

ANNUAL REPORT

FY 2015-2016

The mission of the South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council is to provide leadership in planning, funding, and implementing initiatives that lead to improved quality of life for people with developmental disabilities and their families through advocacy, capacity building, and systemic change.



The DD Council is pleased to have sponsored 34 grant programs during the 2015-2016 program year. The DD Council's priority areas for the year were Employment, Health, Self-Advocacy and Community Supports. The commitment level displayed each year from grantees continues to build capacity for people with intellectual/developmental disabilities and their families.

The Transition Alliance of South Carolina (TASC) has been instrumental in its collaboration efforts with several grantees. They have worked to equip local school districts with new skills and knowledge leading to increased transition services for students preparing to leave school and enter the workforce or college. Project SEARCH successfully graduated 5 interns who all obtained careers with Palmetto Health. The EQUIP young adult leadership program continued to grow and help young people with disabilities learn new advocacy skills. We are honored to be a part of all of the programs who work with people with intellectual/developmental disabilities.

The DD Council and staff have worked hard this past year preparing our Five Year State Plan, 2017-2021. I am pleased that we will continue to focus on those areas of importance as well as launching initiatives to reach South Carolina's underserved Latino population. I would like to say a special thank you to our stakeholders and partners for their tireless efforts in advocating for people with disabilities. The Council is growing stronger and our voice is getting louder as we partner and advocate together for individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities and their families in South Carolina. I am honored to be able to continue to serve as the Chairperson and I thank everyone for their amazing contributions.

Frank Bentley,
DD Council Chairperson

SOUTH CAROLINA PRIORITY AREAS FOR 2016: COMMUNITY SUPPORTS, EMPLOYMENT, HEALTH, SELF-ADVOCACY

COMMUNITY SUPPORTS

Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities/Developmental Disabilities will have increased participation and choices about their community based services and supports.

Objective 1: Will provide funding and/or resources to improve access to information for people with Intellectual Disabilities/Developmental Disabilities and their families about services, supports, and their rights.

- **Family Connections – Free To Be Me**
- **Greenville Health System – SC Medical-Legal Partnership**
- **Brain Injury Association – SC Visibility Project**



The “Free To Be Me” grant focuses on increasing knowledge and understanding of the services in SC on post-secondary transition among young adults with a disability. Family Connection and Able SC facilitate the transition awareness project to improve outcomes of youth and young adults with disabilities who are navigating the transition from school. Participants receive a “Steps to Independence” workbook developed by parents and young adults with disabilities who have firsthand experience navigating the transition years. As demand for knowledge around transition increases, the DD Council and its partners are able to offer effective programming to youth and families that result in improved transition processes and outcomes.

Objective 2: Will support at least one innovative project that improves socialization skills leading to greater community participation for children and/or adults with severe disabilities.

- **Project HOPE Foundation – Extended Hope**
- **Current Transitions – Eagle Project**
- **Arc of the Midlands – Kick It Karate**
- **Disability Resource Center – Independent Living Skills**
- **Roger C. Peace Rehabilitation Hospital– UCAN: Community**

Community Supports Continued

Objective 3: Will support a minimum of one emerging issue that will result in an increase in people with Intellectual Disabilities/Developmental Disabilities being active participants in the communities of their choice.

- **Arc of South Carolina – Rec-Connect/Arc Works**
 - **Arc of South Carolina – Life Lessons**
 - **Arc of the Midlands – Mixed Greens**
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- ❖ **1,402** Received advocacy training
 - ❖ **660** System advocates
 - ❖ **173** Other organizations involved
 - ❖ **37** Policy changes/creations/improvements
 - ❖ **14,077** General public reached



HEALTH

The South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council will collaborate with partners and community providers to increase activities to promote the improved health and well-being of people with Intellectual Disabilities/Developmental Disabilities in South Carolina.

Objective 1: Will support a minimum of 5 existing or new programs and/or services that include evidence based approaches to wellness promotion and prevention of secondary conditions.

- **Therapy Place – Bridges**
- **Arc of South Carolina – Walk This Way**
- **Babcock Center – Everybody Talks**
- **Medical University of South Carolina—Piece it Together**
- **SOS Health Care, Inc.—Fit for Life**

Objective 2: Will educate coaches, athletic professionals, school nurses, parents and athletes in a minimum of 40 school districts and 23 recreation departments on importance of reducing the incidence of sports related brain injury among youth.

- **BIA – Special Grant ended June 30th, 2014.**

Objective 3: Will support increased capacity for autism screening and diagnostic evaluations.

- **USC Dept. of Psychology – Autism (Grant ended 06/30/2014, clinic is in place)**

Objective 4: Will inform the public about the availability of accessible recreation, prevention, wellness and exercise opportunities.

- **Page on DDC Website – resources will continue to be added and updated.**

Health Continued

Objective 5: Will support a minimum of 1 technical school/program to incorporate course content and/or courses on health and disability into their health sciences department(s) for professionals and paraprofessionals and provide associated activities.

➤ **Francis Marion University—Enhanced Nursing Education for Patients Living with Developmental Disabilities**

- ❖ **1,295** Received advocacy training
- ❖ **0** System advocates
- ❖ **35** Other organizations involved
- ❖ **9** Policy changes/creations/improvements
- ❖ **1,580** General public reached

QUALITY ASSURANCE/SELF-ADVOCACY

The South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council will partner with self-advocates to strengthen advocacy statewide, providing leadership training to individuals with Intellectual Disabilities/Developmental Disabilities and increase participation in cross-disability and leadership coalitions.

Objective 1: Will support a statewide self-advocacy organization to assist them in strengthening and meeting their defined organizational goals.

➤ **USC Center for Disability Resources – IMPACT- SC**

Objective 2: Will support at least 150 self-advocates in leadership training opportunities.

- **SC DD Council—Partners in Policymaking**
- **Able-SC—Youth Leadership Forum**
- **Arc of the Midlands—Let’s Talk**

Objective 3: Will identify and implement replicable strategies in at least 2 school districts/areas which support the development of self-advocacy skills for youth with Intellectual Disabilities/Developmental Disabilities.

➤ **Able-SC—EQUIP: Self-Advocacy & Leadership in Young Adults**

Objective 4: Will support at least 50 individuals with Intellectual Disabilities/Developmental Disabilities in participation in cross-disability and culturally diverse coalitions.

- **University of South Carolina, Arnold School of Public Health**
The DD Council serves in an advisory role to several projects including the Community Leadership Academy training series.

Self-Advocacy Continued

- ❖ **1,016** Received advocacy training
- ❖ **49** System advocates
- ❖ **101** Other organizations involved
- ❖ **19** Policy changes/creations/improvements
- ❖ **7,451** General public reached

EMPLOYMENT

People with Intellectual Disabilities/Developmental Disabilities are given the education/training, knowledge, experience, accommodations and supports they need to achieve meaningful community-based employment.

Objective 1: Will promote programs that facilitate the acquisition of academic training, interpersonal skills and work experience for high school and/or post-secondary students with Intellectual Developmental Disabilities to enable success in long-term employment and career development.

- **USC Center for Disability Resources– Transition Alliance of South Carolina**
- **Arc of the Midlands – The Arc @ Work**
- **Charleston County School District - Recipe for Success**
- **District Five of Lexington-Richland Counties--District Five Transition Services Assessment**
- **Able-SC RISE: Rallying for Inclusive, Successful Employment**



The Arc@Work provides opportunities for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities to learn and practice crucial skills required for obtaining competitive, community-based employment including job searching, resume writing, interviewing, and others. After receiving classroom-based instruction on employment-related topics, students visit a job location to learn about different kinds of jobs and practice using the new skills gained.

One visit arranged by Arc of the Midlands allowed a group of high school students to visit the Assistant United States Attorney's office in Columbia, South Carolina. While there, students heard from key staff members of the Office including the United States Attorney who disclosed he lives with a developmental disability and has not allowed it to impede his career goals. The students visited different divisions within the office including information technology, records management, human resources, and others. Students participated in mock interviews with senior staff who provided them with feedback on strengths and opportunities for improvement.

Employment Continued

Objective 2: Will support initiatives that provide enhanced employment opportunities for students with severe disabilities.

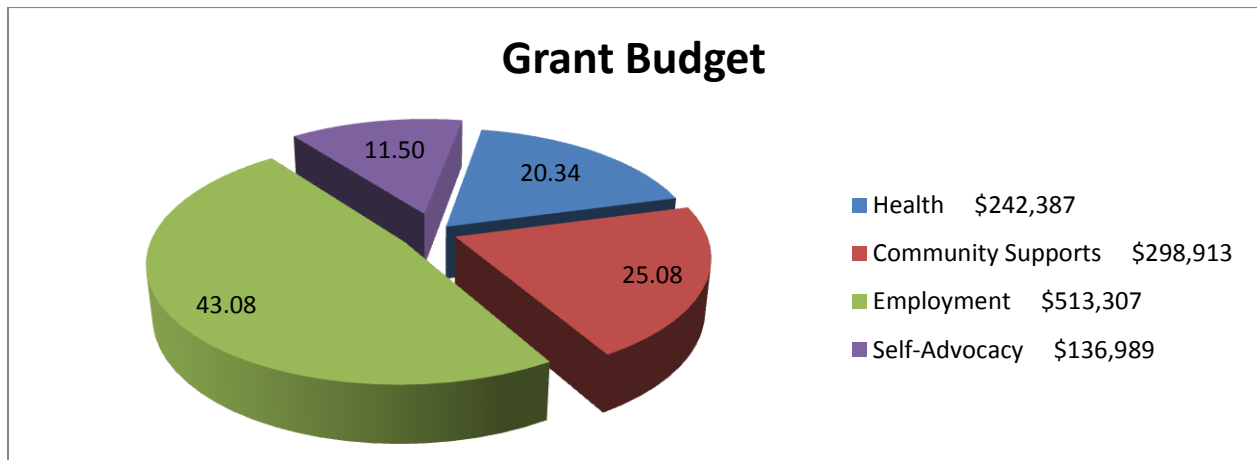
- **Cover School District – Ready, Set, Go to Work**
- **Able South Carolina – Project Inclusion**
- **Arts Access – Project REAL**
- **Arc of the Midlands – Project SEARCH**
- **York School District 1—Students+Job Coach=Job Success**
- **Community Options—STEP for SC**
- **Project HOPE Foundation—Virtual HOPE**
- **SOS Health Care—Consignment Shop**

Objective 3: Will increase knowledge of self-advocates about the principles of self-determination and employment opportunities of individuals with Intellectual Disabilities/Developmental Disabilities.

- **DD Council, Able-SC, and Protection and Advocacy – Mapping Your Future**

Objective 4: Will create a minimum of 1 position statement and policy recommendations that will support successful employment outcomes for people with Intellectual Disabilities/Developmental Disabilities.

- **Available on the SC DD Council website.**
 - ❖ **4,418** Received advocacy training
 - ❖ **1,011** System advocates
 - ❖ **974** Other organizations involved
 - ❖ **111** Policy changes/creations/improvements
 - ❖ **23,878** General public reached



Total Spending on Grant Projects (excluding conference grants) 2015-2016: \$1,191,596.00

Message from the Executive Director



It has been another amazing year working with our grantees, collaboration partners and stakeholders. This year has allowed us to stretch boundaries and have a more profound voice than ever before. As we continue to come together and collaborate we are finding and filling in gaps in the system that we didn't know existed.

I am pleased at the strides our grantees made on all levels. Grantees continue to receive national recognition. Greenville Health System, "Medical-Legal Partnership" and The Medical University of South Carolina, "Piece It Together" presented at the NACDD Conference and shared their programs with a national audience.

It is truly an honor to work with a team of dedicated individuals who are committed to making life better for people with intellectual/developmental disabilities and their families. Thank you for the opportunity to continue to serve in this capacity. I am truly excited about the upcoming year as we begin full implementation of our new 5 year State Plan.

Valarie Bishop

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Mrs. Michelle Barefoot
Ms. Susan Beck
Ms. Dianne S. Bennett
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Mr. Philip Clarkson

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