

# Facing Uncertainty



Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities

Annual Report 2010

“In these troubled, uncertain times,  
we don’t need more command and control;  
we need better means to engage everyone’s intelligence  
in solving challenges and crises as they arise.”

~ *Alyaksandr Milinkevich, European physicist and politician*



Photo by Beau Stiles

*Youth Leadership Forum Delegates share their experiences and talk about the future.*

## 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 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.

# Facing Uncertainty

2010 was a year of growing uncertainty for many Idahoans with disabilities. Services and supports that people depend on have been cut with no relief from the recession in sight. People who had been carefully managing their budgets and their services, now have to stretch these even further. Not only does the present look bleak, so does the future.

The tendency in times like these is to protect yourself at the expense of your neighbor, but that is the very thing we must guard against. People with disabilities have nothing to gain if the educational system is gutted. Students with and without disabilities will not get the education and skills they need to be responsible, tax-paying adults. Likewise, cutting services that support people with disabilities in the community does not save taxpayers. It simply shifts the costs elsewhere like to county indigency funds. And those alternatives can cost more.

Instead, this is a time that we all must work together, to gather the best ideas from all sides to develop long-term solutions that meet our challenges but do not destroy our infrastructure. The last few years have seen government tighten its belt and increase efficiency. While this may have been necessary, other perspectives must also be considered. Listening to everyone and valuing their input will strengthen our state and increase the transparency of our government.

I have had the pleasure of serving on the Council on Developmental Disabilities for over three years and leading it for the last term. I have seen partnerships develop and organizations work together to achieve goals that none might achieve individually. I have seen people with disabilities gain their voice through Council efforts and exercise their collective and individual voices to bring positive change. These are the strategies that are needed to help us face the difficulties ahead. If we can recognize the ideas, innovation, and intelligence that we each bring to the table, there is no uncertainty that we cannot face successfully and together.

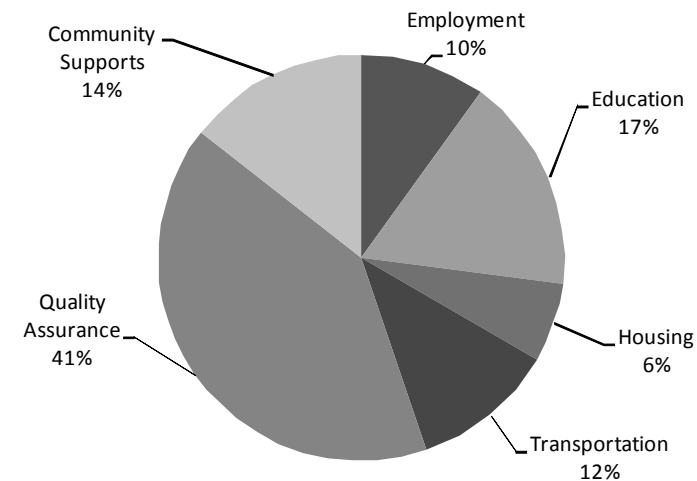
Thank you to the Idaho Council for changing my life and for providing me with the tools to make a difference in the lives of others. Now, I am moving on to another chapter in my life. I wish all of you well.

*Alonzo Statham, Chairman 2009-2010*  
*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.



# Highlights from 2010

## Partners in Policymaking

Seventeen people completed the Partners in Policymaking program in April and were honored with certificates of graduation. Twelve parents of children with disabilities and 5 self advocates comprised the 2009-2010 class. Logging 120 hours of competency based education over an eight month period, Partners learned the power of advocacy to change the way people with disabilities are supported, viewed, taught, live, work and play. This Partners program was held in northern Idaho, splitting monthly sessions in Coeur d'Alene and Moscow with only two of the eight sessions being held in Boise.



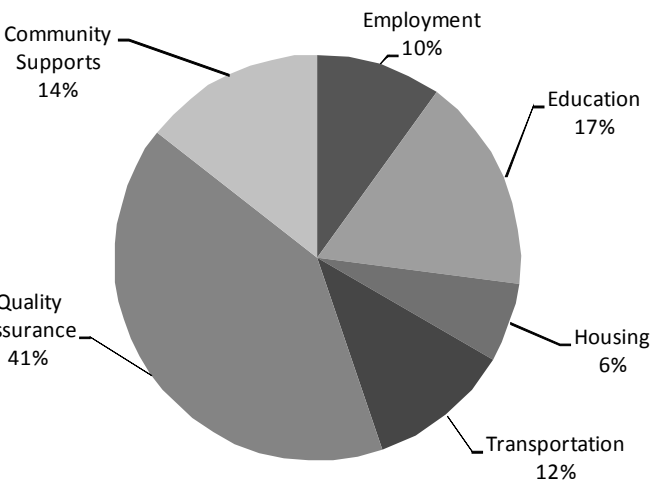
*Partners Graduate Camron Cutler and his family.*

Partners in Policymaking is an innovative leadership development program for adults with developmental disabilities and parents of young children with disabilities. More than 15,000 graduates of the Partners program are part of a growing national network of community leaders serving on policy making committees, commissions, and boards at local, state and national levels.

## Respectful Language Becomes the Law

On April 6, Governor C. L. "Butch" Otter signed, Senate Bill 1330, the Respectful Disability Language bill, and with his signature, terms in laws and rules that were disrespectful to people with disabilities, became history. Terms like the "R" word will now be replaced with the term

"intellectual disability". Other terms like handicap will be removed and replaced with disability. The law did not alter or affect eligibility for services but expressed to the citizens of this state and the nation, that in Idaho, words do matter. In



## 6 Highlights from 2010

In addition to the new law, the Council provided guidance to staff responsible for drafting new legislation and rules and regulations.

State Senator Les Bock of Boise sponsored the bill, after working with the Council and other organizations and agencies to draft the language and identify all laws and rules affected. For his leadership in successfully carrying the bill, the Council presented Senator Bock with an appreciation plaque as did the Idaho Self Advocate Leadership Network.



Photo by Beau Stiles

*SALN Members Jennifer Magelky-Seiler and Joe Raiden present an award of appreciation to Senator Les Bock.*

## Celebrating 20 Years of the ADA

Several communities across Idaho celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which was signed into law by President George H. W. Bush on July 26, 1990. Mayoral proclamations were signed and announced in Idaho Falls and Pocatello and participants in both cities enjoyed a celebratory picnic. In Coeur d'Alene, people joined hands around City Hall.



*Secretary of State, Ben Ysursa and Kelly Buckland*

Idaho's largest celebration involved 700 plus people encircling the state capitol in a show of unity and recognition of people with disabilities and our military veterans. Secretary of State Ben Ysursa read a proclamation signed by Governor Otter.

The gathering welcomed back to Idaho, Kelly Buckland, Executive Director of the National Council on Independent Living. Mr. Buckland is the former head of the Idaho State Independent Living Council.

He delivered an address and presented awards, one received by the Council on Developmental Disabilities "for leadership and dedication in the empowerment of Idahoans with developmental disabilities".

Boise Mayor David Bieter presented a City of Boise ADA proclamation and Richard Pimentel, disability rights advocate and subject of the movie, "The Music Within", shared his thoughts about the significance and meaning of the ADA.

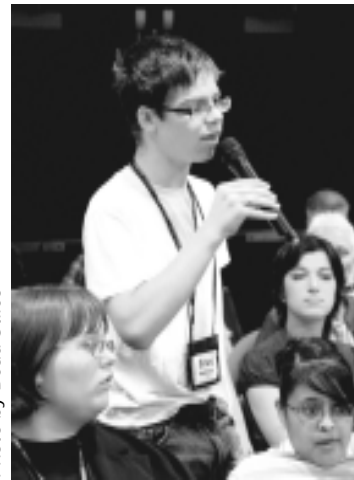


Photo by Beau Stiles

*Delegate Brent Mathews speaks to policymakers.*

## Youth Leadership Forum

Thanks to a dedicated planning committee, staff and volunteers, the 2010 Idaho Youth Leadership Forum was the best ever. Twenty-two student delegates from around the state participated in the forum on the Boise State University campus and completed a week full of leadership development and career exploration activities. In addition to hearing from presenters like Mark Zupan, a member of the national champion wheelchair rugby team, delegates met with job mentors and spent time on the job-site learning about their career of interest. The group also met with a group of policymakers at the state-house and quizzed them about their issues of concern including affordable college education and jobs for people with disabilities.

Some comments from delegates: "I will miss the leadership forum very much. It improved my future plans, what is expected (for me)." "You impacted my life, giving me the tools for college! Thank you for helping me! I had fun there and I learned how to work with other kids with disabilities like me. You did an awesome job, thank you all for impacting my life!"

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Photo by Beau Stiles

*Wheelchair rugby champion, Mark Zupan, gave YLF Delegates a push towards leadership.*

# 2010 Accomplishments



## Idaho's First Self-Advocacy Conference Planned

Preparations were made for Idaho's first statewide self-advocacy conference, "Self-Advocacy - It's all about We", a conference by and for people with disabilities scheduled for October 21- 23 in Boise. Over 100 self-advocates registered to attend the 3-day conference. Keynote speakers include national disability rights leaders Keith Jones from Boston and Julie Petty of Arkansas. The conference is hosted by the Idaho Self-Advocate Leadership Network (SALN) in partnership with the DD Council. Presentations were planned to help individuals learn about developing personal self-advocacy skills and becoming strong and contributing members of their communities. SALN and Council member Shiloh Blackburn can testify to the value of learning to become a strong self-advocate:

"I have learned so much about what it means to speak up for myself. I have learned that people with disabilities have as much to offer as anyone else and can be fully-participating citizens in their communities."

## Person Centered Planning Grant

The Person-Centered Planning grant continued with Specialists conducting outreach in their regions and completing the planning process with over 50 individuals. Council staff met with Medicaid to discuss activities to better promote the PCP project within Medicaid. A presentation on person-centered planning was provided at the Tools for Life: Secondary Transition Conference in March. An application for a one-year no-cost extension for the PCP grant was approved in June. This allows the



*SALN and Conference planning committee members, Jen Magelky-Seiler and Shiloh Blackburn.*

Photo by Beau Stiles

Photo by Beau Stiles





Council to extend work of some Specialists, update the Idahohelp.info resource website, refine the training curriculum for two more groups, and implement 2 new components for sustainability.

Four of our PCP Specialists applied and were chosen to continue with the project through the no-cost extension period (September 2011). They will work specifically with individuals who are transitioning from high school, individuals self-directing their Medicaid services, and individuals transitioning from institutional care and/or setting up community services for the first time. In addition to working with individual focus persons, each of these Specialists will focus their attention on identifying systems change opportunities and working to embed person-centered planning practices in the educational, post-secondary, Medicaid self-direction, and institutional discharge processes.

The Council established collaboration with the Community Partnerships of Idaho **Neighbor-to-Neighbor** project to enhance PCP efforts to help individuals develop and sustain connections to their community and personal relationships. A grant will support hiring Neighbor to Neighbor staff who will work directly with individuals in the Boise and Emmett areas as a pilot of the project.

Six individuals were recruited to participate in **Powerful Tools for Caregivers** Class Leader training. Once they complete the training, they will be working as partners forming three teams in different areas: Fruitland/Nampa, Idaho Falls, and Boise/McCall. The teams will provide a six-week session of weekly classes to informal support caregivers in their local area.

The **IdahoHelp website** was updated to include over 11,000 local and state Idaho resources for individuals with disabilities and their families. A focus of the plan to build resource data in the community-based resource directory is to increase the number of resources related to recreational and social activities. This need was identified through surveys and assessments through the PCP process. The IdahoHelp website gets between 200-300 hits each month. A marketing/promotion plan



helped to promote the website and efforts have begun to market IdahoHelp as a companion resource directory to the Idaho 211 system. Emails are being sent directly to a variety of list serve members to build awareness of the IdahoHelp resource, notify people about new resources, upcoming events, and encourage submissions of new resources through the website.

## Disability Mentoring Day

2009 proved to be a year of growth for Disability Mentoring Day (DMD) activities in Idaho with two communities hosting over 127 students. This project provides students with the opportunity to spend time being mentored in a job of their choice. It also provides local businesses and organizations with a chance to share employment strategies and experiences with potential young workers with disabilities. Idaho Falls doubled the number of students from the year before with 60 participating. The Meridian/Boise group was championed by the Idaho Department of Labor and had 67 students participating for the first time.

## Self-Advocate Leadership Network Grows

Idaho now has 3 community Self-Advocate Leadership Network chapters as branches of the statewide organization. Chapters with charters include Pocatello, Nampa and the latest chapter, Moscow.



Photo by Beau Stiles

*Idaho SALN State Board President  
Larry Fries*

Self-advocates in Idaho Falls have been meeting to organize a chapter in that community. Over 100 self-advocates are members of SALN statewide. During the year, chapters were very active in fundraising, holding events such as car washes, yard sales, sponsoring dances, and selling discount pizza cards. The fund raising efforts were aimed at helping with costs to send chapter members to Idaho's first self-advocacy conference in October.

## Housing Summit

In September, John Shea of Alan, Shea and Associates of California presented a one day housing workshop in Boise that was attended by approximately 60 individuals. The workshop was co-sponsored by the Council and Community Partnerships of Idaho. Many of the participants were parents of adults or older children who are at transition age, when having safe and affordable housing becomes important.

Dr. Shea emphasized the importance of giving people choices to live in their own homes, using examples from the North Bay Housing Coalition in California. He explained pooled trusts using the example of 3 individuals residing in their own home as result of their parents agreeing to pool their children's social security income to purchase a home and pay the ongoing associated expenses.

## Access to Transportation

The Council is involved in two projects aimed at expanding, enhancing and improving public transportation options across Idaho. The SILC AmeriCorps Accessible Transportation Network Project, was supported with Council funds for a second year and members throughout the state who are worked on local efforts on behalf of people with disabilities and others in each of the 6 transportation districts. These projects ranged from collaboration with the local transportation provider to expand hours and routes in one area to facilitating a discussion and planning for providing transportation to local Health and Welfare and Labor offices. A final year application was approved in June. The AmeriCorps project complements I-Way - the new structure of public transportation in Idaho. I-Way involves local mobility management networks, often including AmeriCorps members, who identify transportation needs and barriers and submit plans and requests for funding.

The Interagency Work Group (IWG) on public transportation brings together agencies and organizations at the state level to coordinate transportation efforts, identify barriers and funding sources, minimize duplication, and maximize efficiency. The Council Executive Director served as the IWG Chair this year. As such, she participated in a meeting with the Governor about mobility and co-presented information to the two legislative Transportation Committees.

## Tools for Life Conference - Year Six

521 people attended the 6th annual secondary transition conference in Boise in March. This number included 222 high school students, 99 educators, 60 professionals, 51 family members, and 90 presenters, exhibitors and agency representatives. The Council provided \$10,000 in funding support for the conference. Council staff worked with partners to update the "Moving On: Secondary Transition Binder" which was provided to students and teachers at the conference. The transition binder has been made available to all school districts in Idaho with most schools using the binder to help students navigate the transition planning process. It is available to download from the Council website.

## Safe and Supportive Schools

Council staff participated in meetings of the Safe & Supportive Schools Task Force and worked on development of a strategic plan and guidelines to address the use seclusion, restraints and aversives in Idaho public schools. The group drafted rules submitted to the State Board of Education and public hearings were held. Staff prepared and delivered testimony based on the Council's position statement on Aversives and included remarks about the use of Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) and adequate training for school staff. The State Board of Education decided not to submit the draft rules to the 2011 Idaho Legislature in order to further develop procedures for training staff in all Idaho school districts.



Photo by Beau Stiles

## Graduation Guidance for Students

The Council participated in the Graduation Guidance Committee to develop information for students and parents about alternative ways to meet Idaho's graduation requirements. Council staff also formed a "Post-Secondary Options" workgroup that will develop informational materials listing options for education, training, employment, and community participation for students as they leave high school.

## Inclusive Education Awards

Council members and staff formed a committee to develop and announce Idaho's first Inclusion Awards program. Flyers have been distributed, mailed, and posted on the Council's website seeking nominations for community or educational programs that promote and accomplish inclusion of individuals with disabilities.

## Business Leadership Network

The Idaho Business Leadership Network (BLN) planned its first conference October 15th at the Boise Centre on the Grove. This small but significant event shows the intention by organization members to establish and grow the BLN. Officers for the BLN who have been instrumental in the organization effort include: Debbie Hendricks (Idaho Power), President, Trina Olson (Wolff Services), Vice President, and Valerie Welch (Key Bank) Treasurer. Stephanie Jensen from the State Independent Living Council spearheaded the project and serves as secretary.

## Changes at Idaho State School and Hospital

The ISSH Transition Review Committee met in December and heard a proposal by the Department to transition 2/3 of the current residents to community alternatives within 3 years. They also presented a draft of

legislation that would limit admissions to ISSH and set up an appeal process for individuals who were being transitioned out of the facility but whose families/guardians objected. These recommendations were presented in a report to the legislature but severe budget reductions caused delay of any action or introduction of legislation until 2011.



*Council Members and staff at 2010 summer meeting.*

## Disaster Planning

Council staff has worked with the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security to include individuals with disabilities in Idaho's 44 county emergency operations plans. This has resulted in development and implementation of an annex to the Idaho Emergency Operations Plan that has served as a guide to county plans. Two counties, Twin Falls and Bonneville, have developed detailed plans for evacuating, sheltering and feeding individuals with disabilities. Six counties have developed a moderate amount of measures for people with disabilities while the remaining 35 counties have little or no measures.

The U.S. Bureau of Homeland Security has increased its requirements to states to include individuals with disabilities in state and local plans. As result Idaho has developed a checklist and has been using it to reviews county plans. Included in the checklist is a requirement to address measures for people with disabilities.



*Partners graduate Rachel Raiden and her boys.*

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

**Consortium of Idahoans with Disabilities**

**Interagency Workgroup on Public Transportation**

**Children's Service System Redesign**

**Idaho Interagency Council on Secondary Transition**

**Idaho Community Care Advisory Council**

**Disability Rights Idaho Board of Directors**

**Center on Disabilities and Human Development Consumer Advisory Council**

**Idaho Training Cooperative, Intensive Behavioral Intervention Committee**

**Idaho State School and Hospital Advisory Board**

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

**Safe and Supportive Schools Task Force**

## Federal FY 2010 Council Members

**Chair** Alonzo Statham, Self-Advocate

**Vice Chair** James Steed, Self-Advocate

**Consumer Representative** Shiloh Blackburn, Self-Advocate

### Self-Advocates

Angie Flores

Kristyn Herbert

David Dekker

### Guardian

Dona Butler

### Parents

Toni Belknap-Brinegar

Jo Lynn Garrison

Bob Jackson

Chris Lynch

Debra Parsons

Joni Sullivan

Paul Tierney

### Agency/Organizational Members

Julie Fodor

Center on Disabilities & Human Development, U of I

Jim Baugh

Comprehensive Advocacy, Inc.

Jane Donnellan

Vocational Rehabilitation

Ike Gayfield

IDHW, Division of Medicaid

Jacque Hyatt

State Department of Education

Kim Toryanski

Commission on Aging

TeRonda Robinson

Community Partnerships of Idaho

Lisa Robbe

Partnerships for Inclusion

Mitch Scoggins

IDHW, Maternal & Child Health

### FY 2010 Staff

Marilyn Sword, Executive Director

Christine Pisani, Program Specialist

Ron Enright, Program Specialist

Tracy Warren, Program Specialist

Amanda Holloway,

Administrative Assistant 2

Samantha Wallace,

Elaine Lacaillade,

Shane Carlton,

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:  
ADA celebration participants circle the entire Capitol Building block.*



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