utah will have the option to use Section 8 vouchers.



Utah Department of Human Services Executive Director Palmer Depaulis (L), Council Member and self-advocate Tom Brownlee attend the Council's 40th anniversary celebration.

This year marks the second full year of the Grassroots Advocacy Partnership (GAP). GAP members have established good relationships with members of the Social Services Appropriations Committee who helped protect major cuts to community services this year. The GAP database includes over 700 members. Social media is used to move information out into the community. The Council's main website had 28,103 visits. Access Utah, a website for information and referral service funded by grants from Special Education, Vocational Rehabilitation and Children's Special Healthcare Needs had 51,074 visits. This year over 2,694 individuals benefited as a result of the Council's efforts and \$15,860 were leveraged for community support programs.



ABOVE: l-r Andrew Riggle, Brooke Wilson, Eric Stoker, Bryon Murray, James O'Neill, ADD Commissioner Sharon Lewis, Tom Brownlee, Kelly Holt at the National Self-Advocacy Summit held in Los Angeles, California.

BELOW: Valarie Tanner, Council member from Vernal, Utah

