

## 2006-2007 YEAR IN REVIEW

In 2006-2007, the North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities (NCCDD) worked in partnership with its grantees to carry out activities that make life better and promote community inclusion for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I&DD). NCCDD awarded federal grants to grass roots advocacy groups, government agencies, disability non-profits and other community groups. These awards are designed to support effective, innovative initiatives, under the authority vested in Councils by the United States Congress in the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (PL 106-402). Each year, the work of the North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities changes lives -- and the way services and supports are provided. At NCCDD, we call what we do "building bridges to community."

### EMPLOYMENT

People with I&DD make great employees and want to work. NCCDD's **TEAMING UP FOR SUCCESS** project assisted students in transitioning from school to integrated employment or post-secondary education. By providing catering services for county meetings, students demonstrated the benefits of and need, among this age group, for increased transition services and supported employment. Through its **NC NETWORK FOR ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGE**, the Council worked with community rehabilitation programs across the state to transform services and to transition 1,163 individuals from Adult Day Vocational Programs to jobs in the community.

### HOUSING

A home of one's own is a big part of almost everyone's quality of life. Having a home assists people in achieving other life goals, including education, relationships and employment. People with disabilities want real homes -- homes they rent or own -- but very little affordable, accessible, safe housing is available. If someone finds a home, he or she may then have trouble getting the supports in place necessary to live there. NCCDD continued to collaborate with groups such as the NC Department of Health and Human Services' Housing Workgroup to build capacity in neighborhoods throughout the state. The Council also contributed to the development of the NC Housing Coalition's **AFFORDABLE HOUSING PRIMER**.

### HEALTH

More and more people with intellectual and developmental disabilities grow up, live, work and retire in communities. Finding health care providers who welcome people with I&DD, whose offices are physically accessible and who have the necessary training can be challenging. The Council funded three projects in this area. The **ACCESS DENTAL** project brought high quality dentistry to people with I&DD in their communities; pinpointed policies that needed change; and, with support from seniors who also would benefit from this approach, leveraged \$200,000 from the NC General Assembly. The

Council's **ACCESS TO PRIMARY HEALTH CARE** project created a "mini-fellowship" for physicians and other strategies for educating health care providers, while the **PRIMARY HEALTH CARE MANAGEMENT** initiative strengthened linkages between families and community health practitioners. The Access to Health Care projects were also evaluated on their impact on target populations. NCCDD's **MEDICAID EARLY AND PERIODIC SCREENING, DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT (EPSDT)** project increased the numbers of families and children using the Medicaid Health Check program by training parents, advocates and providers.

The **LIVING WELL** initiative's four projects and evaluation team made significant headway in advancing the benefits of community wellness activities. **PEER CONNECTIONS** taught healthy living to self-advocates, using peer mentoring, while **HEALTHY LIVES, HEALTHY FUTURES** promoted fitness activities along with participation in the arts. The **ADVANCING PHYSICAL FITNESS AND WELLNESS** project included a health education class where 10 individuals showed improvement in body weight, energy levels, flexibility, and knowledge of nutrition and exercise. **LIVING WELL NC** assisted people in taking responsibility for their own health through personal planning, while also offering classes for high school and college students interested in health careers.

### PARTNERSHIPS OF THE YEAR

*Through ongoing funding, the NCCDD is continually building its partnerships throughout North Carolina's communities. In 2006-2007, we were pleased to award funding for the following projects and work in collaboration with them to build and strengthen "bridges to community."*

**ACCESS DENTAL**- Access Dental Care, Greensboro

**ACCESS TO PRIMARY HEALTH CARE**- Mountain Area Health Education Center (AHEC), Asheville

**ADVANCING PHYSICAL FITNESS & WELLNESS**- YMCA of Northwest North Carolina, Winston-Salem

**AGING DOING IT MY WAY: HEALTH CARE**- Ashe Services for Aging, West Jefferson

**ASSOCIATION OF SELF ADVOCATES OF NC: INFRASTRUCTURE & STAFF SUPPORT**- NCCDD internal project, statewide

**ASSET BUILDING COLLABORATIVE**- MDC, Inc., statewide

**EVALUATION FOR LIVING WELL IN NORTH CAROLINA**- DD Consultation & Psychological Services, Sanford

**GROWING OLDER AT HOME WITH SUPPORT**- Ashe Services for Aging, West Jefferson

**HEALTHY LIVES, HEALTHY FUTURES**- Cabarrus Co. Dept. of Aging & Senior Ctr., Concord

**LIFE GUARDIANSHIP: DOING IT THEIR WAY**- Arc of North Carolina, Inc., statewide

**LIVING WELL IN NORTH CAROLINA**- Stevens Foundation, Sanford

**MEDICAID - EPDST**- National Health Law Program, statewide

**NETWORK FOR ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGE**- University of Tennessee

**PARTICIPANT INVOLVEMENT FUND**- NCCDD internal project, statewide

**PARTNERS IN JUSTICE**- Arc of North Carolina, Inc., statewide

**PEER CONNECTIONS**- Human Services Research Institute

**PRIMARY HEALTH CARE MANAGEMENT**- UNC-Chapel Hill

**PROJECT VIGOR**- Arc of Wake County, Raleigh

**TEAMING UP FOR SUCCESS**- Brunswick Community College, Supply

VISIT THE COUNCIL'S WEB SITE AT [WWW.NCCDD.ORG](http://WWW.NCCDD.ORG) OR CALL 1-800-357-6916 OR 919-420-7901

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### QUALITY ASSURANCE

Upholding its belief in quality of life, the Council focused on activities in the area of quality assurance. The Asheville Coalition, facilitated by **ECOLOGY FOR CHANGE**, highlighted best practices for the delivery of personalized supports in one to three person settings. Under **PEOPLE CAN'T WAIT**, NCCDD collaborated with the NC Division of Medical Assistance on its "Money Follows the Person" demonstration project application. This work resulted in North Carolina receiving \$16.9 million from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services over the next five years to assist in transitioning people from institutions to homes in the community.

The Council's **COLLEGE OF DIRECT SUPPORT** created the state's first competency-based, on-line curriculum for frontline staff (direct support professionals). Other initiatives included development of the **NORTH CAROLINA DISABILITY ACTION NETWORK (NC DAN)**, a grassroots, cross-disability community action network, while the **PARTICIPANT INVOLVEMENT FUND** made it possible for people with I&DD and their family members to attend advocacy and educational events of their choice.

### COMMUNITY SUPPORTS

**GROWING OLDER AT HOME WITH SUPPORTS** was designed to aid older adults with I&DD, as well as aging caregivers, by offering activities to increase participants' community involvement. **AGING: DOING IT MY WAY** also focused on older adults by providing respite for families, while **PROJECT VIGOR** identified exemplary options for leisure, wellness and companionship. **LIFE GUARDIANSHIP: DOING IT THEIR WAY** ensured that planning for later-life was personalized to each person's unique needs. The Council's **ASSET BUILDING COLLABORATIVE** project successfully presented information to over 300 self-advocates, family members and professionals on ways to "earn money, save it, and watch it grow." **PARTNERS IN JUSTICE** organized the first collaborative conference in NC for judges, attorneys, law enforcement officers, magistrates, corrections officers, and human service professionals to improve the outcomes for people with disabilities who interact with the criminal justice system.

### COMMUNICATIONS

NCCDD's **COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC AWARENESS** project generated greater awareness of the Council, its goals, and its projects. During the year, NCCDD published its highly popular **DISABILITY DOESN'T DEFINE ME** poster series, which drew national attention. The Council also continued to use publications such as "People First," "People First for Teens" and "People First, K-5" to increase public awareness and heighten understanding.

Cover artwork: "Comics and Stories, Part 1," Merlin Strivelli, Weaverville, NC. The Smithsonian Institution displayed this piece following an award to the artist from VSA Arts in a 2007 national juried exhibition. The NCCDD thanks Mr. Strivelli for permission to use his work.



**SADIE BREWINGTON BARBOUR, NCCDD MEMBER: MEDICAID EPSDT**

*Parent Sadie Barbour, a professional working with North Carolina's American Indian community, knows*

*the importance of services to children, 0-21, who live in rural areas.*

*"Learning about programs like EPSDT Health Check gives families an option they might not have known about. Getting a child the services they need and seeing the difference it makes brings hope to the whole family."*



**ELLEN PERRY, FORMER NCCDD MEMBER: PEER CONNECTIONS**

*Ms. Perry knows that the key to healthy living and physical activity is an active social life. "My friends and I help each other stay healthy. That's what peer support is about - friends helping friends live good lives."*

*"Peer Connections" teaches healthy living to self-advocates through peer mentoring at monthly wellness meetings.*



# THE COUNCIL



From left, Council members Winton and Horowitz, and Executive Director Riddle.

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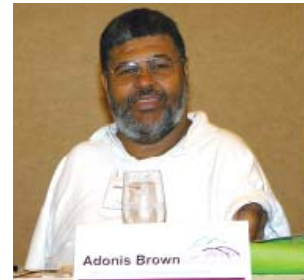
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From left, Council members Olley and Smith

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**LAURA YATES- NC DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS, EX-OFFICIO**

## DAVID HOROWITZ, M.D., NCCDD MEMBER: ACCESS TO PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

*Dr. David Horowitz, pediatrician and father of a young woman with developmental disabilities, sees patients with I&DD and their families struggle to find quality, barrier-free, primary health care. "Pediatricians regularly*

*provide care coordination to people of varying developmental levels; but adult medical providers do not have this type of training. Finding doctors for adults with developmental disabilities can be particularly difficult."*

*Dr. Horowitz saw the need for the Access to Health Care initiative. It has reduced barriers in medical care, increased quality dental care and provided training on I&DD for health care professionals.*



Photo courtesy of Mountain Area Health Education Center



## North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities 2006-2007 Annual Report

### REPORT FROM THE COUNCIL

Looking back over the 2006-2007 program year, the North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities takes satisfaction in the progress made. We are also mindful that much remains to be done. The Council must remain vigilant to identify emerging trends and to determine which systems change, advocacy and capacity building strategies will result in changes that matter to self-advocates and families and that strengthen the foundation, focus and values upon which North Carolina's I&DD system is based. The Council is committed to charting a course for North Carolina that is informed by on-going dialog with the public and our stakeholders; directed by the families, self-advocates and key policymakers who together comprise the Council; and effective, efficient, accountable and sustainable.

The Council thanks the many who have provided valuable support during the year, including people with disabilities, their families, our grantees, collaborating organizations, policymakers and the public. In the year to come, the NCCDD renews its commitment to building bridges to community for all North Carolinians with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

Respectfully,

*Holly Riddle*  
Holly Riddle, J. D., M. Ed.  
Executive Director

*Robert J. Rickelman*  
Robert J. (Bob) Rickelman, Ph.D.  
Chairman



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