

POSITIVE ABILITIES

Department of Administration

Office of Executive Policy and Programs

November 2016



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.

PROJECT SEARCH GOES NATIONAL



Our first team picture for South Carolina at the National Project SEARCH Conference in Orlando, Florida. Teams include Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System, Palmetto Health Baptist Parkridge, Baptist-Easley Hospital and 1 member from the newest program Anderson Medical. The group was joined by Linda Emery, Program Specialist for Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center/Disability Services.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS....

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
November 	21	22	23	24 	25	26
27	28	29	30	December Disability Employment Coalition	2 Partners in Policymaking	3
4	5	6	7	8 IMPACT Meeting	9	10
11	12	13 DD Council Meeting	14 Employment First Meeting	15 RFPs Released	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23 HOLIDAY	24
25 	26 HOLIDAY	27 HOLIDAY	28	29	30	31
	JANUARY HOLIDAY	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 DD Council Executive Committee	11 EQUIP Stakeholders	12 Continuation Grants Due	13	14
15	16 TASC	17	18	19	20 Partners in Policymaking	21
22	23	24	25	26 New Grant Proposals Due	27	28

EMPLOYER SUMMIT



Valarie Bishop addresses employment issues during the summit.



On October 12, stakeholders of the South Carolina Disability Employment Coalition, a component of the SC DD Council-funded Project RISE, gathered together to welcome more than 70 employers and service providers from around the state for Inclusion Works, an employer summit on hiring people with disabilities. The event opened with remarks from South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department's Commissioner Neal Getsinger and moved into a panel discussion with Able South Carolina's, Robbie Kopp serving as moderator. Speaking on the panel was Mark Powell of the Unum Group/Colonial Life, Shannon Garrett and Britt White of Verizon, Kathryn Harris and Project SEARCH intern Taylor Keeshan of Palmetto Health Baptist Parkridge. The summit was headlined by Senior Policy Advisor Shaun McGill of the US Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy. Inclusion Works was part of on-going efforts by the SC Disability Employment Coalition and its partners to change the conversation about disability employment amongst employers in the state in an effort to ensure competitive employment is a possibility for every South Carolinian that wants it.



Kathryn Harris, Business Liaison for Palmetto Health Baptist Parkridge teams up with Taylor Keeshan, former Project SEARCH participant and current employee as panelists for the Employer Summit.



Keynote Speaker, Shaun McGill



Kimberly Tissot, Executive Director of Able, SC with Valarie Bishop



Panelists engage participants regarding inclusion of people with disabilities into the workforce and share their own experiences.



Project Search National Conference



A group from 4 programs in South Carolina attended the 10th Annual Project Search Conference in Orlando Florida August 1-5. Sandi Batten, of the Arc of the Midlands and Valarie Bishop, DD Council Executive Director attended the Statewide Coordinator's Meeting on Monday August 1st and were welcomed to the group for the first time. On Tuesday, both attended pre-conference events on Project Search 101 (Sandi) and Effective Job Development Strategies (Valarie). A larger group from the 4 programs attended the conference August 3-5th. Programs included

Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System, Palmetto Health Baptist Parkridge in Columbia Baptist Easley in Pickens and AnMed Health Medical Center in Anderson.

The DD Council supports the Parkridge program with Arc of the Midlands and is also sponsoring a statewide initiative that will develop 3 new programs each year for the next 3 years. New sites were selected in September, 2016 and participated in training October 17th & 18th with Linda Emery, Program Specialist and Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center/Disability Services that operates the Project Search program. The first Statewide Meeting for South Carolina will be held February 3, 2017.



Kathryn won Fibits for all PS participants in the Parkridge program.

Valarie Bishop and Sandi Batten take a moment to share a smile!



2016 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE INSTITUTE & NATIONAL CONFERENCE



The 2016 Technical Assistance Institute (3P: Program, Planning, Performance For 2017 and Beyond) was held on Wednesday, July 6, 2016 in Washington DC. The event included Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD) updates, revised program performance measures, Annual Program Performance Report Updates, ACL Reporting premiere, Final Rule and administrative requirements and State Plan tips.

The NACDD Conference “Partners in Progress Empowering Children, Youth and Families for the Future” was held July 7 & 8th, 2016. South Carolina was well represented with two grant programs presenting and Valarie Bishop Chairing the Conference Planning Committee and doing the Opening and Welcome with Donna Meltzer, CEO of NACDD.

South Carolina Medical-Legal Partnership sub-grantee Greenville Health System Dr. Nancy Powers, Dr. Steven Ma and Anne Gragtmans presented as part of a panel on planning for the Future to help provide resources and guidance to navigate the future planning process for individuals with I/DD.

Sheryl Matney, TA Director

Piece It Together sub-grantee Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) presented a session on their program for exercise, nutrition, socialization and stress reduction for teens and young adults. The program promotes healthy lifestyle choices for individuals ages 14-25. The program has been adapted for 3 special education classrooms and is a weekly program that evolved from a summer program at the MUSC Wellness Center.

Eve Spratt, Carrie, Papa, Janis Newton, Keely Flynn from MUSC presented during the conference.



TA Institute Participants





Matthew "Mat" McCollough was elected the first President of the NACDD Board of Directors who is a person with DD and is Filipino. Congrats Mat! Mat has been the Executive Director of the Washington DC Council since 2010. He has been a leader, strong motivator and an excellent partner in advocating and improving systems for individuals with intellectual and development disabilities for many years. We look forward to his continued leadership as the new NACDD Board President. Mat took over in this role October 1, 2016.

Matthew McCollough shares his passion.

Steve Wiseman, West Virginia DDC Executive Director along with Valarie Bishop.



Robin Troutman, Deputy Director of NACDD with Valarie Bishop.

Austin ED Leadership Summit



Austin Texas Welcomed the NACDD Executive Directors Leadership Summit.



A panel discussion was held that included the first individual in the US to sign a Supported Decision Making Agreement, his supporter, a Senator, the Texas Supreme Court Chief Justice, an advocate/policy analyst and an individual from the office of Court Administration. The Texas Council was very involved in working across a large group of people to garner support for the law changes necessary for implementation.

Other activities included a panel of the DD Network Partners, teambuilding activities and a dialogue with AoD/AIDD Commissioner Aaron Bishop and Jennifer Johnson.

Events were planned to energize the group to continue their work to reduce barriers, maximize resources and be leaders in their states for people with I/DD. Thank you to everyone from making this an outstanding event!



A number of events were planned to help distress the Executive Directors and recharge them for another year of pushing the boundaries for people with disabilities. These events were designed to enhance the creative juices: Taking limited funds and available resources and maximizing its reach. Congratulations Executive Directors on your **OUTSTANDING** leadership.



Some of the participants enjoy the night time scenery after a day of workshops.



Famous for their “On The Spot” song-writing abilities, this group comes through during a TA exercise.

TASC



Joy Ivester is elated and honored (surprised) for being recognized for her passion.

Donn Brolin Award for State/Province Leadership and Services- This honor is awarded to an individual who has provided significant leadership and service in transition to a state or province. Donn Brolin was a founding member and the first president of DCDT and as author of the Life Centered Career Education curriculum, was influential in the career development and early transition movement.

2016 Winner - Joy Godshall Ivester

Joy Ivester has been involved in transition since 1997 when she served our state as a transition coordinator through a transition system change grant. She was instrumental in working with school districts to improve transition services for all students with disabilities. After a brief hiatus to get married and raise 3 beautiful children, Joy returned to the USC Center for Disability Resources to put transition front and center in South Carolina. Through her persistence and determination to make a difference, Joy has pulled together a working transition advisory team of state leaders to move forward with best practices in transition. She has been instrumental in creating collaborative teams of public school teachers, agencies, parents and advocacy groups to develop strategic goals aimed at the successful transition for high school students to post-secondary settings. She has served as President of SC DCDT and continues to work with our state subdivision. Joy is a true leader in our state and been a positive influence for everyone in South Carolina who works in this field.

On Wednesday, October 19, 2016 Council ED Valarie Bishop and Program Coordinator Reyhan Miller were facilitators at the TASC Transition Conference for approximately 30 local teams. (This was the 3rd Annual Building Bridges Interagency Transition Conference) In addition to break-out sessions, all teams participated in strategic planning time to develop, revise and/or enhance their PATH plans. This event included a panel on The Implementation and Impact of WIOA with John Payne, Susan Beck, and Laura Spears. Dr. Jane Everson provided a session on Program Evaluation and led the Team Strategic Planning. The SC DCDT Transition Awards were handed out over lunch.





The DD Council is extremely proud of Valarie and the outstanding work she does in leading the Council. Valarie is passionate and committed to ensuring the voices of people with disabilities are heard. Valarie continuously seeks collaborative efforts to links agencies, individuals and organizations with needed services. Congratulations Valarie on a job well done!



A “Spotlight on South Carolina” drop-in networking event took place prior to the kickoff of the National DCDT Conference in Myrtle Beach, SC. This event showcased the great work of South Carolina Interagency Transition Teams and highlighted many Council supported programs including Equip, Project Inclusion, Project Search and others.



It was hard rounding this “group” up for a picture..... they stay on the move!



Project R.E.A.L. South Florence High School Dance and Drums

Project REAL, a creative career exploration collaborative targeting students with disabilities across South Carolina, is led by ArtsAccess. Director Julia Brown works to bring established regional



artists into schools for a short-term residency during which students with intellectual and developmental disabilities experience creative careers. Successful residencies have allowed students with disabilities to explore traditional coastal basket weaving, visual arts, theater arts, musical arts, and others.

In late October 2016, South Florence High School played host to noted percussionist Bakti Larry Hough who collaborated with dance instructor

Dennis Breedlove to choreograph an original dance piece called the Hunters and the Gatherers. Using traditional djembes, dununs, bougarabous, and other African drums. Bakti Larry Hough invited a group of 10 students to keep the beat while over 40 other students danced. One unique element to this project, described by Julia Brown, includes the integration of three self-contained special education classes into

Instructor Breedlove's conventional dance class for purpose of this production—and it all occurs over a single quarter.



Instructor Breedlove described how he witnessed students with and without disabilities helping each other find their mark on stage or practice dance moves one-on-one. One student said she always wanted to try dancing and never knew one could make a career out of dancing. The self-contained special



education teachers also said how their students' moods lifted to learn about dance careers and move around on stage. The final production took place October 28th

SOS - Fit for Life in the Community

SOS Healthcare in Myrtle Beach hosts dynamic healthy lifestyle-exercise classes at four fitness facilities across Horry and Georgetown Counties. The project targets youth and young adults and includes collaboration among local school districts, SOS Healthcare, Coastal Carolina University and others. One group from Socastee High School, meets at least twice a week at Sky Fitness in Myrtle Beach. The high school provides transportation, and the special education instructors and aides attend the classes, too.

Sarah Pope, SOS Healthcare Executive Director, explains that each session begins with a brief lesson about healthy lifestyle choices followed by stretching and group exercises. Christina Mineo, the exercise instructor, says the Socastee group of



students enjoys jumping jacks, squats, leg exercises, and the exercise ball. One student said he would only attend “to get everyone to stop talking about it,” but after he started participating, Program Coordinator Dianne Owens said she noticed him participating more and choosing water over soda. He even asks what exercises the group will learn during the next session!

A group of students participating in the exercise program and learning about healthy eating have started an herb and vegetable garden in Myrtle Beach where they grow Collard Greens, Turnip Greens, Coriander, Tomatoes, and other healthful foods. To date, about 50 people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their family members have benefitted from exercise and learning about healthy lifestyles.



20th Partners In Policymaking Class Begins!



Devonta Robinson and Robert Rhames are engaged with other participants.

On October 14, 2016 Partners and Policymaking[®] began 20th class. This marks the second year under the direction of DD Council staff self-advocate, William Fariior; with support of staff members. Able South Carolina. Presenters, included Dori Tempio and Sarah Sharpe who provided amazing insight into Disability History. The information included the History of the Independent Living Movement, Empowerment, and History of the Disability Rights Movements. The participants also heard from previous graduates on how Partners in Policymaking[®] has impacted their lives.

One of the graduates from class nineteen shared her story on how she decided to move from Sumter to Columbia where she could have

more opportunities to expand and grow in her life. In the upcoming months participants will have the opportunity to hear from some incredible speakers such as Mrs. Deborah Whitfield and Mr. Jonathan Martinez. Mrs. Whitfield will be presenting on state and federal government legislation. During this session, participants will learn how to give their testimony to elected officials. Mr. Martinez will be presenting on decision making..

The 20th Annual Partners and Policymaking[®] class is filled with passion and is eager to expand the boundaries on systemic change on developmental disabilities within their own communities. Their passion is evident and brings new life and a fresh perspective to disability issues.

Jennifer Barkley is focused on getting the job done.



State Emergency Operation Center (SEOC)



FEMA coordinated the federal response to Hurricane Matthew's damaging impacts across four states in our region.

The SEOC is the facility in which all members of the State Emergency Response Team coordinate the response to major disasters in South Carolina. Located in West Columbia, S.C., the SEOC features over 7,500 square feet of workspace for South Carolina Emergency Management Division's (SCEMD) emergency response partners from state government, non-profit organizations and other entities.

The State Emergency Response Team (SERT) is made up of members from various state agencies, non-profit and private organizations who have dedicated roles in emergency operations. The SERT is prepared to staff the State Emergency Operations Center 24 hours a day for the duration of the emergency or disaster.



The Department of Administration oversees ESF 18 for donated goods and volunteer services. Cheryl English and Valarie Bishop had the opportunity to volunteer at SEOC.

New DD Council Members



**Phil Clarkson, SC Brain Injury Association
Derrick Means**



Joey and Michelle Barefoot

The DD Council poses for a picture after a Council Meeting. While not pictured, we are pleased to also have, Cherolyn Allen, Daphanie Dean, Connie Coleman and Cassidy Evans join the Council.



Executive Director**Message from the Director**

As we prepare for 2017, the DD Council is pleased that our Five Year State Plan was approved by our federal governing body for the full five years. A special thank you to everyone who worked to provide people with developmental disabilities and their families a plan that continues to build on the work which has already been established. I am confident we will continue to have great success. I am also pleased that the Council is at full capacity and excited about the upcoming year. As we work on inclusion we will also work hard to integrate the Hispanic/Latino community. My heart-felt thank you to everyone who contributed to improving lives of people with id/d and their families. Thank you for the special recognition. It was an honor to receive the Richard M. Kuffel Award. I share this award with all DD Council Members, staff and partners/collaborators who contribute to all of our successes.

Valarie Bishop**SOUTH CAROLINA DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL**

Ms. Kimberly Addis
Ms. Cheryl Allen
Mr. Joseph “Joey” Barefoot
Mrs. Michelle Barefoot
Ms. Susan Beck
Ms. Dianne S. Bennett
Mr. Frank Bentley
Mr. Phil Clarkson

Ms. Connie Coleman
Ms. Daphanie Dean
Ms. Mary Ann DeBerry
Mr. Coy L. “Les” Durham, III
Ms. Cassidy Evans
Mr. Milton “Drew” Gatlin, Jr.
Mr. Owens Goff
Mr. Jeffrey Ham

Mrs. Freda King
Mr. Roger Kuperman
Ms. Melina Lee
Ms. Kimberly Maple
Ms. Asha Purohit
Dr. David Rotholz
Mr. Marion Taylor
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