# Shaping The Future

Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities

## 2012 Annual Report

# Who we are...

The Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities is established and funded under the federal Developmental Disabilities Act along with Disability Rights Idaho, the state's protection and advocacy organization, and the Center on Disability 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.*

# *Shaping the Future*

*Denise Wetzel, Council Chair*

The Council on Developmental Disabilities continues to take the lead on important initiatives that affect individuals with disabilities and their families. 2012 has been an exciting election year both nationally and locally with the presidential election and redistricting within Idaho. There will be many new legislators coming to Boise. We need everyone's help to educate every person about the issues concerning individuals with disabilities during the next legislative session. In particular, the DD Council will be watching carefully how the shift to managed care may affect services for individuals with developmental disabilities.

In 2012, the economy continued to strengthen which allowed for restoring some Medicaid services that were cut the previous year. Dental services for adults with disabilities on Medicaid waivers were reinstated for preventative and restorative care. Clarification was made between skills training for mental illness and skills training for developmental disabilities. This means that people with dual diagnoses do not have to choose what type of services they need. Lastly, it was decided that budgets for adult services would not be placed in tiers (as is being done with children's services). Furthermore, the Council is helping to shape the future of what adult budgets may look like by collaborating with the Department of Health and Welfare and several other state agencies.

**"Our future will be shaped by the assumptions we make about who we are and what we can be."**

Rosabeth Moss Kanter
*America the Principled*

The Idaho Self Advocate Leadership Network (ISALN) was awarded a grant to become an incorporated statewide organization. They have hired a new statewide coordinator, Jim Hansen. Several SALN members have traveled throughout the state, providing trainings and speaking about self-advocacy.

One of the Council's objectives is to help build Real Communities throughout Idaho where all individuals are welcomed and valued. The Council cannot do this alone and continues to shape a future where all individuals are respected. Let us all keep a positive outlook for the next year. I believe that every person deserves a life in which they are in control of shaping the way they want!

## *Looking Beyond Today*

*Marilyn Sword, Executive Director*

Fiscal year 2012 was an exciting time for the Council and the disability community in Idaho. The year began with training in policy involvement across the state, followed by advocates speaking out to legislators about the importance of supports for them to live independent lives, included in their communities. The Medicaid Matters storybook, a collaborative project with the Idaho Community Action Network, provided policymakers with the opportunity to hear from real Idahoans about the role that Medicaid plays their lives.

With a new five year plan, the Council also began work on several initiatives aimed at systems improvement. The Employment First Consortium began the work of moving Idaho to a system were jobs at a competitive wage in an integrated setting is always the first choice. The Inclusive Education Task Force convened to implement recommendations from an earlier report on inclusive practices in schools and support best practice. The Collaborative Work Group on Adult Services is researching systems and practices in other states to help guide changes to these services in Idaho.

Self advocate voices became stronger. The Idaho Self Advocate Network is established and growing. A delegation of self advocates and others traveled to a summit in Seattle to share with the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities what Idaho is doing to empower people with developmental disabilities.

All of these efforts are aimed at the future. They emphasize collaborating with others to shape what we hope Idaho's services, systems, and communities look like in 5, 10, or even 20 years. It is easy to get stuck working on today's problems. We ask that you join us to look beyond today to an Idaho that fully includes its citizens with developmental disabilities and finds our communities richer by doing so.

# 2012 Objectives

**Service System Improvement:**

Inclusive Education
Employment First Initiative
Disability Mentoring Day
Quality Direct Support Staff
Collaboration and Research to Increase Natural Supports
Service System Policy Involvement

**Leadership Development:**

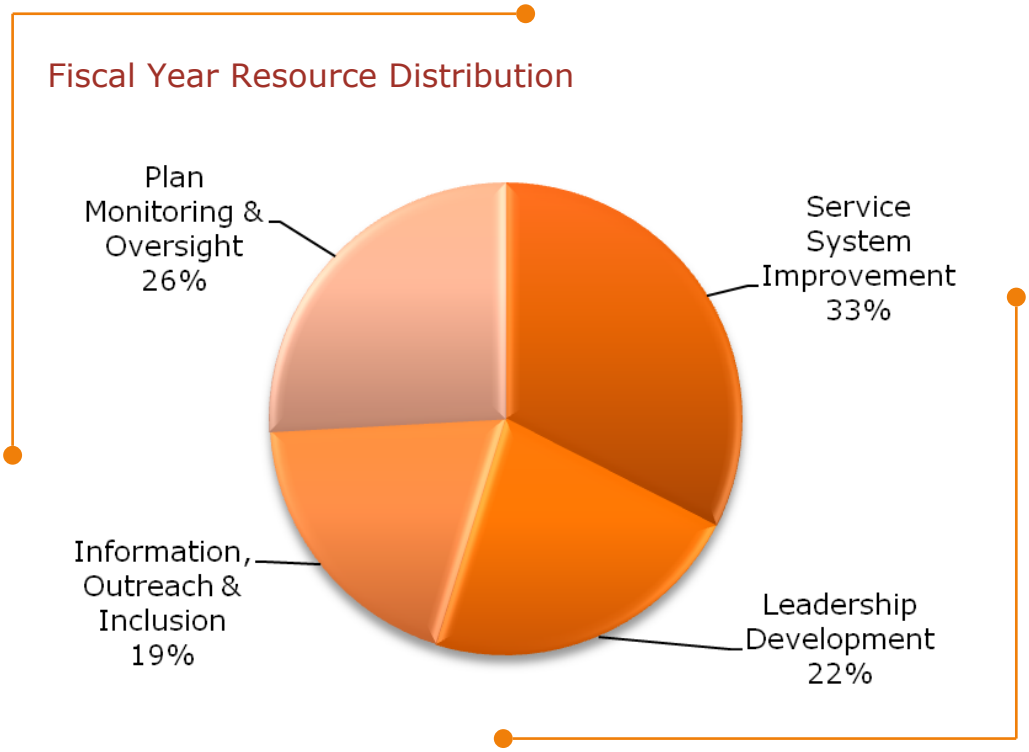
Statewide Self Advocacy Organization
Self Advocacy Conference and Training
Training for Parents and Families

**Information, Outreach, Inclusion:**

Public Awareness
Access to Information

**Council Plan Monitoring and Oversight:**

Plan Implementation and Oversight
Council Member Training
Council Policy Agenda and Member Policy Involvement



# 2012 Highlights

## *Inclusive Education Task Force Formed*

The Council convened a group of education professionals and parents to identify ways to increase the number of students with developmental disabilities who are included in regular classrooms and school activities. The group will work with partners on an initiative to support, enhance and document best practice in inclusive education in Idaho. Members of the task force include representatives from the State Department of Education, the University of Idaho, Northwest Nazarene University, Lewis and Clark State College, the Boise School District, Idaho Parents Unlimited, the Idaho Assistive Technology Project, general educators and parents.

As part of the initiative, the Council surveyed parents of school-aged children about including students with disabilities in regular classrooms and received over 400 responses. The information will used to help understand parent's perceptions and guide parent training and awareness efforts.

## *Inclusion in Education Award*

Every year, the Council selects a nominated school, teacher, or school group in Idaho that does a great job including students with developmental disabilities in school activities or events. This year, **Mountain View High School** received the 2012 Inclusion in Education Award. On her nomination form parent Jenn Halladay said, *"From the very beginning Connie Skogrand has been receptive and accommodating to the idea of Samy helping out with the varsity team this year as a manager. We approached her at the end of last year and she has been in contact with me ever since. She made sure she understood Samy's abilities and then asked for recommendations on what Samy could do to best utilize her abilities. She has gone out of her way to place Samy in jobs and activities that she can do and that includes her in team activities".* Congratulations to Mountain View High staff and students, and thank you for your work and dedication to including all students!

## *Employment First Initiative Launched*

Employment First means that having a job in the community should be what we expect and plan for people with developmental, intellectual, and other disabilities. The Council joined the national Employment First movement by making a commitment to work towards systems change and improved policy that supports individuals with disabilities to achieve integrated community employment.

The **Idaho Employment First Consortium** (IEFC) was formed as a group of people from state agencies, advocacy organizations, parents, and self-advocates committed to work together to improve how employment services and systems work in Idaho so that people with disabilities are able to reach their career goals. Sixteen Consortium members met for the first time in April 2012 and decided to meet monthly on an ongoing basis. The group finalized an Employment First message with defined common values. An outcome-driven strategic plan aligned to a timeline was completed and workgroups were formed to continue work between meetings. In addition to gathering information from Idaho systems and services, the strategic plan includes public awareness and educational activities, identifying policy supporters, and forming self-advocate and employer advisory groups.

The Council submitted a grant proposal to become a protegé state under the Office on Disability Employment Policy's Employment First State Mentor Program. Idaho was not chosen to be a grantee but will participate in the ongoing **Employment First Community of Practice** with access to national subject matter experts to help us move our initiative forward.

## *Tools for Life Conference: Historic Wallace*

Council funds supported the 8th annual **Tools for Life Secondary Transition and Assistive Technology Fair** in the small historic mining town of Wallace as this regional conference landed in North Idaho. Wallace businesses welcomed people who came from all over the state for the conference which for the first time was held in a high school. The Council supported presentations on preparing youth for employment in rural areas by Ellen Condon from the Montana Rural Institute. A total of 320 attendees participated in 50 different sessions on transition-related topics including self-advocacy and employment including 124 students and 52 family members. A new evaluation form gathered information to measure the skills and knowledge gained by students who attended. $5,000 in Council funds leveraged another $46,465 to support the conference.

# Disability Advocacy Trainings and Day at

In November-December, 2011, the Council participated in **Disability Advocacy Day trainings** statewide. The Consortium for Idahoans with Disabilities (CID) sponsored the workshops that were held in Idaho Falls, Coeur d'Alene, Twin Falls, and Boise. 245 people attended the trainings statewide. Presentations included: Medicaid Matters in My Life; Medicaid 101; Legislative Process; Your Voice, Your Story; and Talking to Your Legislator

Trainings specifically for people with disabilities were held in Moscow and Pocatello. These focused on getting to know local legislators, how to tell your story, presenting testimony, and why each voice matters. The workshops were conducted in partnership with Disability Rights Idaho and the Center on Disabilities and Human Development

To tell the story of the importance of Medicaid in the lives of Idahoans, the Council and others worked closely with the Idaho Community Action Network to develop a **Medicaid Matters storybook**. The publication was distributed at a round table press conference held on January 18. Panelists included policy experts, advocates, providers, law enforcement, self advocates and other Medicaid recipients. The storybook was also provided to the media during the roundtable and to all legislators on the Health and Welfare and Joint Finance Appropriations Committees.

# the Capitol: Policy Advocacy in Action

On February 3, the Consortium for Idahoans with Disabilities hosted a one-day **Disability Advocacy Day at the Capitol**. This was held the same day as the Joint Finance and Appropriations Committee hosted public testimony on the state budget. Council staff assisted people with disabilities to prepare their testimony, understand the process, and provided support throughout the day to meet with individual legislators and testify to the committee. The Council was also one of 14 agencies with display tables in the capitol, sharing information about the Council and its work.

Throughout the legislative session, the Council worked with others on a variety of issues in addition to Medicaid. These included changes to guardianship, amendments to the natural death act dealing with medical consent, codifying of the Early Childhood Coordinating Council, bullying in schools, public transportation, revenue and taxation issues, and various appropriation bills.

MEDICAID MATTERS in Idaho

# 2012 Highlights

## *Disability Mentoring Day*

Three Disability Mentoring Day (DMD) projects were completed in October 2011 with a total of 122 students and 116 employers participating. Local events were held in Idaho Falls, Twin Falls, and Moscow. Each of these areas has a community transition team or planning committee that works to plan the events and connect students with employer mentors from businesses related to the student's career of interest. Council funds of $2250 leveraged over $6000 of in-kind donations and funds from other organizations supporting DMD in those local areas.

A fourth project in Caldwell facilitated job shadowing activities in April with 18 students and 15 employers participating. Some highlights included the Oliver Finley School of Hair Design, which donated a haircut and color to one student and Lanny Berg Chevrolet of Caldwell, which had an immediate opening for one of the students to pursue actual employment after high school. Several community businesses supported the project including United Dairymen of Idaho, Wal-Mart, Staples, Brown Bus Company,

## *Community Inclusion Award*

On August 21, the Council presented its 2012 Community Inclusion Award to the Caldwell branch of the Treasure Valley YMCA. The Y was one of three nominees for the award and was nominated by Jeri Hyslop, mother of a 17-year-old daughter who participates regularly in Y activities. As she indicated in her nomination, "*The Y very much believes that all people are a part of the community. They are very deserving of this award!*" In addition to an engraved glass award, the YMCA also received $500 to be used to further their inclusive practices.

## *Collaborative Work Group on Services for Adults with Developmental Disabilities*

The Council has taken on the role of facilitation and coordination of this effort, started in January and expected to take multiple years. The work group is composed of advocates, providers, people with developmental disabilities, agency representatives, and policy makers. The group has identified aspects of the current system that should be changed and improved and others that are working well. The timing of this work is particularly critical as Idaho moves toward a managed care approach to both medical services and long-term supports. Research has begun on systems in other states as well as specific elements of Idaho's system such as assessment procedures and individual budgets. The group intends to continue to provide input into modifications of Idaho's delivery system.

## *Direct Support Staff Training*

In the fall of 2011, the Council provided $4,500 to support the annual Idaho Partnerships Conference on Human Services. There were 520 attendees including Council staff and some members. 95% of attendees rated the conference very good or truly terrific. There were 49 workshops and presentations, 32 presenters, and 29 sponsors. The Council funds of $4,500 leveraged an additional $39,800 for the conference.

# 2012 Highlights

## *The National Self-Advocacy Summit*

Under the leadership of Sharon Lewis, Commissioner of the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD), a series of self-advocacy summits were held in 2011 and 2012. The purpose of the national summits was to learn about the current state of the self-advocacy movement.

AIDD worked with self-advocates, State Councils on Developmental Disabilities, *State Protection and Advocacy organizations, and *University Centers of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities to conduct two-day summits with 30 states meeting in 2011 and 26 states and U.S. territories meeting in 2012. The summits were organized with the following goals in mind:

- Assess the current state of self-advocacy in the states
- Accomplishments and challenges at the local, state, and national levels
- Plan steps to strengthen and enhance state-level self-advocacy efforts
- Develop recommendations for national-level actions
- Develop policy recommendations to strengthen the self-advocacy movement across the country

In May, Idaho attended and presented at our self-advocacy summit with the states of Washington, Montana, North Dakota, Wyoming, and Colorado. Idaho's team included state self-advocate leaders, Shiloh Blackburn, Noll Garcia, Ritchy Cardwell, Joe Raiden, and Ivan Herrera. Matt Wappett and Olivia Lebens represented the Center on Disability & Human Development and Mel Leviton represented Disability Rights Idaho. Council representation included Amanda Holloway and Christine Pisani. All members of the team worked to create the presentation to share what was working well in Idaho, where there are challenges to the self-advocacy movement, and the accomplishments of the Idaho self-advocacy movement. The series of self-advocacy summits gathered a great deal of information that was developed into a final report titled: "*Envisioning the Future: Allies in Self-Advocacy*." Idaho's presentation and the final report may be found on the Council web-site.

*Idaho's Protection & Advocacy organization is DisAbility Rights Idaho and Idaho's University Center of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities is The Center on Disabilities and Human Developmental at the University of Idaho.

## *Historic Moment for Idaho Self-Advocacy Movement*

The Council signed a contract with the Idaho Self-Advocate Leadership Network (SALN) in April. The contract between the Council and the SALN marked the historic transition of the self-advocacy organization from a project of the Council to its' own organization. Since the contract has been in place, the SALN has hired their own part-time coordinator, hosted two board meetings, distributed their quarterly newsletter, and is actively involved with the planning the statewide self-advocacy conference happening in May, 2013. Congratulations SALN! Idaho is a better place by having you present.

## *Western States DD Network Summit*

Boise was the host in September of the 2012 Western States DD Network Summit. Seventy-two representatives from DD Councils, Protection and Advocacy organizations, and University Centers on Disabilities from Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Utah, Nevada, Wyoming, and New Mexico attended. Workshops were held on integrated employment, community asset building, managed care, and tools for monitoring systems change. Sharon Lewis, Commissioner of the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities offered the keynote presentation. The summit was the culmination of more than a year of planning coordinated by the Idaho Council.

AIDD Commissioner Sharon Lewis with Shiloh Blackburn and Noll Garcia

Western States DD Network Summit

## *2011-2012 Council Members*

**Denise Wetzel**, *Chair*
**Shiloh Blackburn**, *Vice Chair*
**Joe Raiden**, *Consumer Representative*

### Parents

Toni Belknap-Brinegar
Jo Lynn Garrison
Jenniffer Halladay
Debra Parsons
Joni Sullivan
Paul Tierney
Denise Wetzel

### Self-Advocates

Shiloh Blackburn
Justin Caggiano
Ritchy Cardwell
David Dekker
Joe Raiden

### Guardian

Dona Butler

### Agency Representatives

Jim Baugh, *Disability Rights Idaho*
Jean Christensen, *IDHW-Division of Medicaid*
Jane Donnellan, *Vocational Rehabilitation*
Raul Enriquez, *Commission on Aging*
Julie Fodor, *Center on Disabilities and Human Development*
Kelly Hall, *Department of Education*
TeRonda Robinson, *Community Partnerships of Idaho*
Colleen Sisk, *Partnerships for Inclusion*
Jacquie Watson, *IDHW-Maternal and Child Health*

### Staff

Marilyn Sword
*Executive Director*

Shane Carlton
*Administrative Assistant*

Amanda Holloway
*Program Specialist*

Christine Pisani
*Program Specialist*

Tracy Warren
*Program Specialist/Planner*

## *Boards, Councils, and Special Committees on which the Council is represented:*

- Aging and Disability Resource Center Advisory Council
- Center on Disability and Human Development Consumer Advisory Council
- Children's Service System Redesign Access Committee
- Consortium for Idahoans with Disabilities
- Early Childhood Coordinating Council
- Idaho Community Care Council
- Idaho Council for Purchases from Nonprofit Businesses that Serve People with Disabilities (USE Council)
- Idaho Employment First Consortium
- Idaho Employment for People with Disabilities Stakeholder Group
- Idaho Home Choice Advisory Council
- Idaho Interagency Council on Secondary Transition
- Interagency Workgroup on Public Transportation
- Special Education Advisory Panel

# Vision

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

## Values

**Independence**

**Respect**

**Equality**

**Participation**

**Integration**

**Choice**

**Partnership**

**Responsibility**

**Inclusion**

**Community**

**Quality of Life**

**Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities**
700 W. State Street, First Floor West
Boise, Idaho 83702
Phone: (208)334-2178 FAX: (208)334-3417
Webpage: http://www.icdd.idaho.gov

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