2009 Annual Report

Utah Developmental Disabilities Council

Our Vision

A world where everyone has what they need to get what they want from life.

Our Mission

The mission of the Utah Developmental Disabilities Council is to be the state's leading source of critical innovative, and progressive knowledge, advocacy, leadership and collaboration to enhance the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities.

Visit the Council's website at www.utahddc.org or call 801.533.3965 or 800.333.8824

A message from

Kelly Holt
Chairperson 2009

Utah Developmental Disabilities Council

During this year we lost our disability champion, Governor Huntsman, as he was selected by President Obama to become the U.S. Ambassador to China. Our new Governor Herbert supported the Council in his former position of Lieutenant Governor. when we were awarded funds to produce training materials, *Determined to Vote,* last year. Now Governor Herbert is supporting our disability community as he followed the lead of the Congress and declared a week in September as *Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week*. We know he will work with us as we continue to focus on getting people with disabilities jobs and supports!

I am also proud that the Council was nominated this year for the University of Utah's College of Social Work's 2009 Suazo Social Justice Award! That nomination showed that we have been recognized for our efforts in promoting awareness to get rid of the "R" word and to show the public that people with disabilities are part of our communities.

UDDC
UTAH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL
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Salt Lake City, Utah 84101
801.533.3965

2008-2009 Year in Review
Overview

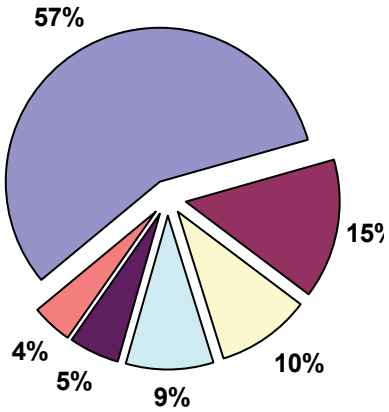
During the 2008 – 2009 fiscal year, the Council and several advocacy partnerships including the Disability Law Center, the Utah Coalition for Caregiver Supports, the Legislative Coalition for People with Disabilities, the Utah Parent Center, and the Family-to-Family Network achieved the passage of HB 340—the Respite Care Assistance Fund. Rep. Jack Draxler's bill will help Utah create a public/private economic partnership to fund respite needs for people who do not qualify for typical respite funding. No money was appropriated this year, but this act allows the Council to move forward by creating the framework for the future through public and private funding resources when the economy turns around.

The Legislature cut all of the Council's state funding - $108,000. This loss represents 19% of the Council's annual funding, thus limiting program flexibility and future project budgets. The Legislature cut the base budget of the Division of Services for People with Disabilities as well. Service providers were cut back to 2007 funding levels with no allowance for decreased service delivery, thus putting the provider system into a major additional crisis. The bright side of the economic downturn is that the direct staffing crisis has decreased somewhat, but staff turnover rates continue at about 86% per year!

How Does the Council Invest Its Resources?

During FY 2008, the Utah DD Council invested $426,281 in grants and projects that directly benefit Utahns with developmental disabilities and their families. The funds are tied to specific outcomes identified by an extensive statewide needs assessment of such areas as Employment, Housing, Transportation, Community Supports and Quality Assurance (Leadership Development). From these investments, the Council also leveraged state and private funds totaling $145,118.

- **Quality Assurance - $282,986**
- **Administration - $73,470**
- **Employment - $50,004**
- **Community Supports - $45,484**
- **Transportation - $26,320**
- **Housing - $21,487**



Leadership Development
Quality Assurance

The Council's efforts in Leadership Development of self-advocates have paid off. A second year of support for the transition-aged (18 to 22 year olds) People First group at South Valley School in the Jordan School District produced wonderful, strong, new People First (15) leaders who educated Special Education teachers during their yearly conference.

The Council sponsored two leadership training seminars for self-advocacy at the National Ability Center (NAC) in Park City. The State of Utah People First Network held a two-day workshop that focused on voting procedures; how to select candidates who support their interests; the logistics of voting; and train-the-trainer opportunities. A second retreat was held for the four People First groups managed through the Council's Native American contract (Moab, Blanding, Montezuma Creek, and Monument Valley People First groups). This 4-day workshop focused on team-building activities including high ropes course, horseback riding, and additional physical activities. People challenged themselves physically and learned about courage and group interactions. The participants received peer instruction of the Determined to Vote curriculum. Additional focus was placed on Native American traditions and culture.

Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE) Region Three Board Member, Bryon Murray, from Roosevelt, Utah, continues to be supported to participate in quarterly national SABE meetings.

Above: Bryon Murray

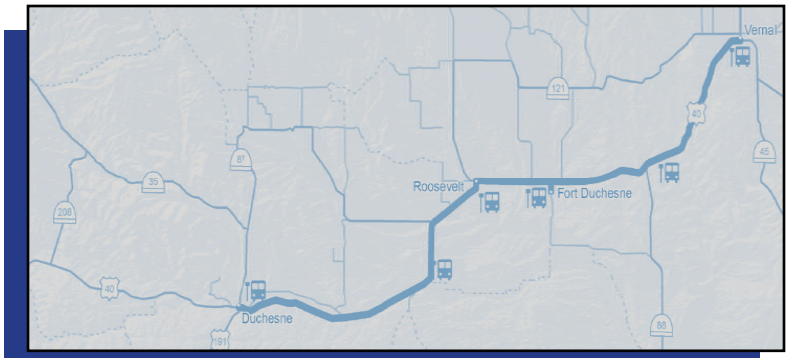
Left: People First Retreat at NAC.

Transportation

The Council actively participates in the statewide United We Ride Board as well as the Salt Lake Coordinated Transportation Team. A $50,000 first-year grant was awarded to the Uintah Basin Association of Governments (UBAOG) to help fund a start-up bus route between rural eastern Utah communities. The grant award was delayed until FY10 due to the loss of funding from other federal and private providers, but the Council is committed as this project meets a specific goal from the current 5-Year Plan. The bus route will follow Route 40 and pick up individuals at their homes with appropriate advance scheduling. This daily bus will support people to shop, visit the doctor, and other travel needs—a first for this rural area of Utah! A future goal is to encourage coordination with other transportation providers and the Route 40 service.

Uintah Basin

Public Transit Business Plan



May 2008
Planned Bus Route in Uintah Basin: Prepared By:
H.W. Lochner, Inc & LSC Transportation Consultants
Prepared For:
Uintah Basin Association of Governments & Utah Department of Transportation

Employment

The Council awarded Utah Works a second year $25,000 grant that helps employ over 158 people with disabilities in such activities as shredding, janitorial services, and shortly digitizing records in various sites across the state.

The Governor's Committee for Employment of People with Disabilities ongoing public relations campaign includes the use of billboards across the state (see example below). In addition, Gov. Huntsman signed a proclamation directing the State of Utah to become an employment model by proactively hiring people with disabilities.

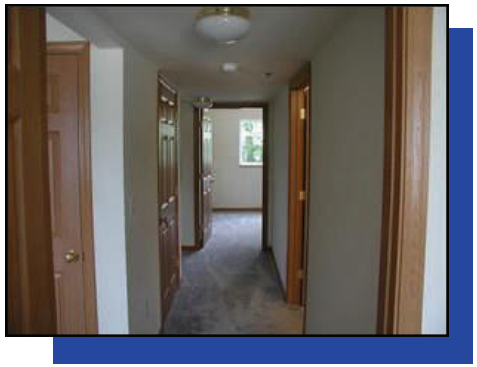
The Council

Alan Ormsby
Allie Schneider
Andrew Riggle
Amy Weyrich
Bill Young
Bryce Fifield, Ph.D
Christene Jones
Don Uchida
Eder Soriano
Elsie Dee
Eric Stoker
Gabriel Vega
Helen Post
Holly Williams
James O'Neill
Jane Tuttle
Jennifer Kuhn
Kelly Holt
Kris Fawson
Lee Stephens
Mandee Buckley
Matt Knotts
Nan Gray
Nels Holmgren
Quinton Busk
Reed Hahne
Sherri Dial
Tom Brownlee
Tonya Hales
Trevor Spackman
Valarie Tanner
Rep. Merlynn Newbold
Sen. Gene Davis

Housing

The Council partnered with the Disability Law Center to adapt information from the Georgia DD Council's "Easy Living Home" accessible housing certification program for Utah, calling it *Built for Life.* With an additional partnership through the Salt Lake Community College's building trades faculty, the college is redesigning their building curriculum to include a focus on everyday accessibility. College students will build an accessible home in 2010 which will be featured in the local parade of homes, with the goal of selling it.

Five Utah families used the HomeChoice Loan program which enabled them to purchase a new home.



Community Supports

The Council actively partnered with the aging community this year, especially with the Utah Coalition for Caregiver Supports (UCCS) and the Utah Commission on Aging. Utah's Commission on Aging received a three year $600,000 grant to develop an Aging Disability Resource Center (ADRC).

The Council and the Disability Law Center together produced a position paper for the Legislature: *Help Caregivers Support Family Members with Disabilities.* HB 340 (the Respite Care Assistance Fund) passed and created the infrastructure in state law that enables a public/private partnership to provide funding for lifespan respite. No money has been appropriated yet, but as economic times improve, this law will support many Utah families as well as educate the public about caregiver issues.

Signing of Respite Bill by Governor Huntsman