**North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities**

**Ex Officio Report**

Guardianship

The DHHS Division of Aging and Adult Services conducted their first workgroup on March 12th. Gary Nelson and Tamara Norris from the UNC School of Social Work Jordan Family Institute will be facilitating the meetings. New members are being invited to the next meeting. The SILC office will be contacted to participate in the workgroup. The initiative will further the work of the DHHS-convened ad-hoc group that developed a final report and recommendations on alternatives to guardianship, add several new stakeholders, develop a data tracking tool for those who have a guardian (both public and private), and to bring the WINGS model to North Carolina.

Adult Care Home Transition

Disability Rights NC is in the second year of this grant and have successfully transitioned two individuals out of Adult Care Homes in a more appropriate living situation in the community. Many other individuals with I/DD have approached the initiative managers expressing their interest in leaving the ACH. Disability Rights will be working on the blueprint over the next 12 months to inform policy makers what will be required to enable more people with I/DD to leave an ACH.

Medical/Health Homes for individuals with I/DD

The Council has authorized Easter Seals to expand their scope of work for year #2 with three additional deliverables by October 1:

* Support the establishment of an NC chapter of DD Nurses Association;
* Promote integration of oral health as part of medical health homes and
* Convene a policy summit on “Medical Health Homes and Managed Care for People with I/DD. The work of this initiative continues to inform policy makers as they consider major changes in Medicaid.

NC Stakeholder Engagement Group (NCSEG)

The NC SEG has continued to provide feedback to the Department on changes in Medicaid. The group facilitator, Kelly Friedlander, arranged for Division officials to meet with exclusively with individuals with disabilities and family members outside of the larger listening session and without providers so that they could give their candid feedback on improvements to the system without fear of reprisal from their service providers. Division officials complimented the work of the SEG to arrange these meetings and commented that the feedback in those small groups was invaluable.

Employment and Post-Secondary Options

Western Carolina is continuing their work in improving outcomes for students with intellectual and other developmental disabilities by creating a program with the assistance of DPI to raise expectations of student with disabilities – even those with the most severe disabilities – beginning as early as middle school. This program will have an online training tool that will be available to students, parents, teachers, and community leaders to provide guidance and resources so that students exiting high school will have more job opportunities in the community vs. segregated work settings.

Cincinnati Children’s Hospital is continuing to expand their work program, Project SEARCH, in three more sites within North Carolina. This program provides apprenticeships for individuals with disabilities in a variety of settings including medical and business sites. This model has been highly successful and many of the individuals participating in the program are hired by the worksite at a competitive wage once the apprenticeship ends.

**Conference Funding Support**

The NC Council supports individual with disabilities and their caregivers to participate in educational opportunities that will enhance their ability to be a better advocate or increase independence through the Jean Wolff Rossi Fund. This fund will provide financial support to attend conferences that will meet the goals of the Rossi Fund Program. Those interested in applying for funds may visit the NCCDD website for an application at [www.nccdd.org](http://www.nccdd.org) or call the office at 919-850-2901 to have an application mailed.

**ADA Legacy Tour**

The 25th anniversary of the passage of the ADA will be in July 2015. To celebrate the 25th anniversary, the ADA Legacy Tour bus will be coming to North Carolina. The Council’s communications contractor, O’Neill Communications, is coordinating the details for the Raleigh stops scheduled for May 5-6. The bus will also be in Greensboro and Elon on May 2-4 and in Charlotte on June 7-9.

**5 year plan work is beginning!**

The Council works from a five year plan. The current plan runs from 2011-2016. Funding for initiatives is based on goals and objectives in that plan. Be looking for information via e-mail about in June on how you can provide your input in the development of our next plan.