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

**Vision**

- Independence
- Respect
- Participation

**Values**

- 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.

Advocating for What Matters

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

"Never believe that a few caring people can't change the world.
For, indeed, that's all who ever have.”
~ Margaret Mead

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
Jacquie 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

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

“Never believe that a few caring people can't change the world.
For, indeed, that's all who ever have.”
~ Margaret Mead
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.

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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 dam-aging 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.

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.

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.
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.

**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

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**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 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.

Pie chart shows how Council resources were allocated for FY2011.
Idaho’s First Statewide Self-Advocacy Conference

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

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.

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
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. A link can be found on the Council website.
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 or 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.

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 shading 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.