

Moving Forward



Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities

Annual Report 2008

“Our American story, for generations, is of a people who seek to move forward; a people who look at a mountain and worry not about the tough climb ahead, but dream about the view from the summit.”

~Bill Owens



Who We Are...

The Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities is established and funded under the federal Developmental Disabilities Act, along with Comprehensive Advocacy, Inc. (Co-Ad), Idaho's protection and advocacy organization, and the Center on Disabilities and Human Development at the University of Idaho.

Our Mission The Council promotes the capacity of people with developmental disabilities and their families to determine, access, and direct the services and/or supports they need to live the lives they choose, and to build the community's ability to support their choices.

Moving Forward

The Council on Developmental Disabilities began moving forward on many fronts in 2008. In Pocatello, self advocates formed the first regional Self Advocate Leadership Network (SALN) chapter and immediately started organizing information-sharing sessions and social events. A high standard of excellence was set by members of the Pocatello chapter for other regional chapters to follow.

A new movement "Community Now!" was born out of the 2nd Partners in Policymaking Leadership Conference. Fifty-nine Partners graduates from throughout Idaho learned community organizing skills and moved forward to build a statewide community organizational network. "Community Now!" members are already addressing issues in specific communities that negatively impact people with disabilities.

The Council was awarded a Real Choice Systems change grant from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid to develop a person centered planning model. Through collaboration with state and private entities, the grant will make person-centered planning technical assistance and resources available to individuals, families and groups across Idaho.

Nine members of an organizing committee formed an Idaho APSE chapter and earned "chapter in development" status from APSE: The Employment Network. The organization will build its membership base and become a fully recognized state chapter that will promote and advocate for more integrated employment opportunities for Idahoans with disabilities.

While the above efforts began in 2008, initiatives begun in prior years such as Youth Leadership Forum, Tools for Life, Disability Mentoring Day and Determined to Vote continued to provide learning and community participation opportunities.



American Industrialist Henry Ford said "if everyone is moving forward together, success takes care of itself". Thanks to the collaborative efforts of many agencies, organizations and individuals, success was achieved, as Mr. Ford declared, because of many people moving forward together.

Rick Betzer, Chairman 2007-08
Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities

Council Outcomes

- **Education:** Students with disabilities receive an appropriate education in inclusive environments.
Children experience seamless transitions between age/grade related developmental and educational programs.
- **Employment:** Individuals with developmental disabilities work in integrated settings where the majority of workers are individuals without disabilities.
- **Community Supports:** People with developmental disabilities and their families have a meaningful say over participant-directed service systems management, including planning, implementation and evaluation.
A statewide system that delivers quality supports and services is available to individuals with developmental disabilities.
The needs of people with developmental disabilities are addressed in disaster and emergency preparedness plans and policies.
- **Housing:** Multiple housing options are available to people with developmental disabilities.
- **Quality Assurance:** Self advocates and families are informed about the philosophy of self-determination.
People with developmental disabilities demonstrate self-advocacy skills.
Abuse prevention and support services meet the needs of people with developmental disabilities.
- **Transportation:** Communities provide accessible and affordable transportation to their citizens.
- **Cross Cutting:** The general public has a greater awareness of people with developmental disabilities and the issues they face.

Moving Forward in 2008

Growing Self-Advocacy

The Idaho Self-Advocate Leadership Network (SALN) received official notification of incorporation as a non-profit organization from the Office of the Secretary of State. In February, the Pocatello SALN Chapter became Idaho's first regional self-advocacy chapter under the Idaho SALN

umbrella. The organization with elected officers meets monthly, provides self-directed training in the region and conducts social and recreational events.



James Steed and Lia Halle of the Idaho Self-Advocate Leadership Network.

Resolving Community Issues

The Council sponsored the 2nd Idaho Partners Leadership Conference in Boise. Fifty-nine Idaho Partner graduates received community organizing training from Fifth Freedom of Indiana. During the conference Partners

learned organizing skills, developed a mission statement, and organized 7 local action teams. The teams created community action plans that will address barriers to people with disabilities.

The Council is proud of what Idaho Partner graduates individually and collec



Team Mtn. Home Community NOW: Jodee Nystrom, Jody Soboslai, Bonnie Connell, and Dianna Uhl.

Moving Forward in 2008



tively have created. However, the greatest accomplishment of the 2008 Partners Leadership Conference was that Idaho Partner graduates now recognize the value of collaborating, laughing, and working together to make life a little better for all Idaho citizens.

Person-Centered Planning Federal Grant

The Council has completed its first year of the three-year \$499,435 Person-Centered Planning Implementation grant. During this time, two contracts were put in place with the Center on Disabilities and Human Development, one to research and begin the development of an on-line community resource directory which is expected to go live early in year two; and a second to develop a person-centered planning training curriculum and partner with the Council on plans to recruit contract facilitators statewide to receive the training. Work was also done in this first year to develop an assessment for family and other informal caregivers to determine what supports they need in order to continue caring for family members at home. The instrument was tested with a focus group that provided helpful recommendations. The year ended with planning for a statewide summit to bring together people across a variety of systems to learn about the concept of person-centered thinking and how they could collaborate on future work.

Mobilizing Idaho Communities

The Council was a partner this year in two transportation efforts. The Interagency Working Group on Public Transportation (IWG), on which the Council serves, was instrumental in helping the Division of Public Transportation initiate the Idaho Mobility Action Plan or IMAP. This initiative divides Idaho into 17 different Local Mobility Management Networks that bring citizens together to identify the transportation gaps in their areas and develop and submit plans to fill those gaps.

Funding will be awarded to local areas based on their needs and coordinated plans to address them.

At the same time, the Council is also helping fund the coordination of the AmeriCorps Accessible Transportation Network being implemented by the State Independent Living Council. This project aims to support grass roots organizing for transportation for people with disabilities. Twelve AmeriCorps members have been recruited and are stationed at the offices of the centers for independent living and the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired. Each of these members is recruiting volunteers to help identify barriers and craft plans to overcome those barriers. The new Idaho Mobility Action Plan (IMAP) model could be one funding source for these plans.

Youth In Transition

Seventeen students with disabilities from around Idaho completed Idaho Youth Leadership Forum - a week long leadership and career development program in June at Boise State University. Youth participated in presentations and group discussions about leadership, advocacy, employment, preparing for college and independent living. Highlights of the week included a meeting with Governor Otter, breakfast with a panel of policymakers, a tour of the legislature, a presentation by Richard Pimentel, and



YLF Mod Squad: Scott Smith (back), David Rich, Tiffany Moore, and Omar Luna (front).



Melissa Guymon, Jessica Croner, and Emilie Penny at YLF.

an afternoon shadowing job mentors working in their career of interest.

"Moving On" the Idaho Transition Binder for youth with disabilities was finished in March by the Idaho Interagency Council on Secondary Transition. The binder is a tool for youth to plan for transition from high school and is a valuable guide for teachers and parents as well. Youth can add their own information to the binder under sections including employment, preparing for college, independent living, self-advocacy keeping records, and more. There is also a resource directory with state and national resources listed. The contents of the binder can also be downloaded from the Council's website.



Clockwise from back: Jessica Besel, LaNae Waddell, Ashley Skaar, and Clayton Ackerman.

A New Employment Organization

A group of Idahoans concerned with employment for people with disabilities organized an Idaho APSE Chapter. Their efforts were rewarded when the group was given "Chapter in Development" status by APSE: The Employment Network. APSE, formerly the Association of Persons in Supported Employment is a national organization that advocates for the employment rights of people with disabilities. The organization lobbies Congress, educates the public, and supports the formation of state chapters. The Council promoted the chapter by supporting the efforts of the organizing committee to meet chapter formation requirements. As an organization Idaho APSE will train and educate policy makers, public and private agencies, individuals and parents about the benefits of integrated employment.



David Dekker at the Partners picnic.

2008 Accomplishments

Self-Directed Services Training

Council staff and SALN members conducted 10 separate My Voice, My Choice Self-Direction Guide trainings to people choosing to self-direct their Medicaid services. The trainings also included family members, service providers, and support brokers. Council staff and SALN members revised the SALN portion of the My Voice My Choice Guide training and provided trainer education to Regional Medicaid staff and SALN Members in August.

SABE Conference

Seven SALN members represented Idaho at the National Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE) Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana. The Idaho delegation learned how self-advocates around the country are working to remove the "R" word from the English language; closing institutions so individuals with disabilities can live in the community; registering people with disabilities to vote; promoting equal employment and equal pay for people with disabilities; and working on affordable and accessible housing for all.



L to R in back: Shelly Nelson, Monique Hamblin, Dan Somson, Jeremy Watson (kneeling), John Russell; front: Erick Yeary and Becky Woodhead

Tools for Life Conference

The 4th Annual Tools for Life: Secondary Transition and Assistive Technology Conference was held in Idaho Falls in 2008. A record number of 504 people attended the conference this year including 232 students and 41 family members. Participants enjoyed 50 one-hour presentations on a variety of topics including self-determination, employment,

preparing for college, living on your own, assistive technology, plus much more. Highlights included keynote speakers, Olympic gold medal winner Rulon Gardner, LeDerick Horne (who presented via video teleconferencing), Michael O'Bleness, and the Idaho Falls youth panel; a student social with live music and dancing, and an evening parent panel presentation for families. Even with challenges like a power outage, a missing keynote speaker and a waiting list to register, people who attended gave the conference "two thumbs up".



Stephanie picks up her ballot.

Determined to VOTE

The Council received funding through the Office of the Secretary of State for a 2008 Determined to Vote campaign. The Council worked collaboratively with Comprehensive Advocacy, Inc. (Co-Ad) to conduct statewide voter education targeting transition-age students with disabilities and the residents of the three publicly funded state run institutions. Council and Co-ad staff created two training modules addressing the voting needs of transition-age students with disabilities and residents of the three state-run hospitals. A trainer education was held in May in Boise with all Determined to VOTE Teams in May.



Greg uses the ballot marking device.

The Office of the Secretary of State filmed members of 2008 Determined to Vote with the Secretary of State, Ben Ysursa. The footage was used to create an educational video for poll worker training and for the 2008 Determined to Vote education campaign. The video clips can be viewed at <http://www.idahovotes.gov/>.

Twenty-four (24) Determined to Vote trainings had taken place statewide throughout the summer and early fall with presentations scheduled up until the General Election.

Disability Mentoring Day

The Idaho Falls Community Transition Team promoted Disability Mentoring Day in the Idaho Falls area supported by Council funds. Fourteen high school students,

two college students and seven

job seekers participated in the event spending a day job shadowing at a job site of their choice. A mentor breakfast and celebratory luncheon were included in the activities this year. The mayor of Idaho Falls signed a proclamation celebrating Disability Employment Awareness Month and Disability Mentoring Day. Media coverage included news stories on four local television stations and the River City Weekly newspaper.

Spreading the Word

In 2008, the Council provided information to the public regarding its activities through two issues of the Visions and Values newsletter, periodic press releases, a 2007 Annual Report, twice-monthly electronic legislative reports, fact sheets on public policy issues, a position paper on the use of aversives, and a regularly updated website. Unique to this year, the Council, in partnership with the Center on Disabilities and Human Development, Comprehensive Advocacy and the Idaho Self Advocate Leadership Network, hosted a reception in



Blustery weather did not stop students from going to the polls to vote for the first time.



Jim Mairs from the Secretary of State's office and Christine Pisani, Council staff.



Julie Magelky, Cheryl Bloom, Marilyn Sword, David Blackwell, and Jim Baugh at the legislative reception.

January for legislators and other public officials to inform them about public policy concerns.

In October the Council celebrated 30 years of providing advocacy with and on behalf of Idahoans with developmental disabilities. As one respondent said in a Council survey, "What a wonderful, energetic,

talented rabble-rousing bunch of Idahoans bringing a better future for people with disabilities - Happy Birthday!!!!"

Through the Council conference fund, 11 parents and self advocates received stipends to attend conferences to increase their knowledge about various disabilities.

Inclusion Study

The Center on Disability and Human Development provided a final report to the Council on the Inclusion Study begun in 2007. The study was conducted to identify barriers to inclusion and to determine how Idaho is doing at including students with disabilities in regular classroom environments. Common barriers/issues identified include the need for more classroom support, more time to work with students and adapt materials, and funding for resource/support needs. Teachers said they would like more education to know how to work with students with disabilities and parent has similar responses, saying that teachers need training in how to provide accommodations and instruction that fits individual student needs. Teachers and administrators both made comments about students with disabilities needing more individual support because of statewide testing and said that disruptive behavior in the classroom is a barrier to including some students.

Guardianship

For three years the Council's Consumer Leadership Caucus studied the topic of alternatives to guardianship in Idaho. The Caucus has developed recommendations for a Council position statement on Alternatives to Guardianship and proposed legislation to improve Idaho Statutes governing guardianship for adults with developmental disabilities.

Council staff presented on self-determination in transition planning and alternatives to guardianship at the Council for Exceptional Children conference to approximately 16 educators, administrators, service providers and others.

Direct Support Professionals Training

The Council supported improving the direct care workforce by continued participation on the advisory committee of the Idaho pilot project of the College of Direct Support on-line training. This is currently being accessed by 525 public and private direct care staff. The Council also was a co-sponsor of the Annual Partnerships in Human Services conference which was attended by over 600 providers, self advocates, family members, agency representatives and others from across Idaho and the northwest.

Disaster Preparedness

The Council continued efforts to insure that individuals with disabilities are included in local emergency plans and operations. Council staff participated as an instructor for a Bureau of Homeland Security course that provided preparedness, evacuation, and sheltering information to county emergency operations personnel.

Emergency planners and responders from Jerome, Gooding and Twin Falls counties participated in the training and as result gained insight into needs of people with disabilities.

“Without action, your dream, goal or plan has little meaning in the world. If you sense that you have made a good decision, have faith.

Move forward.”

~Bob Moawad

Boards, Councils & Special Committees on which the Council is represented:

Consortium of Idahoans with Disabilities

Interagency Workgroup on Public Transportation

Family Directed Services Task Force

Adventure Island Playground Planning Committee

Interagency Coordinating Council for Secondary Transition

Idaho Community Care Advisory Council

Co-Ad Board of Directors

Family Support Policy Council

Center on Disabilities and Human Development Consumer Advisory Council

Idaho Training Cooperative, Intensive Behavioral Intervention Committee

Idaho State School and Hospital Advisory Board

Opening Doors, Inc.

St. Alphonsus Children's Classic Race Exec. Cmte.



Sue Broetje, Idaho State School and Hospital and Rep. Darrell Bolz at the January 2008 Legislative Reception



Parent, Dolores Totorica speaks at the Partners in Policymaking Institute.

Federal FY 2008 Council Members

Chair Rick Betzer, Parent

Vice Chair James Steed, Self-Advocate

Consumer Representative Shiloh Blackburn, Self-Advocate

Self-Advocates

Angie Flores
Kristyn Herbert
Mike Smith
Alonzo Statham

Guardian

Dona Butler

Parents

Toni Belknap-Brinegar
Debbie DePaola
Jo Lynn Garrison
Bob Jackson
Corrine Johnson

Agency/Organizational Members

Julie Fodor	Center on Disability and Human Development, U of I
Jim Baugh	Comprehensive Advocacy, Inc.
Jane Donnellan	Vocational Rehabilitation
Leslie Clement	IDHW, Division of Medicaid
Bill Elvey	State Department of Education
Gioia Frahm	Commission on Aging
Kim Kane	United Cerebral Palsy
Lisa Robbe	Partnerships for Inclusion
Mitch Scoggins	IDHW, Maternal & Child Health



FY 2008 Staff

Marilyn Sword, Executive Director
Christine Pisani, Program Specialist
Ron Enright, Program Specialist
Tracy Warren, Program Specialist

Amanda Holloway,
Administrative Assistant 2
Samantha Wallace,
Office Specialist 2

All Idahoans participate as equal members of society,
empowered to reach their full potential
as responsible and contributing citizens
of their communities.

Vision

Values

Independence ♦ Respect ♦ Participation
Integration ♦ Choice ♦ Partnership ♦ Responsibility
Quality of Life ♦ Inclusion ♦ Community ♦ Equality

*Pictured on front cover: Kristyn Herbert and David Dekker
dance at the Partners Leadership Conference in July.*



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