

POSITIVE ABILITIES

Department of Administration

Office of Executive Policy and Programs

Fall 2018

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.

State Treasurer Curtis Loftis Launches SC ABLÉ Savings Program for Individuals with Disabilities



The South Carolina Achieving a Better Life Experience (SC ABLÉSM) Savings Program, allows individuals with disabilities the opportunity to save and invest money without jeopardizing existing government benefits such as Medicaid and Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

The State Treasurer's Office is excited to offer this program to the citizens of South Carolina. State Treasurer Curtis Loftis announced on Thursday, November 16, 2017 the launch of the South Carolina Achieving a Better Life Experience (SC ABLÉSM) Savings Program, which provides tax-advantaged savings accounts for eligible individuals with disabilities. SC ABLÉSM accounts allow individuals with disabilities the opportunity to save and invest money without jeopardizing need-based public benefits programs such as Medicaid and Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

Executive Director, Valarie Bishop and DD Council Vice-Chairperson, Roger Kuperman were on hand for the launch of the SC ABLÉ Savings Program.

Individuals with a disability may save up to \$14,000 per year in an ABLÉ account. In addition, contributions made to SC ABLÉSM accounts are deductible from South Carolina state income taxes. SC ABLÉSM account savings can be used for a variety of qualified disability expenses, including rent and housing, transportation, education, employment training and support, assistive technology and many other approved expenses.

Administered by the S.C. Treasurer's Office, SC ABLÉSM accounts represent an important advancement in helping individuals with disabilities plan for the future. Prior to passage of the ABLÉ Act, individuals receiving certain government benefits were restricted in the amount of money they could save or invest, and financial resources of as little as \$2,000 could result in a loss of benefits. SC ABLÉSM Savings Program is administered by the S.C. State Treasurer's Office through a partnership with the Ohio Treasurer's Office. The South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council is excited and honored to be able to support this endeavor.

SC ABLÉ
SOUTH CAROLINA ACHIEVING A BETTER LIFE EXPERIENCE

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES
CAN NOW SAVE MONEY & KEEP THEIR BENEFITS

WHAT IS SC ABLÉ?
SC ABLÉSM accounts are tax-advantaged accounts that allow you to save and invest for your future - without jeopardizing your government benefits such as SSI and Medicaid.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?
Visit www.scable.org and take the Eligibility Quiz. You may qualify for a SC ABLÉSM account today if you are an:

- Individual who developed a disability before the age of 26
- Individual who is eligible to receive SSI or SSDI
- Individual with a diagnosis from a licensed physician of a marked and severe functional limitation

SUPPORT IS HERE FOR YOU
Our customer service is available by phone, Monday through Friday, 9AM to 6PM EST.
1-800-439-1653
or email team@scableaccount.com

The South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council is proud to support the SC ABLÉSM Savings Program.

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SOUTH CAROLINA
TREASURER'S OFFICE
www.treasurer.sc.gov

Intelligent Lives Film Screening



Gloria Prevost, Valarie Bishop, Dan Habib, David Rotholz



Dr. David Rotholz, Valarie Bishop, Roger Kuperman



One of the door prize winners

The South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council was extremely excited at the viewing of the “Intelligent Lives” film, directed by Dan Habib. The DD Council and the Center for Disability Resources, USC School of Medicine were film sponsors and the DD Network (DD Council, Center for Disability Resources and Protection and Advocacy for People with Disabilities, Inc.) were event sponsors.



DD Council staff pictured with Dan Habib



DD Council members, Bishop, Habib

Intelligent Lives

Dan Habib, Josh Powell, Daniel David, Lisa McCliment

INTELLIGENT LIVES stars three pioneering young American adults with intellectual disabilities – Micah, Naieer, and Naomie – who challenge perceptions of intelligence as they navigate high school, college, and the workforce. Academy Award-winning actor and narrator Chris Cooper puts the lives of these central characters in context through the emotional personal story of his son Jesse, as the film unpacks the shameful and ongoing track record of intelligence testing in the U.S. INTELLIGENT LIVES explores how narrow views of intelligence have led to the segregation of

people with intellectual disabilities. The movie examines how technology, peers, and other supports can enable people with intellectual disabilities to engage in competitive employment, inclusive education, and all aspects of community life. A panel discussion followed the screening and included Daniel Davis, Autism Division Director for the Department of Disabilities and Special Needs, Lisa McCliment, School Psychology consultant with the South Carolina Department of Education, Office of Special Education Services, and Joshua Powell, a junior at CarolinaLIFE program at the University of South Carolina.

Mr. Habib also met with High school and middle school students from the Lexington-Richland School District 5 at Irmo High School. The group watched two short films and heard from a panel on Self-Advocacy for students with disabilities. Panelists included Emily Beasley, EQUIP Coordinator at ABLE-SC, Tabitha Strickland, Education Associate at the South Carolina Department of Education, Office of Special Education Services and Joshua Powell, a junior at CarolinaLIFE program at the University of South Carolina. Students listened to the panel and talked about what they wanted to do as they complete school and look at work or postsecondary education and community living.



Panelist: Dan Habib, film maker, Joshua Powell, Emily Beasley and Tabitha Strickland

THE DD COUNCIL SUPPORTS THE SOUTH CAROLINA FRAGILE X RESOURCE GROUP



Governor Henry McMaster, R-SC, proclaimed Sunday, July 22, 2018, as Fragile X Awareness Day in South Carolina. You can [read his proclamation here \(PDF\)](#).

Around 40 family members and professionals attended a Fragile X event on Monday, July 23, 2018 at the State Capitol in Columbia to raise awareness.

DD Council Vice-Chairperson, Roger Kuperman has been a strong advocate for Fragile X Syndrome for quite some time. He has represented the Fragile X group in Washington, D.C. before congress, to heighten awareness and to ensure those affected by this syndrome have a voice. Fragile X syndrome is a genetic condition that causes a range of developmental problems including learning disabilities and cognitive impairment. Usually, males are more severely affected by this disorder than females.

Affected individuals usually have delayed development of speech and language by age 2. Most males with fragile X syndrome have mild to moderate intellectual disability, while about one-third of affected females are intellectually disabled. Children with fragile X syndrome may also have anxiety and hyperactive behavior such as fidgeting or impulsive actions. They may have attention deficit disorder (ADD), which includes an impaired ability to maintain attention and difficulty focusing on specific tasks. About one-third of individuals with fragile X syndrome have features of autism spectrum disorders that affect communication and social interaction. Seizures occur in about 15 percent of males and about 5 percent of females with fragile X syndrome.



PROJECT SEARCH CONTINUES TO EXPAND....



This year's statewide conference focused on trends, successes and challenges. Other highlights included sharing strategies and resources for a first year Project SEARCH instructor, developing digital portfolios and video skills records; roles, responsibilities and how funding for supported employment services works. The conference also featured the "Hire Me SC" Campaign.

South Carolina began with one site and now has expanded to ten sites around the state where individuals with disabilities are able to get hands on experience that will lead to sustainable employment.

Professional education training is an important part of Project SEARCH's mission. Education through which best practices are shared and promoted continuous improvements of the programs. The goal is to provide the tools and technical assistance needed to maximize employment outcomes for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



Participants are looking forward to next year's conference in Anaheim, California!



THE LONG ROAD HOME...



I.M.P.A.C.T. S.C. members and advisors with speakers Bernard Baker & Cheri Mitchell

I.M.P.A.C.T. S.C. (Individuals Motivating People to Achieve Change Together in South Carolina) self-advocacy statewide group hosted The Long Road Home conference on May 17, 2018. The conference focused on the Olmstead Act which was passed on June 22, 1999 by the US Supreme Court. The ruling requires that public agencies provide services in the most integrated community setting. Two nationally known self-advocates spoke – Bernard Baker and Cheri Mitchell, who lead rallies across the nation on this initiative.



**President: Jonathan Pringle -Marion County
Angela Green (Richland County)
Terone Manning (Chester County)**

**What the Long Road Home Means to Me
by Angela Greene (I.M.P.A.C.T. S.C. Secretary)**

**Thank God you have a place to call home
Heart to heart talking about life’s challenges
Easy spirit for comfort
Life worth being happy
On-going commitment to help me
Noticing what it takes to thrive
Good times ahead
Reason for thinking and hopes for a better world
Outcomes for a blessed life
Awesome people to help you reach your goal
Doing what is right for others
How you see your future
Onto higher levels of what you want out of life
Moving forward
Enjoy the moments of your life**

CONFERENCES

➤ Assistive Technology Expo



The Assistive Technology Expo continues to have more and more participants each year. The DD Council staff was privileged to witness a heart-felt moment during the AT Expo. A mother was concerned about her son's wheelchair. He was sliding down all the time and he was extremely uncomfortable. The Vendor, Pediatric Mobility Innovations began to work with her and placed him in a wheelchair which was much easier to adjust, he was no longer sliding down and he left smiling. The AT Expo is an outstanding opportunity to meet disability service organizations, discover the latest technologies and find available resources.

sliding down and he left smiling. The AT Expo is an outstanding opportunity to meet disability service organizations, discover the latest technologies and find available resources.



Able South Carolina... Mapping Your Future/Empowering Your Future



Mapping Your Future is committed to helping students, families and schools navigate the higher education and student process. It is designed to aid in the transition from school to employment, independent living and further education. Participants are also able to connect with community service providers who support youth with the transition. The conference continues to provide separate sessions for parents and youth.



Empowering Your Future continues to focus on education for transition specialists, guidance, counselors, educators, rehabilitation counselors and other professional who support young adults with disabilities as they prepare for success in employment, independent living and further education. The Transition Alliance of South Carolina, Family Connection, Partners & Advocacy, South Carolina Assisive

Technology, Able South Carolina and the Department of Education have partnered to ensure parents and students are aware appropriate services needed to aid with successful transition.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT DAY



The South Carolina Partnership of Disability Organizations is made up of disability advocacy organizations representing autism, brain injury, spinal cord injury and intellectual and related disabilities.

Because the constituents share many of the same service needs, these

organizations joined together to provide leadership in advocating on critical issues affecting the lives of people with disabilities and their families. Collectively, these volunteer organizations advocate for more than 500,000 people with severe lifelong disabilities and their families in South Carolina.

The Mission of the South Carolina Partnership of Disability Organizations is to engage in concerted advocacy for public policy that:

- Assures self-determination, independence, empowerment, integration and inclusion of children and adults with severe lifelong disabilities in all aspects of society
- Enhances the civil rights and quality of life of all people with disabilities
- Reflects the values of the Americans with Disabilities Act



The purposes of the Partnership are

To advocate for individuals with autism, brain injury, intellectual and developmental disabilities, and spinal cord injury. These four categories will be referred to collectively hereafter in these bylaws as “disabilities.”

To advocate for the full benefits of citizenship including rights, privileges, opportunities and responsibilities for individuals represented by member organizations.

To advocate for funding needs and access to a coordinated array of services and supports, determined by the individual’s unique strengths, needs and choices.

To advise state agencies, commissions, councils and legislative bodies on issues relative to the needs of persons with disabilities and their families.



To provide a forum for networking and exchange of information and leadership development.

To provide a mechanism for public awareness related to the needs of individuals with disabilities.

To encourage the input of individuals with disabilities and their families on issues and policies.



advocacy day

for Access & Independence



Derrick Means addressing advocates at Advocacy Day for Access and Independence, April 25, 2018.



DD Council staff Reyhan Miller, Program Coordinator; Meredith Engratt, MSW Intern; William Fariior, Program Assistant are all smiles after a successful day of advocating for access and independence.



SC Attorney Genreal Alan Wilson addressing advocates at Advocacy Day for Access and Independence

Over 400 disability advocates from across South Carolina joined together April 25, 2018 in front of the State House for the fifth annual Advocacy Day for Access and Independence. Over 24 organizations supported efforts to raise awareness of barriers South Carolinians with disabilities face to public access, transportation, housing, and employment. Before the rally on the State House steps, advocates and legislators were invited to enjoy breakfast together. This provided an opportunity for advocates to speak directly to legislators about issues they face in their local community.

Several speakers addressed the advocates assembled including Senator Katrina Shealy, Representative James Smith, Representative Neal Collins, Treasurer Curtis Loftis, Attorney General Alan Wilson and other elected officials. Several advocates also spoke about important issues including DD Council Secretary Derrick Means who declared his disability did not hold him back from working and pursuing a degree at USC Aiken. State Department of Education Deputy Superintendent John Payne echoed Means' words and motivated advocates in the crowd to follow Derrick's example.



Representative James Smith (D-Richland) speaking to advocates during Advocacy Day for Access and Independence

Means shared a personal success of story of advocating for himself. He works for USC and an issue arose with the status of his benefits. However, after speaking with the College's Dean, Means received full-time benefits. Quoting Aaliyah, Means affirmed, "if at first you don't succeed, dust yourself off and try again!"

DD Council staff handing out refreshments:

l-R: LaShannon Bethune, Meredith Engratt, Esther Williams and Reyhan Miller,



South Carolina Brain Injury Conference



Megan Trowbridge registers participants



Freda King greets conference guests



Philip Clarkson (l) gives presentation and highlights conference supporters

Keynote Speaker Brennen Barber (r) and his family enjoyed talking with exhibitors



Brain Injury Association of South Carolina (BIASC) is a nonprofit organization that was developed by persons with brain

injury, their families, and concerned professionals in an effort to provide information and support to those who have experienced a brain injury and their families. BIASC is a chartered affiliate of the Brain Injury Association of America. The mission is to create a better future through brain injury prevention, research, education, and advocacy. For more information, please visit www.biaofsc.com, email **Joyce Davis, Executive Director**, at director@biaofsc.com, or call **803.731.9823** or **1.877.TBI.FACT (in-state)**.



The conference provided a forum for the exchange of information on programs, resources, and best practices in brain injury rehabilitation and services. It also facilitated opportunities for networking among individuals with brain injuries, family members, and service providers. 35 exhibitors were present to provide information on available services for survivors of brain injury and their families.

SC Youth Leadership Forum



Helping young adults with disabilities become leaders in their communities!



The SC Youth Leadership is a four day, three-night leadership-intensive experience. Juniors, seniors, and recent high school graduates have the opportunity to stay overnight on a college campus, learn about independent living and advocacy in a safe and supportive setting, and collaborate with other young adults from around the state.

The SC YLF is open to young adults with any type of disability and incorporates hands-on activities that develop leadership skills and promote disability pride. The goal of the forum is to help young adults become strong leaders and advocates. SC YLF is coordinated by Able South Carolina and partnering organizations and funded by the South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council.

The group at the SC YLF will represent the best of the young adult leaders with disabilities in the state. You'll meet new people and maybe even see some you already know! Both delegates and peer staff show up ready to learn. You will hear an amazing selection of speakers share their experiences growing up with disabilities, participate in a variety of activities designed to build your skills and stretch and expand your leadership potential.



YLF Continued...

A delegate is a representative chosen to attend the SC YLF because of their leadership ability. A delegate shows leadership skills in their community and is motivated to work with their peers to carry out new ideas. Selected applicants joined a group of 25 delegates for a unique leadership experience at USC Aiken.



Peer Staff members act as just that- staff! Peer staff are alumni from previous SC YLF years that showed strong leadership skills and a desire to pass on what they learned. They will work with delegates and professional staff throughout the day, planning and leading various activities. The SC YLF is a learning experience for everyone, but staff get to work behind the scenes!



National Conference, Technical Assistance, Chairperson Leadership Training



SC Executive Director, Valarie Bishop moderates a panel on employment during the conference



ITACC Chairperson Leadership Training – July 9, 2018

Chairperson Frank Bentley and Executive Director Valarie Bishop presented at the ITACC (Information and Technical Assistance Center for Councils on Developmental Disabilities) Chairperson Leadership Training at the Gaylord National Harbor on July 9, 2018. The presentation was on the Council Chair and Executive Director Partnership and covered the importance of this relationship, governance vs. management, shared tasks, primary roles, and staff interaction.

Participants also learned about the DD Act, member roles and responsibilities, engaging members, educating policymakers, knowledge of the Administration for Community Living, Administration on Disabilities and the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.



2018 AIDD Technical Assistance Institute – Enhancing Council Program Opportunities and Improving Fiscal Accountability Grants Administrator Lashannon Bethune and ED Valarie Bishop participated in the 2018 AIDD Technical Assistance Institute – Enhancing Council Program Opportunities and Improving Fiscal Accountability event held on July 9 & 10th also held at Gaylord National Harbor. Day One topics included Natural and Manmade Disaster Planning, Response and Recovery and the Roles for a DD Council, Cultural Brokering, Strategies for Sustainability, Research to Advocacy. Day Two Topics included Utilizing ACL Resources to Support DD Council Programs, Cost Principles, Match, etc., Monitoring the Council’s Investments, Council/DSA Partnership and AIDD updates.

National Conference Continued...

Board Elections were held at the Assembly Meeting. Board Members present included: Ann Trudgeon, ED-Oklahoma, Steve Gieber, ED-Kansas (Board Vice President), Shannon Buller, ED-Wyoming (Board President), Mitzi Proffitt, Council Chair-Georgia, Valarie Bishop, ED-South Carolina, Donna Meltzer, CEO-NACDD, Vicky Davison, ED-Missouri, Molly Cole, Past President, Toni Brinegar, Program Specialist-Idaho, Beth Sweeden, ED-Wisconsin, Charles Hughes, ED-Mississippi (Board Secretary)

Congratulations on being elected - Ann, Toni and Beth

NACDD Annual Conference 2018-See Me For Me: Connecting with Our Communities

Bishop also attended NACDD'S 2018 Annual Conference, "See Me for Me: Connecting with Our Communities!" on July 11 and 12 in the same location. We were excited to share a program filled with speakers from our federal partners and others from across the country to share best and promising practices for how to help others see people with intellectual and developmental disabilities as part of the fabric of the community. Sessions included Federal Perspectives on Disability Policy, Community Inclusion, Leadership, Education and others. Congratulations to Champion of Equal Opportunity (CEO) Award winners Senator Bob Casey, Mr. Ken Capone and Mr. Scott Lindbloom. Bishop also facilitated a Plenary Session on Advocacy, Research and Innovation in Employment for People with IDD

DD Councils pursue **systems change, advocacy, and capacity building** to promote independence, self-determination, productivity, integration and inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in all facets of community life. DD Councils utilize strategies such as training, educating policy makers and communities, coalition development, barrier elimination, and demonstration of new approaches to service.



FIT FOR LIFE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



Jamie Sullivan and Sarah Pope Continue to advocate for people with disabilities in Myrtle Beach.



SOS Health Care, Inc, began the Fit For Life grant which embodied the essence of well-being with their approach to health. The focus is on adults with disabilities between the ages of 16-35. Participants and self-advocates take part designing and implementing the program. Fitness classes held weekly paired with nutritional support and

consultant in grocery shopping provided a balance for individuals in the program. The program utilized information from CDC, the prevalence of obesity among adults with disabilities. The program

addresses implementation and evaluation. Evaluation will be on-going throughout the program cycle. It includes outreach efforts within the community and share outcome measures with collaboration partners. The cost analysis is being done so the burden of ongoing fitness will not negatively affect the program’s success. Affordable gym membership costs are key factors in continuation of preventable health care measures. As the “Fit For Life” grant has ended, we are pleased that local businesses are now sponsoring the program which will allow participants to continue to improve their health and well-being.

“Fit For Life” has a number of success stories which enhance the lives of those in the Myrtle Beach community. A young man who started the program late in the year was very shy and did not participate in many exercises; he would sit in the back. After a few weeks, due to the class being so interactive and fun he would be in the front of the class and would be participating regularly and even assisting the fitness instructor His mood changed and he became very determined to become healthy. He would take information home to share with his family and talked about how his family switched to healthier meals at home.

Social Work Interns Receive a Lesson on Developmental Disability Network



Center for Disability Social Work interns with Bishop and Farrior

Meghan Trowbridge, LMSW, CBIST, Assistant Director, for the Center for Disability Resources (UCEDD), University of South Carolina School of Medicine and Research Assistant Professor for the University of South Carolina School of Social Work invited the DD Council to present during the orientation for new interns. Executive Director, Valarie Bishop provided information regarding the DD Network. She shared the role of the Council and how the council effects change on a local, state, and federal level.

Program Assistant, Will Farrior, shared his personal experience about his disability and the way it affected him, his family, school, and career, including his role at the DD Council. The collaboration between the Center Disability Recourses and South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council has allowed students to receive a larger picture of how they can help implement change for the disability community by sharing what resource are available to assist people with disabilities and their love ones.

Emphasis was placed on the impact each of them could have on both the disability and non-disability communities. Bringing awareness helps people in key positions make informed decisions before implementing policies.

South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council
Office of Executive Policy and Programs / Department of Administration
2018-2019 Grant Summaries

Grant Title [Year]	Program Description
Grantee Name	
<i>HOPE GED Program</i> [3] Project HOPE Foundation	The program investigates the viability of a specialized GED program tailored to help individuals with Autism obtain a GED. Program participants would otherwise graduate with a certificate or not complete school. Additionally, the program simultaneously builds “soft-skills” that employers require, so program participants are ready to enter the workforce.
<i>Project Connect</i> [3] USC Department of Educational Studies	The program provides for the development and implementation of a collaborative service model for students exiting post-secondary college experience programs for individuals with I/DD. A primary focus of the program is exit-planning and career services for CarolinaLIFE students in close coordination with local agencies relevant to workforce development.
<i>Transition Student Employment Program</i> [3] School District of Oconee County	The program provides certificate track students in Oconee County employment training over five weeks during the summer. Local agency and business partners plan to use evidence-based practices to provide paid work experiences at Hamilton Career Center that teach employment skills, increase self-confidence, and provide opportunities for social interaction, among others.
<i>Project SEARCH SC Statewide Strategy</i> [3] Arc of the Midlands	The program builds upon the success of South Carolina’s current Project SEARCH locations by providing resources and support to new Project SEARCH locations across South Carolina. This evidence-based program incorporates a collaborative service model including relevant state agencies, business partners, and non-governmental organizations to provide community-based career experiences for certificate-track high school students with I/DD.
<i>Student Success Jobs Program</i> [2] Arc of the Midlands	The program seeks to engage students in a year-round internship program that develops and executes a school-based enterprise. Using a national evidence-based model supported by the Arc of the United States, certificate track students will learn how to create, launch, and run a business.
<i>Everyday Living</i> [3] Arc of South Carolina	The program seeks to increase self-efficacy skills, perform activities of daily living, and build confidence in independent living skills. Evidence-based activities will take place in participants’ community.
<i>Go Do Life</i> [3] Babcock Center	The program seeks to improve socialization skills and increase recreational opportunities for adults with I/DD. Components of the program include intensive social skills training and community engagement through volunteering. Program participants will also work together to plan and participate in recreational activities of their choosing.

<p><i>Prevocational Readiness Project</i> [3] York County Adult Day Care Services, Inc.</p>	<p>The program will serve adults who are no longer in conventional school and provide foundational vocational training. Participants will learn about appropriate workplace behavior, building confidence, self-advocacy at work, and other topics. At the end of the curriculum, the goal is to connect participants with relevant workforce development agencies and supported employment agencies to secure meaningful work.</p>
<p><i>South Carolina Supported Decision Making Project</i> [3] Able-SC</p>	<p>The program will educate individuals with I/DD and their families about the benefits of Supported Decision Making over more restrictive options such as guardianship. Activities include training sessions for families, presenting at conferences for professionals, and creating & disseminating awareness-raising materials.</p>
<p><i>LIT Project</i> [2] Current Transitions</p>	<p>The program will focus on increasing literacy skills, information gathering skills, and basic technology skills for people with I/DD. Through collaboration with the SC Assistive Technology Program, the LIT Project will use face-to-face trainings to build these essential skills and offer opportunities to use newly acquired skills in the community.</p>
<p><i>Latinos Making Connections</i> [2] Family Connection of South Carolina</p>	<p>The program brings together multiple organizations working with people with I/DD and Spanish-speaking populations to target disparities experienced by South Carolina’s growing Latino population. Primary activities include establishing an interagency workgroup, identifying barriers to service delivery in Latino communities, and addressing strategies to increase the quality and quantity of services and supports available to Latino individuals with I/DD and their families.</p>
<p><i>Healthy Living Made Simple</i> [1] Community Options, Inc.</p>	<p>The program offers weekly healthy living classes to individuals with I/DD and their family members. Classes include meeting with a registered dietician to create individualized meal plans based on the person’s preferences, and the individuals will receive community-based exercise and fitness instruction.</p>
<p><i>Holistic Health</i> [1] SOS Health Care Inc.</p>	<p>The project will integrate fitness and nutritional support across all of SOS Health Care’s programming. Staff will train leaders to help individuals with I/DD use exercise equipment on site and in their homes and will help provide healthy snack options in the canteen and vending machines.</p>

<p><i>Youth Leadership Forum</i> [Ongoing]</p> <p>Able-SC</p>	<p>The program is an established, evidence-based summer program for youth with disabilities who are still in high school or just graduated. The objectives are to build or strengthen participants’ self-advocacy skills, self-confidence, and leadership skills for the purpose of remaining in school, graduating, obtaining post-secondary education and obtaining employment that meets each individual’s maximum potential.</p>
<p><i>IMPACT-SC</i> [Ongoing]</p> <p>Center for Disability Resources</p>	<p>The IMPACT SC Self-Advocacy group is a self-advocate led statewide advocacy group. Initiatives include selecting training materials, choosing speakers on topics critical to building successful self-advocacy, and attending training or conferences in and out of the state.</p>
<p><i>Equip: Self-Advocacy & Leadership in Young Adults</i> [Ongoing]</p> <p>Able-SC</p>	<p>EQUIP is a Young Adult Leadership program focused on empowering young adults with disabilities ages 14-25 by showing them the skills necessary to build self-confidence, set and accomplish goals and become community activists. EQUIP is unique in its approach because its leaders are also young adults with disabilities who can directly relate to the group.</p>
<p><i>Let’s Talk</i> [Ongoing]</p> <p>Arc of the Midlands</p>	<p>A self-advocacy program for people with I/DD to focus on self-development, making choices, taking leadership roles, and achieving dreams. Participants will develop community-based projects that allow them to practice expressing themselves in public settings.</p>

SC DD Council Hard at Work... Also saying goodbye to retirees Owens Goff and Freda King.



The developmental Disabilities Council is saying a heart-felt thank you and good-bye to Mrs. Freda King and Mr. Owens Goff as they retired from state service. Mrs. Freda King retired from SC Vocational Rehabilitation and Mr. Owens Goff retired from SC Department of Health and Environmental Control. With over 60 years of service between them the DD Council as well as the State of South Carolina will miss two extremely dedicated individuals. We wish them the best as they enter into retirement phase. Thank you so much for all you have done to make DD Council a success!



Freda King and Cheryl English share a good-bye hug



Council Meetings Dates:

**October 9, 2018, 11:00 A.M.
December 10, 2018, 11:00 A.M.**

Saying a special **THANK YOU!**

Mr. Milton “Drew” Gatlin Jr. and Mr. Coy L. “Les” Durham, III have served 8 years with DD Council and we will miss their invaluable input as well as their infectious smiles as they continue to advocate for the citizens of South Carolina. Executive Director, Valarie Bishop and Chairperson, Frank Bentley presented both “Drew” and “Les” with Certificates of Appreciation from the Governor’s Office, for their outstanding work with DD Council.



Mr. Milton “Drew” Gatlin Jr.



Mr. Coy L. “Les” Durham pictured with Valarie Bishop and Chairperson, Frank Bentley.



The DD Council reviewing grant proposals



Mr. Derrick Means continues to blaze a trail for self-advocates. He works with the Spartanburg High School as a full-time Library Assistant. He was recently featured in, “The Extra” section of, “The State” newspaper in an article by ABLE SC which highlighted the changing culture of disability employment. Derrick continues to encourage others to pursue their career ambitions and never give up even when faced with rejection.

Message from the Director



As I look back on the events from the past year, I see an incredible group of people making a difference in South Carolina and beyond. I am proud of the work that our Council, DD Network Partners, Grantees and fellow Collaborators have done. We have been challenged and energized by all of the changes taking place for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

We have an incredible, dedicated Council and it is a pleasure to work with each-and-every one of them. We have to say goodbye to some but know that we will add new members who will help us continue our work into the future. I look forward to working with everyone!

Valarie Bishop

SOUTH CAROLINA DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL

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

**Mr. Philip Clarkson
Ms. Daphanie Dean
Mr. Coy L. “Les” Durham, III
Mrs. Connie Gallman
Mr. Milton “Drew” Gatlin, Jr.
Ms. Barbara Grice
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