

POSITIVE ABILITIES

Department of Administration

December 2021

Office of Executive Policy and Programs

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.

sos  care
Autism & Intellectual Disability Services



SOS Walking Club meets on Saturday mornings and holds two weekly one-hour walking events around and in community recreation venues: one at Pepper Geddings Recreations Center in Myrtle Beach, and one at Carolina Forest Recreation Center in Horry County. Walking club has been a wonderful opportunity to get steps in and socialize with fellow classmates. When they first started the groups, participants were walking about 1.25 miles in a 30-minute period, but now they have worked up to 2-3 miles in a 50-minute period. One of their participants is up to 3.5 miles and has shown interest in doing a 1/2 marathon next year. There have also been new friendships made during their time together, and participants are practicing their social skills and conversation skills.

SOS Health Care
5276 Highway 17 Business
Murrells Inlet, SC 29576

SOS Life Skills Club of Conway:



The Conway group is growing as new people have been moving to the area. There are two new participants who are brothers that recently joined our group. They just moved here and have been housebound due to Covid. Since joining their classes, they have met new friends and other boys their age. They are becoming more confident each and every class and they are excited to live there now knowing that they have a support system in place to help them get jobs and meet new people.



They also had a Friendsgiving recently and it had a great turnout which included participants from the Conway group. They cooked a big meal together and shared time for the holiday.





SOS Making Change II (Customized Employment)



Customized Employment is all about getting to know your job seeker. It is a discovery process to enable a job seeker's employment to be more personalized and fulfilling. They recently went to the next level and found an ideal candidate, Thomas, for Customized Employment for a micro business. The most important part of the Customized Employment process is an assessment called the Discovering Personal Genius Staging Record. In this phase, they are learning about who Thomas is, and what his talents are. They are also looking for emerging patterns and themes. This includes completing a comprehensive vocational assessment to discover any other interests, hobbies, passions, and skill sets he may have. They discovered that Thomas is smart, with a wealth of knowledge and the passion to share on all things related to angling. Through discovering his personal genius, it was

uncovered that Thomas (aka T Bone) would like to use his knowledge and creativity to put his artwork on T-shirts and create his own small business. Thomas drew many drafts and sketches of the fish he wanted on the first t-shirt. His first series was called the Gulf Stream Most Wanted. Below is a sample sketch. They found an artist who worked wonderfully with Thomas and truly captured what Thomas was looking for and T Bone approved the sketches. T Bone has had to learn about working with a screen printer, artist, social media, packaging and mailing and creating his website with help on Shopify. The micro business has been successful and T Bone even added hoodies, hats, and koozies to his inventory. As an extra bonus with his customized employment, Thomas writes a weekly blog on his website www.saltboneworldwide.com





York CAN Kick-Off Event featured vendors, music and fun for all. The event allowed families to connect to resources and learn more about York CAN. The event also featured the reading of Governor McMaster's Proclamation.

The Kick-off Event highlighting life-size cut outs of individuals with disabilities who are employed in York County.



Another highlight of the event was Miracle Park, which is designed for people of all ages and abilities to play and work together – a place for everyone to belong! It is the first park in the world to hold a universal Design certification. The park is a result of public-private partnership between the York County Disabilities Foundation and the City of Rock Hill. The park also includes the Miracle League.



YORK CAN CONNECT

2022 LUNCH AND LEARN SERIES



TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2022
AT 12:00-1:00PM

- This free monthly event is for service providers, professionals, family members, and individuals with disabilities to learn about community resources for individuals with disabilities
- Guest speakers this month are from Family Connection and NAMI Piedmont Tri-County (National Alliance on Mental Illness)
- Networking and opportunities to share local events will follow

ONLINE EVENT, REGISTER USING THE LINK OR
FLOWCODE BELOW:

FLOWCODE.COM/P/CYZBOHNG5?FC=0



Project Hope Foundation:

Increasing the Efficacy of Person-Centered Discovery for Language Challenged Individuals with ASD



This SCDDC grant focuses on building self-advocacy language skills and exploring the impact of environmental choices on language-challenged individuals with autism. To maximize available environmental options, they created an on-site entrepreneurial opportunity for the youth and young adults at their Woodruff campus. “Printed by Hope” is a digital shirt-printing operation with six major pieces of equipment, three stockrooms, and an online presence. This business has positions that range from opening boxes and sorting shirts by color to managing the machinery

and handling their website-based store. This year the group has also had opportunities to work face-to-face with the public, manning booths at a statewide conference and at a 200+ motorcycle rally. Having completed 15,000 prints, their group has made measurable gains in their social engagement, effective communication, and independent job skills. Each is earning minimum wage, which is encouraging to both them and their families. They invite you to check out their store and to consider **Printed by Hope** for any custom printing needs you may have: <https://www.projecthopesc.org>. They remain grateful for SCDDC’s investment in our autism community!





We are thrilled to announce the establishment of the new [SC Disability Vaccine Access Network](#), a partner-led program funded by the SC [Department of Health and Environmental Control](#) (SCDHEC) and the US Department of Health and Human Service's [Administration for Community Living](#).

The SC Disability Vaccine Access Network is a group of disability-focused nonprofits, state agencies and leaders in SC with a mission to act against COVID-19 vaccine misinformation and barriers to vaccine access that impact the disability community. The network has developed a statewide awareness campaign based on effective outreach including vaccine resources, the SC Disability Vaccine Access Hotline, and accessible materials such as posters, videos and social media graphics, to provide the disability community with more information regarding the COVID-19 vaccine.

Partners include [AccessAbility](#), [Disability Rights SC](#), the [South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council](#), the [University of South Carolina Center for Disability Resources](#) and [Walton Options](#).

**For more information about the network and its campaign, visit [SCDisabilityVaccine.org](#)
or
call the SC Disability Vaccine Access Hotline at 1-800-787-6046.**

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE SC DISABILITY VACCINE ACCESS NETWORK?

The SC Disability Vaccine Access Network was created to educate individuals in the disability community about the importance of the COVID-19 vaccine, provide help to overcome barriers to getting vaccinated, and to help those who want to get vaccinated to get the shot. The goal of the network is to provide vaccine information in a plain-language, accessible format that can easily be distributed among the disability community and related audiences, and to serve as a guide for people with disabilities in SC who may face barriers to getting the vaccine.

WHY IS THIS NETWORK SPECIFICALLY REACHING OUT TO THE DISABILITY COMMUNITY?

People with disabilities are considered a high-risk group for severe sickness and death caused by COVID-19. Since one in three South Carolinians has a disability, the lack of access to healthcare is the biggest barrier people with disabilities face when seeking COVID-19 prevention, treatment and education. The SC Disability Vaccine Access Network was created to educate those individuals and provide help to overcome those barriers.



Family Emergency Kit

It is important to keep enough supplies in your home to meet the needs of your family for at least three days. Assemble a Family Emergency Kit with items you may need in an emergency or evacuation. Store these supplies in sturdy, easy-to-carry containers such as suitcases, duffle bags or covered storage containers.

[CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD A PRINTABLE CHECKLIST](#)

SC DD Council Program Manager Lori Rodgers



It has been six months since I joined the DD Council team. It has been fun getting to know our Council Members and grantees and working with our wonderful staff.

I am amazed by the partnerships, collaborations and resilience of everyone in the DD Network. These efforts are leading to positive change for the state of South Carolina, and I am eager to see continued progress from here.

I look forward to continued success and want to wish each of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! I hope that the New Year brings happiness, peace, and health to you and your loved ones.



SC DD Council Executive Director,
Valarie Bishop



It is that time again for the DD Council to release our RFPs for funding. Please see the link in this newsletter to go to our Funding Page for the details! We were excited to launch our Facebook and Twitter pages in October 2021! We are so excited to share our work, recruit for events and highlight some of our staff and Council members.

We are also excited to highlight some of our wonderful grantees and the work they are doing.

We welcomed new council members over the last few months, and they have already jumped in to strengthen our efforts. Welcome Amy, Bernard, Gerald, Suzanne and Trayci!

We hope that everyone has a wonderful holiday. We look forward to working with everyone in the new year!



SOUTH CAROLINA
Developmental Disabilities Council

South Carolina Development Disabilities Council has approved and placed the 2022-23 RFPs on the web site: www.scdde.sc.gov We are also excited to continue to share our social media links on Facebook and Twitter.



[SC DD Council Facebook](#)



[SC DD Council Twitter](#)

South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council

Office of Executive Policy and Programs | Department of Administration

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Developmental Disabilities Council will have a maximum amount up to \$120,000 established for Employment priority area programming for Fiscal Year 2022-2023.

The Developmental Disabilities Council is soliciting proposals for projects that implement evidence-based approaches for individuals with developmental disabilities consistent with the State Plan Goal and Objective listed below.

State Plan Goal 1: Employment

People with intellectual and developmental disabilities will receive the necessary employment services and supports to become employed in an integrated setting.

Objective 1

Support programs for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities that promote access to integrated workforce development systems.



COUNCIL NEWS

The Developmental Disabilities Council welcomes five new members: one self-advocate, Mr. Gerald Frazier from Columbia, and four parent advocates, Mrs. Trayci Brazell from Eastover, Mrs. Amy Hibbs from Simpsonville, Mrs. Suzanne Wingard from Sumter, and Mr. Bernard Johnson from Charleston. We are excited to have four new parent advocates bringing their insight as parents/caregivers for people with disabilities as well as their professional experiences.



Mr. Gerald Frazier is a strong advocate for people with disabilities. He enjoys his job with Babcock Center and being a Beta Club member. He looks forward to being on the DD Council and helping self-advocates speak up for what they want. Gerald received the Advocate of the Year Award for 2020. Traditionally the first Wednesday in March is Disability Advocacy Day (DAD) at the State House in Columbia. Due to the pandemic, the day was cancelled in 2020 and 2021. A special recognition was held at the State House on March 30, 2021 where Gerald was presented his award. Congratulations Gerald!



Trayci is a 2019-2020 Partners in Policymaking® graduate. Trayci says that she understands that the more she advocates for her son, the more she can see herself advocating for others. Her passion is fueled by her love for her son, who is autistic. She says that there is so much that parents need to know to help navigate the world with their children. She also states that early help for parents is critical to their children's development and aids in them living happier, healthier, and independent lives.



Bernard is a 2016-2017 Partners in Policymaking® graduate. Bernard says that he is excited about the possibilities of being on the DD Council and being able to advocate for others. His passion is equality for all. He shared that a disability should not hinder people from obtaining things in life that are necessary to live and maintain a standard quality of life. The disability in and of itself can have its own challenges, so having normal living amenities is essential.



Amy Hibbs joins us from Simpsonville and is a 2020 Partners in Policymaking® graduate. Amy, along with a 2019 Partners in Policymaking® graduate, Allison Huffstutler, created "Wings, A School Inclusion Program." While going through separate classes, they shared the connection of having a child with disabilities attending the same school. Believing that there needed to be more inclusion and better understanding from others, their mission is to: Foster a culture of inclusion for all students by developing relationships between students with disabilities and students without disabilities through education, buddy classes, leadership development and community partnerships.



Suzanne Wingard is the parent of a daughter with Mosaic Down Syndrome. She gets her passion and drive from watching her daughter develop her own advocacy skills – especially at school. Suzanne is the Director of Training at Family Connection. She oversees works with community partners and oversees the statewide workshops and trainings for parents and professionals.



SOUTH CAROLINA DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL

**Ms. Harriet Abner
Ms. Margaret Alewine
Mrs. Carol Anderson
Mr. Joseph “Joey” Barefoot
Mrs. Michelle Barefoot
Ms. Anna Bleasdale
Mrs. Trayci Brazell
Ms. Jerri Davison**

**Mrs. Mary Beth Fields
Ms. Beth Franco
Mr. Gerald Frazier
Mrs. Connie Gallman
Mr. John Green
Mr. Demetrius Henderson
Mrs. Amy Hibbs
Mrs. Melissa Hunt
Mr. Bernard Johnson**

**Mr. Roger Kuperman
Mr. Derrick Means
Ms. Kristi Moore
Dr. David Rotholz
Ms. Allison Danielle Sartin
Ms. Elizabeth Smithson
Dr. Kim Watkins
Mrs. Suzanne Wingard**

Staff

**Valarie Bishop, Executive Director
Lori Rodgers, Program Manager
Cheryl English, Program Coordinator
William Farrior, Program Assistant
Esther Williams, Administrative Specialist**

**(803) 734-0465
seddc.sc.gov**

**1205 Pendleton Street
Suite 372
Columbia, SC 29201**