

Catalyst for Change

WINTER 2012



NEWS OF THE NORTH CAROLINA COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Money Follows the Person Makes Impact



An innovative and dramatic initiative, Money Follows the Person (MFP) is hitting its stride in North

Carolina. More than 160 people have moved from institutions into their own homes or small scale residences in the community through the program.



Above, Kristina Ralston and her mother in Raleigh; Below, Henry Deese and guardian in Charlotte.



The NCCDD assisted the NC Department of Health and Human Services with its initial MFP application to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and also funded an initiative, "Seeing is Believing," to model voluntary

conversion of congregate, group homes to personalized services and supports in the community. Now the MFP program opens the door to community participation for many North Carolinians with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and many who are aging.



Howard "Jabril" Pearsall with his mother and Direct Service Professional in Winston-Salem.

Money Follows the Person, see page 2

Advancing Strong Leaders



2011 Graduates of the Advancing Strong Leadership in Developmental Disabilities, along with their instructors and NCCDD representatives, mark their achievement at the final session in Pinehurst. Read more on page 2.

Hawkins wins 2011 Hefner Award

She started as a parent concerned about her son, who has a developmental disability. As she learned more about the needs and support systems available, she moved into action.

Connie

Hawkins founded the Exceptional Children's Assistance Center (ECAC), which has become one of North Carolina's leading service organizations. Her achievements with ECAC and her strong voice on disability issues in the region and nation led to her selection as the winner of the Council's 2011 Hefner Award.



Parent-advocate Connie Hawkins, founded ECAC.

"This honor for Connie Hawkins is richly deserved, since she has been a pioneer in informing parents of children with disabilities of their rights and their opportunities," said Holly Riddle, executive director

of the NC Council on Developmental Disabilities.

From its start in 1981 as an all volunteer organization based in Hawkins' attic, ECAC has grown to four offices across North Carolina with some 30 employees and numerous parents and others who contribute their time.

Hefner Award, see page 2

The Advancing Strong Leadership in Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (ASLiDD) initiative ended on a high note, amid widespread indications of success. The leadership training program had a targeted goal, to take a group of people selected for their potential to become leaders in the field and to give them the skills needed to succeed.

Nancy Weiss, of the University of Delaware's National Leadership Consortium on Developmental Disabilities, who co-directed the initiative, said 25 completed the program. "Our participants took the program seriously; their knowledge and skills will help them play key roles in the field of disabilities in the future."



Nancy Weiss, co-director of Advancing Strong Leaders in I/DD.

Kerri Erb of the Autism Society of North Carolina, a participant in the program who acted as a spokesperson for the graduates, said they were impressed by the caliber of speakers in each training session, which extended over a period of two years. "We became even more excited about what the future may hold and our commitment to the goals grew," she said. The graduates plan to stay in touch with each other in the months and years to come.

NCCDD Executive Director Holly Riddle said a primary reason for the Council to provide a grant for Advancing Strong Leadership was the realization

Hefner Award, from page 1

Connie Hawkins is now a leading advocate on the national scene for improved and expanded educational opportunities for children with disabilities

that so many current managers in the field of development disabilities were approaching retirement. "I think this initiative gives us the sense that these agencies will be in the hands of leaders who embrace the values and principles that matter to people and who know how to translate these into policy and practice," she said.

Agencies and organizations from around the state were represented among the participants, with Easter Seals United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) alone having three people involved. All the employing organizations gave their approval for participation, ensuring regular attendance.

Graduates were enthusiastic about the program and some said it was a life-changing experience.

"It has been a great experience and has helped me focus my vision for the future and develop a plan of action that will make me a more effective advocate and leader," said Zondra Moss, who is with Easter Seals UCP in Charlotte.

Nationally recognized authorities on disability issues and organizational and management skills spoke to the emerging leaders, who had a chance to interact with them and their classmates, and to discuss questions at length.

Consideration is being given to supporting a similar program in the future. and supports for parents.

The Hefner Award honors former NCCDD member and longtime advocate, Jack B. Hefner.

Money Follows the Person, from page 1

Program Director Trish Farnham reports that not only does MFP make it possible for the residents to move, but the state benefits as well. Preliminary data indicates that the costs to the state for people with intellectual disabilities are reduced by 23 percent, while the costs for the elderly in the program drop by 33 percent.

In addition to the preliminary data, the experiences of several people aided by the program offers added positive testimony to its value. One young man, who would hardly speak when living in a large facility, now can speak in sentences and enjoys singing. And an older gentleman, now living in Charlotte, has become more alert and takes an active role in the community.

A 35-year-old man in Greensboro used MFP to move and is active with art projects. He has won state awards for his work. His behavior suggests a much greater satisfaction with his life.

One woman in Raleigh, with cerebral palsy, now has the ability to make basic choices in her life and with the assistance of an aide enjoys going shopping, to a movie or a restaurant regularly.



Ronnie Deaver with his mother and sister in Hickory.

Farnham reports that the program has brought new satisfaction to many.

Bohlander now Assistant Director

Kelly Bohlander has been named Assistant Director of Program Management for the NCCDD. Bohlander had served as a program manager, working on health care, aging and relationships issues. She has a dual master's degree in public administration and social work.



Kelly Bohlander

MEETING AID FROM THE ROSSI FUND

FUNDS MAY BE AVAILABLE TO INDIVIDUALS WITH I/DD, PARENTS OR GUARDIANS TO ATTEND EVENTS THAT IMPROVE KNOWLEDGE, HELP NETWORKING AND BUILD SELF ADVOCACY SKILLS. QUALIFYING NC RESIDENTS MAY RECEIVE UP TO \$ 600 FOR SUCH EVENTS IN STATE, OR \$ 800 FOR OUT-OF-STATE EVENTS.

TO APPLY, GO TO :

nccdd.org/services/rossi_fund.html



For NCCDD website, scan with mobile device.

Board Welcomes New Advocates, Professionals 3

Several newly appointed members of the NCCDD were introduced at its fall meeting, bringing additional perspectives to the Council's deliberations. Council members, who were appointed by Governor Beverly Perdue, include self-advocates, parents and guardians of people with developmental disabilities, and representatives of concerned public agencies and organizations.

Crystal Bowe, M.D., of Greenville, NC, who acts as a guardian for four relatives, has joined the Council as an advocate. A self-advocate who is now a member of the Council is Eric Chavis, of Greensboro, who has served as president of the Association of Self-Advocates of North Carolina.

John Carbone, M.D., J.D., of Wake County, represents the NC Department of Corrections and is also joining the

NCCDD. Michael Groves of Dunn, NC, is a member of the Harnett County Indian Association.

Also named a member of the Council is Elizabeth Harpootlian of Charlotte, an active self-advocate in her home area.

Miller, Ph.D., a professor of education and department chair at UNC-Greensboro, and father of a son with a disability. Dr. Miller has written extensively on learning and disability issues.

"This is a splendid group of new Council members," said the NC CDD chairman, Robert J. (Bob) Rickelman. "I know they will all be able to provide valuable insights and understanding as we address issues important to the citizens of North Carolina."



From top left, Elizabeth Ann Harpootlian of Mecklenburg County, Eric Chavez of Guilford County, Michael Groves a Representative of Harnett County Indian Association, Coharie Intra-Tribal Council, Samuel Miller, Ph.D., of Forsyth County. Renate Macchirole of Dare County, Crystal Bowe, M.D. of Forsyth County and John Carbone, M.D., J.D. of Wake County.

A public member who brings the viewpoint of direct service professionals is Renate Macchirole, of Nags Head, who is with Monarch, Inc.

Another new member is Samuel

The Council is now comprised of 40 members and, by federal law, a majority of the members must be people with intellectual or developmental disabilities, or parents or guardians of a person with intellectual or other developmental disabilities.

Council Leadership 2012

Officers selected by the Council for 2012 include Crystal Foreman and Jonathan Ellis as vice-chairs, aiding Bob Rickelman, who continues as chair.

Caroline Ambrose chairs the Advocacy and Leadership Committee, I. Azell Reeves chairs Community Capacity Building and



From left standing, Walter Ruff, I. Azell Reeves, Bob Rickelman, Ph.D., Bob Sagerman, M.D., sitting, Crystal Lee Foreman, Caroline "Carrie" Ambrose and Jonathan Ellis.

Paul Sagerman will head the Systems Change Committee. Walter Ruff will serve as secretary treasurer.

State Statutes now reflect People First Language

Research reveals a dramatic increase in the use of People First language in state statutes, a result of the state law passed in 2009 requiring the use of respectful wording.

Some 23 objectionable phrases that had been used to describe people with intellectual or developmental disabilities were tracked and thousands of such references were removed. An examination of the statutes at the time of passage and again this fall revealed the progress made.

Specifics can be found on the Council's website at nccdd.org/home/peoplefirst.html

4 The Road Ahead...

Guided by our newly adopted five-year plan, the North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities is prepared to move forward with an aggressive action agenda to meet the needs of those it serves.

Hard on the heels of the Beyond Academics commencement, we are marking the graduation of our Advancing Strong Leadership participants, a select cadre of "next generation" professional leaders in the fields. The Council sees this education program for emerging leaders of organizations serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) as key to assuring a high level of services and supports in the future. The Council congratulates and thanks Steve Eidelman and Nancy Weiss, of the National Leadership Consortium on Developmental Disabilities, who have directed the program.

Another initiative supported by the NCCDD, Money Follows the

Person (MFP), continues as a part of the NC Department of Health and Human Services. We are pleased to see that MFP is available to help people with I/DD in transition from institutions to independent settings in the community.

The Council also intends to remain focused on the serious question of unemployment among people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities, where the rate is nearly four times that experienced by people without disabilities. Current economic conditions only compound these problems. Our work with the Alliance for Full Participation, the State Employment Leadership Network, and other efforts promote the hiring of people with disabilities.

In addition to working in these areas through grant initiatives, the NCCDD will maintain its ability to analyze developments and proposals impacting people with I/DD and



monitor public policy actions and trends.

There will continue to be challenges that affect the lives of people with I/DD and their opportunities for the future. The Council will redouble its efforts to represent their interests and those of their families, towards a brighter future for all North Carolinians.

Sincerely,

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

HELLO TO YOU

A new feature coming soon on the NCCDD website is called "Hello To You," and it covers news and useful information of particular interest to self-advocates. Written in accessible language, the feature also makes use of video material that can be accessed at the push of a button. The first postings concern employment, for example, how to go about landing a job and keeping it. Self-advocates who have been successful in the world of work give tips on how to present oneself to an employer and what's important on the job.

North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities
Note new address:
3125 Poplarwood Court, Suite 200
Raleigh, NC 27604
919-850-2901 www.nccdd.org
If you would like a name to be added or removed from this mailing list, contact Cora Gibson at (919) 850-2901, or e-mail info@nccdd.org, 800-357-6916 toll free

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