

WHAT'S MY NAME?



SOUTH CAROLINA DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL

May 2014

MISSION

The mission of the South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council is to provide leadership in planning, funding, and implementing initiatives that lead to improved quality of life for people with developmental disabilities and their families through advocacy, capacity building, and systemic change.

We build Bridges and Take Control so we can Walk This Way. This is why Everybody Talks about DDC! The Healthy Lifestyles, Equestrian Assisted Activities and Assistive Technology give us a Heads Up on Autism, and provide Resources and Courses being distributed throughout the state. The entire SC-TEAM makes sure that Virtual Hope is a STEP for SC which helps us in Mapping Your Future and for providing Extended Hope. With the Arc, Rec-Connect, Impact, PRO-Parents, Family Connection; there is Power In Numbers!

The names which are underlined are some of the grants being funded by the DD Council. A special **Thanks** to all of our grantees for pouring your  hearts into what you do! Have fun with the names and come up with your own statement using the names of the grants. Also, give me a name! The times are changing and so is the name! **PLEASE HELP US RENAME OUR NEWSLETTER!**



A Word From the Chair



Amy Davenport,
DD Council Chairperson

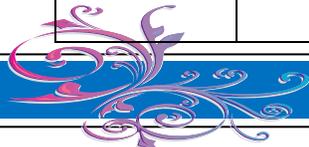
I am so honored to be the Chair of the DD Council and to be a part of this committed group of individuals. We have witnessed great results in many areas which include: transition, leadership, technology and awareness for all ages and in all areas of disabilities. We are excited about new grants and upcoming events which continue to enhance the lives of people with intellectual disabilities/developmental disabilities.

We were proud to have been a part of the Concussion Legislation and the Anti-Bullying grant. We have been able to see more funding around the state for some wonderful grants where we expect to touch more lives and see positive results for many families in South Carolina within the next year.

A special note of thanks to all of our grantees for the many projects and tremendous undertakings. We look forward to another great year working with each of you! A *Warm* and *Heart-felt Welcome* to our new Council Members; Roger Kuperman, Dustin Mills, Kimberly Maple, Charles Willis and Jennifer Van Cleave.

CALANDER OF EVENTS....

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|---------------------------|--|---|---|--|----------|
| 25 May  | 26 Memorial Day | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |
| June  | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 DD Council Meeting | 11 | 12 IMPACT Self-Advocacy Conference | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 Respite Summit | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | July  | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | 7 NACDD Conference | 8 | 9 Chairperson Leadership Training TA Institute | 10 National Youth Leadership Forum 07/09-11/2014 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 Bright Start Early Intervention Conference | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 Brain Injury Conference | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | August  | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 DD Council Meeting | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |



Saying Goodbye.....**Mr. Ron Ralph**

Mr. Ron Ralph has been working with the DD Council for about six years representing the Lieutenant Governor's Office On Aging. In his job he worked on SC access web data base for services and resources for seniors and persons with disabilities. As a part of the DD Council he served on the Health Committee and Rules Committee. Ron held a significant role in helping to clarify by-laws and policies regarding the Council. Ron says he has truly enjoyed his time on the Council working with dedicated individuals. He is definitely going to miss the grant review process. While the process was arduous, it provided a very



worth-while effort in ensuring persons with intellectual disabilities/developmental disabilities received additional services. Ron said this has afforded him the opportunity to meet some very nice, dedicated people; who work hard providing services to others. Ron is looking forward to spending his much deserved retirement on his pontoon boat. Ron and his wife, Billi Bethe, have three children and seven grandchildren who will also keep him moving. He is also looking forward to possibly coaching his grandchildren's sports teams.

Thank you Ron for your dedication and service to the DD Council. Your commitment has helped to shape the positive direction of the Council. We wish you the best!



Amy Davenport, DDC Chairperson, Ron Ralph, Valarie Bishop, Executive Director



New DD Council Members



Roger Kuperman

Roger Kuperman lives in Lexington and represents the DD Council as a family member of an individual with intellectual disabilities/developmental disabilities. He works in Columbia and brings a wealth of knowledge and enthusiasm to the Council.



Kimberly Maple

Kimberly Maple lives in Sumter and is an active part of the DSN Board in Sumter. She also serves as a self-advocate on the Department of Disabilities and Special Needs State Directors Advisory group. She is a member of IMPACT and works at Piggly Wiggly in Sumter.

The DD Council welcomes new Council members at the April meeting: Roger Kuperman, Kimberly Maple; Not pictured: Dustin Mills, Charles Willis.



Kersha Sessions, Roger Kuperman, Marion Taylor, Kimberly Maple enjoy a brief moment during the grant review process.



DD Council Grant Review



Jacob Chorey speaks on behalf of the DD Council Employment Committee during the grant review process.

The Developmental Disabilities Council recognizes and supports programs which are beneficial to persons with intellectual disabilities/developmental disabilities. The Developmental Disabilities Council's State Plan outlines four priority areas: Health, Employment, Community Supports and Self-Advocacy. The grants fall within one of these areas and are focused on improvement of life for persons with disabilities and their families. Developmental Disabilities Council members and staff serve on a number of Boards and Committees that help us stay connected to the gaps in services and systems issues in South Carolina.

Laurens County Disability and Special Needs Board



Laurens DSN Board Members and SLP II residents take time to pose after a great day of walking!

The Laurens County Disability and Special Needs Board coordinated activities with the Williams Syndrome Walk for the Promotion of their Healthy Lifestyles grant. The SLP II apartment residents participated and shared their enjoyment of the activities. The walk was organized locally by Williams Syndrome supporters to raise funds and promote awareness. Williams Syndrome is a genetic condition that is present at birth and can affect anyone. It is characterized by medical problems, including cardiovascular disease, developmental delays, and learning disabilities. While persons with Williams Syndrome may have life-long medical problems, they have striking verbal abilities, highly social personalities and can have an affinity for music.

The walk was held on April 26, 2014 in Laurens, SC. Participants and family members enjoyed the fellowship and were excited about heightening awareness to a much needed cause.

IMPACT . . .

IMPACT SC is a group designed to explore and approve initiatives that enhance self-advocacy in South Carolina. IMPACT secures and implements competency skills training for the leadership network focusing on issues affecting the intellectual disabilities/developmental disabilities community. IMPACT also sponsors appropriate presenters and consultants to assist in completion of stated goals and objectives.

IMPACT is supported by collaborative efforts from Developmental Disabilities Council, Center for Disability Resources, Department of Disabilities and Special Needs and Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered. These collaborative efforts help develop, plan, expand, and



improve as well as increase

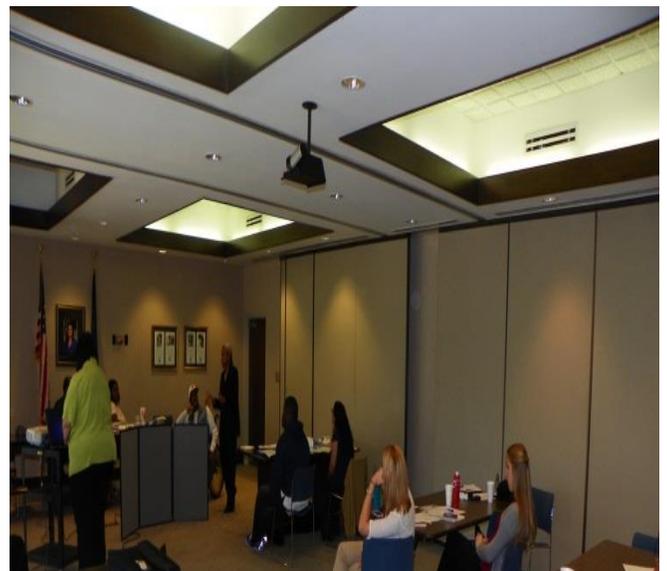
awareness to self-advocacy needs. One way IMPACT empowers self-advocates and strengthens skills is by sending individuals with disabilities as representatives to national conferences. In turn, these individuals bring back ideas and resources. This also gives participants the opportunity to meet with other individuals across the United States and share ideas.



WHAT IS SELF-ADVOCACY?

- Speaks up for themselves about things that are important in their lives.
- Decides what is best for themselves and takes charge of getting what they want and need.
- Stands up for their personal rights.
- Is a leader and shows his or her leadership skills when advocating for themselves.
- Speaks out about being seen and treated as a person with **dignity** and **respect**.

Through IMPACT, program results indicate a continued need for practical application and improvement of skills needed for self-advocacy, interpersonal skills, group socialization and communication skills. IMPACT promotes awareness and higher visibility for self-advocates and the self-advocacy “movement” within South Carolina on both local and statewide levels.



Partners In Policymaking®

In 1987, the Minnesota Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities created Partners in Policymaking®. Since then, programs have been implemented and funded throughout the United States and internationally. More than 21,000 Partners In Policymaking graduates in the United States and 2,000 internationally are part of a growing national and international network of community leaders serving on policymaking committees, commissions, and boards

at local, state, and national levels.

Partners In Policymaking is an

innovative, competency-based leadership training program for adults with disabilities and parents of young children with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



Mary Eaddy, PRO-Parents Director speaks to graduates

The goal of Partners In Policymaking is to educate participants to be active partners with those who make policy and also to become partners in policymaking.

The idea is to develop partnerships that are based on positive relationships. In today's political climate of radical change, Partners In Policymaking graduates must work harder than ever to prevent the loss of basic rights for people with disabilities. Partners In Policymaking graduates can change the future by influencing public policy today.



South Carolina has more the 300 graduates of the Partners In Policymaking program. The 2013-2014 class is the Seventeenth Graduating class! Partners In Policymaking graduates have gone on to be DD Council members and play other significant roles on boards and commissions. Classes take place between October and June. Sessions begin on Fridays at 1:00 PM and conclude by 4:00 PM on Saturdays. Participants must be able to attend all sessions to graduate. If you are interested in participating in the 2014-2015 class, please make applications at <http://proparents.org/pip>. Or call PRO-Parents at 1-800-750-4776 (toll free).



SOS Health Care Inc. Consignment Shop, Job Training & Development



The name: “**Making Change**”! The consignment store, located in Myrtle Beach, is providing employment skills training and experience for approximately twenty individuals, ages 12-22, who have been diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders. Job skills development plans are created for all of the participants. Job assignments are a part of the training and highly skilled job coaches provide support. This project is truly making positive changes all around.

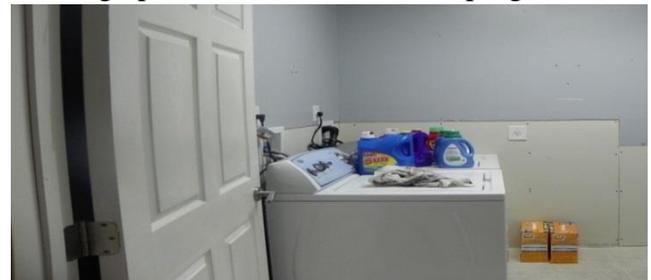


Left to right: Kyle Garvey, Sarah Pope, Cody Lewis, Trish Kindzia, Matthew Allan Sanders, Diane Owens, Denise Garvey

Participants provide laundry service to homeless students. Items which are hand-crafted by students are also sold in the consignment shop, which creates additional training for participants. The training has provided participants with the added benefit of socialization. Participants have developed their own network and have begun attending community events and setting up activities outside of the program.



Trish, Kyle, Cody, Matthew



Laundry services for homeless students



Sarah Pope, Director

A MOVE TO WELLNESS



York County Adult Enrichment Center Staff Receives National Recognition

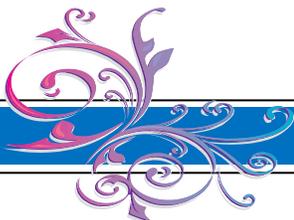
Move to Wellness introduced the “Ageless Grace” program to increase mobility and flexibility. A nurse monitors baseline measurements of blood pressure, pulse rates, respirations, saturation levels, weight, lipid profile and physical activity habits. An exercise and nutrition plan was developed for each participant according to their level and complexity of impairment.

Move to Wellness promotes increased health knowledge and healthy activity of people with disabilities. The project focuses on modeling a wellness program at an adult day facility. The project highlights disease prevention through increased physical activity. Exercise can help control blood lipid abnormalities, diabetes, provide weight control and increase mobility. Preventing additional secondary conditions from developing is an added benefit to exercise. Based on data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, regular physical activity reduces the risk of coronary heart disease, developing high blood pressure, colon cancer and diabetes. Exercise can also aid people with chronic disabling conditions improve stamina and muscle strength. Reduced anxiety and depression, improved mood, reduction in joint swelling and pain associated with arthritis and general feelings of well-being are other positive factors associated with increased physical activity.

The clients at the York Adult Enrichment Center who participate in the program have intellectual disabilities/developmental disabilities. Collaboration and partnerships include the “Y”, ASC Greenway, Fort Mill School District, Tri District Adult Education, Arc of South Carolina and other enterprises. Move to Wellness integrates health promotion into plans for participants. Along with assessments each person receives education about: Food & Diet, Exercise, Hydration, Sleep, Stress, Flu, Dental Hygiene and Heart Health.

Participants reported feeling better, having increased mobility and improved enjoyment of socialization. Other noted progress includes increased water intake and reduction in urinary tract infections. Improvement in blood pressure has led to medication reduction changes.

Congratulations to York County Adult Enrichment Center as they continue with their award-winning program!



CONCUSSION EDUCATION !



Nichole, Dr. Cantu, Joyce and Valarie at the BIASC Conference

On March 17, 2014, the Brain Injury Association of South Carolina (BIASC) in collaboration with the South Carolina Athletic Trainers Association hosted a concussion conference for school administrators, teachers, school nurses, athletic directors, athletic trainers, and coaches. The objective of this conference was to increase the knowledge base in the areas of concussion identification, symptoms and management. The conference was funded by the SC Developmental Disabilities Council.

Dr. Karen McAvoy, Director of the Center for Concussion at the Rocky Mountain Youth Sports Medicine Institute and Dr. Robert Cantu, Clinical Professor of the Department of Neurosurgery and Co-Director for the Center

for the Study of Traumatic Encephalopathy were the two keynote speakers. Participants included 120 individuals who are athletic trainers/directors, school nurses, coaches and teachers in South Carolina.

Power Point presentations from the conference sessions can be found at <http://www.biausa.org/SC/news.htm>

Additional activities will include support for recreational departments and other organizations needing assistance with concussion policy development, education and resources.



A previous grant, “Heads Up! SC!”, also sponsored by the SC Developmental Disabilities Council, aided in bringing about the passage and enactment of the state’s Student Athlete Concussion Law in June 2013. Heads Up! SC! was designed to educate school nurses, recreation department athletic directors, coaches, parents and athletes about concussion identification and management.

Self Advocate, Connie Coleman, Enjoys Her New Home and Living on Her Own!



Connie stated she had been wanting to move on her own for a while. She stated a lot of people did not think she would be able to handle the pressures that come with maintaining a home because of her disabilities.

Connie's reply to that was, "I have a disability, but that does not mean I cannot do things or desire things that people who do not have any limitations want." Connie has a strong constitution and met the challenge head on.



Connie closed on her home in November 2012 and stated she is extremely happy that she is a home owner. For the last year and a half she has successfully met every challenge with a positive attitude and is still as excited as she was the first day she moved in. Connie stated her independence enables her to help her friends and neighbors if they need any help and she also assists her family. Connie stated she still gets the occasional "nay-sayer", but that is when she is able to share her story and re-direct their thinking.

Connie continues to work with the Newberry Disabilities and Special Needs Board as the receptionist. She served as the former Chairperson for DD Council and continues to support Council efforts. Connie stated she also loves taking care of her dog, Scooby Doo! He keeps her busy and makes sure she gets her exercise. Connie knows being a homeowner has its challenges, but she is grateful everyday for her home. She stated as long as she has her health and strength, she will, "keep on, keeping on"!

2014 ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY EXPO



The 2014 Assistive Technology Expo was held on March 26 at the Brookland Banquet and Conference Center in West Columbia. Over 700 people attended the event that hosted more than 55 exhibits and 12 classes focusing on assistive technology. Exhibitors included vendors of equipment such as adapted vans, bathtubs,



Will McCain with Speaker Alex Jackson

communication devices, wheelchairs, and more. Other exhibitors were state agencies who serve people with disabilities. Attendees enjoyed the relaxed pace of the day and the ability to choose to attend activities that interested them most. The staff of the Expo sends many thanks to the DD Council for their conference grant that made this great event possible!



Speaker Kevin Williams with Director of SC Assistive Technology Program, Dr. Carol Page



For information on webinars and upcoming events, email:

info@atcoalition.org

The annual statewide Assistive Technology Expo provides assistive technology, advocacy training, technical assistance and demonstration to people of all ages and disabilities. The Expo helps to educate agency representatives, service providers, consumers and their family members in current issues surrounding assistive technology provisions, use of services and integration into a person's everyday environment. South Carolina Assistive Technology Program provides current research, information, and assistance to a large network of consumers and assistive technology providers throughout the state.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN SOUTH CAROLINA . . .



Governor Haley addresses participants



The first ever Advocacy Day for Access and Independence was held May 8, 2014. Participants gathered to show support for the right to access, equality and independence. Governor Haley and other speakers echoed and supported the initiatives being represented.



Kimberly Tissot, Director of Able and Jerri Davison Assistant Director kick off the event

Executive Director



We are pleased to highlight Council activities that are making a difference in people’s lives. Many health, employment and advocacy projects and events are highlighted in this newsletter. We are also highlighting new members and a story of our former Council Chairperson and her first home purchasing experience. Connie Coleman was a dedicated Council member and Chair for many years. She has remained active in self-advocacy at a state level and has also become more active with national activities. All of this besides holding a full time job, maintaining a home and full life in her community. I’m amazed at what she can accomplish. She leads by example!

Nothing is more satisfying than being involved in projects that change people’s lives. We are very thankful for your ideas and efforts to make a difference for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families in South Carolina and beyond. Don’t forget to offer your suggestions for a new name for our enhanced newsletter. Please send your suggestions to Cheryl English at cenglish@oepp.sc.gov.

Valarie Bishop

South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council

Ms. Kimberly Addis
 Ms. Dianne S. Bennett
 Mr. William Bennett, III
 Mr. Frank Bentley
 Mr. Ed Bible
 Mr. Jacob Chorey
 Ms. Amy Davenport
 Ms. Mary Ann DeBerry
 Ms. Sharon Durham

Mr. Coy “Les” Durham, III
 Ms. Mary Eaddy
 Mr. Milton “Drew” Gatlin, Jr.
 Mr. Owens Goff
 Mrs. Freda King
 Mr. Roger Kuperman
 Ms. Melina Lee
 Mr. George Maky
 Ms. Kimberly Maple

Ms. Mildred Mayes
 Dr. Charles McLafferty
 Mr. Dustin Mills
 Ms. Gloria Prevost
 Mr. Brad Raymond
 Dr. David Rotholz
 Ms. Kersha Sessions
 Mr. Marion Taylor
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