



MISSISSIPPI COUNCIL
ON
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

2013 Annual Report



www.msccd.org

601-359-6238



The **Mississippi Council on Developmental Disabilities (MSCDD)** was established by the federal Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (Public Law 106-402) and Executive Order of the Governor in 1971. MSCDD currently has 25 members appointed by the Governor. By law, more than sixty percent of each Council's membership must consist of individuals with developmental disabilities (DD) or their family members. Specific state agency representatives also serve as members. This diversity enables Councils to better analyze and improve systems and services within the state and ensure that the voices of people with developmental disabilities and their families are heard. Councils are guided by 5-year state plans that address ways of improving service delivery. The current state plan is available on the MSCDD website: www.msccd.org.



Across the U.S. and its territories, 56 Councils on Developmental Disabilities engage in **advocacy, systems change, and capacity building to address the most pressing needs of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families**. Councils work as self-governing organizations to empower people to achieve their maximum potential for self-determination, integration, and inclusion into their communities. Key activities include funding innovative demonstration projects, conducting outreach, providing training and technical assistance, removing barriers, developing coalitions, encouraging citizen participation, and keeping policymakers informed about disability issues. Councils are funded through the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Community Living.



COUNCIL MEMBERS

Lee Alderman***
Josie Allston**
Mary Allsup**
Teresa Ayers**
Melinda Bertucci***
Laureta Cameron***
Alma Ellis***
Jim Gallaspy**
Nick Hartley***
Quess Hood**
Vicki Killingsworth*
Nickey Kirkwood*
Ashley Lacoste***
Ann Maclaine***
Dan McGaughy*
Shirley Miller**
Mary Moore**
Charlotte Myers**
Annette Rinehart**
Glenn Sanford*
Cindy Singletary*
Cynthia Street***
Dr. Jane Taylor**
Dr. Armerita Tell***
Dr. Alma Turner**
Ruby Wadford**

* Self-Advocate

** Parent/Family Representative

*** Agency Representative



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Annette Rinehart, Chair
Mary Allsup, Vice-Chair
Dan McGaughy, Past Chair
Shirley Miller, NACDD Delegate
Teresa Ayers, NACDD Delegate
Charlotte Myers, Monitoring and Evaluation Chair

COUNCIL STAFF

Charles Hughes, Jr., Executive Director
Christy Ashley, Program Coordinator
Debbie Jordan, Administrative Assistant



Council Meetings



Council Members Summit with Sheryl Matney, National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities, Louisville, MS



Council Meeting Locations:

Flowood

Pearl

Tupelo

Biloxi

FY2013 MSCDD Funded Projects



Community Resource Database is a comprehensive, searchable, and easy-to-use database of community resources throughout Mississippi. It is made available to assist intake specialists, case managers, service providers, and individuals in accessing information regarding formal and informal community supports. The goal is to improve knowledge and coordination of community services for individuals with disabilities statewide. The link to website is www.mscred.org.

Together: Homeownership for People with Disabilities in Mississippi is a 9-minute video detailing through personal experiences how individuals with developmental disabilities



and their families have become Mississippi homeowners. The video focuses on the steps, supports, services, and systems used to assist people with disabilities in becoming homeowners. To view this video, please visit www.msccdd.org.



I Can Do All Things is a recreational program providing individuals with a disability an opportunity to be successful in an area in which they are typically excluded. Programs include music therapy, show choir, buddy parties, rock band, praise band, pottery classes, photography classes, group sports, walking club, dance club, and Zumba class. All programs are inclusive to individuals, as well as family members and members of the general public.



Adventures for All is an inclusive recreation program that provides opportunities for participants of all ages and disabilities to have fun. It consists of eight adventure-based weekend retreats with recreational programs that offer a variety of adventure-packed activities to approximately 336 individuals. Activities range from confidence building to socialization.

Providing Telehealth Services in Rural Mississippi is an initiative to empower the community health care providers to increase the scope of their services for the care of children with developmental disabilities. This initiative strives to



eliminate geographic barriers to improve health care delivery. Services provided in this project include the availability and access to a developmental specialist through telemedicine, a connection between partners for healthcare delivery, and wellness education.



Advocacy TEAM Mississippi is a project to increase the number of youth and young adult self-advocates with disabilities. During this project, the Mississippi Self-Advocacy Team was re-established as an advisory council and provided self-advocacy training. Training was provided in North, South, and Central Mississippi. Three self-advocates that are members of this advocacy council received leadership and self-advocacy training that allowed them to become state trainers.



The **PEERs Program** is a best-practice model project implemented in North Mississippi through the Autism Center of North Mississippi. This practice was a 14-week social skills intervention designed to address some of the most devastating social consequences of Autism and other developmental disabilities. It taught participants how to utilize conversational skills, create and expand their social network, diminish effects of negative reputations, conduct recreational get-togethers, and respond appropriately to peer conflict. During this intervention, parents were also taught how to support their child's needs and activities.



Through efforts of the three DD Network partners (Mississippi Council on Developmental Disabilities, University of Southern Mississippi Institute for Disability Studies, and Disability Rights Mississippi), the Mississippi Council was awarded a \$1.8 million 5-year grant in 2011.



The Mississippi Partnerships for Employment (MSPE) of Youth and Young Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities is funded through the U.S. Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. Only six grants were awarded nationally originally. Since that time two additional states have been added. The goal of this grant is to build capacity across existing state systems for sustainable systems change that improves outcomes for youth and young adults with IDD seeking competitive employment in integrated settings. MSPE has developed and continues to maintain three subgroups:

Employment Work Group

This group focuses on identifying policies, removing barriers and improving access to competitive employment and systems change efforts. The work of the Employment Work Group is facilitated by Disability Rights Mississippi.

Stakeholders Group

This group focuses on training and technical assistance needs, identifying best practices, organizational transformation and reallocation of resources for systems change and is managed by the University of Southern Mississippi Institute for Disability Studies.

Consortium

The Consortium focuses on enhancing collaboration across existing state systems, including programs administered by state Developmental Disabilities agencies, Vocational Rehabilitation agencies, State Educational agencies, and other entities to increase competitive employment outcomes for youth and young adults with DD/ID. The Mississippi Council on Developmental Disabilities facilitates the Consortium. The Mississippi Council on Developmental Disabilities funded the following four demonstration projects through the Mississippi Partnerships in Employment grant. Three began August 1, 2012 and an additional project started in October 2013.





Gathering Grounds

Gathering Grounds is a community-based business (coffee/art shop) teaching students transitional work skills in an inclusive, safe environment. Students operate the coffee shop featuring original student artwork. The goal is to provide the extensive job skills training needed in the areas of employability and social skills to reach each student's goal of competitive, paid employment. The first year of this project transitioned five individuals into competitive, community employment.

Building Opportunities for Learning and Transition Success (BOLTS)

The main goal of BOLTS is to increase competitive employment outcomes and/or transition service for youth and young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities who attend the Oxford School District. It was accomplished by developing on-campus work training opportunities, creating job/career videos or pod casts through digital media, completing a *Preparing for Life Transition Planning Guide*, providing transition training opportunities, expanding the current array of transition services, and providing hands-on training for future teachers. The first year of this project transitioned 20 individuals into part-time or full-time, competitive, community employment.



Customized Employment: Linking Job Seekers with Employers



This initiative targeted three sheltered workshops and three public school districts to begin the process of Customized Employment to link job seekers to community employers. It sought to improve the current reimbursement system used by the Home and Community-Based Waiver and work with the Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services to contract with sheltered workshops to provide Customized Employment. In the first year, three individuals are in the middle of the discovery process and contracts have been

signed between the Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services and two of the sheltered workshops to begin reimbursement for providing Customized Employment services.

Seeking to Expand Employment through Knowledge of the ADA (SEEK ADA)

SEEK ADA was designed to improve employment outcomes for youth and young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Mississippi by educating consumers, family members, service providers, and employers regarding everyone's rights and responsibilities under Title I (employment) of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The first year of this project included designing training curriculums as well as awareness and education through trainings and brochure handouts.



Other Community Supports and Collaborations

Mental Health/IDD Joint Conference, Biloxi, MS

Down Syndrome Society, Jackson, MS

MS Chapter of the National Federation for the Blind, Tunica, MS

TEAAM, Living with Autism Seminar, Jackson, MS

Epilepsy Foundation of Mississippi, Hazlehurst, MS

Jackson Zoo, Dream Night, Jackson, MS

Southeastern Rett Syndrome Alliance, Birmingham, AL

Dept. of Mental Health Division of Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia, Meridian, MS

Brain Injury Association, Jackson, MS

Disability Connections, Job Fair, Gulfport, MS



**Mississippi disAbility MegaConference
Planning Committee**

**MSCDD supported 46 families to attend
the MegaConference.**



Mississippi Leadership Academy for Wellness and Smoking Cessation, Flowood, MS



Learning Collaborative National Meeting, Chicago, Illinois



Disability Policy Seminar, Capitol Hill Visits, Washington, DC



Disability Awareness Day, Mississippi State Capitol, Jackson, MS



Civic Engagement for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, Kettering Foundation, Dayton, Ohio

Mississippi disAbility MegaConference, Jackson, MS



Over 500 individuals with disabilities, family members, and professionals attended!



**Keynotes by: Serena Lowe, Office of Disability Employment Policy and
Christina Ha, Winner of Master Chef 3**

Mississippi disAbility MegaConference, Jackson, MS



Developmental Disabilities Network Partners Community Forums



Oxford, MS



Brandon, MS



Gulfport, MS

Products Disseminated



Mississippi Council on
Developmental Disabilities
Website: www.msccd.org

Products Disseminated



Homeownership for People with Disabilities Video DVD



FUSE Newsletter - A Mississippi DD Network Partners Publication



MSCDD Rack Card



Mississippi Partnerships for Employment of Youth and Young Adults Brochure

Alternate formats of products are available upon request.