



Utah Developmental Disabilities Council



2016 - 2017 Annual Report

www.utahddcouncil.org

801-245-7350

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

It's hard to believe another year has passed and the Utah Developmental Disabilities Council is issuing its Annual Report. 2017 was the first year of our new Five-Year Plan, so the focus of the Council has been on rolling up our sleeves and getting to work on our new goals and their accompanying activities!

Our first goal is to support the increase of access to, and use of health services for people with disabilities and their families. We contracted with the Center for Persons with Disabilities to study current health services and service gaps in all the counties in Utah to help focus our efforts on the counties with the most need. We were also excited that our efforts, combined with other advocates, encouraged the 2017 Utah State Legislature to re-instate dental benefits beginning July 2017! These benefits were discontinued in 2008, so they were long overdue.

Our second goal, regarding employment, has initially focused on finding a training to educate families and individuals about replacing fear with knowledge, and experiencing the opportunities and rewards from employment. We are in the process of contracting for that training. We have also participated in the Employment First efforts with our agency partners.

Our third goal, building leadership, has focused on getting trained self-advocates and family members prepared and serving on boards, committees and workgroups to help represent the needs of people with disabilities. Amy Notwell has facilitated the Speaker's Network with great success, training local, state, and national organizations on disability issues using her talented self-advocates. The Council is growing the number of Next Chapter Book Clubs around the state. Individuals and facilitators are loving the rich dialogue and social experiences they enjoy each week! We are also revising our Certified Disability Advocate training and hope to release an updated version and begin a new session in the next few months.

Salt Lake City hosted the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities Conference with our Council taking the lead. The Council also helped to plan a successful statewide conference in collaboration with Family Links, The State Board of Education, the Disability Law Center and the Center for Persons with Disabilities in conjunction with the National Conference.

As you can see, our Council staff, led by our talented and visionary Executive Director, Claire Mantonya, has had a very busy year and we know that our Council's success is due to their exceptional work! Our thanks to Claire, Linda Hansen, Deborah Dilley, Eric Stoker and Lindsey Hunter for always going above and beyond expectations and making Utah an even better place for people with disabilities!

Looking forward to another year of great possibilities,

Deborah Bowman,
Chair



THE NEW 5-YEAR STATE PLAN BEGINS

GOAL 1: HEALTH

The UDDC will support the increase of access to, and the use of, health services for people with developmental and other disabilities and their families, including: dental, vision, behavioral and mental health.

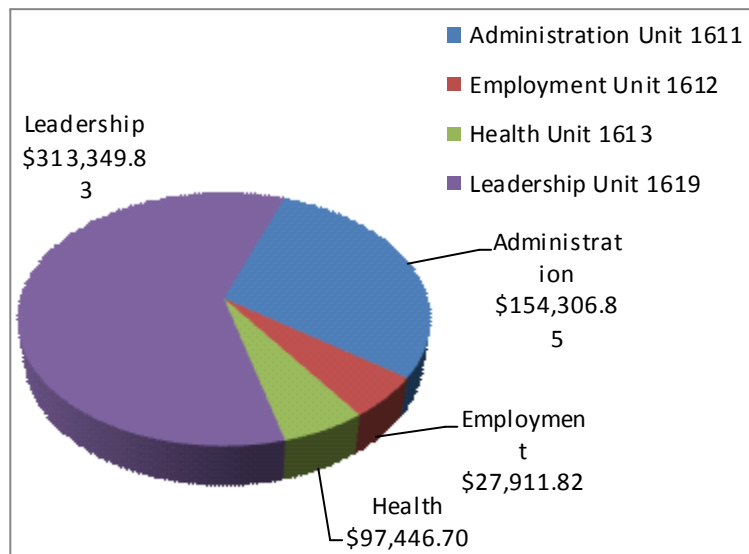
GOAL 2: EMPLOYMENT

The UDDC will collaborate with the Employment First Initiative to increase the awareness of employment opportunities for people with developmental and other disabilities.

GOAL 3: LEADERSHIP

The UDDC will build leadership and self and community advocacy skills of people with developmental disabilities and their families.

Distribution of costs for FFY 2017



EMPLOYMENT

The Council was instrumental in advocating for Utah to become one of the first states that promoted 'Employment First' for people with disabilities. To that end, the Division of Services for People With Disabilities (DSPD) has taken the lead and obtained Medicaid Waiver grant monies to initiate many new efforts to ensure the system supports this goal. The Council has been active in supporting system change trainings such as Discovery (the process of looking at a person's talents, skills, and interests) as a starting point to plan to obtain a job related to these identified interests rather than starting with the typical job search for a person with significant disabilities.

Information Specialist, Eric Stoker, has interviewed several individuals who have jobs in the community who can serve as inspiration and provide ideas for individuals and families. These interviews are on the Council's website: www.utahddcouncil.org/ and we will continue to highlight additional people this coming year.

An objective that the Council intends to fund is a training for people and families to better understand the importance and possibilities of working – setting expectations higher for family members as they get into high school and eventually leave school for adult employment. Several bumps this year prevented this training from actually starting in Utah, but the Council has partnered with the DSPD, the Utah Parent Center, Special Education, Vocational Rehabilitation, and Workforce Services to pilot a new SHIFT curriculum.

Over the next 3 years this partnership will bring the Shift transition project to Utah with the goal of encouraging employment even for people with significant disabilities!

LEADERSHIP

NEXT CHAPTER BOOK CLUBS

A new alternative to the traditional People First meetings is being organized and supported by the Council – Next Chapter Book Clubs! NCBC meet for an hour each week to read a book out loud together, discuss and generally have a



great time! NCBCs exist all over the United States and other countries. This year we have three active clubs that meet in Park City, South Salt Lake and West Jordan. The South Salt Lake group meets at the Columbus Library every Wednesday at 4 p.m. The West Jordan Library Book Club meets at 4 p.m. on Thursdays. The Park City group meets every Monday at noon in the Park City Library.

Book club members love this activity – they gain self confidence, advocacy skills, and meet new friends. Participants come from group homes, Intermediate Care Facilities, and from their own homes to meet together and read. People who want to become further engaged in public policy or other advocacy activities are being identified and supported to participate with their interests.

The Council wants to increase the number of book clubs around the state. We recruit, train, and support facilitators who take on the responsibility of being there each week. We want to reach as many people as we can with this fun, free activity. **Contact the Council office at 801-245-7350 if you would like to start a chapter in your area. We need your help!**

ADVOCATES AS LEADERS

Amy Notwell, with the Center for Persons with Disabilities, has developed a wonderful group of speakers who present trainings on Self-Determination, Raising Expectations, Language Matters, Living Strong with Autism, Dispelling Myths, Internet Safety, Supported Decision Making and other topics. Advocates as Leaders trained 894 people this year in all kinds of settings, including presentations at statewide conferences and the National Council on Developmental Disabilities National Conference that Utah hosted in July. One attendee commented about their training with the Speaker's Network: *"I really enjoyed it! I have an 8 year old with a disability (stroke). I teach him he has no weakness and is capable of anything, I love seeing these people's drive, determination and happiness."*



Eric Stoker, Kelly Holt, Tamera Dalton presenting at the NACDD National Conference July in Salt Lake City

UTAH SIBLING LEADERSHIP NETWORK

Who will have the longest relationship with their family member with a disability? Well most likely, it will be the adult sibling as generally children outlive their parents. Since people with disabilities are living longer, adult sibs are having to grapple with the issues that in the past were mainly Mom and Dad's. In order to address this emerging issue, the Council is sponsoring sibling opportunities for further connection with their family members with disabilities. Utah Sibs has a Facebook page at www.facebook.com/utahsibblings. With a working core group of 6-8 siblings, the "Action Team Committee" planned and held two weekend bowling events for the families. Over 52 people participated in those events.

Adult sibs Paulena Rymer and Anna Brady were supported to attend the bi-annual National Sibling Leadership Network conference in June in Connecticut, where they were able to network with sibs from all over the USA. Utah Sibs also presented a panel discussion at the NACDD National Conference in Salt Lake this July.



Paulena Rymer



Anna Brady



Celebrating Self-Determination Conference

July 10, 2017 Salt Lake City, Utah



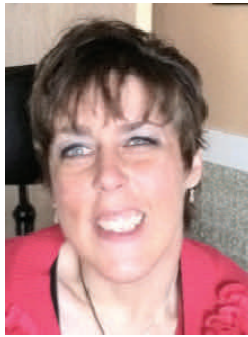
ADVOCATES AS LEADERS: SPEAKER'S NETWORK



Tom Brownlee



Amber Orvin



Tamera Dalton



Sarah Heuser



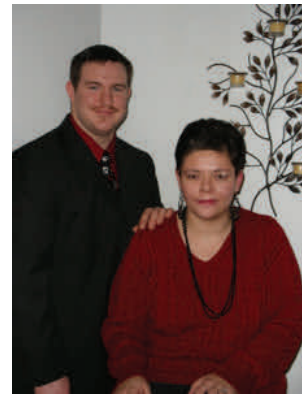
Courtney Edgington



Eric Stoker



Kelly Holt



Tony & April Miles



Kayci Lynam



Jenna Mosher



Robert Jones

HEALTH

DENTAL BENEFITS RESTORED – JULY 1, 2017

Medicaid dental benefits were restored July 1, 2017 – the first since 2008! People with disabilities all over the state are happy to once again be able to get dental services other than having a tooth pulled. Many thanks to the Utah School of Dentistry, the Disability Law Center, the Legislative Coalition for People with Disabilities, and the 2017 Legislature.

CONTRACT FOR HEALTH RESEARCH

The Council contracted with the Center for Persons with Disabilities to conduct a health survey of 5 counties within the state to ultimately describe the barriers, access issues, and gaps in health services. This research project will help the Council determine how to move forward with educating the disability community, elected officials, and the general community about health issues facing people in rural areas.

OUTREACH TO UNDERSERVED SPANISH-SPEAKING COMMUNITY

The Council's Asset-Based Community Development Project (ABCD) is targeting outreach to the Spanish-speaking community in Tooele in order to better support and connect the disability and greater community members to health services. The Utah DD Council entered into a joint five-year project with the two sister agencies from the Developmental Disabilities Act – the Disability Law Center (DLC) and the Utah State Center for People with Disabilities (CPD). JC Vasquez, from the CPD, is the project manager. The DLC has contributed the staff time of Susana Cantone. The Council sent the staff to Denver in September 2016 to observe and learn about the Spanish-speaking ABCD projects in Denver. While there they had

time with Mike Green, master ABCD facilitator, to help learn more about the ABCD process and best practices.

Throughout the fall, project staff facilitated six outreach focus groups throughout the state—Park City (14 participants), South Salt Lake City (16 participants), Midvale (10 participants), St. George (8 participants), Logan (10 participants), and Moab (16 participants)—designed to listen and explore the needs of Spanish-speaking people around the state. JC reached 44 family members and 30 people with disabilities, as well as 6 agencies involved with our community across the state.

JC and Susana presented an option to the Council to focus upon the South Salt Lake City Health Center, but after consultation with Council committee members, Tooele was selected in April to be the new site for the ABCD project as it was the area of greatest need. Many contacts were provided to JC and Susana to provide outreach to the school system, the Independent Living Center, Children with Special Health Needs, Vocational Rehabilitation, DSPD providers, etc. Project staff approached faith-based centers and gained access to the LDS Spanish-speaking Ward. They also identified a group of people who are very interested in organizing and creating access to resources for their community.

2016-2017 Council Members



Adina Zahradnikova

Alice Hirai

Amber Foster

Angie Pinna

Antoinette Antone

Bryan Dial

Christian Navarrete

Darin Brush

Deborah Bowman

Denell Miles

Ginny Rouse

Glen Larsen

Greg Smith

James McFadden

Janet Wade

Jared Stewart

Jaret Winn

Judith Holt

Julia Pearce

Kayci Lynam

Kelie Hess

Kris Fawson

Kristen Hone

Linda Hansen

Matt Wappett

Nels Holmgren

Noel Taxin

Pam Bennett

Rita Boullion

Staci Christensen

Tanya Semerad

Tracy Johnson

Trevor Buit

Rep. Paul Ray

Sen. Luz Escamilla

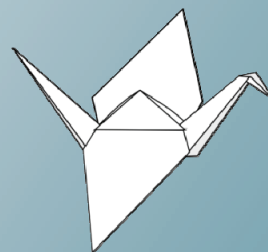
THANK YOU

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Alice Hirai's service to the disability community started when her daughter was born over 45 years ago. She passed away December 2016. We miss her gentle spirit and her passionate dedication and advocacy.

To honor her, we have specifically chosen the Japanese phrase "Osoreimasu" that is seen at the top of this page, a term which embodies a sentiment of gratitude for awe-inspiring dedication and service.





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.



www.utahddcouncil.org



www.facebook.com/UtahDevelopmentalDisabilitiesCouncil

