



MISSISSIPPI COUNCIL
ON
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Promoting a Better Quality of Life for People with Developmental Disabilities

Fiscal Year 2019
Annual Report
October 1, 2018 – September 30, 2019

www.mscdd.org

601-359-6238

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Photo: Council Meeting held at the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum

- + *Agency Representative*
- * *Person with a disability or family member*

Staff

Charles Hughes, Jr., Executive Director
Christy Ashley, Program Coordinator
Comma McDuffey, Administrative Assistant

Alternate formats may be requested by contacting the MSCDD staff at 601-359-6238.

Areas of Emphasis Grants

The following projects were funded by Mississippi Council on Developmental Disabilities (MSCDD) during FY2019.



E-commerce Family Enterprise's primary focus was to establish a warehouse to serve as a training center and business incubator project with emphasis on e-commerce for people with developmental disabilities. This was the fourth year of the project and continuation of the farm entrepreneurship program. From the farming aspect, four high tunnels with aquaponics systems were constructed and all are owned or operated by people with developmental disabilities. All systems were constructed with

assistance from people with developmental disabilities. Mileston assisted people with developmental disabilities and their families in the promoting of new businesses and secured appropriate space and infrastructure essential to the opening of multiple businesses on behalf of those families. They successfully trained youth and others with developmental disabilities to write a food safety plan with the handling of produce from the farms. The plan was based on guidelines and regulations in compliance of the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). After training, Mileston now has a certified food safety manual based on Harmonized GAP agricultural practices. Additionally, the persons involved in writing this manual are also members of the food safety team. These individuals are ultimately responsible for Mileston food safety practices as described in GAP. During this year, Mileston incorporated certain aspects of GAP, including documentation. The project was audited and successfully met all standards and received certification. In the new activities for this year, people with developmental disabilities participated in the activation process of the internet, voice data and phone import system. The Hub now has high speed internet, voice data and phone lines to enhance internet capacities. Mileston youth developed a website to promote all businesses that opened inside the community facility as well off-site businesses. The youth organized a learning journey and educated 18 youth how to construct, design, and edit a webpage. As a result of the assessment the system was expanded and an upgrade will be completed.



Project SEARCH Southern Miss targeted young adults ages 18 and older with developmental disabilities. The program consisted of daily employment preparatory skills training and working internships. The goal of Project SEARCH Southern Miss was to increase the number of young adults with intellectual and other developmental disabilities that obtain competitive community-based employment. Project SEARCH Southern Miss implemented the fourth year of the Project SEARCH Southern Miss

employment training program, provided a short-term employment training program, provided secondary school and community-based pre-employment training, and developed and disseminated a series of program replication materials. The primary employment training program of Project SEARCH Southern Miss included up to 12 interns consisting of young adults

with intellectual or developmental disabilities who attend a multi-month training program consisting of daily employment preparatory skills training and work internships. Interns were secondary school students and community-based young adults. The Starting Today Empowering Peers through Uniting and Participating (STEP UP) to Leadership Council served in an advisory role to the program and assisted in the on-going review, evaluation, promotion and replication of the entire program. The SEARCH Community-Based Training Program served a minimum of 10 youth and young adults with disabilities through an employment evaluation, job skills training and community-based internships. Secondary school and community-based pre-employment training focus was provided on topics ranging from social skills to resume preparation to career assessment. Training was provided in the schools and through the SEARCH Bridge Program located at Southern Miss. Upon completion of the training program, participants were encouraged to participate in community-based job fairs and community-based employment interviews. New SEARCH programs were promoted across the state and highlighted through various dissemination activities including briefs, videos and other products.

Read-Up was an initiative for people with intellectual or developmental disabilities of any age that have never learned to read or are reading below grade level due to their disability. Read-Up completed its second year of reading classes and had another successful year. During the year, more than 1,390 individuals, 17 family members, 320 “other people” participated in the Read-Up program. Disability Connection held 37 classes at the Family Enrichment Center and celebrated the end of the year achievement party at the Long Beach Library. The students were given a tour of the library, where they learned how to access books, DVDs, library cards, and more. Each student received a certificate of achievement, books, bookmarks, and posters. The lessons were taught with the use of a Promethean board. The class moved through a fun learning time using Hooked on Phonics ©, games, reading with music and other lesson plans. Students also were able to select from a variety of free reading materials to take home and would earn prizes for word game participation.

Financial Fitness for Life was a project that continued from FY2018. In FY2018, they incorporated the goal of facilitating the opening of ABLÉ accounts for students served in Mississippi school districts. They continued incorporating education about these accounts and creation of these accounts, teaching students and their families about the importance of saving money. In FY2019, ABLÉ accounts were available in the state of Mississippi. The purpose of ABLÉ was to encourage and assist the saving of private funds in tax-exempt accounts to pay for the qualified disability expenses of eligible individuals with disabilities. This project built on the work begun in FY2018 promoting ABLÉ accounts. The goals/outcomes were to provide financial education professional development to 30 special education teachers who would impact at least 200 students with developmental disabilities. After teachers received professional development, they were expected to implement the teaching of financial literacy in their classrooms. The students who showed the most growth from pre- to post-test on financial literacy programs received a MCEE funded ABLÉ account. This



encouraged the use of ABLE accounts, as well as reinforced the personal finance habit of saving. Since parent involvement was necessary to open ABLE accounts for students, a level of financial literacy education occurred for parents, as well as teachers and students. During the 2018/2019 school year, these teachers reached approximately 270 students with disabilities. Upon completion of the program, the teachers each received 4.5 continuing education units, a certificate of completion signed by Dr. Carey Wright, State Superintendent, Mississippi Department of Education, and a completion stipend to offset expenses incurred to be in class during the week. During the 2019/2020 school year, these teachers will reach approximately 60 students with special needs. A total of 330 students will be impacted annually by the special education teachers that completed the Master Teacher of Personal Finance program during this grant period. One special education teacher completed the 2018/2019 Master Teacher of Economics program during the grant period. She will impact 10 students annually.

PCIT to Treat Behavioral Problems in Children with Neurodevelopmental Disabilities is a program that focuses on Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT). This is an effective treatment for children ages 3-7 with developmental disabilities and behavioral problems. It is different



from ABA in that it teaches caregivers specific behavior management skills through intensive, real-time coaching that emphasizes a positive parent-child relationship. During this fourth year, two more trainees received CARE training and provided treatment services to children with neurodevelopmental disabilities. The PCIT portion of the grant focused on expanding workforce development with CARE and PCIT. Three post-graduate clinical positions were in three schools/early childhood centers and were available to provide PCIT-related services and trainings in the community agencies for children with developmental disabilities. Also, a total of seven undergraduate and

graduate assistants from UMMC, Millsaps, and Jackson State University provided 185+ unpaid volunteer hours in support of the current project.

Project STICK was a recreational program for children and adults with developmental disabilities. During this fifth year, inclusive recreational activities were provided for 1,307 individuals through the development of a full-fledged gaming program, further enhancement of the Quidditch program to a near Special Olympics sport, crochet and knitting, mold and paint pottery pieces to display at home, archery for beginners and experts, kayak/zipline/paddle board/rock wall climbing 45 feet in the air, created artwork masterpieces, and sewed 115 port pillows that were donated to chemotherapy patients at local hospitals. New was the Operation Aptitude Gaming, an inclusive gaming program, which took off on a great start with two campuses offering gaming for local community members with and without disabilities. Young adults with developmental disabilities were also encouraged to showcase their skills and personalities through live streaming on Twitch. A major success this year was expanding Quidditch to the Mississippi Delta. The program was able to bring individuals who had never played sports before or feared social situations out of their comfort zone and become an active member of the team.



Creating a Spectrum of Possibilities: Behavioral and Academic Services for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities

continued through its fourth year and provided Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) therapy sessions, academic services, and comprehensive psychological and psycho-educational assessment services to people with developmental disabilities through weekly, one-hour intervention sessions. Support was provided to over 100 people with disabilities from birth through adulthood, as well as to many of their family members and local school districts. The program operated at full capacity across both clinic spaces. The



President of Mississippi State University announced efforts to build a Center for Autism and Disability Services on campus, which would include clinical services. The program continued to foster collaborations with Mississippi Department of Human Services, Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services, MSU Panhellenic and Inter-fraternity Councils, Disability and Student Support Services, Health Services, Campus Police, and others to better meet the needs of people with disabilities on campus and in the surrounding communities.

HOYO Housing Assistance Program was a short-term project that provided housing assistance to low to moderate income households in various counties, with priority given to developmental disability household members, seeking mortgage delinquency assistance, rental assistance and accessibility modification. A percentage of households were served in the Delta area. Money management (budget and credit) resources were provided to help offer a realistic picture to increase financial knowledge and empower stability.

Project L.E.A.D. was a short-term project that provided training and leadership to thousands of students on topics/issues impacting their lives. Leadership trainings and quality assurance opportunities served as a gateway for student organizations to become inclusive. These leadership trainings and quality assurance opportunities strengthened leadership capacity of the students, created new visions, and built on campus networks of support for students with and without disabilities. The project was achieved through a series of intensive leadership workshops from faculty and staff, trainings from community partners who specialized in disability resources and advocacy, off campus site visits to those same community partners, social health forums and campaigns, social media campaigns, and collaboration with local officials to present at leadership workshops, trainings, and forums. Students with developmental disabilities had an opportunity to advocate with their peers, leading to academic success and a sense of belonging within the university community. Students without a developmental disability were provided the opportunity to learn about the history of disability advocacy in the United States and Mississippi. Students with a developmental disability had the opportunity to assist their peers in becoming more knowledgeable about social issues affecting them as students at The University of Southern Mississippi. These opportunities served as an opportunity for a partnership for mentoring for students with developmental disabilities while attending the university.

Other Community Supports and Collaborations

Families as Allies - Community Partnership Events
Institute for Disability Studies - National Disability Employment Awareness Month Events
Tupelo Public School District - Educational Field Trip
Alzheimer's Association of Mississippi - Conference for the Care
The Arc of Mississippi - Healthy Relationship Training
Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services - Project SEARCH License Fee for UMMC
Disability Connection - 31st Arbor Day Program Event
National Federation of the Blind of MS - NFB Annual Conference
T.K. Martin Center for Technology - Dyslexia and Related Learning Differences Conference
Autism Center of North Mississippi - National Autism Awareness Month Events
Falkner High School - Educational Field Trip
Gathr Films - Intelligent Lives Film Screening and Tickets
Golden Eagle Intertribal Society - 2019 Petal Southern Miss Powwow
UMMC The Mind Center - 20th Annual Conference on Alzheimer's Disease
Gallant Hearts Guide Dog Center - Program Event
South Tippah School District - Reaching for the Sky Event
Mississippi Society for Disabilities - Rock-n-Roll Wheelchair State Championship
Coalition for Citizens with Disabilities - 2019 Mississippi disAbility MegaConference
Coalition for Citizen with Disabilities - 5th Annual Autism Transition Conference
The Arc of Mississippi - Training for Mississippi Job Skills Trainer Manual
The Arc of Northwest Mississippi - Camp BOLD
The Arc of Northeast Mississippi - The Arc in the Park
LIFE of Mississippi - Life on the Rez Event
Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services - Mississippi ABLE Program Promotion

Advisory Boards and Other Coalitions

National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities Board of Directors
Institute for Disability Studies Community Partnership Advisory Council
Mississippi disAbility MegaConference Planning Committee
Mississippi Sibling Leadership Network (Brothers and Sisters Together)
Central Mississippi Sibshops
Mississippi Autism Advisory Committee
Mississippi Department of Mental Health Bureau of IDD Advisory Council
Mississippi Hearing-Vision Project Advisory Council
Hudspeth Human Rights and Advocacy Committee
Mississippi AAIDD Chapter
Rehabilitation Association of Mississippi
Mississippi APSE

Developmental Disabilities Network Collaborations

Mississippi's Developmental Disabilities Network includes the Mississippi Council on Developmental Disabilities, Disability Rights Mississippi, and the Institute for Disability Studies at The University of Southern Mississippi. Several collaborative events and projects were completed during FY2019.

Coordinating ADA Accommodations in Higher Education Cleveland and Gulfport

Community Conversations Gulfport, Southaven, and Vicksburg



DD Network Partners at Work!

DD Network partners hosted the second annual "[Coordinating ADA Accommodations in Higher Education Training](#)" in August 2019. Training sessions were offered in Cleveland and Gulfport. Thirty-one professionals participated in this no-cost opportunity to learn more about providing appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities in colleges and universities across our state. Following the training sessions, participants were asked to provide input for topics and logistics for future ADA related trainings by completing a brief online survey.



DD Network partners also hosted three [Community Conversations](#) in August 2019. Hosted in Southaven, Gulfport, and Vicksburg, these activities brought members of local communities together to discuss priority disability-related issues, speak with advocates, and interact with local and state disability service and resource organizations. Seventy-five community members participated in these Community Conversations. Three priority issues identified during the Community Conversations included 1) accessible after school care for children with disabilities, 2) advocacy and assistance for IEPs, and 3) availability and accessibility of resources.



DD Network News

Current and past newsletters are available on the Mississippi Council on Developmental Disabilities' website.

www.msccd.org/products-and-newsletters


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Community Conversations 2

DD Network News

(Developmental Disabilities Network News)




A Collaborative Publication from MSC DD, DRMS and IDS



NADD 36TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE & EXHIBIT SHOW
OCTOBER 23-25, 2019 | ASTOR CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL | NEW ORLEANS, LA
Parading Through Life: Celebrating Resilience, Joy and Wellness... Letting the Good Times Roll in New Orleans

The executive directors of the DD Network partners have been selected to present a poster, "The ADA and Higher Education," at the NADD 36th Annual Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana in October 2019. This presentation will highlight the ADA trainings offered by the DD Network and provide an overview of emerging topics associated with ADA-related accommodations in colleges and universities.


For more information about NADD and the annual conference, please visit <http://thenadd.org/>.

Pictured on left: Executive directors Dr. Rebekah Young, Polly Tribble, and Charles Hughes

If you have information or news you would like to be included in the next issue, please email Jim Joe Crosby at jim.mcelendon@jsum.edu

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DD Network News

October 2019

Mississippi Community Resource Directory

Home Contact Survey

Enter a keyword:

Website Search

County:

Category:

WELCOME TO THE MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY RESOURCE DIRECTORY!

It is not necessary to LOGIN or REGISTER to use this site.

MSCRD is a collaborative effort of Disability Rights MS, the Institute for Disability Studies and the Council of Developmental Disabilities. It is a one stop shop for resources in MS available in our community. Our intention was to provide this service to provide community living for people with disabilities, but this website is inclusive and includes helpful information for everyone.

TO USE: There are two ways to search the site. One way is type in a keyword in the section midway on the left which reads "enter a keyword".

Or, you can use the drop down menu in the box on the left. Pick a county to search in and a category.

Categories		
ADD (23)	Addiction (11)	ADHD (24)
Adaptive Services (8)	Advocacy (117)	Aging (47)
ADIS (5)	Allergies and Respiratory (3)	ALS (2)
Alumni Association (8)	Alzheimer's (28)	Animal resources (8)
Assisted Living (8)	Assistive Technology (37)	Autism Spectrum (42)
Behavioral Disorders (3)	Blind - Visual Impairment (8)	Book Club (2)
Cerebral Palsy (18)	Chamber of Commerce (15)	Child Care (17)
Church (40)	Clothing Closet (1)	Club (92)
Cognitive Disabilities (1)	Community (98)	Counseling (34)
Cyber Crime (3)	Cyclic Fibrosis (3)	Deaf - Hard of Hearing (27)
Deafness (3)	Developmental (47)	Diabetes (7)
Dialysis (1)	Intellectual Disabilities (110)	Disaster (1)

Mississippi Community Resource Directory

www.mscred.org

MSCDD continues to maintain the Mississippi Community Resource Directory. This is an online, searchable database of resources for people with developmental and other disabilities, family members, providers, and others in the community. Several new resources have been added over the year. Technical assistance continued to be provided by the Institute for Disability Studies.

Gathr Films - *Intelligent Lives* Film Screening

MSCDD provided a film screening of *Intelligent Lives*, a film by Dan Habib. The screening was held at the Parkway Regal Theater in Flowood. Over 75 people attended. This included people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, parents, siblings, providers, disability organization representatives, state agency staff, and others.



Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Day at the Capitol



Signing of the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month Proclamation



Mississippi disAbility MegaConference

Over 300 people with disabilities, family members, professionals, and others attend the 2019 Mississippi disAbility MegaConference at the Jackson Hilton. Guest speakers included Julie Hocker, Russell Lehmann, Rick Courtney, and Kebra Moore.



U.S. Census Homeless and Disabled Agencies Leaders' Summit

MSCDD's executive director, along with agency representatives from the Southeast United States attended a Census leadership summit. It was provided by the U.S. Census Bureau.

