



FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2021

ANNUAL REPORT



Utah Developmental
Disabilities Council.



Challenges and Opportunities

A LETTER FROM LEADERSHIP



Dear colleagues and friends,

This year was the final year of our 2017-2021 State Plan and we were met with many challenges and opportunities to grow and thrive in a time of uncertainty. We improved digital access and community engagement through virtual means and expanded training to support people to connect, learn and move forward. In 2021 we elevated the voices of our community to advocate for COVID-19 medical treatment and vaccine access. We participated in media events to bring awareness to the thousands of Utahns with disabilities that are underemployed and unemployed, and we partnered with the White House to hold a virtual summit highlighting the need for increased access to home and community-based services. The Utah Developmental Disabilities Council is ending this planning cycle by continuing its efforts to tirelessly champion for equal opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities—drawing from the strength of our members, partners, and community. We are so thankful for everyone who worked to create progress toward our goals and we are looking forward to new challenges and goal areas coming in 2022!

With Gratitude,

Jared Stewart and Libby Oseguera

UDDC Chair

UDDC Executive Director

Health Access

2021 was a big year for health initiatives at the Utah Developmental Disabilities Council (UDDC). The Council hired dedicated staff to improve health outcomes for people with developmental disabilities by supporting processes and operational standards in organizations that provide health services. UDDC connected Select Health researchers with the Utah Department of Health to improve research outcomes focusing on service quality for individuals with disabilities. To close gaps in health services, UDDC joined the organizations improving relationships and collaboration between private and public partners serving Medicaid patients. United Way 211 invited the UDDC to partner on rural outreach to bring more resources to people with disabilities off the Wasatch front. Together the organizations distributed 1,000 postcards to rural communities to encourage more access to 211 services. UDDC advised the Association for Utah Community Health (AUCH) and the Utah Department of Health to improve Community Health Worker (CHW) training to better serve Utahns with developmental disabilities. AUCH staff participated in a disability awareness training developed by the UDDC, "Disability 101." UDDC identified rural community-based organizations not currently registered in the United Way database and invited them to join to create a more robust service system.

Policy

The UDDC convened seven organizations to participate in a Caregiver Compensation Committee collaborative effort across various agencies to gather information and support for caregiver compensation. These political advocacy efforts increased family support, reduced burden, and increased capacity on service systems. Participants from various agencies created talking points, documents, and information sharing with community partners. The committee identified community needs to improve service delivery and family stabilization. S.B. 63 Caregiver Compensation Amendments, passed in 2021 largely due to the UDDC's advocacy efforts. The bill directs the Department of Health to apply for an amendment to an existing waiver to the state Medicaid plan to implement a program to reimburse a spouse who provides extraordinary personal care services to a waiver enrollee, and make administrative rules defining personal care services that are extraordinary."

Senator Escamilla hosted a series of discussions in 2021 to address food insecurity in Utah. To support the efforts of Sen. Escamilla's food security task force, the Council partnered with Utahns Against Hunger to collect information from Utahns with disabilities about food access and availability.



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Our
VISION

"A world where everyone has what they need to get what they want from life."

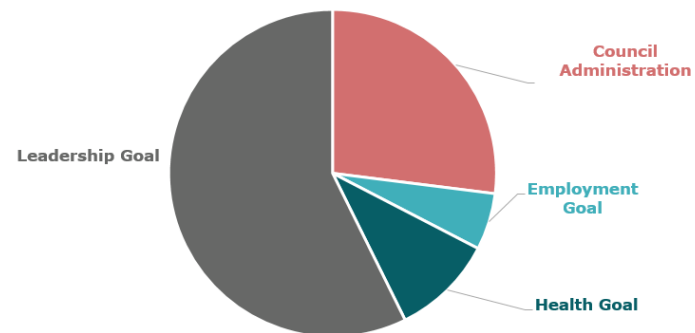
COVID-19 Response

The Utah Developmental Disabilities Council (UDDC) served as a named partner in the Utah Department of Health COVID-19 Health Equity Plan. The UDDC worked very hard to raise the voices of Utahns with intellectual and developmental disabilities impacted by COVID-19. The UDDC joined the Disability Law Center and the Center for Persons with Disabilities to encourage the Governor and Utah Department of Health leadership to prioritize COVID-19 vaccinations for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (ID/DD). UDDC ensured State and Health leadership were aware of the vulnerability of people with disabilities and COVID-19 to improve health outcomes for people with ID/DD in both congregate and community settings and to prevent the further spread of COVID-19. Phase 1A of the State of Utah's COVID-19 vaccine distribution plan did include healthcare workers and residents of long-term care facilities, assisted living facilities, skilled nursing staff, and other healthcare personnel who are at higher risk for being exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19. When Utah was facing rationing of care, UDDC advocated for Utahns with disabilities by contacting hospital administrators throughout the state.

UDDC helped individuals and families share their reason for getting vaccinated against COVID-19 in the "I Got the Shot" social media campaign reaching over 1,300 people. The UDDC invited self-advocates to review COVID-19 fact sheets and informational materials produced by the Utah Department of Health. The self-advocates and UDDC staff made recommendations to improve the accessibility of public health information. The Council shared the recommendations with the Public Information Office and distributed the revised plain language materials statewide. The UDDC partnered with the Utah Parent Center to host vaccine clinics in the spring helping 150 people with disabilities and their caregivers vaccinated against COVID-19!



FFY 2021 UDDC Budget Report





A Pool of Talent. A Sea of Rewards.

A READY AND ABLE WORKFORCE

UDDC partnered with several organizations creating an employment resource website called Ready and Able. This webpage helps both employers and job seekers easily find the resources they need by offering a centralized, digital location for resources and services available to support more Utahns with disabilities to become and stay employed. The resources support Utah employers to create more opportunities for careers, improve wages for current employees with disabilities, and grow median incomes for people with disabilities. Thank you to the organizations that worked with the UDDC to create and contribute to this website: Department of Workforce Services, Utah State Office of Rehabilitation, Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health, Governor's Committee on Employment for People with Disabilities, and Disability: IN Utah. 40 of Utah's largest employers in 17 counties have received Ready and Able printed materials driving them to the website to engage a workforce ready and able to work! Visit <https://readyandable.utah.gov/> today.

The UDDC provided a grant to the Utah Parent Center to support young adults and their families to achieve a successful transition into adult life. "Transition University" is a series of six interactive workshops that focus on life domains to help young adults and their families transition from school to adult life. Transition University articles were delivered to 13,574 unique email addresses and 974 people participated in Transition University activities in the first 3 quarters of 2021.

The Advocates as Leaders Speakers Network trained nearly 500 people in 2021 using engaging and creative virtual strategies. Speakers belonging to the Network are experts with developmental and intellectual disabilities who provide information and education to peers and professionals throughout the state.

UDDC hosted a Self-advocacy virtual conference "Virtual Leadership: Unpacking Advocacy in a digital World in May for 46 self-advocates across the state. The Council offered training before the conference to teach people technology skills for optimal participation. Attendees talked about the ways that technology interfaces with advocacy and community engagement. Self-advocates expressed how meaningful the event was to them. One person said, "I was hesitant to come because I didn't think you could pull this off online, but you did! It helped us to gain more leadership and advocacy skills, and we also learned to be better listeners because of the format." Another said, "I had to push myself harder to meet people and put myself out there because we couldn't just walk up to someone at dinner, but I did- It was hard but I am proud of myself for doing it."

Nearly 200 advocates attended the second Disability Advocacy Day co-sponsored by the UDDC.

Attendees discussed health policy, education, and COVID-19 response, and other interesting topics impacting Utahns with disabilities. Practical training was offered to help advocates influence public policy.

The Advocacy, Leadership, and Policy Success Program (ALPS) teaches advocacy and public policy skills to people with disabilities, family members, and disability allies. In the pilot year of this intense 8-month program, graduates completed 550 hours of training. Every participant engaged in public policy and legislative activity as a direct result of participating in ALPS. One graduate said

“ALPS has been a game-changer for me! I thought going through the ALPS program I was going to learn how to go to the Capitol and fight for the rights of those with disabilities. I learned so much more. I learned how to advocate through educating those around me and how to support those with disabilities through learning about resources and groups available.”



Taylor Walters
Self-Advocate
of the Year



Lisa Wade
Family Member
of the Year



John Millard
Community Member
of the Year

2021 UDDC MEMBERS

Brandy Olsen
Bryn Peterson
Courtney Edgington
Crystal Pyne
Ian Summers
Jared Stewart
Jaret Winn
John Crowley
Kelie Hess
Kimberly Evans

Kimberly Jensen
Lisa Wade
Matthew Huskinson
Rachael Norton
Staci Christensen
Stephanie Hill
Stephanie Roach
Tom Davidson
Tracy Johnson
Krissie Summerhays

Tracy Smith
Adina Zahradnikova
Saska Rajcevic
Deanna Taylor
Matthew Wappett
Nels Holmgren
Noel Taxin
Sarah Brenna
Amber Marsh
Sharon Cook



Our 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.

To request a copy of this report in an alternative format, please contact the UDDC office
uddc@utah.gov or (801) 245-7350



Champion

UDDC raises public awareness about the abilities, contributions and concerns of Utahns with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

Advocate

UDDC builds relationships with local and federal policymakers to advance inclusion and equity. We also provide support and training to help people advocate for themselves and the community.



Catalyst

UDDC utilizes the wisdom of lived experience to influence life-altering change, positive action, and to stimulate innovative initiatives.

Educator

UDDC transforms the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities through education and training to empower advocates and develop leaders community.



utahddcouncil.org

