



## Changes in Leadership

### Kelly Holt - New UDDC Chairperson

For the past three years Mandee Buckley has provided leadership for the Council. She is stepping aside to fulfill personal obligations. Kelly Holt will be filling the remainder of Mandee's term as Chairperson.

Kelly, a Price resident, was appointed to the Council in 2004 representing individuals from rural eastern Utah. She has served as the chair of the Grants and Transportation Committee during her tenure. She was the Utah People First Chairperson and has been an active speaker on both the state and national fronts. Kelly made presentations on advocacy and leadership in Indiana, Nevada, Wisconsin, Washington, and Wyoming.



*Kelly Holt*

Kelly works part time at the Central Eastern Utah campus cafeteria as well as at Curves. We look forward to her enthusiasm and leadership.

We want to extend our gratitude to Mandee Buckley for her years of leadership and we are glad she will be continuing as a Council member until the end of her second term in September.

## Openings announced for Council Membership

The application process is now open through March 31, 2009, for two openings for Council membership. We are seeking applications from individuals throughout the state who are interested in serving a three year term starting October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2012. We have two openings – one for an individual with a developmental disability and one for an adult sibling or family member.

Please spread the word so people know about this leadership opportunity. Council member, Sherri Dial from Santa Clara says, "I have been active in the disability community for years and felt I was well-informed; however, participating as a Council member has taught me numerous significant aspects of the world for people with disabilities. I am grateful for the time I have been able to spend as a council member." Applications are on our web site at [www.utahddc.org](http://www.utahddc.org) or can be obtained by calling the office at 801-533-3965.

**Please apply by March 31, 2009!**



## Brigham City People First Member Feels Economic Downturn

The night manager handed Susan M. Wilson an envelope that changed her life. The letter addressed to Michelle at LINC informed Michelle that Susan's 14-year career with Kentucky Fried Chicken was over. "They said they had to let me go because they had to cut the store's expenses by 4 percent a week."

Today Susan spends her time at LINC and searching for a new job. So far she has applied and interviewed for a job at Burger King. No word yet on that one.

Individuals with disabilities are loyal employees. Employers report that they are on time, consistently do a good job and contribute to a congenial work environment.

Susan's job played a significant role in her life. In addition to the self-esteem of being employed and experiencing daily success, Susan was able to have money for the "extras" she enjoyed. Her favorite was going to the movies regularly. When asked if there was anything else she wanted to say, "I wish it didn't happen and I could have had my job longer than that."

## Provo People First Serve as Subs for Santa

The Provo People First group did a Sub for Santa project on December 8. The money for the project was obtained from charging admission to the Halloween dance held in October and from donations made by the Division of Services for People with Disabilities (DSPD) support coordinators and the self-advocates. People First was able to purchase a whole wardrobe for a woman who just came off the DSPD waiting list and whose mother died a few months ago. The only clothes that the woman had was one pair of pajamas and a T-shirt with holes. People First purchased several pair of pants, shirts, a coat, boots, gloves, hat, shoes, pajamas, dresses, jackets, a CD player and music, craft items, sheets, blankets and bedspread, towels and other hygiene items. The woman was totally delighted.

Some of the People First 50 members went to stores to shop that night and others chose to stay at the Provo Library to enjoy a movie and craft activity. It was a very successful event.



**FULL COUNCIL MEETING:** Please note the date of our next full Council meeting! We will not have a January 2009 meeting, but we will have our meeting on February 3rd, 2009 in the Spruce Room of the East Capitol Building. The meeting will start at 11:30 a.m., with lunch served at Noon, and end at 3:00 p.m.

The LCPD Legislative Reception will be from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in the Capitol Rotunda. Please invite your Senator and Representative to meet you there.

## Coordinated Transportation Works for Everyone

The Community Transportation Association of America sponsored an Institute for Transportation Coordination held in Washington, DC in November that included a team selected from Salt Lake County. The team is comprised of representatives from a variety of agencies including the Utah Transit Authority (UTA), Salt Lake County Aging Services, the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT), the Utah Workforce Services and Frank Long representing the Council. The purpose of the team was to prepare a plan to provide a one call option for all low-income persons who depend on some form of public transportation to attend doctors visits, social activities, shopping, and education to live a full and active life. The vision of the team is to provide a single-point access system that coordinates seamless transportation throughout Salt Lake County. The theme of the team is “Get on Board” and will focus on promoting a framework for Salt Lake County to advocate and create policy in support of a coordinated human services transportation system. During the next year the team will develop a plan of action, get the buy-in from all the agencies and elected officials to provide coordinated access to all transportation services under the one-call umbrella.



## MEDICAL HOME CORNER

The Utah Department of Health Bureau of Children with Special Health Care Needs has been awarded a three-year grant from the Maternal Child Health Bureau to improve the system of care for children with autism spectrum disorders/developmental disabilities (ASD/DD). During the first year of the grant, in collaboration with Utah Pediatric Partnership to Improve Healthcare Quality (UPIQ), the Bureau will be recruiting 12 new pediatric and family medicine practices for a Learning Collaborative on the Medical Home improvement model for ASD/DD screening, referral, and care. During year two, UPIQ will conduct an in-office peer-mentored Learning Collaborative for 8 additional family/pediatric practices and a Learning Collaborative to assist 6 dental practices in becoming Dental Homes and adapting office procedures to better serve special needs children. The ASD/DD Learning Collaborative will be adapted to be delivered as a “distance learning” module in year three for 12 rural practices.

The medical home portal ([www.medhomeportal.org](http://www.medhomeportal.org)) will be expanded with evidence-based information for families and providers on ASD/DD. Families will continue to be an integral part of the project, with a Family Training planned for 200 families, new parent partners in the practices, and five Family Navigators to assist families in negotiating the maze of services. In years one and two, a parent leadership and transition training conference for ASD will be offered.

For more information on the medical home model of care contact Barbara Ward at 584-8584 or [bward@utah.gov](mailto:bward@utah.gov)



# President Obama's Plan for People with Disabilities

*excerpt from "Highlights from the president-elect", Crossroads Magazine, Winter 2008*

## Providing Americans with Disabilities Educational Opportunities

- 1) Fully Funding the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA): Children are being shortchanged and their parents are forced to fight with cash-strapped school districts to get the free and appropriate education the IDEA promised their children. Fully funding IDEA will provide students with disabilities the public education they have a right to, and school districts will be able to provide services without cutting into their general education budgets.
- 2) Early Intervention for Children with Disabilities: President Obama will invest \$10 billion per year in early intervention educational and developmental programs for children between zero and five. His plan will help expand Early Head Start to serve more children with disabilities, and will spur states, through programs like Early Learning Challenge Grants, to expand programs for children with disabilities, such as IDEA, and integrate these programs with other early childhood programs.
- 3) Support Vocational Rehabilitation Programs by:

Improving College Opportunities for High School Graduates with Disabilities: If they are to succeed to their fullest capabilities in the labor market, students with disabilities need more opportunities to obtain a college education. Today, however, students with disabilities are less likely to attend college than their peers and are less likely to complete a degree program when they do attend. President Obama will work to:

**Make College more Affordable:** The American Opportunity Tax Credit will be a universal and fully refundable credit that will ensure that the first \$4,000 of college education is completely free for most Americans, and will cover two-thirds of the cost of tuition at the average public college or university.

**Strengthen Community Colleges:** Almost half of all college students with disabilities attend public two-year institutions, particularly community colleges. President Obama will create a Community College Partnership Program to strengthen community colleges by providing grants to (a) conduct more thorough analyses of the types of skills and technical education that are in high demand from students and local industry; (b) implement new associate of arts degree programs that cater to emerging industry and technical career demands; and (c) reward those institutions that graduate more students and also increase their numbers of transfer students to four-year institutions.

- 4) Authorizing a Comprehensive Study of Students with Disabilities and Transition to Work and Higher Education.

President Obama will initiate such a study and task his Secretary of Education with researching: the barriers that keep students with disabilities from seeking and completing higher education; the barriers that prevent students from making a direct transition to work; the extent to which students with disabilities are able to access loans and grants; reasons college students with disabilities drop out at a higher rate; and best practices from schools that have effectively recruited and graduated students with disabilities that can be implemented more widely.

## President Obama's Plan for People with Disabilities (cont)

### Increasing Employment Rate of Workers with Disabilities

- 1) Increasing Executive Branch Hiring of Workers with Disabilities.
- 2) Effectively Implement Section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act: Section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act requires the federal government and employers who are federal contractors to “take affirmative action to employ and advance in employment qualified individuals with disabilities.” Yet, affirmative action in employment for adults with disabilities is not enforced with goals and timetables like the affirmative action requirements for people of color and women found in Executive Order No. 11246 and its progeny. President Obama will direct all of his department and agency heads to bring their agencies into full compliance.
- 3) Providing Private-Sector Employers with Resources to Accommodate Employees with Disabilities:
- 4) Supporting Small Businesses Owned by People with Disabilities
- 5) Assuring Workers with Disabilities and Family Caregivers Get the Flexibility at Work They Need

### Supporting Independent, Community-Based Living for Americans with Disabilities

- 1) Assuring the Rights Affirmed in Olmstead v. L.C.: The Olmstead v. L.C. decision required states to place people with mental disabilities in community settings rather than in institutions when treatment professionals determine that community placement is appropriate. In addition to supporting the Community Choice Act of 2007 and the CLASS Act of 2007, President Obama believes that we should further provide incentives for states to provide Americans with disabilities the ability to choose the most appropriate care for their individual needs. He further believes that the federal government should help states increase the supply of high-quality community-based settings with disabilities by providing additional grants for new communities and community expansions.
- 2) Streamline the Social Security Approval Process: President Obama is committed to streamlining the current application and appeals procedures to reduce the confusion that surrounds these important programs.
- 3) Protect Voting Rights:
- 4) Amending the Medicare “Homebound” Rule: President Obama supports amending the Medicare “homebound” rule so that those with disabilities have the freedom to leave their homes without fear of having their government benefits taken away. He believes that our Medicare policy must reflect the common sense notion that community engagement and support are vital components of a meaningful life.
- 5) Investing in Assistive Technologies: President Obama believes that we must use technology to make community-based living a reality for more people with disabilities. He supports the Fostering Independence Through Technology Act, which offers 21st century solutions, such as home monitoring and communications technologies to help overcome barriers for people with disabilities. In addition, he wishes to amend the Medicare “homebound” rule so that people with disabilities are not denied certain vital assistive living technologies.

## UTAH DD COUNCIL CALENDAR FOR 2009

(Please check the UDDC website frequently for updated information)

**February 3: Full Council Meeting at East Capitol Building: Spruce Rm.  
11:30 AM - 3:00 PM.**

**LCPD Legislative Reception: Capitol Rotunda,  
4:00 - 6:00 PM.**

February 17: Executive Committee Meeting: 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

**March 10: Full Council Meeting: 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

April 14: Executive Committee Meeting: 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

April 26 - 29: [Disability Policy Seminar, Washington D.C.](#)

**May 12: Full Council Meeting: 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM**



Call us with your disability questions!  
800.333.8824 [www.accessut.org](http://www.accessut.org)

