**North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities**

**Ex Officio Report**

Current Initiatives:

Adult Care Home Transition

The Council partnered with Disability Rights NC to carry out the goals of this initiative. Now in its third and final year, Disability Rights is wrapping up the work on the pilot and working on the final report. At present, no state funding has been allocated to help the transition of the reported 1500 residents with I/DD from the ACHs into the community. In order to facilitate this transition, NCCDD is promoting the development of a “blueprint” that will incorporate the diverse needs of individuals across the state within the existing policy and budget restraints.

Guardianship

The DHHS Division of Aging and Adult Services along with the UNC School of Social Work Jordan Family Institute have been working on this initiative. Representatives from all agencies who have a stake in improving the self-determination of those with a guardianship order or at risk of having a guardian will have control over their lives. Family members and self-advocates are also part of this group. New members are invited to be part of this group. 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. Copies of the first year are report are available in print and online: <http://bit.ly/1RvF5T9>

Medical/Health Homes for individuals with I/DD

The Council is working with Easter Seals to finalize their 3rd year on the medical health home initiative. The work of this important initiative has been successful in

* The establishment of an NC chapter of DD Nurses Association;
* Working with the dental association to train practices on the serving patients with I/DD and promoting the integration of oral health as part of medical health homes; and
* Bringing other states’ models of medical/health homes to North Carolina policy makers at a recent 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.

Emergency Preparation

The council has been working with the NC Department of Public Safety to build capacity for disaster preparation, emergency response, and related procedures and systems. The NC DPS has been successful in building additional capacity and promoting the changes made to emergency response in national meetings of other states.

**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. Self-advocates and family members who want to attend any of that national IL conferences such as NCIL in July are encouraged to apply for support though the Jean Wolff Rossi Fund!

**Ft. Macon State Park has new beach wheelchairs!**

During the Developmental Disability Awareness Month, The Council helped celebrate a new opportunity for community inclusion by promoting the new beach wheelchairs at the launch part on Saturday, March 19. These chairs allow users to get into the surf, get their feet wet and experience the beach like any other beachgoer. Chairs were purchased through a grant from Access NC. Please help spread the word!

**5 Year Plan goals have been approved**

The Council works from a five year plan. At the February 2016, Council members endorsed the three goals for the next Five Year Plan. The Five Year Plan must be submitted to Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD) for approval by August 15, 2016. The new Five Year Plan will take effect on October 1, 2016. The three large goals in the plan revolve around **advocacy development**, **community living**, and **asset development**. To download a copy of the plan, you can visit the Council’s website or click the link below: <http://bit.ly/1MRMuGL>

**Council Meetings are open to the Public and members of the general public are invited to attend**

The Council meets four times per year. The 2016 Council meetings are:

February 11-12

May 12-13

August 11-12

November 16-18

There is a public comment period on Friday where visitors can address the Council. Meetings are held at the Hilton Garden Inn at 131 Columbus Avenue, Cary, NC. Please see our website for more information.