

Planting Seeds of **CHANGE**



Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities

2014 Annual Report



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.



Who We Are

The Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities is established and funded under the federal Developmental Disabilities Act along with our DD Network partners: Disability Rights Idaho, the state's protection and advocacy organization, and the Center on Disabilities and Human Development at the University of Idaho.

Our members are volunteers appointed by the Governor, the majority of whom must have a developmental disability or be a family member of a person with a developmental disability. DD Councils focus on creating programs and advocating policy that empowers individuals with developmental disabilities and allows them to participate as equal members of society. We work to create an environment of self-sufficiency, self-determination, inclusion, and acceptance. Councils also play a critical role in quality assurance and as innovators in the development of community programs and solutions.



Seeds of Change

Shiloh Blackburn, Council Chair

2014 was an exciting year for me. I was able to cross one thing off my bucket list: seeing our nation's capital. I was able to go there twice serving as the Idaho Council Chair—once in April and once in July—on behalf of the Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities (ICDD). Even though both trips were memorable and once-in-a-lifetime experiences, the trip I took in April to Washington, D.C. allowed me to affect change on a national level for the first time, rather than just statewide.

Christine Pisani, Executive Director of the ICDD, had asked me to attend the National Disability Policy Seminar with her and Denise Wetzel, a parent and past Council Chair. Denise and I learned about several different policies, laws and acts which Congress would be looking at and voting on in the coming months, such as the renewal of funding for research on best practice when working with children and adults with Autism, Keeping all Students Safe Act that addressed the use of seclusion and restraints with students in school settings, and the ABLE Act. We had an opportunity to go to the Capitol and visit with our Congressmen and their staff members about these three issues.

While Denise spoke about the need to fund research and training on best practice in Autism, and Christine spoke on the need for legislation addressing the issue of seclusion and restraints, I shared personal experiences in my life as I talked about the benefit to people with disabilities and families if the ABLE Act passed. The ABLE Act would allow individuals with disabilities to have 509 savings accounts, which could be used to pay for assistive technology, among many other things. A case in point, for me, would be the ability to save to buy a new accessible van without my benefits being jeopardized by the savings.

I am thrilled to say that before the holiday season ended, the ABLE Act was passed and signed into law! It's an amazing feeling to know I had a small part in making history.

Shiloh with her mother, Pam, at the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial in Washington DC.



***Even one voice
can make
a difference
and the
world a
better place.***



Planting Patience, Anticipating Growth

Christine Pisani, Executive Director

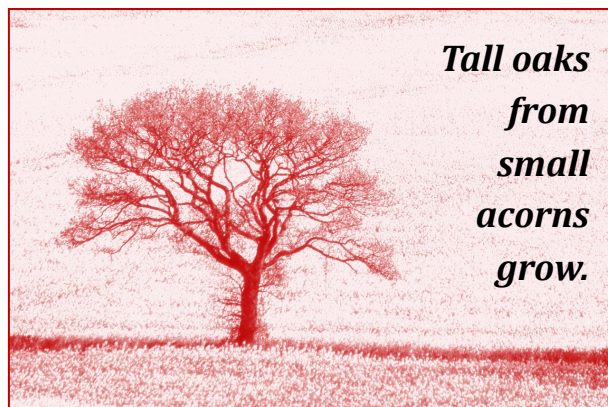
DD Councils continue to pave the way for change. They often act as catalysts for systems change and supporting best practice in their states. As I consider the theme of our 2014 annual report, "*Seeds of Change*," I reflect on the many change initiatives the Council has spearheaded over the past twenty years that have become well- established permanent fixtures in the landscape of options in Idaho.

This year some of our largest efforts are now coming to fruition. Over 15 years ago we introduced Idaho to the idea of adults with developmental disabilities self-directing their Medicaid services. The My Voice, My Choice, the Medicaid self-direction option, now serves well over 579 adults with developmental disabilities statewide and is growing.

Over 12 years ago the Council invested in the development of a much needed statewide self-advocacy organization. The Council dedicated staff to support this effort for almost a decade. Today, the Idaho Self-Advocate Leadership Network is a 501c3 with a part-time coordinator hired and overseen by their Board of Directors. They collaborate on policy issues at the local, state, and national level bringing their voice to every policy discussion related to their lives. They provide education statewide and continue to grow as a non-profit organization.

The Council continues our work to intentionally influence four major initiatives in Idaho. Our Employment First Initiative, Inclusive Education Task Force, The Collaborative Workgroup on Adult Developmental Disabilities Service Redesign, and our Community Development project are each laying the groundwork for positive social change and progressive policy. Each project has seen great success due to the strength of our collaboration, dedicated individuals with shared values, and making sure the voice of people with developmental disabilities is at the core of each Council initiative.

It is my hope that when we look back in another ten years, adults with developmental disabilities will be working in jobs of their choice at livable wages. Teachers will be prepared to teach all kids and all students will reap the benefits of quality inclusive education. The service system will be truly person-centered and will reward providers for individual outcomes achieved. Community development, as we know it, will become the model of how all people who are not typically invited to the table become essential to the shaping of a desired community. This is the work of DD Councils!



***Tall oaks
from
small
acorns
grow.***

FY2014 Goals & Objectives

Service System Improvement:

- Inclusive Education
- Employment First Initiative
- Disability Mentoring Day
- Quality Support Staff
- Developmental Disabilities Services Systems Change
- Community Development

Leadership Development:

- Statewide Self Advocacy Organization
- Self Advocacy Leadership Training
- Leadership Development for Families
- Council Member Leadership

Information, Outreach, Inclusion:

- Inclusion and Awareness
- Access to Information

Policy Involvement:

- Participation with Coalitions
- Legislative Advocacy Training
- Council Policy Agenda and Member Advocacy

Council Staff

Christine Pisani
Executive Director

Toni Belknap-Brinegar
Program Specialist

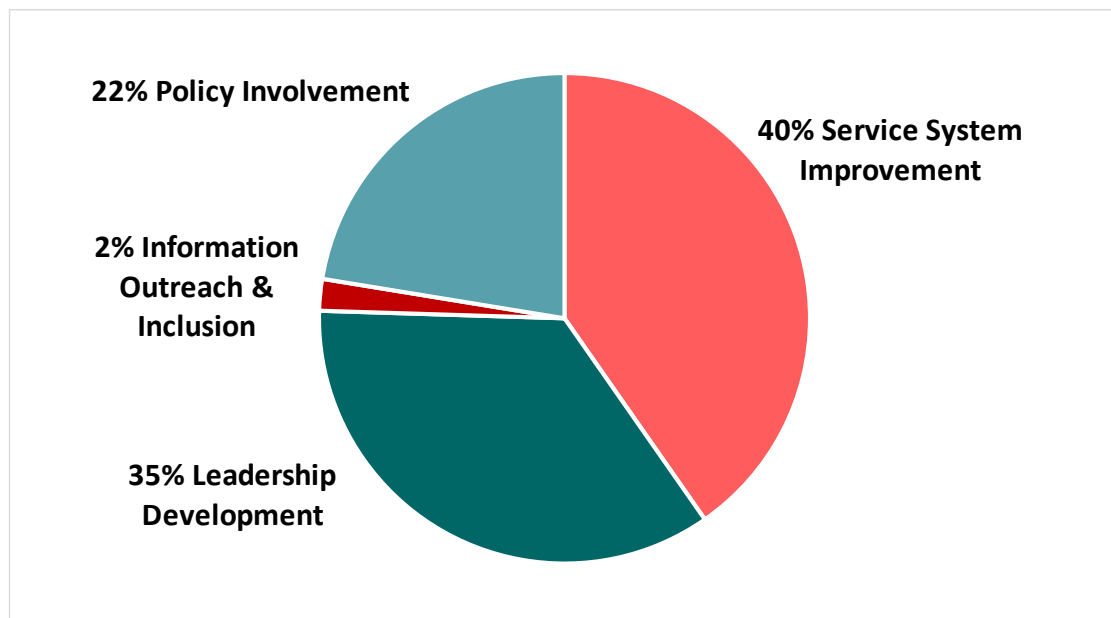
Debbie Daniels
Management Assistant

Suzie Hanks
Member Support

Laurie Lowe
Office Specialist

Tracy Warren
*Program Specialist/
Planner*

Fiscal Year Resource Distribution by Goal



Inclusive Education

Inclusive Education Task Force

The Inclusive Education Task Force developed and approved a strategic plan that describes work to change teacher certification to better prepare educators to include all students in the general education classroom and activities. New members, passionate about the new direction and improving teacher preparation, came on board to support the Council's work. The Council spoke with various experts in the field around the country to gather information on how other states are approaching inclusive education practices. Meetings were held with the Idaho Superintendent of Public Instruction, the State Dept. of Education Director of Special Education and the Standards Supervisor to discuss the possible role of their agency in this objective.



The Task Force planned for an Inclusive Education Summit in November. Guest speaker Dr. Debi Gartland, who developed a merged education degree at Towson University in Maryland, was invited to talk about how she built the program as well as the outcomes for students and pre-service teachers over the past 8 years. Task Force members spoke to university and college personnel as well as public school principals and administrators about the Inclusive Education Summit with the intent of educating the attendees about the merged degree and begin a discussion about what might be possible in Idaho.

Inclusion in Education Award

Every year, the Council selects a nominated school, teacher, or school group that does a great job including students with developmental disabilities in school activities or events. **Abby Ungefug** from Sage Valley Middle School was selected as the winner of the Inclusion in Education award for 2014. Council Director, Christine Pisani, presented the award and talked about the importance of inclusive education at the 8th grade matriculation ceremony at Sage Valley.



School District Transition Trainings

The State Dept. of Education partnered with the Council and Division of Vocational Rehabilitation to provide training on transition-related topics. Trainings were held in seven different regional locations with participants representing more than 24 districts. Participants included high school and junior high school teachers, special education directors, school administrators, and other school staff. Topics included Results Based Accountability, Student-Focused Planning for Employment, Working with Vocational Rehabilitation, Preparation for Post-Secondary Education, Employment First: Resources for Students and Families, and Engaging Families in the Transition Planning Process.

Transition to Employment

Tools for Life

The 10th annual statewide Tools for Life: Secondary Transition Conference was held in Idaho Falls in March with 284 participants including 154 students. Eight employment track sessions were developed related to setting goals and preparing to get a job. The lunch keynote presentation featured a panel of local professionals telling students about their early work experiences along their career path and "How They Got from There to Here." The Council sponsored the **It's My Business Expo** with four entrepreneurs with disabilities participating in the second year of this event.

Council funds also supported **Isaac Baldry**, a Montana self-advocate, to provide a presentation titled "Taking Charge of My Own Life" about being his own guardian. Isaac provided a dynamic session using assistive technology and shared useful tools and examples of legal documents that provide support without the necessity of full guardianship to help individuals with disabilities advocate within medical, educational, and other systems.

It's My Business EXPO



Alex Mathews displays various products for his business - "Big Al's Crafts."



Isaac and Theresa Baldry

Disability Mentoring Day

The Council provided grants to each of four local Disability Mentoring Day events held in October 2013: Moscow, Boise, Twin Falls, and Idaho Falls. From all areas combined, 169 students participated in job shadowing activities with 124 employers. Outcomes were positive for students and employers alike. In Boise, students welcomed the School District Superintendent, Asst. Superintendent, District Special Education Director, and the State Dept. of Education Transition Coordinator to their celebratory luncheon. Each student participant provided a PowerPoint presentation about their workplace experiences.

In Idaho Falls, community transition team members made extra efforts to build awareness and motivate community business to participate as mentors through a presentation provided to the local Chamber of Commerce which included a promotional DVD. The mayors of two local communities signed proclamations to celebrate Disability Employment Awareness Month and Disability Mentoring Day. Employers and the community at large became more aware of the benefits of hiring individuals with disabilities as a result of the excellent media coverage generated by the various events.



Erika at Texas Roadhouse in Idaho Falls.

Employment First Initiative



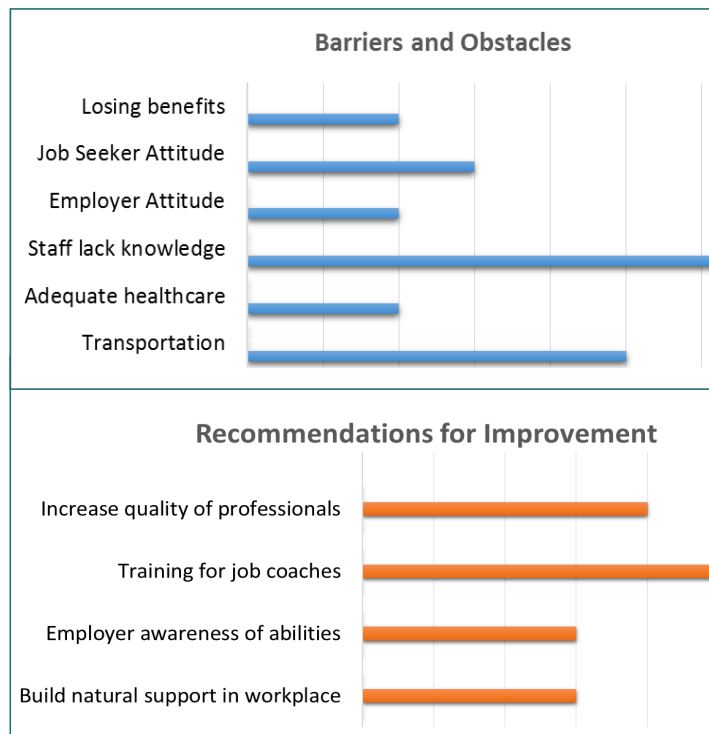
Outreach and Policy Change

The **Idaho Employment First Consortium** (IEFC) finalized a work plan under the Employment Learning Community (ELC) grant that included Employment First Awareness and Employment Outcomes Data Collection as two goals for work in the 2015 fiscal year.

Noll Garcia, a self-advocate, worked under contract with the Council to conduct outreach to people with disabilities around the state to gather input on employment experiences, effectiveness of support services, and other employment related issues. **Public forums/focus groups** were held in five different communities, in-person & telephone interviews occurred and the survey was made available online. The majority of participants were people with developmental disabilities. Training for employment support professionals was identified as the biggest need to ensure employment success.

Members of the IEFC and Collaborative Workgroup on Adult Developmental Disabilities (CWG) worked together to pass **HB476** that amended Idaho Medicaid statute to allow budget modifications for **Community Supported Employment Services**. The bill was passed because of the active work of IEFC and CWG members and people who testified and contacted their legislators. The success of the legislation was influenced by the fact that several key House and Senate germane committee members participated in the *Take Your Legislator to Work* event in the fall.

A workgroup drafted rules for the new statute and developed materials with guidance about Medicaid community supported employment services. A protocol was developed to describe the transition process between Vocational Rehabilitation services and Medicaid services. Educational materials for service coordinators, vocational rehabilitation counselors, individuals, family members and other stakeholders were posted on the Medicaid website and shared through employment stakeholder networks. The law change took effect July 1, 2014.



Rep. Luke Malek carried HB476 Medicaid CSE legislation. He is pictured here with Council staff Tracy Warren and Idaho Self Advocate Leadership Network President, David Dekker.

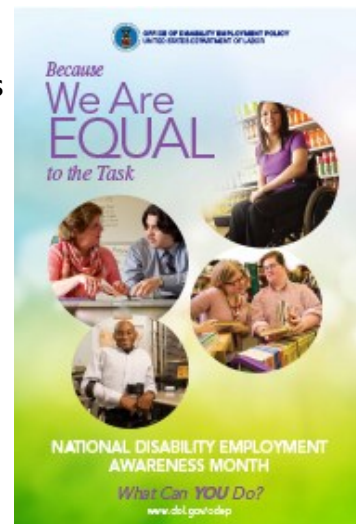


Take Your Legislator to Work

Disability Employment Awareness

As part of the national Disability Employment Awareness Month IEFC members supported Idaho Disability Employment Awareness activities that occurred around the state in October 2013. Governor Otter signed a proclamation about Disability Employment Awareness month to kick off all activities.

Idaho held it's first **"Take Your Legislator to Work"** event in 2013 and 51% of Idaho Legislative districts were represented. In all, 27 legislators visited individuals with disabilities in their place of work. A report from this event was presented to legislators during the 2014 session and was integral in educating policymakers about the importance of community employment for individuals with developmental disabilities.



Justin was pleased to host Sen. Maxine Bell and show her around his job at Walmart.



Sen. Bart Davis visited Donnie at Hometown Kitchen in Idaho Falls.



Rep. Luke Malek visited Sean Mason and Al Clayton at Coeur d'Alene High School.

Community Development



Learning our ABCD's' - Asset Based Community Development

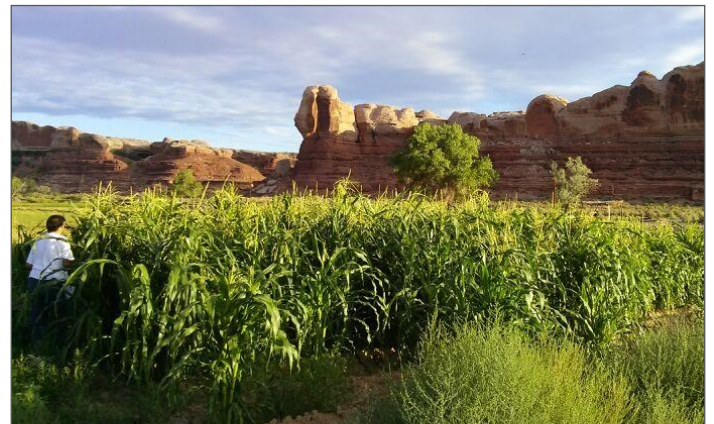
The Council is working to establish a community development project as a way to increase inclusion and involvement of people with disabilities in local groups working to improve their communities. Council staff and members were trained in Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) by **Mike Green** during the summer quarterly Council meeting and received an update on the Utah DD Council's

Navajo Project from Director, **Claire Mantonya**.

Training participants worked in groups with invited stakeholders including representatives from the Idaho Hunger Relief Task Force and the Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence. The groups discussed community issues and resources and provided input on possible Council activities related to the community development objective on the Council's 5-year plan. Based on this feedback, staff began to explore Caldwell as a possible starting point for an ABCD project. Since last July, Council staff has met face-to-face with many people in the Caldwell area to discuss ABCD and how it would relate to individuals with developmental disabilities in the city of Caldwell.



Collecting corn pollen the Navajo way.
Community development in Bluff, Utah.



Community Inclusion Award

The 2014 Community Inclusion Award winner was **Habitat for Humanity ReStore**.

An award was given to ReStore manager, **Tod Wingfield**, in August. Council member, **Louis Garcia**, spoke at the awards ceremony about his experience working as a volunteer at ReStore. He felt welcomed and supported by ReStore staff and continues to volunteer at the reclaimed building materials store, where proceeds go to helping people in need get a home.



Quality in Services and Supports

Medicaid Services Systems Change

The **Collaborative Workgroup on Adult Developmental Disability Services** (CWG) met quarterly this year, while the Steering Committee met monthly with subcommittee work taking place between. Members of Steering Committee studied Adult Developmental Disabilities System Options being used in other states and presented their findings to the full group. The three variations of the DD systems with different structures studied included: Traditional/Fee for service, Self-Direction, and Managed Care Organization. The Council funded travel for key CWG members to travel to Arizona and meet with stakeholders to explore the state's managed care system for adults with developmental disabilities.

Additional work included:

- Development of a phone/face-to-face survey for adults with developmental disabilities to measure current satisfaction with services. 175 adults, family members, or guardians were interviewed statewide.
- A CWG Needs Assessment subcommittee began reviewing different needs assessments that may potentially replace the SIB-R (Scales of Independent Behavior—Revised) that is part of the eligibility assessment process in Idaho.
- An outreach plan was developed to test the flexibility of the My Voice My Choice Medicaid self-direction option. The intent is to educate stakeholders about the opportunities in the model for hiring an agency for some of their services.

Direct Support Staff Training

The theme of the October 2013 Human Partnerships Conference was “**Seeing Beyond Disability**” and was attended by 599 people which included a small number of self-advocates and parents/guardians. The majority of participants are direct support staff, supervisors, related service personnel, and agency representatives. 38 speakers presented 43 different sessions on various topics in 8 different tracks including: mental health, professional/ personal growth, Autism Spectrum Disorders, developmental disabilities, systems changes, employment, parenting, and disability awareness – “seeing beyond.”

Council staff presented with self-advocates at a session of the conference titled “**Good to Great: Supporting Individuals to Participate in Decision-Making Groups**.” The presentation provided guidelines about good support for individuals participating in meetings and on boards and included video clips showing “bad” and “good” examples of support for meetings. The training also included self-advocates demonstrating skills to provide direction to support staff.

Supporting Self Advocacy



Idaho Self-Advocate Leadership Network

The Council continued to support Idaho's statewide self-advocacy organization through a contract with the Idaho Self-Advocate Leadership Network (SALN). Pictured at right are

state board members: (back row) Lilly Michel, Tammy Topps, David Dekker, and Sandra Pfeifer. (Bottom row) Rachel Raiden, Shiloh Blackburn, and Alonzo Statham. The organization has made recent updates to their website at: **www.idahocdhd.org/isaln/Home.aspx**



Major accomplishments of the Idaho SALN in FY2014 include: presentations on self-advocacy at state and national conferences, a key role in planning and implementing local disability advocacy training workshops around the state, and working to pass state legislation that benefits individuals with disabilities. Idaho SALN also developed a new presentation called "Overcoming Obstacles to Advocacy" that was presented at the beginning of all Disability Advocacy Day workshops around the state.

Idaho SALN partnered with Washington State, Nevada, Alaska, and Wyoming to apply for a Regional Technical Assistance Grant from the Administration on Community Living in the US Department of Human Services. The name of this interstate group is "The Equal Partners Interstate Congress" (EPIC) and it will work on a plan so that self-advocacy organizations will be recognized as equal partners in the DD Network under the federal Developmental Disabilities Act.



Idahoans Attend National SABE Conference

The Council provided extra funds in the 2014 contract for the Idaho SALN to support members, advisors, and support staff to attend the national Self Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE) conference in Oklahoma City. Idahoans attending the conference included 7 SALN members and 5 support staff. **David Dekker** (SALN State Board President) and **Joe Raiden** (Moscow Chapter) provided presentations at the conference.



Idaho Self Advocate Leadership Network President, David Dekker, was one of two Idaho self-advocates that provided a presentation at the national SABE conference.

Disability Advocacy Training

The Council collaborated with members of the Consortium of Idahoans with Disabilities again in fall 2013 to host Disability Advocacy Day training events around the state. Overall, 174 people attended workshops in 7 communities. Each DAD workshop began with "Overcoming Obstacles to Advocacy" a panel presentation that encouraged participants to engage in an honest discussion of what prevents them from reaching out to their legislators. In the past, the workshops included a basic "how-to" presentation to help people understand the steps one must take to call, write, e-mail and set up a meeting with legislators. Because self-advocates were involved in the planning for DAD this year, the focus shifted to identifying the obstacles people feel prevent them from reaching out and contacting their legislators. Presentations about Medicaid expansion and the Idaho disability service system were also provided.

Disability Advocacy Day at the Statehouse

Disability agencies and organizations displayed information on the Statehouse 4th floor rotunda and welcomed policymakers and visitors to **Disability Advocacy Day at the Capitol** in February 2014. The Council is a key partner in coordinating this event and staff supported a number of self-advocates to meet with their legislators, explore the Statehouse, and learn about the legislative process.



Legislation Success

The Council worked on legislation to improve access to Medicaid services during the 2014 session. For the third year in a row, Council members and staff worked with stakeholders and policy-makers to **restore dental benefits** to individuals on the Medicaid Enhanced Plan, this year with success. The Council collaborated with House Health and Welfare Chairman Fred Wood, Representative Luke Malek, and other stakeholders to pass HB476 that allows exception review so that individuals with developmental disabilities can request additional Medicaid funds to access community supported employment services. Key to the success of both policy efforts was the testimony of self-advocates and family members about the impact of these services on individual health and overall well being, and community involvement.

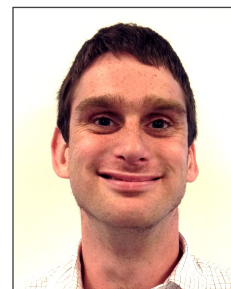
Cha, Cha, Cha, Changes

Changes in Membership

In July 2014 the Council welcomed two new self-advocate members who come to the Council with previous advocacy and policy experience. **Ian Bott** is a Boise State University Student and active member of the Idaho SALN Boise Chapter. **Lance Pounds** is a student with the Concordia School of Law. We also welcomed **Jill Mathews**, the Family and Community Engagement Coordinator for the State Department of Education.



Ian Bott



Lance Pounds



Jill Mathews



New Director ~ Christine Pisani

The Council hired **Christine Pisani** to become the Council Director in October 2013. Christine has been with the Council as a Program Specialist since 1996 working on self-direction, employment, and especially self-advocacy. Her knowledge, experience, energy, and enthusiasm are evident in her work and leadership.

All Hands on Deck - New Staff Faces

Laurie Lowe made the transition from Council member to staff in January of 2014. She joins us as an Office Specialist and is the first point of contact for folks who call or come into the Council office. **Deborah Daniels** joined the Council as a Management Assistant. Debbie helps with managing our financial responsibilities, coordinates the Council budget, and maintains the Council website and newsletter among other duties. Also joining the Council office is **Toni Belknap-Brinegar**, parent and former Council member from Nampa. Toni is a Program Specialist working on inclusive education, community development, and monitors the self-advocacy contract. She also serves on various groups that focus on family and children's issues.



Laurie Lowe



Debbie Daniels



Toni Belknap-Brinegar

Shiloh Blackburn Named to National Advisory Group

Congratulations to Shiloh for being named to the **National Circle of Leadership** at the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD) conference last July. This national group of self-advocate leaders will advise NACDD on policy issues.



Gee James / www.CMedial

2013-2014 Council Members

Shiloh Blackburn, **Chair**, *Self-Advocate, Pocatello*
Jenniffer Halladay, **Vice Chair**, *Parent, Kuna*
Joe Raiden, **Consumer Rep.**, *Self-Advocate, Moscow*
Jim Baugh, *Disability Rights Idaho*
Dona Butler, *Guardian, Nampa*
Rebekah Casey, *Parent, Coeur d'Alene*
Jean Christensen, *IDHW-Division of Medicaid*
Lisa Colón, *Department of Education*
David Dekker, *Self-Advocate, Jerome*
Tisha Dillon, *Parent, Nampa*
Jane Donnellan, *Vocational Rehabilitation*
Raul Enriquez, *Commission on Aging*
Julie Fodor, *Center on Disabilities and Human Development*
Louis Garcia, *Self-Advocate, Boise*
Matt Larson, *Self-Advocate, Nampa*
Laurie Lowe, *Self-Advocate, Boise*
Debra Parsons, *Parent, Victor*
Natali Pellens, *Parent, Post Falls*
TeRonda Robinson, *Community Partnerships of Idaho*
Colleen Sisk, *Partnerships for Inclusion*
Paul Tierney, *Parent, Nampa*
Jacquie Watson, *IDHW-Maternal and Child Health*
Denise Wetzal, *Parent, Moscow*



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

- Aging and Disability Resource Center Advisory Council
- Center on Disabilities and Human Development Consumer Advisory Council
- Children's Service System Redesign Access Committee
- Community Care Advisory Council
- 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
- Idaho Employment First Consortium
- Idaho Interagency Council on Secondary Transition
- Interagency Workgroup on Public Transportation
- Self Direction Quality Assurance Committee

Vision

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



Tom Ball and Kristin Beaver enjoy a baseball game.

Pictured on the front cover: Guest presenter, Kathie Snow and
Council member David Dekker.

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

Website: <http://www.icdd.idaho.gov>