

# 2020 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 2020:**

### **COMMUNITY SUPPORTS, EMPLOYMENT, SELF-ADVOCACY**

**COMMUNITY SUPPORTS** People with intellectual and developmental disabilities have access to their own choice of formal and informal community-based services, supports, resources, and activities throughout their lifetime.

**Objective 1:** Support at least two programs that provide people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families information about their rights, services, and supports.

- **Brain Injury Association – SC Visibility Project**
- **Center for Disability Resources – Assistive Technology Expo**
- **Family Connection – Hopes and Dreams**
- **School District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties – Midwest Symposium for Leadership in Behavior Disorders**

**Objective 2:** Support at least two programs that provide people with intellectual and developmental disabilities opportunities to improve community integration, inclusion, and productivity.

- **Project HOPE Foundation - Person-Centered Delivery**
- **Able South Carolina -Mapping Your Future/Empowering Your Future**
- **SOS Health Care, Inc. – Summer Life Skills Club**

**Objective 3:** Support at least one program that addresses an emerging health issue for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities using evidence-based practices and interventions.

- **Community Options - Healthy Living Made Simple**
- **SOS Health Care, Inc. – Holistic Health**
- **Prisma Health – Nurturing Developing Minds Conference and Research Symposium**
- **Center of Disability Resources – Assistive Technology**
- **Francis Marion University - Delivering Culturally Competent Health Care to Individuals with Disabilities**
- **Brain Injury Association of South Carolina – Life with Brain Injury**

**Objective 4:** Support at least one program that includes an organization serving South Carolina’s Latino/Hispanic community and improves access to community-based services, supports, resources, and activities.

- ❖ **1079 Received Advocacy Training**
- ❖ **0 Board Positions**
- ❖ **15 Evidence-Based Practices**
- ❖ **12 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.

- **SOS Health Care, Inc. – Making Change II**
- **SOS Health Care, Inc. - Transition Resource Conference and Expo**
- **Center of Disability Resources – Project SEARCH Strand, the 2019 SC Interagency Transition Alliance Conference**

**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.

- **Center for Disability Resources – Model for Employment Training Advancement**
  - ❖ **137 Received Advocacy Training**
  - ❖ **3 Board Positions**
  - ❖ **37 Evidence-Based Practices**
  - ❖ **10 Policy Changes**

## **QUALITY ASSURANCE/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.

- **Centers for Disability Resources – Impact SC**
- **EQUIP – Self-Advocacy & Leadership in Young Adults**

**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**
- **SC Developmental Disabilities Council - Partners in Policymaking**

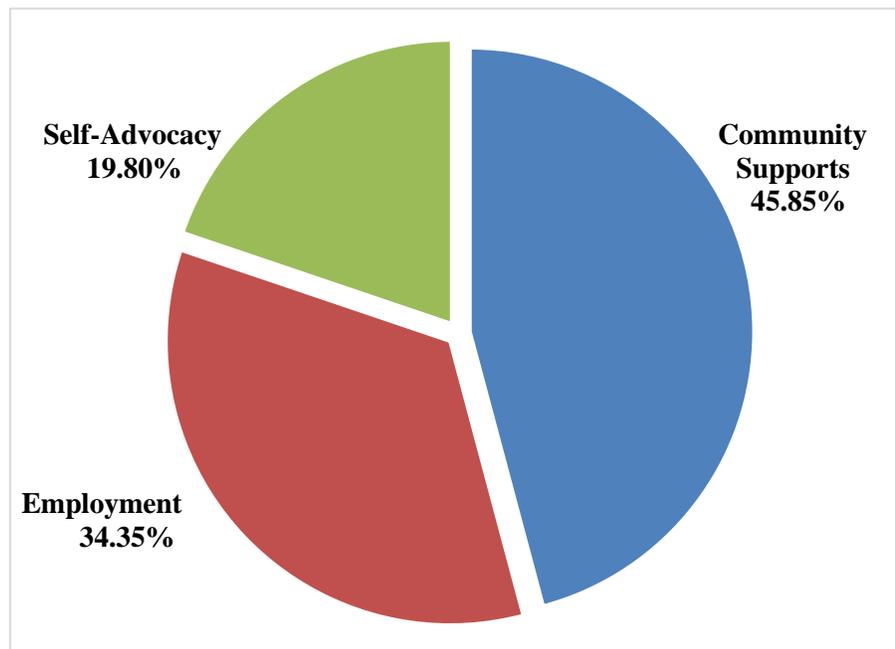
**Objective 3:** Support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their family members to engage cross-disability, culturally diverse leadership boards, committees, commissions, councils, and similar coalitions.

- **Able South Carolina/University of South Carolina Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics – Community Leadership Academy**
- **The Arc of the Midlands – Pathways to Justice for All**

**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.

- ❖ **1251 Received Advocacy Training**
- ❖ **0 Board Positions**
- ❖ **17 Evidence-Based Practices**
- ❖ **4 Policy Changes**

## 2019-2020 Developmental Disabilities Council Allocation of Resources



## ***SOUTH CAROLINA DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON***

### **Roger Kuperman, Chairperson**



The SC Developmental Disabilities Council has the enormous task of ensuring people with developmental disabilities and their families are an integral part of advocacy, capacity building, and systemic change as the state moves to improve the quality of life for its citizens. During my first year as Chairperson for the SC Developmental Disabilities Council, I was initially concerned with how we would move forward during the pandemic.

I am thrilled with our collaboration efforts with our partners Able SC, Center for Disability Resources, Disability Rights and other agencies, stakeholders, and organizations who partner with us. As the world was crippled by the effects of COVID-19, our efforts were strengthened through virtual platforms, continuation of programs with safety protocols in place, and the fortitude of self-advocates. On behalf of the DD Council, I would like to express our gratitude towards our grantees for their REMARKABLE ability to keep moving during the pandemic. Grantees kept programs running and ensured individuals with disabilities and their families continued receiving services and were included in their community.

Both our partners and our grantees implemented safety standards, provided pandemic kits, (masks, sanitizer, paper towels, wipes, gloves, etc.), plain language information material, and programming to address pandemic concerns, while continuing the work.

Self-advocates pushed the boundaries and refused to allow any restrictions to hold them back. Virtual platforms produced great outcomes with good participation. While the “touch factor” of having to remain six feet apart changed, the “personal touch” that was used to ensure individuals were included and valued improved. I want to say a huge Thank You for a great year! As we continue to move forward, I am extremely excited about the endless possibilities ahead!

## **SOUTH CAROLINA DISABILITY AGENCIES WORKING TOGETHER TO KEEP INDIVIDUALS SAFE!**

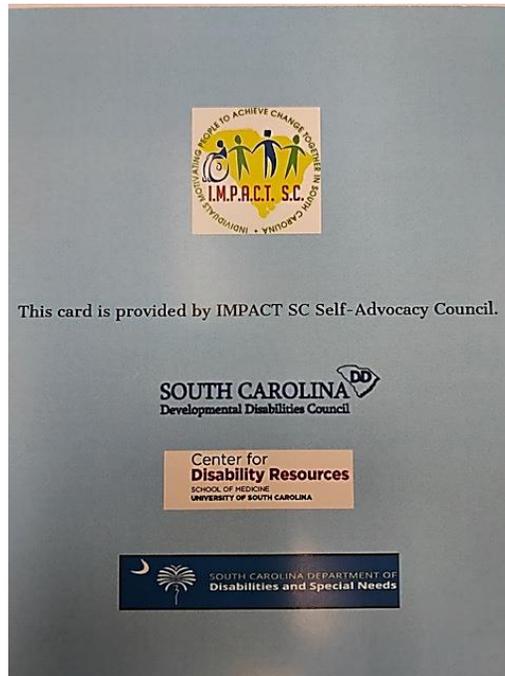


When COVID-19 struck, many people were concerned about their safety and how they would be impacted. Supplies were limited and individuals who depended on public transportation relied on the kindness of others to help them manage and obtain supplies to reduce the risk of infection and keep them safe. Individuals were grateful and wanted to know how they could assist as well. The IMPACT SC self-advocacy group at the Center for Disability Resources, worked with the SC Department of Disabilities and Special Needs to produce and distribute cards

with information on how to reduce the risk of COVID-19, (see below). Other agencies, stakeholders, organizations, and grantees worked together, and supplies were distributed, information was provided via websites, links, emails and during all activities. The word was out, and the Disability Community was motivated and ready to move. People with disabilities were at a higher risk of fatalities if they contracted COVID-19. This was nothing to play with and treated with all seriousness.



Front of Card



Back of Card



Bag, hand sanitizer, refill bottle, paper towels, masks, tissue, gloves, pandemic kits



Partners in Policymaking Final Class and Graduation; staying safe and social distancing.



Delivering supplies.... Becoming Essential!

*Executive Director,  
Valarie Bishop*

**Message from the Executive Director**



COVID-19 presented us with many challenges during this reporting year. The world as we knew it shut down. People began fighting the virus, many were isolated, and we lost so many lives. A special thank you to those workers who faced each day with amazing strength: providing encouragement, extraordinary care and essential supplies.

While we pondered how to move forward; with much ingenuity, determination and flexibility, our grantees and partners developed strategies to ensure inclusion of people with developmental disabilities. I was excited about continuing programs using virtual platforms.

Our Advocacy programs provided continued support by sharing information through articles, emails, links, websites, personal telephone calls and other resources. They shared their personal struggles and discovered a strength they never knew they possessed. We continued our efforts to enhance systems and make change for individuals with developmental disabilities and family members in South Carolina.

Funding leadership programs has truly improved the quality of life for people with developmental disabilities and has allowed us to honor our mission. Seeing self-advocates, parents and family members develop their skills and confidence provides continued motivation and encouragement for all involved. A special thank you to our grantees, collaboration partners, agencies, stakeholders and organizations who work tirelessly to push the boundaries and advocate for inclusion. A big thank you to our Council members for their passion and tireless work for those we serve.



**Valarie Bishop, (L) Executive Director of SC Developmental Disability Council; Megan Trowbridge, (C) Assistant Director of Center for Disability Resources; and Kimberly Tissot, (R) President and CEO of Able South Carolina**

**SOUTH CAROLINA DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL MEMBERS**



**Ms. Kimberly Addis  
 Ms. Margaret Alewine  
 Mr. Joseph “Joey” Barefoot  
 Mrs. Michelle Barefoot  
 Ms. Susan Beck  
 Ms. Dianne Bennett  
 Ms. Kristy L. Caldwell  
 Mr. Philip Clarkson**

**Ms. Ramona Williams-Carr  
 Ms. Daphanie Dean  
 Ms. Beth Franco  
 Mrs. Connie Gallman  
 Mr. John Green  
 Ms. Barbara Grice  
 Mr. Demetrius Henderson  
 Mrs. Melissa Hunt  
 Ms. Lisa Jolly**

**Mr. Roger Kuperman  
 Mr. Derrick Means  
 Ms. Kristi Moore  
 Dr. David Rotholz  
 Ms. Elizabeth Smithson  
 Ms. Allison Danielle Sartin  
 Mr. Marion Taylor  
 Mrs. Jennifer Van Cleave**

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