

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:  
James Steed, Council Chair, testifies to Joint Finance and  
Appropriations Committee on the importance of Medicaid services.*



Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities  
700 W. State Street, First Floor West  
Boise, Idaho 83702

(208) 334-2178 ♦ FAX (208) 334-3417 ♦ TTY (208) 334-2179  
Webpage: <http://www.icdd.idaho.gov>

Dept. of Health & Welfare, DD Council, in accordance with §60-202, Idaho Code; 21800C11 92217 3/12

# The People Speak



Photo: IdahoStatesman.com

## Advocating for What Matters

Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities

Annual Report 2011

"Never believe that a few  
caring people can't change  
the world.

For, indeed, that's all  
who ever have."

~ Margaret Mead



*Youth Leadership Forum Delegate  
Olivia Parsons shares her opinion  
on key issues.*

## 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.

## Federal FY 2011 Council Members

**Chair** Alonzo Statham/James Steed, Self-Advocates

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

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

### Self-Advocates

Shiloh Blackburn  
Ritchy Cardwell  
David Dekker  
Kristyn Herbert  
Joe Raiden  
Alonzo Statham  
James Steed

### Parents

Toni Belknap-Brinegar  
Jo Lynn Garrison  
Chris Lynch  
Debra Parsons  
Joni Sullivan  
Paul Tierney  
Denise Wetzel

### Guardian

Dona Butler

### Agency/Organizational Members

Julie Fodor	Center on Disabilities & Human Development, U of I
Jim Baugh	Disability Rights Idaho
Jane Donnellan	Vocational Rehabilitation
Jean Christensen	IDHW, Division of Medicaid
Kelly Hall	State Department of Education
Bettina Briscoe	Commission on Aging
TeRonda Robinson	Community Partnerships of Idaho
Lisa Robbe	Partnerships for Inclusion
Jacque Daniel	IDHW, Maternal & Child Health

### FY 2011 Staff

Marilyn Sword, Executive Director  
Shane Carlton, Office Specialist II  
Amanda Holloway,  
Administrative Assistant II

Christine Pisani,  
Program Specialist  
Tracy Warren,  
Program Specialist



*Council members Joni Sullivan and Debra Parsons after a long day working on the 5-year strategic plan.*



*Council member Joe Raiden and his wife Rachel at the summer picnic.*



*We said goodbye to Council member and long time advocate Ike Gayfield on March 18, 2011. He will be missed by many.*

## **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 Transition Committee

Aging & Disability Resource Center Advisory Council

Special Education Advisory Panel

Early Childhood Coordinating Council

Idaho Interagency Council on Secondary Transition

Idaho Community Care Advisory Council

Idaho Home Choice Advisory Council

Center on Disabilities & Human Development Consumer Advisory Council

## *It's All About We*

In my 50 years of being on this big green and blue globe, I have realized that as a person achieves the age of 50 they become the caretaker of their own art museum. In this museum there are paintings depicting significant events in a person's life. In my museum I have 3 separate and distinct rooms. The first room in my museum has events that have changed the world such as Neil Armstrong's walk on the moon. The second room in my museum contains the tragedies that have changed the world. September 11, 2001 has a large water color in that room. The third room in my museum contains the events that have personally impacted me and the people I care about. I added a big painting to the third room in October 2010.

On October 21, 2010 Idahoans with developmental disabilities came from across the state to attend Idaho's first Self-Advocacy Conference "Self-Advocacy: It's all About We." October 21-23, Idahoans with developmental disabilities broke through our cocoon of silence to become Self-Advocates who have a voice and choice of what goes on in our lives. Idaho Self-Advocates, through fantastic and informative keynote speakers and break out sessions, came to the realization that one voice is great, but many voices become "We" and "We" is a force to be reckoned with when it comes to the home and community based services that assist us in living independently. I look around the third room of my museum and I see vacant spots on the wall because now that we are "We" the work has just begun.

*James Steed, Acting Chair/Chair 2010-2011*

## *The People Speak*

On January 28, 2011, 1,000 people began lining up at 6 a.m. in the underground corridor of the west wing of the Idaho capitol building. At this historic event, they had the opportunity to tell members of the Joint Finance and Appropriations Committee in combination with the House the Senate Health and Welfare Committees the importance of Medicaid in the

lives of people with disabilities in Idaho. Over 400 people testified, sharing stories of courage, perseverance, and strength. They told policy makers about the importance of Medicaid services to assist people with disabilities to be independent, contributing members of their communities. They shared what it would mean if the services were not available and what the impact would be on their families, their jobs, their communities, their lives. And the legislators were presented with petitions signed by more than 14,000 Idahoans supporting raising revenue to support Medicaid services instead of implementing cuts.

Less than a month later, on February 19, 1,200 people gathered on the steps of the capitol in support of Medicaid and to speak out about the damaging impact of service cuts. On that same day, nearly 4,000 people came together in similar Medicaid Matters rallies in 16 other locations across the state from Driggs to Bonners Ferry. Three weeks later, the legislature held a hearing on legislation to implement service cuts. 400 people from across Idaho attended that hearing and, after 4 hours of testimony, only a handful of people had spoken in support of the cuts. Largely in response to that public hearing, legislators modified the legislation and removed some of the more damaging language. This legislation passed and is currently being implemented.

These events are an extraordinary example of civics in action. Idahoans with disabilities - and the families and others who support them - mobilized to have a voice in public policies that impact their lives. They had an impact. But their work is not done.

**Marilyn Sword,**  
Executive Director

*Council Member and parent, Paul Tierney, testifies to the Joint Finance and Appropriations Committee.*

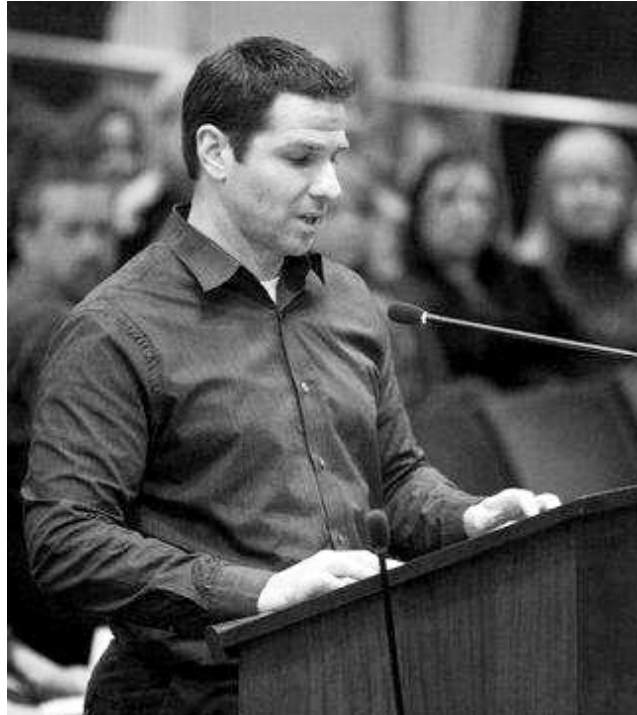


Photo: IdahoStatesman.com

skills. In addition to providing \$10,000 in funding support for the conference, the Council was involved in presentations at the conference and used the opportunity as a final recruitment push to encourage student applicants for the summer Youth Leadership Forum.

## Human Partnerships Conference

The Annual Human Partnerships Conference was held October 21-22 in Boise with financial support from the Council. There were 540 participants, 37 sessions, and 26 presenters providing information and training to direct support professionals, family members, and people with disabilities. 89% of participants judged the conference very good or terrific.

## 2011 Inclusion Awards

The Salvation Army Ray & Joan Kroc Center in Coeur d'Alene was selected to receive the *Inclusive Community Program/Facility* award. A ceremony was held at the Center where Council Director, Marilyn Sword presented the award. The *Inclusive Education* award was presented to Coach Jan Myer and the Jr. Varsity Volleyball team at Boise's South Junior High at the school's end of the year award ceremony. The entire student body, most school staff, the nominator, her family and her daughter were in attendance.



*Coach Jan Myer accepts Inclusive Education Award for the South Junior High volley ball team.*

training). Seven of these will be sustained by local groups and transportation providers and many of them have been incorporated into the structure for planning for public transportation in Idaho.

Throughout the three years, 274 individuals were mentored, 681 people received independent living services, and members logged a total of 44,472 service hours valued at \$693,004. The greatest legacy of this project was not only the accomplishments but the timing that coincided with the restructuring of Idaho's public transportation system.

This increased the voice of people with disabilities in Idaho regarding transportation needs and services and will allow many of the individuals activated through this project to maintain involvement in advocacy for improved public transportation in Idaho.



Shiloh Blackburn, 2011 SALN Board President

## Statewide Self Advocate Network Continues to Grow

A new chapter of the Idaho Self Advocate Leadership Network was successfully established in Boise. Chapter members started meeting through a Cooking Club social group formed by two Person-Centered Planning Specialists, Dawn Sauve and Trina Balanoff. With the mentoring of Jeremy Watson, a long-time SALN member, the chapter was launched in September. Chapters in Pocatello, Moscow, and Nampa continued to meet and get involved in a

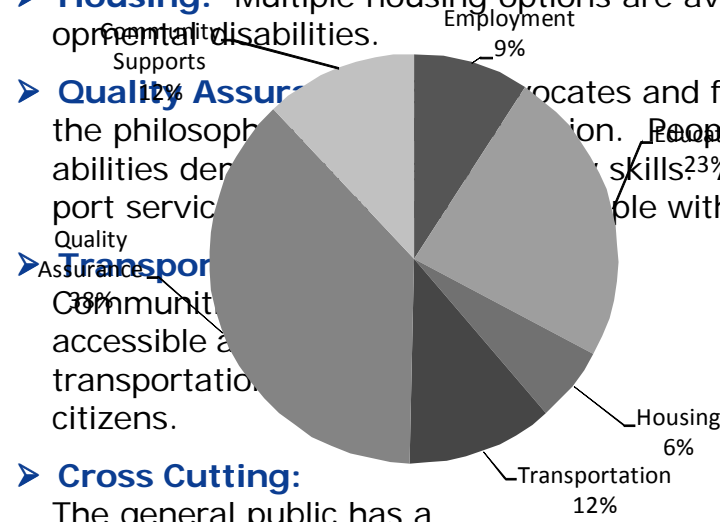
variety of activities and events, including presentations at conferences and testifying before legislative committees. A group in Idaho Falls continued to work towards the formation of a chapter in that community. The SALN Board elected new officers and the statewide network grew to over 105 members.

## Transition Conference Marks Seventh Year

The seventh annual Tools for Life Secondary Transition and Technology Fair was held in Idaho Falls in March. Over 425 participants including 237 students and 40 family members attended the 2-day conference and learned about transition related topics including self-advocacy and life

# Council Objectives

- **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 people 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:** Advocates and families are informed about the philosophy and mission. People with developmental disabilities demonstrate their skills. Abuse prevention and support services are available to people with developmental disabilities.
- **Transportation:** Community accessible and transportation for citizens.
- **Cross Cutting:** The general public has a greater awareness of people with developmental disabilities and the issues they face.



Pie chart shows how Council resources were allocated for FY2011.

# Highlights from 2011

## Idaho's First Statewide Self-Advocacy Conference



Photo by Beau Stiles

Conference participants, Jeff Wilson and friend.

The *Self Advocacy, It's All About We* conference took place in October with 175 people attending from all over the state. The Idaho Self-Advocate Leadership Network (SALN) co-hosted the conference with the Council, which was a huge success! "The conference was so meaningful to me and to the SALN. It gave the SALN more strength and power by teaching more people, especially young people, about the power of self-advocacy and self-determination," said Larry Fries, President of the Board of the SALN.

SALN members Joe Raiden and Jen Magelky-Seiler honored Senator Les Bock of Boise to recognize his vision, courage, and work that helped pass the Respectful Language Bill during the 2011 legislative session (photo below). Jen talked about her experience serving as the SALN representative on the legislative committee that worked on the law. "I was excited to be part of a committee with legislators and I felt honored to have been chosen. I was able to feel what it's like to be at the table, to be involved in something that was important to me and other people with disabilities."

Self-advocates presented over 20 workshops on topics including: going to college; parenting with a disability; running your own meeting; how to be a public speaker; alternatives to guardianship; dating, relationships and sex; how to start a self-advocacy chapter; the power of self-advocacy, and yoga to name a few. The presentations were for self-advocates only which really gave



Photo by Beau Stiles

## Determined to Vote

The Council and Disability Rights Idaho had the chance to work together on a third voter education campaign for Idahoans with disabilities. The non-partisan voter education called Determined to VOTE! (D2V) is funded by a Federal grant from Health and Human Services as part of the Help America Vote Act through the Office of the Secretary of State.



Jim Mairs from the Secretary of State's Office teaching how to use the ballot marking device.

To get this training to more Idahoans with disabilities, representatives from the Commission for the Blind, Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, the State Independent Living Council and each of the three Centers for Independent Living were invited to attend a two-day train-the-trainer in August. Each agency representative was provided training materials that have been specifically created to teach Idahoans with disabilities.

In the fall of 2010, training was provided to a total of 373 people made up of transition age youth and people living in public institutions. As a result of Determined to Vote, 36.1% of the people trained who were eligible to vote, voted in the November 2010 election. Eleven of those trained used the ballot marking device and 6 requested the ballot be read to them by a poll worker. 179 of those trained were under the legal voting age of 18.



## Access to Transportation

The final report of the AmeriCorps Accessible Transportation Network program was received from the State Independent Living Council on September 15. During the course of the 3-year

grant, a total of 58 AmeriCorps members were enrolled at various sites across Idaho. These members recruited 131 volunteers to assist with the creation of 9 accessible transportation advisory groups, 8 transportation action plans, implementation of 22 new transportation options (ranging from increased hours and routes for buses to voucher programs to driver

# 2011 Accomplishments

## Disability Mentoring Day

Disability Mentoring Day (DMD) activities were successful in five community areas: Idaho Falls, Twin Falls, Boise/Meridian, Lewiston, and Coeur d'Alene. Overall 244 students and young adults with disabilities and 142 different employers participated. Activities included: Idaho Falls hosted an Employer Breakfast, Proclamation Signing, and Celebratory Luncheon. Twin Falls hosted a breakfast and a Debrief Luncheon with presenter Roger Madsen, Director of the Idaho Department of Labor. In Boise and Meridian the activities occurred over a 2 1/2 month period with a DMD day at BSU Oct. 12, job shadow events in Meridian on Oct. 28, and shadow activities at Boise job sites on Dec. 8. On Nov. 15 at Rocky Mtn. High School and Dec. 15 at the Ascent School, students presented about their DMD experiences with refreshments and presentations for agencies and parents.

The North Central Idaho Transition Committee hosted Lewiston events: an employer mentor orientation breakfast, a breakfast for students on the day of the event, and a debrief luncheon with a presenter and student sharing. Coeur d'Alene hosted their first event with job shadows for 11 students in

the local area. The Caldwell Disability Mentoring Day hosted 20 students in job shadow activities at various businesses in the area. Activities wrapped up with a celebration luncheon with guest speakers from Boise State University and the Department of Labor. Several job mentors asked about being involved again next year and hosting students.



people the chance to talk freely and ask questions of presenters. "I was able to open up because I was around other people with disabilities and it was safe. I didn't have to have fear and I wasn't alone," stated Ritchy Cardwell. The conference really highlighted the power of the self-advocacy movement in Idaho.

## Disability Advocacy Day and Medicaid Matters Rallies

On December 11, members of the Consortium of Idahoans with Disabilities (CID), in collaboration with Community Partnerships of Idaho, conducted their first Disability Advocacy Day. The day consisted of a series of workshops put on by CID member organizations. The topics ranged from primers in advocacy, the legislative process and Medicaid to the redesign of children's DD services and behavioral health transformation. All the sessions were provided at no cost and were presented in the Auditorium on the Garden Level of the Capitol, giving attendees an opportunity to not only learn the information but see where the legislative and advocacy work takes place. More than 125 people took advantage of the training, a sign of interest in the legislature and its impact on people with disabilities.

On February 19, over 1,200 people gathered on the steps of the Capitol in support of Medicaid and to speak out about the damaging impact of service cuts. On that same day, nearly 4,000 people came together in similar Medicaid Matters rallies in 16 other locations across the state from Driggs to Bonners Ferry. These activities were all captured on a Medicaid Matters website: [medicaidmattersinidaho.com](http://medicaidmattersinidaho.com). A link can be found on the Council website.



*Ted Roy cuts a rug during the We conference dance.*

Photo by Beau Stiles



# Highlights continued

## Council Develops New Five-Year Plan

Through public forums and focus groups the Council gathered input and ideas from people across the state about issues they think the Council should work on over the next five years. This information along with survey results and national and state data helped the Council develop three main goals with objectives that will guide the Council's work through 2016: 1) Service System Improvement: People with developmental disabilities have more choice, equal opportunities, and the right individualized services and supports (objectives under this goal include inclusive education, employment, individual services and supports); 2) Leadership Development: People with developmental disabilities and families come together as a strong voice for local and state system change; 3) Information/Outreach/Inclusion: Communities are welcoming and inclusive with more understanding of the strengths and abilities of people with developmental disabilities. The Council also celebrated the end of the previous five-year plan with the creation of a large mural titled "River of Life" that chronicled our projects, activities, events, and outcomes over the 2007-2011 period.

## Person-Centered Planning Grant Comes to an End

In addition to providing Person-Centered Planning training to a third cadre and supporting maintenance of the IdahoHelp website, the Council supported two additional projects in the final grant year. Community Partnerships of Idaho started the Neighbor to Neighbor project that connects people with disabilities with volunteers in the community to do activities listed in their person-centered plan. The communities of Boise and Emmett were chosen to pilot the project and Neighbor to Neighbor staff made matches between individuals and volunteers by looking at each person's interests and preferences. The "neighbors" continue to be involved in their communities together.

We also recruited three teams to become Powerful Tools for Caregivers (PTC) class leaders. Team members were trained and then conducted six-

week class sessions that provide caregivers with tools to take care of their own needs. A total of 23 caregivers attended classes held in McCall, Nampa, and Idaho Falls. Funding from the federal grant that supported these activities ended September 30th but many of the components created or supported through the grant will continue. As we move forward, our grant activities have shown that we need to continue to find ways to connect people to each other, focus on supports for informal caregivers, and try to get a model of in-depth person-centered planning inside service systems and new programs.



*KTVB sportscaster, Zach Wolken  
mentors YLF Delegate Robyn Edwards*



## Youth Leadership Forum

Thanks to a dedicated planning committee, staff, and volunteers, the 2011 Idaho Youth Leadership Forum

was again very successful. Twenty-four 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. Delegates took part in leadership presentations, job shadowing, wheelchair sports, had a tour of the Capitol and met with a panel of policymakers. Delegates learned a lot from shadowing professionals in their career of interest with an excellent selection of mentors who volunteered their time and often materials and equipment. One lucky delegate was able to pilot an airplane for the first time! New this year was a transition/post-secondary vendor fair and free concert by the Boise Rock School. Keynote speakers included Keith Jones - motivational speaker and Mark Zupan - paralympian and wheelchair rugby champion.