

2018

Annual Report

OCT 2017 – SEPT 2018





2018 Council Members and Staff

An estimated 26,000 Idahoans have developmental disabilities* - disabilities that are life-long and often complex. Tens of thousands of Idaho families are impacted by having a family member that experiences a developmental disability; often providing care and support.

Idahoans with developmental disabilities and their families must navigate a complex system; the Council is their connection to resources, support, peers, leadership development and advocacy.

***Estimate based on the Federal Definition of Developmental Disabilities**

Who We Are

The Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities is established and funded under the federal Developmental Disabilities (DD) 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.

The Council works with a five-year plan. The 2017-2021 plan includes three goals, related to quality in HCBS services, secondary transition, and leadership development. In this report, we highlight some of our work towards each goal.

Our Purpose

DD Councils focus on creating programs and advocating for 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.



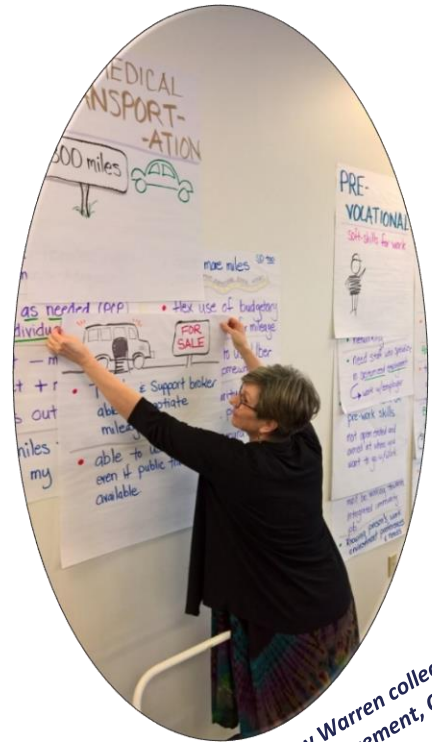
Goal 1

Adults with intellectual/developmental disabilities experience improved quality in Home and Community Based Services.

The Department of Health and Welfare discussed four ideas for changes to DD services with individuals with I/DD and family members. These proposed changes are related to 5 of the 17 recommendations included in the Community NOW! report. Administrative staff heard directly from individuals and families about how the current service delivery system is functioning what would most benefit adults in the DD program.

“[I liked] the camaraderie with the group, the collaboration, and getting to see forward movement with all we've done this past year and a half.”

Community NOW! participant



Council Staff Tracy Warren collecting ideas for DD services improvement, Community NOW!



The Council works with individuals with I/DD, family members, and stakeholders to plan, develop, and implement quality person-centered planning services in Idaho.

Seven adults with a disability and 25 family members attended a training in Spanish about Liberty Healthcare, the entity providing all eligibility determinations for adults and children with I/DD in Idaho. Attendees learned how Liberty Healthcare works, their role in the service system, and the paperwork required.

“[People with a dual diagnosis] want to live in the community, they want to thrive in the community, they want to give back to the community, and the only way that we can do that is with your help, is with you guys identifying it and helping us through it.”

Council Chair James Steed in his introduction to the Skills System training in Pocatello

88 mental health clinicians received a three-day Skills System training by Julie Brown, PhD. The Skills System teaches emotion regulation skills to individuals with developmental disabilities and a co-occurring mental health diagnosis.

“I have used concepts within the skills system to help clients build coping skills.”

Skills System training participant

“I have been teaching my clients and have attempted to incorporate their families in the process, so that everyone is using the same language and system, which helps to de-escalate feelings and conflictual situations.”

Skills System training participant



Julie Brown, PhD, and Council Chair James Steed

37 clinicians were trained in Pocatello; after the training, 97% plans to serve more individuals with a dual diagnosis.

51 clinicians were trained in Coeur d'Alene.

Goal 2

Youth and young adults with intellectual/developmental disabilities transition from school into an adult life that includes competitive integrated employment, community engagement, and full citizenship.

14 Core Gift Master Facilitators received a follow-up training. Teachers reported outcomes of using the process in their classrooms and with their staff. Feedback and outcomes were included in the Idaho Core Gift booklet.



20 parents attended the “Transition: Do You Have Your G.P.S. (Goal, Plan, Support)?” conference in Moscow.



81 people attended the “Fortalenciendome Para Ser Exitoso” transition conference. The conference was delivered completely in Spanish by experts in the disability field.

Council staff partnered with the Idaho Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and other Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act partners in the planning of the Customized Employment pilot to be implemented in three areas of the state.

A presentation on Supported Decision-Making and changes to Idaho Guardianship policy was presented to the School-based Medicaid Services working group under the State Department of Education and to the Boise School District Special Education Directors meeting. Three regional trainings on Supported Decision-Making and Guardianship were presented by Jonathon Martinis. Trainings were attended by local attorneys, judges, guardian ad litems, and crisis team members and other court-related stakeholders.

Goal 3

Leaders with intellectual/developmental disabilities are engaged with other people with disabilities and family in a statewide coalition that has a strong, collective voice on policy issues and systems change.



14 self-advocates and 13 family members graduated from Partners in Policymaking in May 2018.

2018 Partners in Policymaking Class



Making tortillas at Partners in Policymaking

“I loved forming lasting relationships with others who have either lived it or are going through it now. I learned more than I can possibly express from the self-advocates, and for that I will be forever grateful! Often times I felt I had the best interest in mind of my children while doing things, but I never thought about how it felt from their perceptions. Finally, I will be forever grateful for the many hours of education I received. Since the ending of Partners, I have helped several families with the information I have received to help them access services or connections as well.”

2018 Partners in Policymaking graduate



*2018 Partners in Policymaking graduates
Lucy Olmos and Norma Duarte*

**“It was great to hear people's stories and help them
advocate for their children and themselves.”**

2018 Partners in Policymaking graduate



Advocacy Coalition members meet with the Governor's staff

The Advocacy Coalition hosted Community Conversations in Boise and Twin Falls. Legislators and candidates running for office were invited to meet with adults with I/DD and families who have children with disabilities to learn firsthand about the value of HCBS services and to learn about how block granting Medicaid at the federal level would affect Idahoans. Six legislators and 5 candidates attended the conversations.

Council Members

James Steed, **Chair**, *Person Living in an Institution, Blackfoot*

Ian Bott, **Vice Chair**, *Self-Advocate, Boise*

Jim Baugh, *Disability Rights Idaho*

Kevin Bittner, *Commission on Aging*

Korynne Donehey, *Self-Advocate, Idaho Falls*

Art Evans, *IDHW – Division of Medicaid*

Julie Fodor, *Center on Disabilities and Human Development, U of I*

Rebekah Forster, *Parent, Hayden*

Holly Giglio, *Parent, Ammon*

Nanna Hanchett, *Vocational Rehabilitation*

Jacob Head, *Self-Advocate, Rexburg*

Valerie Hurst, *Parent, Boise*

Kristie Oakes, *Parent, Eagle*

Natali Pellens, *Parent, Post Falls*

Emily Petersen, *Parent, Kimberly*

Jessica Rachels, *Parent, Ponderay*

Joe Raiden, *Self-Advocate, Moscow*

Danielle “DR” Reff, *Self-Advocate, Boise*

Claudia Saustegui, *YMCA, Community Non-Profit*

Carly Saxe, *Self-Advocate, Eagle*

Charlie Silva, *Department of Education*

Colleen Sisk, *Syringa Family Partnership, Community Provider*

Jacque Watson, *IDHW – Maternal and Child Health*



Council Members Carly Saxe and Kristie Oakes meet with Rep. Luker during the Legislative Luncheon



2018 Partners in Policymaking graduates and Council Members Valerie Hurst and DR

Council Staff

Christine Pisani, *Executive Director*

Toni Belknap-Brinegar, *Program Specialist*

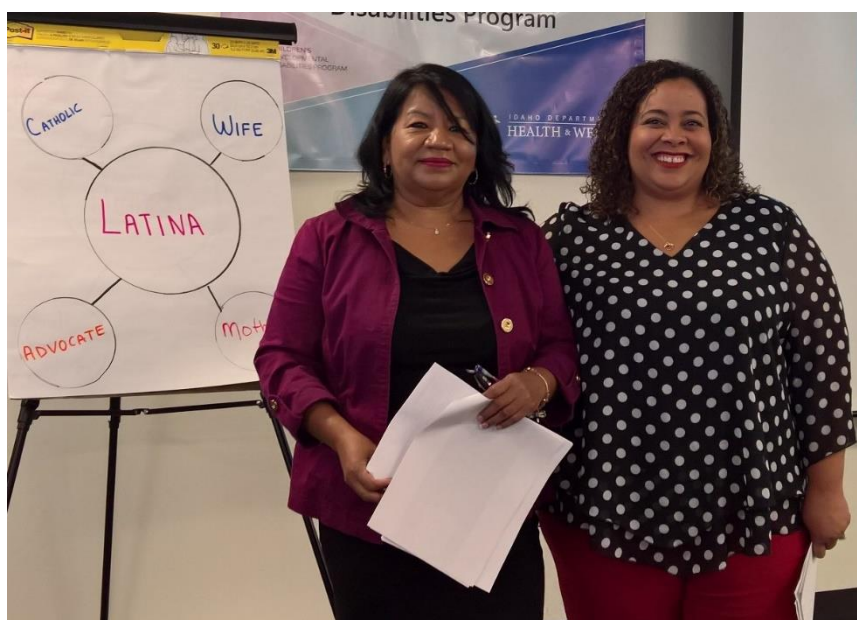
Marieke Edwards, *Research Analyst*

Trisha Hammond, *Office Manager*

Laurie Lowe, *Office Assistant*

Melissa Morales, *Customer Service Representative*

Tracy Warren, *Program Specialist/Planner*



Cultural Broker Griselda Camacho and Council Staff Toni Belknap-Brinegar



Council Staff Marieke Edwards, Christine Pisani, Trisha Hammond, with Julie Brown, PhD, and Blake Brumfield, IDHW



Contact Us

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