

Moving Forward... by Chris Egan, Executive Director

Welcome to my first *Catalyst* article in which I want to share my excitement and appreciation for all the Council is doing. As we close out 2014 and look towards 2015, we are seeing significant changes across the state's system of services, including:

- Local Managed Care Entity-Managed Care Organizations (LME-MCO): We expect to see continuing evolution over the next year, especially with more LME-MCOs combining. The General Assembly continues questioning some aspects of LME-MCOs so we may see significant changes to the system. We are keeping an eye on this.

- Responsive Services and Supports: The Council is promoting and increasing community awareness of more flexible services for individuals with intellectual and other developmental disabilities and

their families. We have 20 active initiatives that are spot-on in terms of range and importance of efforts.

- Stakeholders and other planning meetings: Those gathering for these meetings are focusing on a range of important areas including the NC Innovations Waiver (NC's Home and Community Waiver), employment, quality in service provision, education, early intervention, housing and much more.

As I consider our priorities for 2015, we must set our sights on working to increase the awareness both within the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and state government to connect with the leadership of LME-MCO's, renew our partnership with advocacy organizations and providers and make inroads with our community. Connecting and building collaborative opportunities with non-

traditional partners can and will help lead to a welcoming and more diverse community.

It is my honor to serve as the Council's executive director and to work in partnership to help the North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities (NCCDD) achieve its mission to ensure that people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities and their families participate in the design of, and have access to, culturally competent services and supports, as well as other assistance and opportunities, which promote inclusive communities.



Catalyst for Change

WINTER 2014



Award winners, l-r, are Joan Johnson, Kurt Timothy Reid and Maureen Morrell.

Honors Go to Three Outstanding Individuals for Their Work in Improving the Lives of People with Intellectual and Other Developmental Disabilities

Two distinguished professionals received the prestigious Helen C. "Holly" Riddle Distinguished Service Award while one self-advocate took home the Jack B. Hefner Memorial Award at the annual North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities (NCCDD) awards event on November 19.

Joan S. Johnson, executive director of Beyond Academics at UNC-Greensboro and Maureen Morrell, a special projects director for the Autism Society of North Carolina, both received the Riddle Award for their professional work with North Carolina's families and people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities. Kurt Timothy Reid was honored with the Hefner Award for his advocacy of individuals with autism.

Holding an Associate's degree from Catawba Valley Community College, a Bachelor's degree from Appalachian State University, and a Master's in Library Science from Appalachian State, self-advocate, Kurt Timothy Reid, has shown a passion for learning starting in kindergarten.

Beginning his academic life in a self-contained class for children with autism, the school's kindergarten teacher saw Kurt's promise and put him in her classroom full-time. By middle school, Kurt fell in love with the school library where he 'hung out' until his Dad could take him home each day. As he learned more about library

Newly Funded Initiatives in 2014

Several new initiatives began in 2014 with the support of Council funding:

NC Chapter of the National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals

The Council's goal is to enhance the status of direct support professionals and promote the development of a highly competent human services workforce supporting individuals with I/DD.

Safety and Security: Addressing Sexual and Domestic Violence Against People with I/DD

Council funding will offer resources to provide information to people with I/DD to assist them in being safe from abuse, neglect and harm and to equip direct support professionals and domestic violence support staff with the tools to meet the needs of victims with I/DD.

Upward to Financial Stability

Providing both funding and resources, the Council will promote opportunities for people with I/DD to advance their economic self-sufficiency by developing financial literacy and asset building skills.

Sibling Support

Utilizing Council funds and resources, this initiative will assist siblings of individuals with I/DD in providing informal and natural supports for their brother or sister.

Currently, there are 23 Council funded initiatives that are active and ongoing.

"Catalyst" - An instrument for change



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Advancing Strong Leadership Initiative offers participants the opportunity to come together with a faculty of national experts on progressive supports for people with disabilities.

The initiative emphasizes innovation and collaboration and offers a formal self-assessment of leadership strengths and needs, group problem solving, lectures/presentations, small group work aimed at accomplishing personal and organizational goals and activities designed to identify and enhance individual leadership skills.

Dates for the next Advancing Strong Leadership classes will be announced soon. Watch for updates at <http://bit.ly/15MK0Zo>.

Governor Appoints Katie Holler to NCCDD

Governor Pat McCrory recently appointed Katie Holler to the North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities. The Council is a 40-member, governor-appointed body with 60 percent of its members mandated to be people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities (I/DD) or family members of people with I/DD.

A Greenville, NC resident, Holler works as an Autism Resource Specialist for the Autism Society of North Carolina. She and her husband, David, have five daughters ranging from ages six to 12 years old. Holler plans to use her time on the Council to support initiatives that promote educational opportunities for professionals, parents and individuals with I/DD. She also hopes

to increase the public's awareness of the Council and its role in advocacy for individuals with I/DD and their families.

“As a mother of children who have I/DD, my hope is that the world becomes more aware, knowledgeable and sensitive to the challenges that individuals with I/DD and their families’ experience,” Holler said.



-Awards...continued from page 1-

ies, he chose to intern in his high school library where he won the Library Club Scholarship as well as the Library Award.

While in college, Kurt became active in the Autism Speaks chapter on his campus. Armed with his life experience with autism, Kurt created and presented workshops through his college's library science program on “Social Skills for Teens with Autism” and “Tips for Librarians to Help Patrons with Autism”. Currently Kurt is creating a library orientation program called “SPOT: Special Populations Orientation Training” to help library workers assist people with all types of disabilities. Kurt has volunteered for several libraries including the Newton Library, Sherrills Ford Library, Conover Library, Claremont Library, Patrick Beaver Library and the Boone Public Library.

For nearly 40 years, Joan S. Johnson has worked with various community based supports and services for people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities. Currently, Joan is the University of North Carolina-Greensboro's project director for Beyond Academics, a certificate program for students with intellectual and other developmental disabilities that provides student support for participation in the Integrative Community Studies program offered by the university. The program, which emphasizes higher education, self-determination, community inclusion, career development and independent living, has been recognized nationally for its quality outcomes.

A graduate of UNC-Greensboro, as well as a graduate of the State of North Carolina's Public Manager program, Joan's leadership has extended well beyond the UNC-Greensboro campus with her service as the policy committee chair for the North Carolina Post-Secondary Education Alliance, consultation to Centers for Medicare/Medicaid Services and to 10 other colleges and universities outside of North Carolina.

Maureen Morrell, formerly a nurse in rural Appalachia, has been active in advocacy for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and their families for over 30 years. She has worked for the Autism Society of North Carolina (ASNC) as part of its leadership team, a board member and a benefactor. In her current position, Maureen works with ASNC's 50 support groups and chapters across the state.

Maureen is married with three sons; Justin, the oldest at 28, has autism and lives and works in a residential farm community. In 1998, she received ASNC's Parent of the Year Award. She is the co-author of the 2007 Autism Society of America's Outstanding Literary Work of the Year: *Parenting Across the Autism Spectrum: Unexpected Lessons We Have Learned*. Maureen has a bachelor's degree in Nursing and a Master of Public Health.

Called a mentor, advocate, encourager and beacon of hope by those who supported her nomination, Maureen gives her time as an advisor for a variety of other organizations including GHA Autism Supports, Institute of Medicine, North Carolina's Department of Health and Human Services and several others.

SEG Lists 2014 Achievements and 2015 Goals

Because North Carolina wants to make changes to the way Medicaid services are delivered, the Council has funded an initiative to create a stakeholder engagement group (SEG) consisting of family members and individuals with disabilities to develop a consensus about what is needed from a long-term care system—the values, principles, needs, and outcomes that are important—and then to communicate that consensus to key decision makers.

A list of “Outcomes and Expectations for Managed Long Term Services and Supports”, online at <http://bit.ly/1rosmiU>, emerged from these stakeholder discussions. This list was sent to the Medicaid Reform Advisory Group, the North Carolina General Assembly Legislative Oversight Committees on Health and Human Services, leaders at the LME/MCO level, and various others across the state.

The group's 2015 goals include:

- Increase members' ability to advocate effectively.
- Continuous education of SEG members.
- Support SEG members in educating and engaging cross disability and local community groups.
- Convene a special topics team to provide expertise and subject matter knowledge to advance progress in select outcome areas.
- Provide consultation to DMH/DD/SAS on a range of system reform strategies.



An innovative leadership training program, Partners in Policymaking™ provides adults with disabilities and the parents of young children with developmental disabilities the skills needed to be effective advocates.

Participants learn how to build partnerships with elected officials, legislators, agencies and opinion leaders so they can better express their views on the policy decisions affecting the services they and their families use.

Partners' participants gain self confidence, learn and absorb the information received and become comfortable in sharing their experiences and views with others.

The dates of the 2015 Partners program will be announced soon, so please watch <http://bit.ly/1HSkJvI> for details.



NCCDD's 2015 Executive Council Elected

Congratulations to members of the 2015 Executive Committee elected at the November Council meeting. The new members are: (front row, l-r) Carrie Ambrose and Crystal Bowe, (back row, l-r) Adonis Brown, Anna Cunningham, Ron Reeve (chair), I. Azell Reeves and Sam Miller.

NCCDD Helps State Implement Plan for Emergency Preparedness

Work is underway to ensure the needs of North Carolina's most vulnerable populations are addressed during disasters.

For the past year more than 100 emergency management planners, first responders, state agencies, partner organizations, family members and self-advocates have been meeting to determine specific ways to better prepare and serve the emergency needs of the whole community.

To address those unmet needs, North Carolina Emergency Management started the Emergency Preparedness Initiative, a four-year program to identify and prioritize action items needed to better prepare people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities for emergencies.

“The aftermath of hurricanes Katrina and Sandy revealed gaping holes in preparedness and response plans for the elderly and persons with functional needs,” said State Emergency Management director Mike Sprayberry. “This program is designed to identify and address those needs for North Carolina residents.”

The group examined communication, health, safety and transportation needs whether preparing for or responding to emergencies. The result was a detailed four-year technical plan that outlines specific strategies to improve policies and plans, expand partnerships, enhance community awareness, develop specific tools or products and implement training for responders and support professionals.

In addition to developing the technical plan, during the initiative's first year, the group:

- Surveyed transportation service providers on capacity and capability to serve individuals with access and functional needs during an emergency.
- Through collaborative state partnership, identified a communication tool to use in shelters for occupants who have functional communication needs or limited English proficiency.
- Improved accessibility of the ReadyNC.org website.

The Emergency Preparedness Initiative is made possible by a multi-year grant from the NCCDD.