

# Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities



## 2016 Annual Report

October 2015 - September 2016



2016  
Council members  
and staff



## 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.

## 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.

## Mission Statement

*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.*



# What We Do Best

*From stakeholder and partner feedback, past experience, and measuring outcomes, the Council has learned what it does best to be most effective in creating positive change for people with disabilities and their families in Idaho:*

## **Interagency Collaboration**

Whether joining meetings with partners and other agencies or forming a working group from the ground up to address key issues, this is one of the greatest strengths of the Council.

## **Informing and Working with Policymakers at All Levels**

The Council has a long standing reputation for providing policymakers with accurate information and supporting individuals and families to participate in policy discussions. Staff and member connections to legislators, local government officials, and state agency administrators has increased our ability to achieve outcomes that matter.

## **Leadership Development**

The Council has greatly increased the number of people with DD and family members to be effective advocates, through the Partners in Policymaking leadership development program, developing curriculum and training individuals how to advocate for themselves, and building the awareness of systems in how to engage with stakeholders.

## **Coalition Development and Citizen Participation**

The Council continued to be a leader and facilitator of the Idaho Consortium for Individuals with Disabilities, brought together stakeholders and partners to address important issues, and supported individuals with disabilities and family members to have the information and skills needed to participate in advocacy activities at the state and local level.



*Partners in Policymaking graduates,  
Erin Rosenkoetter and Kaleb McCloughlan  
meet with Senator Maryanne Jordan.*

# 2016 Goals and Objectives

The Council operates under a five-year strategic plan that is developed by our Council members after seeking information from stakeholders, reviewing service system quality assurance data, and keeping track of other pertinent state data to create an overview of the status of Idahoans with developmental disabilities and their families.

## Goal 1 – Service System Improvement:

***Idahoans with developmental disabilities have increased opportunities for inclusive education and employment, improved access to individualized services, and quality support in their communities.***

*The Council worked on systems change initiatives and provided information, education, and skill building activities through:*

- Inclusive Education Initiative and InED Task Force
- Employment First Initiative and Idaho Employment First Consortium
- Collaborative Workgroup on Adult Developmental Disabilities Services
- Career Mentoring Day for high school students with disabilities
- Quality Support Staff – training in best practice to provide supports that increase community employment for people with developmental disabilities

## Goal 2 – Leadership Development:

***Individuals with developmental disabilities and family members have the knowledge and skills needed to participate fully in advocacy coalitions to be a strong voice for local and state systems change.***

*The Council supported a statewide self-advocacy organization, provided leadership training for people with developmental disabilities and family members and built community capacity through:*

- Idaho Self-Advocate Leadership Network contract
- Partners in Policymaking leadership development program
- Community development and cultural outreach activities



*From left: Griselda Camacho, ICDD Community Connector with Rep. Melissa Wintrow and Toni Belknap-Brinegar, ICDD staff.*



*Partners in Policymaking graduates  
Libby Parsons and Karla LaCourse.*

### **Goal 3** – Information, Outreach, Inclusion:

***Increase public access to information and improve awareness so that communities are welcoming and inclusive and community members report they have more understanding of the strengths and abilities of people with developmental disabilities.***

- Promoted the inclusion of people with DD in non-disability community programs, organizations and activities
- Provided awareness information about of the capabilities of people with developmental disabilities through the media and Take Your Legislator to Work campaign
- Provided access to Information about services, supports, community resources, and policy through website, e-newsletter, social media, direct email contact, and face-to-face meetings

### **Goal 4** - Policy Involvement:

***Advance the interests of people with developmental disabilities in public policy decisions through Council involvement in coalitions, initiatives, and training.***

- Participation in a variety of state councils, committees, and coalitions
- Legislative advocacy training provided to Council members, families and people with developmental disabilities
- Developed annual policy agenda and members educated policymakers on key issues

#### ***What Does the Council Do Well?***

*"They address issues that are important in the lives of many with disabilities. Also, they effectually advocate for them as well. The public is better educated by the Council on the needs of our community in general not just 'our' issues."*

*~ from ICDD annual stakeholder survey*



# Impact

Over the past year the Council...

... provided training in innovative approaches:

- 117 teachers attended the **Universal Design for Learning Symposium** that was implemented in four locations around the state on the same day.
- Trained 23 people in how to facilitate the Discovery process with individuals and families who want to take the lead in the **Discovering Personal Genius model of employment planning**. This built upon the training of family members, teachers, Vocational Rehabilitation staff and service providers who gained skills in implementing the process the year before.
- Helped 26 people gain advocacy skills and the knowledge needed to become future leaders including 14 individuals with developmental disabilities and 12 parents, through the **Partners in Policymaking** leadership development program.



*Council Chair, Debra Parsons  
with James Foster at the  
Partners graduation ceremony.*

*"After 26 years of post-traumatic brain injury living, I thought I had learned a lot about advocating for persons with disabilities. Then I became a participant in the Partners in Policymaking session and my heart and eyes were opened much wider.... I am so thankful for the existence of the ICDD and those involved in advocacy."*

*~ Shane Facer, advocate, 2016 PIP Graduate*





### ... developed or improved state policies and processes:

- Developed two reports with recommendations for **Medicaid employment support services** and related provider qualifications, including training components for staff who will help individuals build work-related skills, develop jobs, secure employment, engage with employers, and be successful in the workplace.
- Supported Council members and Partners in Policymaking participants to inform legislators about the importance of the federal **ABLE Act** which led to the development of legislation to establish an ABLE account technical assistance position in Idaho.
- After years of advocacy by the Council, the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare joined the **National Core Indicators** project and began the process of gathering information about services and outcomes through a survey of families of children who receive developmental disability services. Surveying adults will follow in the coming year. This data will be collected over time to provide Idaho with longitudinal data to inform system improvement and effectiveness.



*Partners in Policymaking graduate, Nancy Ovalle shared photos of her children with Senator Grant Bourgoyne, who shared his own.*



# More Impact

## The Council also...

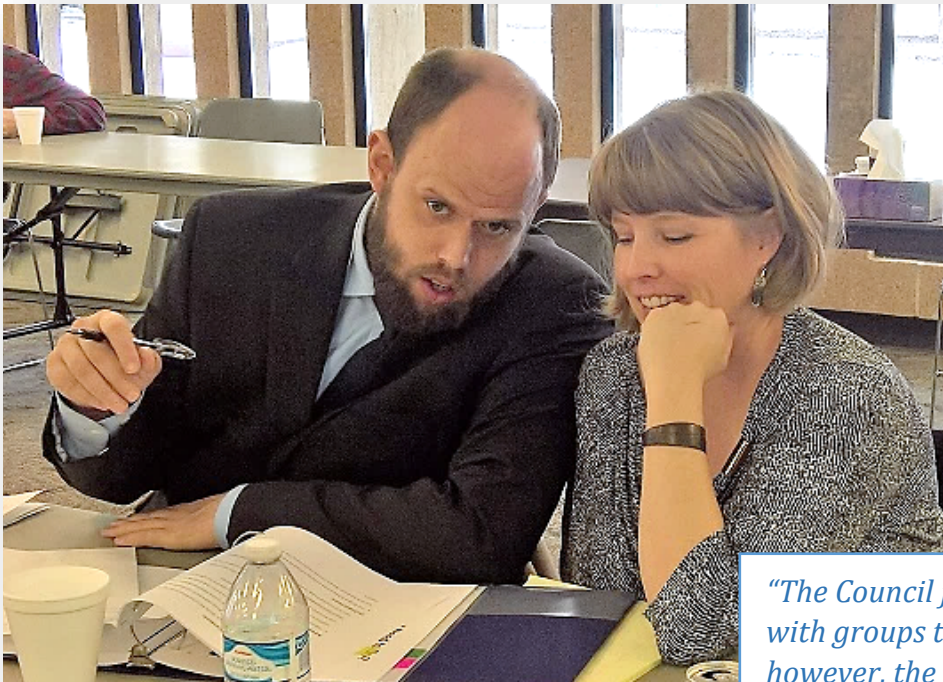
... promoted **Career Mentoring Day** and provided funding to support six local projects around the state to provide workshops on preparing for employment for 149 students who also experienced a day of job shadowing with 104 local employers.

### Quality Assurance: Talking Directly with People Who Use Services

The Council built a basis for improving quality assurance through a **statewide face-to-face study** of adults on the Medicaid Home and Community Based Services Developmental Disability waiver program. Interviews were conducted with 112 individuals to:

- Identify perceptions of adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities receiving home and community based services
- Learn about the extent to which individuals in Idaho's developmental disability service system guide their own planning process

Learn about the extent to which individuals in Idaho realize a support system directly responsive to their preference and choice.



Advocate and policy leader, Jack Hansen with IDHW Family and Community Services Crisis Prevention staff, Kelly Hardy.

*"The Council facilitates difficult conversations with groups that seemingly would be at odds, however, the Council brings them together and gets them talking and gets the group to agree to work together in order to make life better for individuals with disabilities."*

~ from ICDD annual stakeholder survey





## Listening and Learning: Supporting All Idahoans and Ensuring Equal Access

The Council contracted with a **Community Connector/Cultural Broker** who did outreach to the Hispanic community and provided educational activities for Spanish-speaking families who have children with developmental disabilities. In addition, Council staff hosted community potluck dinners to build awareness and increase connections between Caldwell community members.



ICDD co-hosted a **cultural competency educational event** with the IDHW Division of Maternal and Child Health for Council members, DD Network partners, agency staff, and board members of the Idaho Coalition of Women of Color. The event continued the Council's work to become a more culturally competent organization and increase our ability to engage individuals and family members of different cultures in our projects in culturally sensitive ways and inform our work to ensure equal access to needed services, supports, and community resources.

*Sonya Rosario (pictured left), who is with the Women of Color Alliance, co-facilitated the July 2016 "Building Bridges and Breaking Barriers" cultural competency educational event.*



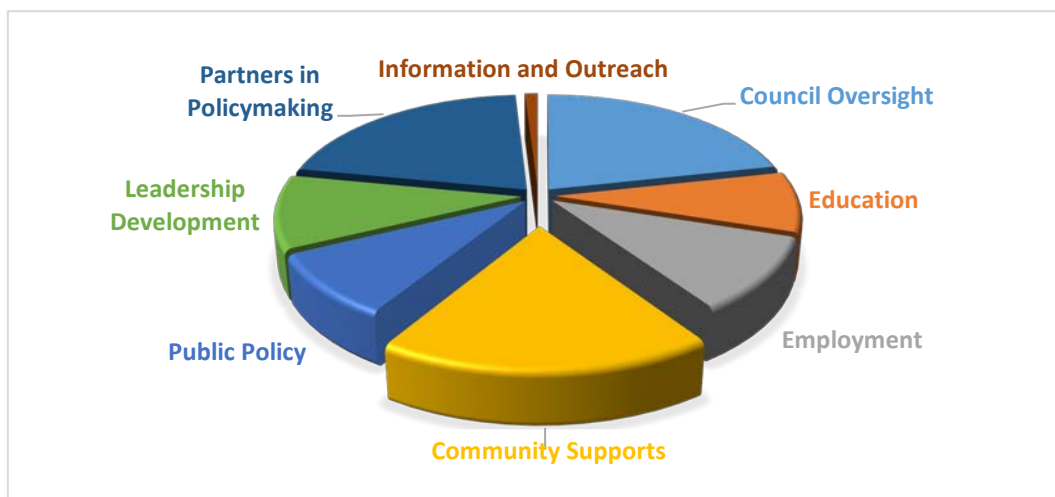


Partners graduate, Korynne Donehey and her person-centered PATH plan.

*"I wanted to take a moment to thank you again for the invitation to the conference this past weekend. It was truly a privilege for me to attend, to hear about experiences from our participants and families, and to see the power that self-advocates have. It was a truly remarkable experience. I look forward to discussing and brainstorming ideas about PCP(person-centered planning) with you all in the future. If there are more opportunities to get together in the future, please reach out to me." ~Donny Jardine, Medicaid Program Specialist, after attending PIP training in person-centered planning.*

## Use of Resources

The Council receives federal funding as appropriated under the federal Developmental Disabilities Act and a state appropriation under the Idaho law for the Idaho State Council on Developmental Disabilities – 67-6701. This chart shows how Council resources, including program staff time, were used over the past year to make progress towards goals.





## Members



*"The ICDD does an excellent job at staying abreast of critical issues facing Idahoans with developmental disabilities and the community as a whole.*

*They collaborate well with agencies, advocates, individuals, and policymakers."*

*New Council members: (pictured clockwise from top left) Emily Petersen, Holly Giglio, Korynne Donehey, Jessica Rachels, Carly Saxe, and Art Evans.*

Debra Parsons, **Chair**, Parent, Victor  
Rebekah Forster-Casey, **Vice Chair**, Parent, Coeur d'Alene  
Alan Aamodt, Vocational Rehabilitation  
Jim Baugh, Disability Rights Idaho  
Ian Bott, Self-Advocate, Boise  
David Dekker, Self-Advocate, Jerome  
Korynne Donehey, Self-Advocate, Idaho Falls  
Raul Enriquez, Commission on Aging  
Art Evans, IDHW-Division of Medicaid  
Julie Fodor, Center on Disabilities and Human Development, U of I  
Holly Giglio, Parent, Ammon  
Jacob Head, Self-Advocate, Rexburg  
Kristie Oaks, Parent, Eagle  
Emily Petersen, Parent, Kimberly  
Jessica Rachels, Parent, Coeur d'Alene  
Joe Raiden, Self-Advocate, Moscow  
TeRonda Robinson, Community Partnerships of Idaho  
Carly Saxe, Self-Advocate, Eagle  
Kelby Selders, Parent, Meridian  
Charlie Silva, Department of Education  
Colleen Sisk, Partnerships for Inclusion  
James Steed, Person Living in an Institution, Blackfoot  
Jacquie Watson, IDHW-Maternal and Child Health

# Vision

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

*Clyde Hansen shared his gift of baking with his fellow Partners in Policymaking classmates.*

*[Pictured on the cover – Partners in Policymaking class of 2016]*



## Contact Us

*The Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities is located in the Joe R. Williams Building just north of the Idaho statehouse.*

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