



# SOUTH CAROLINA DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL

SOUTH CAROLINA OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE POLICY AND PROGRAMS  
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

**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.*

### SOUTH CAROLINA PRIORITY AREAS FOR 2023:

## COMMUNITY SUPPORTS, EMPLOYMENT, SELF-ADVOCACY

**COMMUNITY SUPPORTS** People with intellectual and developmental disabilities will have increased access to be fully included in the community of their choice.

**Objective 1:** Support at least two programs that provide people with intellectual and developmental disabilities opportunities to improve community integration, inclusion, and self-determination.

- Able South Carolina - Building Advocacy in Transition Systems (BATS)
- Arc of the Midlands - STRIVE
- Center for Disability Resources – Assistive Technology Expo
- Community Options - Circles of Support
- Able South Carolina - Developing Decision Makers
- Upstate Carolina Adaptive Golf - Project 1000
- SOS Care, Inc. – Life Skills Club of Conway
- York Adult Enrichment Centers - York CAN inclusion Project
- Victoria's Place Inc. - Victoria's Place Journey to Fun

**Objective 2:** Support at least one program that addresses an emerging health issue for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, families, and service providers using evidence-based practices and interventions.

- Brain Injury Association – Life with Brain Injury
- SOS Care, Inc. – Walking Club
- Adult Enrichment Centers - Art of Living Well
- Institute for Child Success - Nurturing Developing Minds

**Objective 3:** Support the development of relationships that improve Latino/Hispanic families with children with intellectual and developmental disabilities having access to needed services and supports.

**Objective 4:** Support education of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in housing resources.

- **SOS Care Inc. – SC Housing Education**

**Objective 5:** Support increased flexibility of transportation options so people with intellectual and developmental disabilities can participate in community events.

### **2023 Community Supports Program Results**

- ❖ **3170 Impacted Through Advocacy Training**
- ❖ **6 Board Positions**
- ❖ **19 Evidence-Based Practices**
- ❖ **4 Policy Changes**

**EMPLOYMENT** People with intellectual and developmental disabilities have access to competitive, community-based career opportunities throughout their lifetime.

**Objective 1:** Support programs for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities that improve access to integrated workforce development systems.

- **Able South Carolina - Promoting Avenues for Community Employment (PACE)**

**Objective 2:** Support programs that empower people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to develop and direct their own career strategy using appropriate evidence-based and best practice methods.

- **Project Hope - Hope4Work**
- **SOS Care, Inc.- Customized Employment**

### **2023 Employment Program Results**

- ❖ **2338 Impacted Through Advocacy Training**
- ❖ **4 Board Positions**
- ❖ **6 Evidence-Based Practices**
- ❖ **1 Policy Change**

**SELF-ADVOCACY** People with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families are empowered to affect statewide leadership training opportunities that contribute to active participation in cross disability leadership coalitions and systems change efforts.

**Objective 1:** Support at least one statewide self-advocacy organization led by people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to provide opportunities for increasing leadership abilities and to meet self-defined organizational goals.

- **Able South Carolina - EQUIP – Self-Advocacy & Leadership in Young Adults**
- **Center for Disability Resources – IMPACT SC**

**Objective 2:** Support opportunities that strengthen leadership abilities in peer-to-peer networks of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

- **Able South Carolina – Youth Leadership Forum (YLF)**
- **Arc of the Midlands – Let’s Talk**

**Objective 3:** Support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their family members to engage cross-disability, culturally diverse leadership boards, committees, commissions, councils, and similar coalitions.

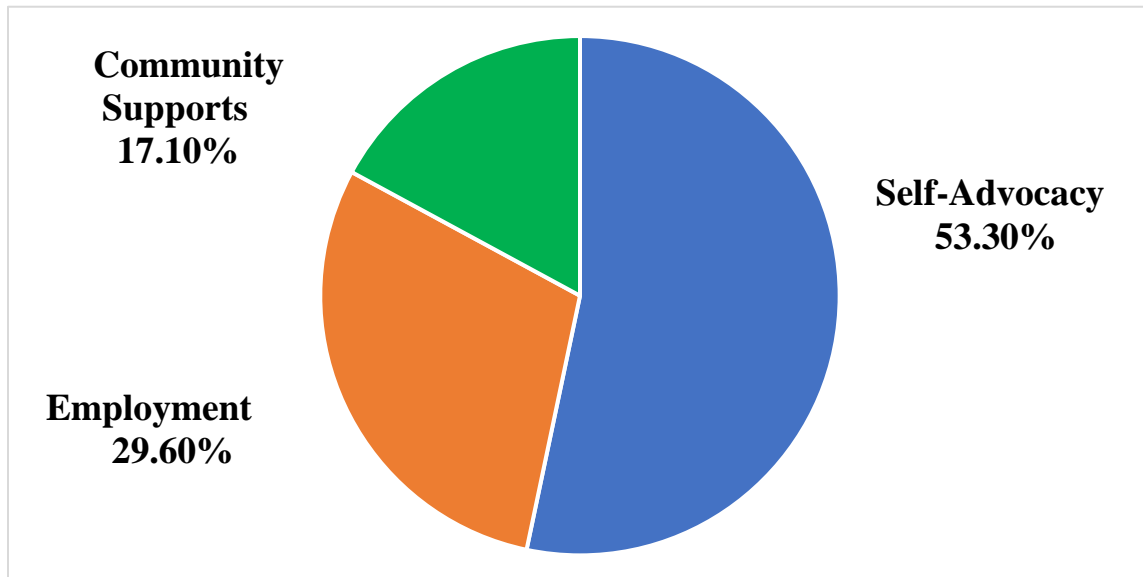
- **Able South Carolina – Community Leadership Academy (CLA)**

**Objective 4:** The Developmental Disabilities Council will collaborate with South Carolina’s Center for Disability Resources (UCEDD) and Protection and Advocacy for People with Disabilities in South Carolina (P&A System) on at least one program that engages system beneficiaries to assess system barriers and influence positive changes in service delivery, policies, interventions, and strategies.

### 2023 Self-Advocacy Program Results

- ❖ **620 Impacted Through Advocacy Training**
- ❖ **67 Board Positions**
- ❖ **13 Evidence-Based Practices**
- ❖ **0 Policy Change**

### 2023 Developmental Disabilities Council Allocation of Resources



## COUNCIL RECOGNITION



**Derrick Means**

We are proud to announce and share that one of our council members has received recognition for their outstanding work and advocacy efforts.

Derrick Means won the prestigious April Dunn Start Your Journey award at the 2023 National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD) national conference in July 2023. Derrick and his family joined Melissa Hunt and Lori Rodgers at the conference. Derrick's dedication and hard work are remarkable, and we are thrilled to see him receive this well-deserved honor.



**Derrick Means and Lori Rodgers, SC DD Council Program Manager**



**Melissa Hunt, DD Council Chairperson, Derrick Means, Tia Means, (Derrick's wife), Lori Rodgers**



**Derrick's Family joins him as he receives his award. Kayla Means, sister; Reginald Means, Sr., father; LaTunya Means, mother, Derrick Means, Tia Means, wife**



## COUNCIL APPRECIATION!



**Valarie Bishop, DD Council Executive Director with Roger Kuperman**

Connie has been with the Council since August 2016. She previously served two 4-year terms before returning in 2016. Connie has been instrumental in getting laws changed and advocating for people with disabilities. She, along with her peers, are credited for changing the laws to read, people with disabilities, instead of negative language (The “R” word). Connie is well established as an employee with the Newberry County Disability Board and her colleagues share, she takes care of business and makes everyone shine. Connie has had many successes, she is a homeowner, and married to Leon since June 2017.



**Valarie Bishop, Connie Gallman, Roger Kuperman**



**Michelle Barefoot**

Michelle joined the Council in May 2016. She served along with her husband Joey Barefoot, who is also a self-advocate. Joey Served on the DD Council from 2014 to 2022. Michelle and her husband Joey have attended many conferences representing SC and continue to advocate for disability rights. They have both completed Community Leadership Academy and Partners in Policymaking® classes. They have represented and advocated on behalf of the disability community for years by helping those who do not feel they have a voice. They were a part of the many people with disabilities who fought for the sub-minimum wage bill. Michelle continues her advocacy role and shares her voice whenever she can.



**Michelle with her husband Joey**

**SC DD Council Executive Director,  
Valarie Bishop**



2023 was another productive year of working with our grantees, collaboration partners and stakeholders. We continued our efforts to enhance systems and make change for individuals with developmental disabilities and families in South Carolina. Advocacy remains at the core of what we do. Through our self-advocacy programs including Partners in Policymaking®, we help individuals and family members build their understanding of the systems in our state and how they can become advocates of change. A huge thank you to all of those who have helped us recruit, presented at sessions and encouraged the program's growth.

We continue to see our efforts strengthened and the focus of healthier lives for all come to fruition. We will continue to build on the strong foundation established and encourage new ideas to further our progress.



## **SOUTH CAROLINA DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL**

**Ms. Margaret Alewine  
Mrs. Michelle Barefoot  
Ms. Anna Bleasdale  
Mrs. Trayci Brazell  
Dr. Harley T. Davis  
Ms. Beth Franco  
Mrs. Connie Gallman  
Mr. John Green**

**Mr. Demetrius Henderson  
Mrs. Amy Hibbs  
Mrs. Melissa Hunt  
Mr. Bernard Johnson  
Ms. Megan Johnson  
Mr. Roger Kuperman  
Mr. Derrick Means  
Ms. Kristi Moore**

**Dr. David Rotholz  
Ms. Allison Danielle Sartin  
Ms. Andrea Sinkler-Slaughter  
Mrs. Elizabeth Smithson  
Ms. Chaqueta Stuckey  
Mrs. Kimberly Tissot  
Dr. Kim Watkins  
Mrs. Suzanne Wingard**

### **Staff**

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

For program funding details, please visit <https://www.scdde.state.sc.us/about.html>

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