

ANNUAL REPORT

FY 2014-2015

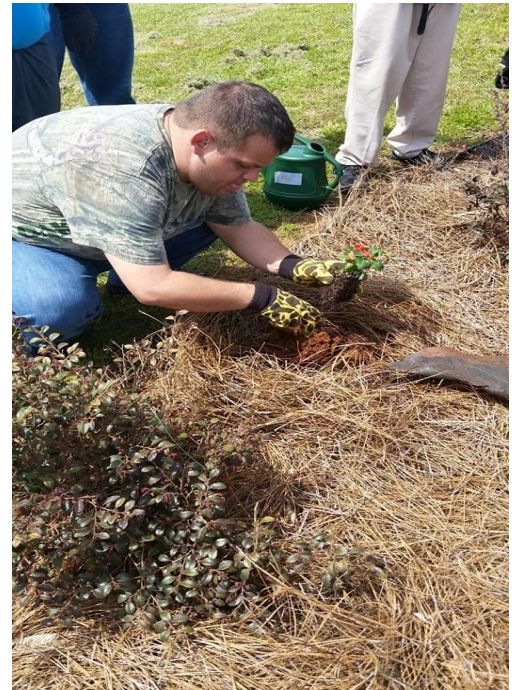
MISSION

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.

PURPOSE

The South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council was established in 1971 by Executive Order of the Governor and was reauthorized in 2010. The council is comprised of members appointed by the Governor. The Council consists of individual advocates, relatives, service providers and state and local agency representatives.

The council is federally funded under the Developmental Disabilities Act. Activities focus on consumer-family centered systems. This comprehensive system includes individualized support, community services and other forms of assistance which promotes self-determination. The implementation of these services and initiatives lead to improved quality of life for persons with disabilities and their families; helping them to feel and become an integral part of their surrounding community.



“Mixed Greens” participants plant flowers.

VALUES STATEMENT

The South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council believes:

- Families are the foundation of our society
- An individual with developmental disabilities may provide additional challenges in the family.
- A coordinated system of support is critical to the individual, family members and community to foster independence, productivity and inclusion into the community setting.
- Individuals and family members should be actively involved in the decision making process for supports and services.



Able South Carolina staff break for a pose during the “Mapping Your Future” conference.

SOUTH CAROLINA PRIORITY AREAS FOR 2015:

COMMUNITY SUPPORTS, EMPLOYMENT, HEALTH & SELF-ADVOCACY

COMMUNITY SUPPORTS Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities/Developmental Disabilities will have increased participation and choices about their community based services and supports.

Objective 1: Will provide funding and/or resources to improve access to information for people with Intellectual Disabilities/Developmental Disabilities and their families about services, supports and their rights.

- **Family Connection - Wait List Support**
- **Arc of the Midlands – FASD**

Objective 2: Will support at least one innovative project that improves socialization skills leading to greater community participation for children and/or adults with severe disabilities.

- **Project Hope – Extended Hope**
- **Current Transitions – Eagle Project**
- **Arc of the Midlands – Kick It**
- **Disability Resource Center – Independent Living Skills**
- **Roger C. Peace – UCAN**



Participants dice vegetables from the farmers market.

Objective 3: Will support a minimum of one emerging issue that will result in an increase in people with Intellectual Disabilities/Developmental Disabilities being active participants in the communities of their choice.

- **Arc of South Carolina – Rec-connect/Arc Works**
- **Arc of South Carolina – Life Lessons**
- **Arc of the Midlands – Mixed Greens**

- ❖ **1823** Received advocacy training
- ❖ **286** System advocates
- ❖ **268** Other organizations involved
- ❖ **29** Policy changes/creations/improvements
- ❖ **3881** General public reached



Participants prepare a garden for planting.

Mixed Greens

Mixed Greens embodies the community support goal of integrating people with developmental disabilities into the community through gardening. Mixed Greens is a core group of active people with disabilities working together to support community markets, develop community gardens, participate in interactive garden projects and develop opportunity for community-learning activities. The Arc of the Midlands is seeking to influence attitudes within the surrounding communities, promote inclusivity, increase the roles of people with disabilities into the gardening community along with having participants gain better education regarding the benefits of gardening. Activities focus on community involvement, building/establishing relationships, increasing communication, increasing educational opportunities, developing additional skills and acquiring health education about the benefits of gardening and nutrition.

HEALTH The South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council will collaborate with partners and community providers to increase activities to promote the improved health and well-being of people with Intellectual Disabilities/Developmental Disabilities in South Carolina.

Objective 1: Will support a minimum of 5 existing or new programs and/or services that include evidence based approaches to wellness promotion and prevention of secondary conditions.

- **Lander – Equestrian Assisted Activities**
- **Therapy Place – Bridges**
- **Arc of South Carolina – Walk This Way**
- **Babcock Center – Everybody Talks**
- **Bamberg Co. DSN – PBEE**
- **York ADCS – Move to Wellness**

Bridges At The Therapy Place

One of our great success stories is with Bridges At The Therapy Place. When this grant began DD Council staff met a little girl named Emma, who is visually impaired and physically challenged. Bridges put on a play at the end of the year to showcase the children's progress. As the play began Emma was timid and her fear was evident. Fast-forward to the second play; Little Emma walks in with the aid of her walker and she hears her father's voice. She proudly looks in the direction of his voice and loudly and proudly says, "Hey Daddy"! Tears fill his eyes along with everyone else's. The third year produced even more growth. During graduation, Emma's father could hardly talk as he shared with tears in his eyes how The Bridges program has given his family hope and peace. He shared that he constantly prayed what his child would do in school, when other children picked on her. He said bringing her to Bridges during the early stages of development has prepared her to meet challenges he thought she would never be able to accomplish.



Now that Emma was graduating, the Bridges program partnered with St. Peter's School and developed a transition plan to assist Emma with integration into mainstream classes. Emma's dad began to cry even more and thanked DD Council for sponsoring a program that gives parents the peace of mind to know their children are being cared for in the same way they are at home. Unable to continue speaking, he just hugged the DD Council staff. Emma is one of the many success stories at The Therapy Place. This program is also receiving acknowledgement from other agencies, schools and organizations. They now have a waiting list and are seeking additional sponsors.

The program's outcome is to have Children with severe intellectual and developmental disabilities be able to live self-sufficient lives. The program aligns with Council's objective to support evidence-based approaches to wellness promotion and prevention of secondary conditions. The Bridges program offers evidence-based programs to children ages 2-5 years-old that improves their knowledge level, skills and tracks the child's progress in becoming more self-reliant.



Objective 2: Will educate coaches, athletic professionals, school nurses, parents and athletes in a minimum of 40 school districts and 23 recreation departments on importance of reducing the incidence of sports related brain injury among youth.

- **BIA – Special Grant**

Objective 3: Will support increased capacity for autism screening and diagnostic evaluations.

- **USC Dept. of Psychology – Autism (Grant ended 06/30/2014, clinic is in place)**

Objective 4: Will inform the public about the availability of accessible recreation, prevention, wellness and exercise opportunities.

- **Page on DDC Website – resources will continue to be added and updated.**

Objective 5: Will support a minimum of 1 technical school/program to incorporate course content and/or courses on health and disability into their health sciences department(s) for professionals and paraprofessionals and provide associated activities.

- **USC Grant ended 06/30/2013 Courses developed and continued to be distributed.**

- ❖ **1499** Received advocacy training
- ❖ **127** System advocates
- ❖ **91** Other organizations involved
- ❖ **43** Policy changes/creations/improvements
- ❖ **2799** General public reached

QUALITY ASSURANCE/SELF-ADVOCACY The South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council will partner with self-advocates strengthening advocacy statewide, providing leadership training to individuals with Intellectual Disabilities/Developmental Disabilities and increasing participation in cross-disability and leadership coalitions.

Objective 1: Will support a statewide self-advocacy organization to assist in strengthening and meeting defined organizational goals.

- **CDR – Impact SC**

Objective 2: Will support at least 150 self-advocates in leadership training opportunities.

- **Pro Parents – PIP (Partners in Policy-making)**
- **Pro Parents – YLF (Youth Leadership Forum)**

Objective 3: Will identify and implement replicable strategies in at least 2 school districts/areas which support the development of self-advocacy skills for youth with Intellectual Disabilities/Developmental Disabilities.

- **NYLN – Self Advocacy – Power In Numbers (Transitioned to Able, SC 10/31/14)**
- **EQUIP – Self-Advocacy & Leadership in Young Adults**

- ❖ **2168** Received advocacy training
- ❖ **317** System advocates
- ❖ **130** Other organizations involved
- ❖ **19** Policy changes/creations/improvements
- ❖ **14812** General public reached

EMPLOYMENT People with Intellectual Disabilities/Developmental Disabilities are given the education/training, knowledge, experience, accommodations and supports they need to achieve meaningful community-based employment.

Objective 1: Will promote programs that facilitate the acquisition of academic training, interpersonal skills and work experience for high school and/or post-secondary students with Intellectual Developmental Disabilities to enable success in long-term employment and career development.

- **Center for Disability Resources (CDR) – SC Team**
- **Center for Disability Resources (CDR) – TASC Expansion**



The Transition Alliance of South Carolina (TASC), the statewide interagency transition team, held the 2nd Annual SC Interagency Team

Transition Conference on September 20-22, 2015. This conference marked the kick-off of the second year of a support system available to the fifty-two transition teams that have participated in the Alliance activities to-date. Dan Habib, creator of the award-winning documentary films *Including Samuel*,

Who Cares About Kelsey?, *Restraint and Seclusion: Hear Our Stories*, and many other short films on disability-related topics, keynoted the event. Habib highlighted the importance of school and community inclusion, as well as the need to engage students and families in the transition planning process. Catherine Fowler, of the National Technical Assistance Center on Transition, worked with the groups of local stakeholders to better understand how transition and employment research can be operationalized to assist students with disabilities in achieving positive post-school outcomes. Local team members attending the statewide conference also participated in content breakout sessions, team networking sessions and facilitated strategic planning sessions.



Strategic planning is a key component of the infrastructure that guides this work. However, effective implementation of evidence based practices is the gateway for success. As such, the Center for Disability Resources, the SC DD Council, the SC Department of Education, the SC Department of Disabilities and Special Needs and other Alliance partners and consultants are working together to coordinate and deliver the resources needed for the local teams to effectively implement the goals they have prioritized in their strategic PATH plans. Three levels of support (i.e., general, moderate, intensive) are provided to local teams via training, technical assistance, and the provision of program resources (e.g., curriculum). All teams are automatically included in the general assistance category, but teams respond to requests for proposals (RFPs) in order to access moderate and intensive assistance.

In addition to the individualized assistance described above, the Transition Alliance of SC launched a website (www.transitionalliancesc.org) designed to provide local stakeholders with the information and resources necessary to build capacity through web-based training, information provision, and statewide, cross-team networking mechanisms. All teams participating in Alliance activities are also invited to attend statewide topical trainings designed in response to the goals prioritized in the teams' strategic plans and hosted in the spring of each year. The Transition Alliance staff and partners consider this merely the beginning stage of the construction of a novel, yet highly functional, progressive, and replicable method of building support for local communities from the top (state-level) down (community-level) and perhaps more-importantly, across local teams and practitioners/stakeholders.

Objective 2: Will support initiatives that provide enhanced employment opportunities for students with severe disabilities.

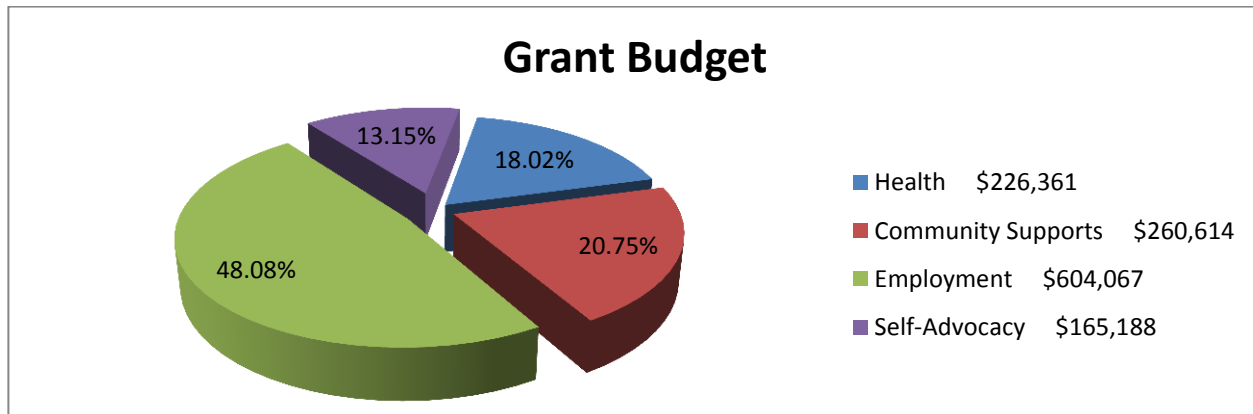
- **York One – Students and Job Coaches**
- **Project Hope – Virtual Hope**
- **Community Options – STEP for SC**
- **SOS Healthcare – Consignment Shop**
- **Cover School District – Ready, Set, Go to Work**
- **Able South Carolina – Project Inclusion**
- **Arts Access – Project Real**
- **Arc of the Midlands – Project Search**

Objective 3: Will increase knowledge of self-advocates about the principles of self-determination and employment opportunities of individuals with Intellectual Disabilities/Developmental Disabilities.

- **Partner for Transitions Conference, Able SC & P & A – Mapping Your Future**

Objective 4: Will create a minimum of 1 position statement and policy recommendations that will support successful employment outcomes for people with Intellectual Disabilities/Developmental Disabilities.

- ❖ **5745** Received advocacy training
- ❖ **3915** System advocates
- ❖ **567** Other organizations involved
- ❖ **101** Policy changes/creations/improvements
- ❖ **16181** General public reached



Health	\$ 226,361	18.02%
Employment	604,067	48.08%
Community Supports	260,614	20.75%
Self-Advocacy	165,188	13.15%
	<u>\$ 1,256,230</u>	<u>100.00%</u>

2014-2015 Grant Year Total Spending = \$1,256,230

Greetings,



Frank Bentley,
DD Council Chairperson

The Developmental Disabilities Council has wrapped up another stellar year. Our continued focus on health, employment, self-advocacy and community supports brought about new initiatives and real change.

The Therapy Place received funds this year to help children with severe intellectual and developmental disabilities with a “one stop shop” offering preschool and therapies under one roof. Move to Wellness continues to help show the importance of exercise. Participants have had weight loss, increased mobility and an increase of socialization, as well as, the partners and collaborators.

I would like to sincerely thank members of the council, staff and our community partners for your efforts in 2015. As we move into the last year of our state plan, we will continue to seek out innovative ideas that will improve the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families in South Carolina.

PARTNERS IN POLICYMAKING®

The South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council is extremely excited about bringing Partners In Policymaking® (PIP) in house; as a part of the Council Office as of July 1, 2015. William “Will” Farrior is the New Program Assistant and has begun making great strides motivating others to advocate for themselves. As a Self-Advocate, Will is highly motivated and extremely positive. He brings a new perspective to our work from the eyes of someone who has had to overcome barriers in order to achieve success.



Positive connections to other self-advocacy agencies and organizations are already being strengthened, which provides great exposure to other self-advocates around the state. These agencies and organizations are networking to provide services and ensure self-advocacy remains strong in South Carolina. Will's duties will include working with all of the Council's self-advocacy programs and he is excited about becoming more involved and knowledgeable regarding these programs.

Will comes to the Council as one of the first College of Charleston REACH Program graduates. His major was in communications. His course work included business, public speaking, communications, event planning as well as multiple internships.

He is an experienced speaker and is looking forward to various speaking engagements on behalf of the Council in the coming year. In Will's short time with us, he has expanded our thinking and is fast becoming an asset to our organization. Will's position is a new one in the Council Office and we are looking forward to fully developing the roles and responsibilities beyond the PIP Program. As Will often says "This is my Master's Degree". He is an avid learner and is always willing to expand his knowledge. We welcome Will to our staff and we are positive that he will help us make a huge difference in the lives of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

Executive Director

Message from the Director



2015 was a year of making a difference in the lives of many people with intellectual disabilities/developmental disabilities in South Carolina. The Developmental Disabilities Council Annual Report provides a concise snapshot of who we are and what we do. Our collaborations allow us to be a force for positive systems change and enhanced advocacy for our state. I am proud of the leadership programs we support that give individuals and family members a public voice, promote pride and empowerment and distribute vital information and resources. I am energized by our work with many of our community partners to develop creative and effective strategies of how to best support people with intellectual disabilities/developmental disabilities and their families. Thanks to everyone who contributed to our outcomes.

Valarie Bishop

South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council

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Ms. Susan Beck
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