

# POSITIVE ABILITIES

December 2015



*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.*

## UPDATES

- *State Plan Initiatives*
- *Council Updates*
- *Emergency Preparedness*
- *TASC Conference*
- *IMPACT*
- *Family Connection*
- *ABLE South Carolina*
- *DHHS*



**Council members, Kimberly Addis, Dr. Charles McLafferty Melina Lee, former Chairperson Amy Davenport, Valarie Bishop, Executive Director**

## 2017-2021 STATE PLAN INITIATIVES

In preparing for the 2017-2021 State Plan, the Council is taking every precaution to ensure the selected priority areas target the identified goals. Agencies, organizations, stakeholders, consumers, and their families were sent information regarding the upcoming survey. After speaking with stakeholders we developed a survey based on the previous five years of collected data. The same methods were employed implementing the survey. As a result we received 180 responses.



## 2017-2021 State Plan initiatives Continued...

The Council encouraged survey takers to list barriers and supports they experienced while interacting with their communities and South Carolina's state systems. We included a list of areas brought to our attention from the previous Five Year State Plan.

The Council continues to meet monthly with stakeholders in an effort to address concerns and provide the transparency needed to formulate a proficient state plan conducive to the state's environment. A special thank you to each of you for your support and hard work.



### South Carolina Restructuring Act of 2014

As you may know, Act 121 of 2014 (SC Restructuring Act of 2014) abolished the Budget and Control Board. Effective July 1, 2015, the Office of Executive Policy and Programs (OEPP) was transferred to the newly established South Carolina Department of Administration.

Pursuant to this Act and as codified in *Section 1-11-10(D) of the SC Code of Laws*, the Director of Administration must submit a report by December 31, 2015 to the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives that contains an analysis of and recommendations regarding the most appropriate organizational placement for each component of OEPP.

In developing this report, Administration solicited input and recommendations from affected constituencies of the South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council, currently housed within OEPP. A stakeholders session was held during the October 13, 2015 Council Meeting beginning at 10:00 am at Vocational Rehabilitation Department in West Columbia with remote sites of Rock Hill, Greenville, Conway and North Charleston. Council members and other stakeholders participated across these sites. Written comments regarding the most appropriate organizational placement for the Developmental Disabilities Council were to have been received by November 6, 2015.

From the DD Act (Public Law 106-402-October 30, 2000)

Each State that receives assistance under this subtitle shall designate a State agency that shall, on behalf of the State, provide support to the Council. After the date of enactment of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act Amendments of 1994 (Public Law 103-230), any designation of a State agency under this paragraph shall be made in accordance with the requirements of this subsection.

(2) DESIGNATION.—

**(A) TYPE OF AGENCY.—Except as provided in this subsection, the designated State agency shall be—**

- (i) the Council if such Council may be the designated State agency under the laws of the State;**
- (ii) a State agency that does not provide or pay for services for individuals with developmental disabilities; or**
- (iii) a State office, including the immediate office of the Governor of the State or a State planning office.**

**Thank you to everyone who attended the stakeholders session and/or provided written input.**

*William “Will” Farrior*



DD Council welcomes William “Will” Farrior as the new Program Assistant. William will coordinate the Partners In Policymaking Program which was recently shifted into the Council office.

Will is from Ravenel, SC and attended the College of Charleston where he completed his studies in communication. Will is a self-advocate and enjoys helping others advocate for themselves. He enjoys watching and playing sports, spending time with family and friends, reading quotes, listening to music, watching movies and going to museums. Will states the biggest accomplishment he has taken away from having Autism Spectrum Disorder is using the negative things around him and turning them into some type of inspiration or art form. One of his favorite quotes is from Muhammad Ali, “He who is not courageous enough to

take risks will accomplish nothing in life”. Will continues to push boundaries and advocate for others. The DD Council is pleased to have him as a part of our staff.

*Saying Good-Bye*



*Brad Raymond*



*Mildred Mayes*

*Both Brad and Mildred have been active participants on the DD Council for the past eight years. Their hard work, commitment and dedication has aided the Council in its continuing efforts in focusing on issues and concerns for people with disabilities and their families. Brad lives here in Columbia and Mildred resides in Summerville. We will truly miss them!*



*Amy Davenport*

Amy has served as the Chairperson for the DD Council and takes with her a wealth of knowledge. She continues to provide invaluable feedback and information any time we need her.

**Dr. David Rotholz, Amy Davenport, Valarie Bishop**





Amy Davenport, Chairperson



Since saying “Good-bye” is never easy, I will quote, Tigger from Winnie the Pooh, “TTFN” (Ta Ta For Now). How can I begin to thank everyone for the eight wonderful years I have experienced serving on the SC Developmental Disabilities Council. I have had the honor and privilege to serve as the Chair and witnessed the Council sponsor amazing programs. As a parent and consumer, I am elated at the comradery within this community. In working together, we have lifted our voices, made changes to public policy, advanced our mission, made our presence known and we continue to forge ahead meeting new challenges and making sure services are in place to meet the needs of people with disabilities.

I will still be working with the Council and providing support in whatever way necessary. I am amazed at the changes that will continue to be in place for years to come; having a significant impact on future generations. The work being done around the state and the level of commitment from every sub-grantee, organization and agency continues to play a significant role which affects positive change. I wish the SC Developmental Disabilities Council much success in its continued endeavors. A very special and heart felt “THANK YOU” to every organization, agency, individual, and collaborator working hard and making an impact. I take many great memories and I leave my prayers for each of you.



CALANDER OF EVENTS....

| SUNDAY   | MONDAY  | TUESDAY  | WEDNESDAY                        | THURSDAY                     | FRIDAY  | SATURDAY |
|--|---|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------|---|----------|
| <b>December</b><br> | 7   | 8 State Plan Meeting<br>DD Council Meeting         | 9                                | 10                           | 11  | 12       |
| 13   | 14  | 15   | 16                               | 17                           | 18  | 19       |
| 20   | 21  | 22   | 23                               | 24<br><i>Merry Christmas</i> | 25<br> | 26       |
| 27   | 28<br>HOLIDAY   | 29   | 30                               | 31<br><i>New Years Eve</i>   | January<br><b>HAPPY NEW YEAR</b>  | 2        |
| 3  | 4   | 5  | 6                                | 7                            | 8   | 9        |
| 10   | 11  | 12 State Plan Meeting<br>Executive Council Meeting | 13<br>EQUIP Stakeholders Meeting | 14                           | 15<br><b>Partners In Policymaking®</b>  | 16       |
| 17   | 18<br>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day   | 19   | 20                               | 21                           | 22  | 23       |
| 24   | 25  | 26<br><b>Emergency Planning Webinar</b>            | 27                               | 28                           | 29  | 30       |
| 31   | February<br> | 2  | 3                                | 4                            | 5   | 6        |
| 7  | 8   | 9 State Plan Meeting<br>DD Council Meeting         | 10                               | 11                           | 12  | 13       |

# EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS



On September 15, 2015, Dori Tempio, and EQUIP Leaders Effy Francis and Shelley Jeffers conducted an Emergency Preparedness Training with students of the CarolinaLIFE® program. This training provided all attendees with an Emergency Preparedness kit which includes a flashlight, first aid kit, bottled water, etc; things that might be needed in a variety of emergency situations - both natural and man-made. This training also provided the young adults within the LIFE program the opportunity to make emergency plans and figure out what accommodations, if any, they will need during an emergency situation, and how to request them and make sure the proper accommodations are in place and discussed ahead of time.



With the recent flood, and a lot of people being displaced by the storm, we understand the need for being prepared in the event of emergencies. We also need to understand that just because we made it through one disaster; it does not prevent another storm or emergency from occurring.

To plan for an emergency, we have to consider the different types of emergencies, and what could happen both inside and outside of our homes. Emergencies can happen whether we are in the community, at the shopping mall, grocery store, or even on public transportation. No matter the emergency, it is important that we develop a communication plan ahead of time, so that you are able to communicate with family, friends, emergency personnel, service providers, doctors, and insurance agents. If we have assigned someone as our out-of-state contact, we could let them know that you are safe and they could communicate with the rest of your support system from an area unaffected by the disaster. **Don't forget that texting is better than calling when a cell phone battery is running low.**







The Center for Disability Resources at the University of South Carolina, in partnership with the Transition Alliance of South Carolina (TASC), the statewide interagency transition team, hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual SC Interagency Team Transition Conference on September 20-22, 2015. Held in Greenville, South Carolina, 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 recently launched a website ([www.transitionalliancesc.org](http://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.



For additional information or assistance in getting your community involved in the Transition Alliance of South Carolina, email Joy Ivester at [joy.ivester@uscmed.sc.edu](mailto:joy.ivester@uscmed.sc.edu).

**TASC QUICK FACTS**

**Grantee/Organizer**

The Center for Disability Resources (CDR) is a University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service (UCEDD). Since 1963, University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDDs) have

worked towards a shared vision that foresees a nation in which all Americans, including Americans with disabilities, participate fully in their communities. Independence, productivity, and community inclusion are key components of this vision.

**Staff**

- Joy Ivester, M.Ed., Program Director
- Kinsey Carlson-Britting, MSW, MPH, Program Assistant Director
- Leah Cordoni, Program Coordinator
- Anthony Plotner, Ph.D., Evaluation Coordinator



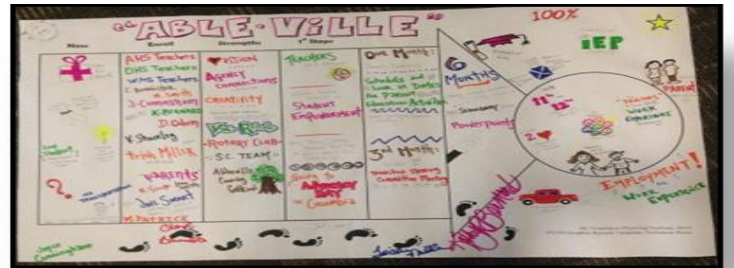


**Funding Agencies**

SC Developmental Disabilities Council, the SC Department of Administration  
SC Department of Education, Office of Special Education Services  
SC Department of Disabilities and Special Needs  
Center for Disability Resources, USC School of Medicine

**Partner Agencies (Transition Alliance of South Carolina)**

Able SC, SC Assistive Technology Program, SC Commission for the Blind, SC Department of Education and Workforce, SC Developmental Disabilities Council, SC Department of Disabilities and Special Needs, SC Department of Education, Family Connection of SC, Francis Marion University, SC Department of Mental Health, PRO Parents of SC, USC Department of Educational Studies, SC Vocational Rehabilitation, and Walton Options.



*Local SC Community PATH Plan*







# IMPACT



**IMPACT S.C.** held their 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration at their August 13, 2015 meeting. Almost 50 people were in attendance including members, advisors and speakers with member participation in person, by phone and via a jabber (video and voice) connection. Special guest speakers included Kevin Wright-Mentor and formerly with the Center for Disability Resources (that coordinates the IMPACT S.C. group) and former lead advisors Kim Cannon and Jim Edwards. Others presenters included Michael, Karen and Natalie from Arc of the Midlands - the “Let’s Talk” grant and Margie from Arc of SC for the SC Partnership of Disability Organizations. Updates from the group included their activities for the Self

Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE) Grant – Our Communities Standing Strong which entered its 3<sup>rd</sup> and final year 10-1-15, the website that is approaching the final development stage and the Impact Leadership Training that will be rolled out later this year which is funded from a DD Council Grant.

The group also met October 29, 2015 and guest speakers included Amanda Pollak from the Arc of South Carolina and Asha Purohit from Protection and Advocacy. Ebony Deloach participated via Jabber and was able to update the group on the Our Community Standing Strong grant progress. A new member was welcomed - Tysha Spry. Tysha is from the Marion-Dillon DSN Board. Congratulations Tysha! The next meeting will be December 10, 2015.







## FAMILY CONNECTION OF SOUTH CAROLINA RECEIVES \$1.4 MILLION IN FEDERAL FUNDING

Family Connection of South Carolina has been awarded a \$1.4 million federal grant to serve as the special education Parent Training and Information (PTI) Center for South Carolina. The grant was issued by the U.S. Department of Education and Rehabilitative Services.

As the PTI Center, Family Connection will provide information and training for parents and individuals, birth to 26, with disabilities and healthcare needs in South Carolina. Family Connection will help parents navigate systems of early intervention, general and special education, and postsecondary education. Individuals served will better understand their role as self-advocates and their rights and responsibilities for increased inclusion in school, postsecondary settings, and future employment settings.

Since 1989, Family Connection’s mission has been to strengthen and encourage families of children with special healthcare needs through parent support. As South Carolina’s Family-to-Family Health Information Center, with the addition of the PTI grant, the organization’s 600 trained parents will now be able to educate, and empower parents and individuals with disabilities about their rights and responsibilities in the school system.

“We received this grant because of the support and collaboration of our community partners, state agencies and parents,” said Amy Nienhuis Holbert, executive director of Family Connection. “Family Connection will be able to ensure that individuals with disabilities have access to the appropriate services to achieve their academic and personal goals. South Carolina is one step closer to streamlining all information and resources for families and individuals with special needs.”

Key partners in this effort are The South Carolina Department of Special Education Services, Protection and Advocacy of South Carolina, Able South Carolina, South Carolina FirstSteps/BabyNet, the South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council, the Arnold School of Public Health at the University of South Carolina, and the Center for Disability Resources at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine.

These organizations will work together to implement these services and ensure continuous quality improvement efforts. The grant was effective 10-1-15 and an Implementation Steering Committee is in place and meeting monthly to provide oversight and guidance.





## Able SC's 5<sup>th</sup> Core Service is ROCKING & ROLLING!



**Kimberly Tissot, Executive Director; Robbie Kopp, Advocacy and Quality Assurance Coordinator; and Jerri Davison, Assistant Director all smiles during their Annual FundAble 2015 Event.**

July 22, 2014, President Obama signed the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). The purpose of WIOA is to increase employment opportunities and employment outcomes for individuals with significant disabilities which the folks at Able SC are super excited about! For any new advocates out there—WIOA is BIG news for people with disabilities! The WIOA also places an emphasis on Independent Living Centers like Able SC. For the first time in history, Independent Living will have its own administration, the Independent Living Administration (ILA), which will be housed in the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) under the Administration for Community Living (ACL). \*\*

Along with the changes in WIOA, Able SC is now required to provide a 5<sup>th</sup> core service—Transition! Although, Able SC has provided transition services for some time, they are excited to officially have Transition as a core service.

Transition at Able SC means several things but specifically the new core service of transition has three components:

- Facilitating the transition of youth with significant disabilities who are eligible for Individualized Education Programs under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and who have completed their secondary education or otherwise left school to postsecondary life.
- Assistance to individuals with significant disabilities who are at risk of entering institutions (diversion assistance).
- Facilitating the transition of individuals with significant disabilities from nursing homes and other institutions.

In addition to the 5<sup>th</sup> Service, Able SC is a growing organization that continues to create programs that will promote independence and inclusion for South Carolinians with disabilities. To keep you all updated with Able SC's programs and services, we wanted to include a summary of each of our programs for you below:



## **Independent Living Skills**

Able SC offers a broad curriculum in activities and skills training for daily life, safety and wellbeing, customized to meet individual needs. Independent living specialists work one-on-one to create individual goals for independence and road maps for achieving them. Some examples include:

- Self-determination and advocacy
- Disability Benefits Counseling
- Communication skills
- Employment
- Household management
- Budgeting
- Parenting with a disability
- Emergency Preparedness
- Voting
- Goal-Setting
- Organization
- Housing Search
- Adapting to your home
- Sexuality

## **Peer Support**

As over 80% of Able SC's staff members have disabilities, peer support is a natural program at Able SC! Peer Supporters serve as inspiration and role models, as only someone with personal experience with disabilities can do. They share life experience and bring new ideas and information to facilitate independence. They work one-on-one, in small groups and do regular monthly Peer Support Groups for those interested—both on site and online.

## **Advocacy**

Able SC is at the forefront of activism and leadership on any and all issues affecting people with disabilities – issues like accessibility, public accommodations and transportation. These are critical in achieving full inclusion in community life. Able SC works with local, state and national leaders to bring about change and create opportunities.

## **Information + Referral**

Able SC accumulates and maintains invaluable information on all resources in each of the communities they serve. Able SC can help individuals and their families connect with the right internal and external resources for a variety of needs.

## **Assistive Technology**

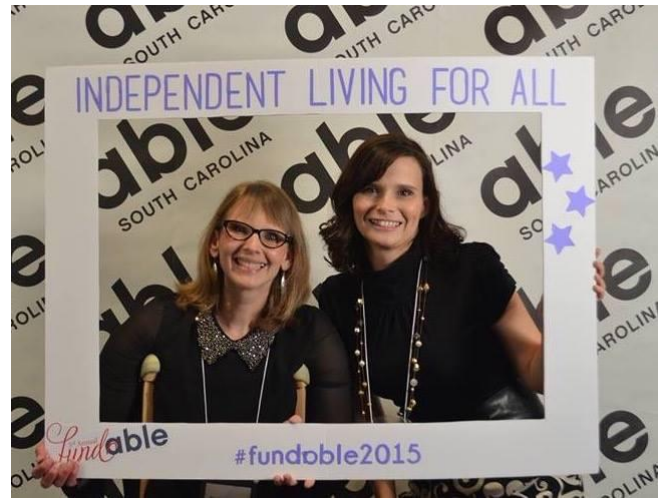
Able SC has adaptive equipment available for reuse—allowing people with disabilities to experiment with free equipment that could enhance independence. Able SC also has accessible computer labs in both the Upstate and Midlands locations allowing people with disabilities to tinker, work and learn—independent living skills, resume writing, web browsing, anything. Heck, they will also bring an accessible computer to your home when working with you!



### Community Leadership Academy

The USC School of Public Health has funded an effort to increase participation of individuals with disabilities on boards, committees, and councils. In its commitment to ensure the individuals have the tools and resources necessary to effectively participate in a leadership role, the course teaches skills such as professional dress, ethical and legal responsibilities, and Robert's Rules of Order.

### Employment Programs



- **Ticket To Work**

Able SC is approved by the U.S Social Security Administration (SSA) to serve Ticket Beneficiaries as an Employment Network (EN) under SSA's Ticket to Work program. You will find information about Ticket to Work at <http://chooseworkttw.net>.

- **Community Work Incentive Planning**

Able SC and Walton Options for Independent Living are partnering together to provide Community Work Incentive Planning! Social Security recently named Walton Options for Independent Living as South Carolina's Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) program. The Social Security grant funds a collaborative effort between

Walton Options for Independent Living and Able SC. Both Centers for Independent Living will provide disability benefits counseling services across South Carolina for Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) disability beneficiaries.

Social Security established The WIPA program in 2006 in order to provide accurate information about the effect of earned income on disability benefits. The current program will focus on beneficiaries who are employed or about to become employed, and will provide services for adults and transition-aged youth. WIPA services offer access to counseling about the effect of work on benefits, and the availability of programs to support employment efforts.

- **The South Carolina Disability Employment Coalition**

The SC Disability Employment Coalition formed in the fall of 2014 to address employment barriers for individuals with disabilities in South Carolina. Members meet quarterly, and committees meet on a monthly basis. The committees and their missions are explained below:

- **Centralized Outreach committee**

Mission: To develop a plan where information about employment for people with disabilities will be available and marketed to businesses, people with disabilities, disability organizations, etc.



- **Employer Outreach committee**

Mission: To develop a strategy to include the business community with promoting employment for people with disabilities.

- **Transition to Careers committee**

Mission: Establish an infrastructure for South Carolinians with disabilities private and public career supports in which policy and practice is aligned to promote integrated employment as the preferred service option and outcome.

The South Carolina Disability Employment Coalition is funded by the Southeast ADA Center and SC Developmental Disabilities Council.

- **Rallying for Inclusive, Successful Employment (RISE)**

RISE is a comprehensive, systemic approach to increasing employment outcomes for individuals with disabilities in South Carolina. Projects and services include: Supporting and participating in the South Carolina Disability Employment Coalition; hosting community workshops for families to bust myths related to disability benefits and working; partnering with the USC, Arnold School of Public Health, Disability and Health program to improve data collection regarding employment barriers in South Carolina; and providing individualized employment and empowerment services to consumers. RISE is funded by the South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council.

### **Health Initiatives**

Able SC now offers several health training workshops to consumers, each with its own unique curriculum. The purpose of these workshops is to teach individuals with disabilities the importance of making healthy choices and living active lifestyles in a way that is tailored to their individual needs.

- **Steps to Your Health (STYH)** – Able SC now offers Steps to Your Health funding via the USC School of Medicine. STYH is a ten week course that covers basic information about healthy eating and exercising. Participants are weighed and measured the first week and asked to set goals they would like to accomplish by the end of the program. Each session lasts approximately 1.5 hours and ends with an exercise activity that can be adapted for individuals with all types of disabilities. At the end of the course, participants can see how their bodies changed and evaluate their progress toward reaching their goal.
- **Healthcare Navigators**

Able South Carolina's Healthcare Navigators can provide individuals with disabilities and their family members with FREE, immediate assistance in finding appropriate and affordable medical insurance! Able SC staff can help you to understand your options for Marketplace Insurance, Medicare, Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and/or small business insurance (SHOP). In the Marketplace, you qualify for a Special Enrollment Period 60 days after certain life events occur; including marriage, birth of a child, out-of-state move, and/or loss of other health coverage. Able SC staff can help you review and compare health plan options and find out if you are eligible for financial assistance, which can help pay monthly premiums and

reduce out-of-pocket costs! Remember that all of Able SC's services are FREE and enrolling in a plan is not required—they are simply there to help you!

### **Southeast ADA Center**

Able SC is proud to be South Carolina's State affiliate of The Southeast ADA Center which is authorized by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) to provide information, materials, and technical assistance to individuals and entities that are covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

### **Youth Services**

Able SC provides services to advocate on behalf of young adults (ages 14-25) to provide them with the tools they need to become successful adults. Specifically, Able SC can work with students with disabilities to get them the education they need in the least restrictive environment. Able SC gives young adults with disabilities the specific skills they need to plan for their future, like identifying goals and the steps required to reach them.

**Equip** – Equip is open to young adults ages 14-25 and is unique because it is led by other young adults with disabilities. Equip teaches young adults about leadership, disability pride, and empowerment – and educates the community about the importance and value of inclusion. Equip offers online chats, meetings and social media opportunities to stay connected, as well as activities throughout the year to get involved and socialize with peers.

**Project Inclusion** – Able SC has grants through United Way of the Piedmont and the SC Developmental Disabilities Council to work with students in four counties (Cherokee, Abbeville, Laurens, and Fairfield) to assist them with their transition into adulthood. Able SC provides activities for students within the school, but also works one-on-one with young adults to teach them how to plan for their future and accomplish their goals. Able SC works with teachers and parents to empower the students to reach their highest level of independence. Project Inclusion also seeks to provide disability sensitivity and etiquette training to community professionals in order to promote inclusion of people with disabilities.

**Empowering Students Program (ESP)** – ESP is a grant through United Way of Greenville County that focuses on high school students and works with them to ensure their successful transition into college, employment, housing, etc.

### **Services For The Community**

Able SC offers the following training programs to educate and assist the community in disability accommodation and awareness.

#### **Accessibility Assessments**

Consultation, site review, and recommendations for removing physical barriers from public and private buildings in order to meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) structural guidelines.

## ADA Rights, Accessibility and Accommodation

Able SC offers community members and group's professional training covering employment rights, reasonable accommodations and accessibility required under the Act.

### Disability Awareness

Disability sensitivity training is available to educate a variety of audiences on "person first" language, disability etiquette and disability rights.



\*\* ACL was established as a division within HHS in 2012. The division focuses on the shared interests of both older adults and people with disabilities. As an agency, they strive to ensure that all Americans, regardless of age or disability, can make their own choices and live, learn and work in their communities with the services and supports they need to be fully participating and contributing members of society. The Independent Living programs will make an important contribution to the work of ACL in unique ways and align well with the mission to maximize the independence, well-being and health of individuals with disabilities across the lifespan and their families and caregivers.



For more information about Able SC, please visit us online at [www.able-sc.org](http://www.able-sc.org), or call us at- MIDLANDS: 800-681-6805; UPSTATE: 800-681-7715





## South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Update

### HCBS Statewide Transition Plan

The South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council continues to monitor developments at South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), the State's Medicaid agency. The agency administers eight Home and Community Based (HCBS) waiver programs that serve South Carolinians with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities through its Community Options and Community Long Term Care divisions. DHHS contracts the South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs (DDSN) to operate the Intellectual Disabilities and Related Disabilities (ID/RD), Community Supports (CS), Head and Spinal Cord Injury (HASCI), and Pervasive Developmental Disorders (PDD) waivers.

DHHS submitted a HCBS Statewide Transition Plan to the federal Centers on Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) on March 3, 2015. CMS provided feedback for opportunities to strengthen the plan in the areas of assessment processes and outcomes, remedial action processes, and monitoring processes. DHHS released a revised Statewide Transition Plan on September 25, 2015 and submitted it to CMS for review.

### Autism Spectrum Disorder Services offered through the Medicaid State Plan

Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) may qualify for services under the Medicaid State Plan. This includes individuals already on the State Plan, members currently on the PDD waiver waiting list, and individuals whose PDD waiver services have expired. Certain eligibility requirements apply.

### Useful Links

HCBS Statewide Transition Plan, CMS Feedback

<https://msp.scdhhs.gov/hcbs/sites/default/files/SC%20081015%20-%20STP%20feedback.pdf>

Revised HCBS Statewide Transition Plan

<https://msp.scdhhs.gov/hcbs/sites/default/files/SC%20Statewide%20Transition%20Plan%20-%20CMS%20Submission%20-%20Revised%20Final.pdf>

ASD Services

<https://www.scdhhs.gov/press-release/autism-spectrum-disorder-services-interim-process>

*Executive Director***Message from the Director**

It has been a busy and exciting summer and fall for Council and many of the organizations we work with. Changes in federal laws and policies/rules have and will continue to have a significant impact on these organizations and on the service system in South Carolina. Several articles highlight these changes. We are still recovering from the historic flood that struck in early October. Many individuals had to leave their homes without many of the things they need including clothes and other personal items and equipment that helps them communicate or navigate in their environment. Many organizations and individuals worked tirelessly to ensure that people had the information and equipment they needed to function in shelters or in new environments other than their homes. The work continues, but I want to send a huge thank you to everyone who made a difference. It is gratifying to know that our partners are there to lend a hand.

*Valarie Bishop***South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council**

Ms. Kimberly Addis  
 Mrs. Mary Eaddy-Baker  
 Ms. Susan Beck  
 Ms. Dianne S. Bennett  
 Mr. Frank Bentley  
 Ms. Mary Ann DeBerry  
 Mr. Coy L. "Les" Durham, III

Mr. Milton "Drew" Gatlin, Jr  
 Mr. Owens Goff  
 Mr. Jeffrey Ham  
 Mrs. Freda King  
 Mr. Roger Kuperman  
 Ms. Melina Lee  
 Mr. George Maky

Ms. Kimberly Maple  
 Dr. Charles McLafferty  
 Ms. Asha Purohit  
 Dr. David Rotholz  
 Mr. Marion Taylor  
 Mrs. Jennifer Van Cleave

**Staff**

Valarie Bishop, Executive Director  
 Kimberly Fontanez, Grants Administrator  
 Cheryl English, Program Coordinator  
 Reyhan Miller, Program Coordinator  
 William Farior, Program Assistant  
 Esther Williams, Administrative Assistant

(803) 734-0465  
[seddc.sc.gov](http://seddc.sc.gov)

1205 Pendleton Street  
 Columbia, SC 29201

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