The Developmental Disabilities Institute

The Developmental Disabilities Institute (DDI) is Michigan’s University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD). We are one of 67 UCEDDs throughout the 50 states and in U.S. possessions such as Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands. DDI was established in 1983 at Wayne State University by the Federal Administration on Developmental Disabilities (ADD), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. DDI is mandated by ADD to provide statewide services and programs designed to enhance the lives of persons with disabilities. DDI's programs and services accomplish the following:

- Provide education
- Assist community agencies and human service systems as they shift policies and procedures to support consumers in making choices and controlling their own lives
- Investigate processes and products through systematic qualitative and quantitative methods
- Conduct research, and
- Produce and distribute products that inform and contribute new knowledge.

Through its project sites, the institute provides support statewide to more than 20,000 persons with disabilities annually. DDI collaborates with organizations throughout Michigan to develop innovative strategies for meeting the needs of diverse communities.

Our mission

… is to contribute to the development of inclusive communities and quality of life of people with disabilities and their families through a culturally sensitive statewide program of interdisciplinary education, community support and services, research and dissemination of information.
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DDI’s Dual Diagnosis Project is aimed at improving the diagnosis of mental health concerns in people with intellectual disabilities. The project’s primary goals include, first, to evaluate the effectiveness of the Mini PAS-ADD, a specialized diagnostic instrument for identifying dual diagnoses. The second aim is to examine the impact of dual diagnosis on an individual’s ability to self-advocate. DDI is working with the Macomb-Oakland Regional Center (MORC) to implement the study.

Key findings from the study include:

- About one third of participants met the threshold for a mental illness on the Mini PAS-ADD
- The Mini PAS-ADD appears to be most effective in detecting mental health concerns in individuals who are not taking psychotropic medication.
- The Mini PAS-ADD can be administered in about 20 minutes by anyone trained on the interview (i.e., no formal education is required).
- Families of consumers involved in the research liked the Mini PAS-ADD because it gave them an opportunity to voice their concerns and reassured them that their loved ones were being taken care of.

Several conference presentations focused on project findings have been done over the last year. Presentations were given at the following conferences:

- American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, Michigan Chapter, Midland, Michigan
- Second International Come to Your Senses Conference, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
- 24th Annual Conference of the National Association for the Dually Diagnosed, Atlanta, Georgia.
- Annual Meeting of the American University Centers on Disabilities, Washington, DC.
- Chronic Disease Management in People with Intellectual Disabilities Conference, Prato, Italy

Conference presentations covered topics such as the relationship between dual diagnosis and self-determination, the assessment of mental health concerns in individuals with intellectual disabilities, and the examination and use of dual diagnosis assessment instruments.

For information regarding the Dual Diagnosis project, please contact Dr. Barbara LeRoy at B_Le_Roy@wayne.edu
Detroit 360° Project Looking to Expand, Show Its Effectiveness

In its fourth year, the Detroit Family Support 360° Project continues to have a positive impact on families who have children with developmental disabilities living in the City of Detroit. Detroit 360° is a project that provides systems navigation and advocacy to unserved and underserved families who reside within the city of Detroit. To date, the project has provided system navigation to approximately 122 families and has referred another 110 families to project partners to receive desired and needed services.

In addition to navigation activities, the Detroit 360° Project also holds monthly Family Support Group meetings that are open to all present and past Project participants. These meetings bring families and Project staff together in order to encourage networking, information exchange, and the opportunity to ask questions and give feedback concerning the way Detroit 360° is delivered. Meetings alternate between morning and evening from month to month so as to allow more families the opportunity to attend.

For more information regarding the family support group, please contact Angela Martin at (313) 577-9470.

Southwest Detroit Family Support Group Meetings Held

New in 2007 was the addition of Family Support Group meetings for Spanish-speaking families. Facilitated by Detroit 360° Family Support Navigator, Julia Hernandez, the Southwest Detroit Family Support Groups are geared toward families who are of Spanish or Latino ethnic backgrounds whose primary language is Spanish. The idea for these Family Support Groups grew out of a need to address issues specific to Spanish-speaking families in the City of Detroit. In addition to the cultural and language barriers that are often present, Latino families face a unique set of issues when it comes to navigating the disability service system. Meetings are held every other month. Please contact Julia Hernandez at (313) 577-5819 for more information.

City Council Continues to Support Detroit 360° Activities

Detroit 360° Public Policy Coordinator, Judy Cerano, and Family Support Navigator Claudette Cameron had the opportunity to meet with Detroit City Council Member Martha Reeves in 2007. Council Member Reeves expressed her continued support for the Detroit 360° Project and discussed the need to increase the number and scope of such programs in the city of Detroit. This type of support is essential for programs like Detroit 360° to not only continue to effectively serve as many families as possible, but also to expand further into the region in order to serve more families who could benefit from the project.
Detroit 360° Project Expansion Activities

Through funding from the Detroit-Wayne County Community Mental Health Agency, the Detroit Family Support 360° Project has been able to expand beyond the city of Detroit and into Wayne County. With this expansion, the project will be able to serve more families who are in need of the support and navigation activities offered by the project. In addition to the project’s geographical growth, Detroit 360° will also be able to serve families of children with developmental disabilities who are 26 years of age and younger.

Detroit Family Support 360° Partners

Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services (ACCESS)
The Arc Detroit
Child Care Coordinating Council of Detroit-Wayne County, Inc.
Children’s Special Health Care Services
Children’s Hospital of Michigan
Community Living Services, Inc.
Detroit Public Schools
Detroit-Wayne County Community Mental Health Agency
Latino Family Services
Michigan Department of Human Services
Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council
Michigan Protection and Advocacy Services, Inc.
Parents, Family Members, and Self-Advocates
Skillman Center for Children, Wayne State University
State and Local Legislative Bodies
Wayne County Regional Educational Services Agency (RESA)
Detroit Family Support 360° Project: A Day in the Life of a One-Stop Family Support Center

The following was written by the Detroit Family Support 360° Project Director, Elizabeth Janks, to illustrate a typical day for families and staff of the Detroit 360° Project.

The telephone is ringing, and when our project coordinator answers the phone, it is a call from a grandparent, who is raising her grandchildren, two of whom have developmental disabilities. She talks to the project coordinator, and the grandmother explains she is elderly, and is feeling very overwhelmed with the responsibilities of her family. Furthermore, she is convinced that she isn’t getting all of the help she could be and that her grandchildren aren’t progressing in life. The project coordinator listens attentively, screens the grandmother’s information to ensure she meets the eligibility requirements, and determines quickly that the grandmother and the children could benefit from participation in this project. They are assigned a family support navigator, who will meet with the grandmother at the one-stop center or at the location of her choosing. The family is going to be working with a culturally diverse navigator, who has expertise in the Wayne County disabilities service sector. There are times when the toll free line rings and the office is closed. The recording instructs families that may be experiencing a crisis where to seek immediate assistance. Project staff members respond to all telephone calls within forty-eight hours.

During the week, Family Support Navigators are meeting with families. The families have children under age eighteen, live in the metropolitan Detroit area, and need at least three support services for their children with special needs. Families generally choose to have the Family Support Navigator come to their homes. Occasionally they will meet for coffee or they will come to the Developmental Disabilities Institute to meet at the one-stop center. On any given day project staff members are working to assure that families receive the supports and education that they have identified as being important. The Family Support Navigators report to project administration that the areas of support or need most often identified by the families are: assistance with the education system, respite, recreation, early intervention, Head Start, community mental health services, housing, transportation, food and assistance with utility bills.

The Project Director meets with and facilitates the community resource advisory team and the administrative resource advisory team. She also co-facilitates the monthly family support meetings. The family support meetings are a lively exchange, well attended by fathers, mothers, grandmothers and children. Families are not defined by traditional standards at the Detroit Family Support 360° one-stop center. Our primary caregivers may be aunts, foster parents, or dads. The support group topics have been chosen by the parents and they include: advocacy, navigating the special education system, childcare and many other topics. We also leave plenty of time for families to visit with each other, share stories and network. There is laughter and a palpable feeling of relief as parents recognize that they aren’t alone in their experiences. Attendees have very positively received the family support meetings. Recently, a Southwest Detroit family support group for Spanish-speaking families has been meeting at Madonna University. The group has been growing in popularity and meets every other month. This group is a welcome addition to the Detroit Family Support 360° Project and offers yet another unique opportunity to our families.
DDI Staff Lend Expertise, Experience to International Community

Staff members of the Developmental Disabilities Institute (DDI) helped to shape the development and direction of disability policy at the international level.

International activities conducted by DDI staff in 2007 included:

- **Rehabilitation International Executive Officers Nominating Committee:** DDI Director Dr. Barbara LeRoy serves on the Nominating Committee for the Rehabilitation International (RI) Executive Officers. Elections are slated to take place in August of 2008 at the RI World Congress in Quebec, Canada. Dr. LeRoy also serves as Vice Chair for RI’s Education Commission. RI is a global organization bringing together expertise from different sectors in the disability field, advancing and implementing the rights and inclusion of persons with disabilities.

- **First Arab African Conference on Disabilities, Djerba, Tunisia:** Held in conjunction with the General Assembly meeting of Rehabilitation International, this conference brought over 425 disability experts together from around the world to address issues such as inclusive education. DDI director Dr. Barbara LeRoy chaired the Education Seminar on Inclusive Education in the Arab African region.

- **Abu Dhabi ACCESS Conference, Abu Dhabi, UAE:** This annual conference provides a forum in which to present research results and shared experiences in all areas related to the educational and social inclusion of people with disabilities. DDI Director Dr. Barbara LeRoy presented a keynote address at the ACCESS 2007 conference. Her topic was promising practices for including students with special needs in regular education classrooms.

- **International Disability Research Collaboration Meetings India:** In November 2007, DDI researcher Dr. Preethy Samuel, explored the potential of disability research collaborations with two institutions in India: Amar Jyothi Charitable Trust, New Delhi and Christian Medical College, Vellore. She made formal and informal presentations on her own research on Family Quality of Life to the social workers, physical and occupational therapists who work to improve the quality of life of persons with disabilities in India. Dr. Samuel will be providing research consultations to the staff at these institutes as they develop their own programs using the research models and techniques employed by the staff at DDI.

- **European IASSID Conference, November, 2007, Prague:** The IASSID Special Interest Research Group (SIRG) on Comparative Policy and Practice Roundtable was convened in Prague on November 16-17, 2007. The discussion was focused on four areas including: Emerging Issues in Policy and Practice in Eastern Europe, Emerging Issues for Children and Young Families, Emerging Issues with regard to Challenging Behavior, and Emerging Issues in Low-Income Countries. This was the first roundtable of this SIRG with the goal of establishing a possible research agenda for the SIRG. DDI staff member Angela Martin took part in this event affecting the direction of international disability policy.

- **Chronic Disease Management in People with Intellectual Disabilities Conference, Prato, Italy:** In May of 2007, DDI Director Dr. Barbara LeRoy traveled to Prato, Italy to present findings from a project examining Dual Diagnosis. The presentation, entitled “Dual Diagnosis and Self-Determination: Any Relationship?”, discussed preliminary findings concerning the relationship between dual diagnosis and an individual’s level of self-determination.
On November 5, 2007, the Developmental Disabilities Institute hosted a conference on postsecondary education for students with disabilities. THINK College: Postsecondary Education for Students with Intellectual Disabilities was the first conference of its kind to be held in Michigan and attracted parents, students, legislators, and professionals from all over the country to come and join the conversation on postsecondary education options for students with intellectual disabilities. Over 275 people attended the one day symposium. A wealth of materials was made available to symposium attendees through the conference binder, which was also put onto CD and is currently downloadable through the symposium website at www.ddi.wayne.edu/postsecondary_symposium.php.

The Symposium brought together leading experts, researchers, practitioners and consumers on postsecondary education (PSE) including Dr. Meg Grigal, Dr. Debra Hart and Stephan Hamlin-Smith, Executive Director of the Association of Higher Education and Disability (AHEAD). Workshops focused on PSE opportunities and current Michigan initiatives were also given by speakers from Oakland University, Calvin College, and the UMD/Brighton.

A panel of current and former college students with intellectual disabilities spoke to symposium attendees about the richness of their college experiences and how the time they spent at their respective colleges or universities opened up many doors for them. They also commented on how the college experience is just as important for students with disabilities as it is for students without disabilities. Their firsthand accounts helped to solidify the importance of making postsecondary education accessible to all students with intellectual disabilities.

The PSE Symposium was also very honored to have Mike Flanagan, the Michigan Superintendent of Public Instruction, as a guest speaker. Mr. Flanagan spoke of his support for initiatives and programs that provide students with intellectual disabilities the opportunities they need in order to achieve their educational dreams and goals.
PSE Symposium Sponsors and Contributors

Sponsors of the PSE Symposium included:

- Michigan Dept. of Education, Office of Special Education Services — Early Intervention Services
- Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council
- Oakland Schools
- Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority
- Michigan Protection and Advocacy Service (MPAS)
- The Jewish Fund
- Mandel L. and Madeleine H. Berman Foundation
- Oakland University, School of Educational & Human Services
- Wayne County RESA
- University of Michigan-Dearborn, School of Education

For more information regarding postsecondary education for students with intellectual disabilities, or to download the PSE Symposium materials, please visit the PSE Symposium website: http://www.ddi.wayne.edu/postsecondary_symposium.php.
Direct Support Professional Training Continues to Make Positive Impact

The Empowerment Education: Consumer-Driven Training for Michigan Direct Support Professionals project continues to provide direct support professionals throughout the state of Michigan with free training on topics ranging from Self-Determination to Stress Management. Over 1,664 direct support professionals and persons with disabilities were trained during 107 events held statewide in 2007. Our Empowerment Education trainers live throughout the state and are integral to making the training available in local venues. In 2007, training was significantly expanded into the Upper Peninsula and the Southwestern Lower Peninsula.

Another positive development for the Empowerment Education Project in 2007 was the official launching of the Empowerment Education Training CDROMs. The three new CDROM-based trainings were introduced to project stakeholders at a luncheon held in April. The new format offers potential trainees and supervisors a way to experience the benefits of Empowerment Education training on an individual level. Traditionally, training is done with a group of 10 or more direct support professionals and is led by a trainer. With trainings now available on CDROM, an individual can run through a training topic at their own pace. This alternative will benefit those who have not been able to attend traditional training events due to time conflicts, transportation issues or other barriers.

Currently, there are five topics available on three CDROMS:

**CD #1**
- Person Centered Planning: Valuing the Contributions of Direct Support Professionals
- Self-Determination: Our Right to Meaningful and Fulfilling Lives

**CD #2**
- Stress Management: It’s All About Awareness, Attitude, and Action at Work
- Ten Successful and Assertive Steps for Working with Professionals

**CD #3**
- Direct Support Professional: Your Career Opportunity

There is a cost associated with the purchase of each CDROM and ordering information can be found on the DDI website: [www.ddi.wayne.edu/publications.php](http://www.ddi.wayne.edu/publications.php).

Planned for May 12, 2008, DDI and the Empowerment Education Project will be hosting a “Train-the-Trainer” event in an effort to add more trainers to the Empowerment Education statewide list. Trainers are needed in order to ensure that Empowerment Education training is as accessible as possible to all Michigan direct support professionals, regardless of location. Please visit the DDI website for specific details regarding this or any other upcoming training events.

If you have any questions regarding the Empowerment Education training curriculum, please contact Michael Bray by e-mail at mikebray@wayne.edu.
Healthy Lifestyles for Youth with Disabilities Project Extended Through 2008

Following a successful pilot implementation, the Healthy Lifestyles for Youth with Disabilities project was awarded a Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan grant in 2007 to continue to deliver after-school sports and recreation programming to students with disabilities. Formerly known as the VAC/WSU After-School Recreation Program, the Healthy Lifestyles Project aims to promote physical fitness and healthy lifestyle choices among youth with disabilities in the city of Detroit by increasing the availability of school-based recreation programming. Research has shown there to be a severe lack of physical fitness options for youth with disabilities in the city of Detroit. The Healthy Lifestyles project will meet this need head-on by providing after-school recreation options that incorporate activities such as Judo instruction, basketball, double-dutch jump rope, goal ball and golf.

The Healthy Lifestyles Program will continue at the Detroit Day School for the Deaf. Students at the school have taken part in the project in past years and the option to participate will once again be available to interested students. Activities will be conducted one day per week directly following the conclusion of the school day. This time around, however, a new problem-solving component will be offered alongside the fitness activities. This addition will give youth the opportunity to sharpen their critical thinking skills in addition to their physical fitness and exercise activities.

DDI will once again be on board to manage project evaluation activities. Results of previous evaluations have shown the project to have a positive impact on all individuals involved — youth, coaches and volunteers alike.

If you would like to know more about the Healthy Lifestyles for Youth with Disabilities Program, or the WSU/VAC Program, please contact Ron Simpkins at VAC at ae1590@wayne.edu.
DDI Programs and Projects

Projects, Research and Training

Dual Diagnosis Research, sponsored by the Ethel and James Flinn Foundation, is aimed at developing an assessment method for identifying dual diagnoses.

Using a family-centered, empowerment model to preserve, strengthen and maintain the family, the Detroit Family Support 360° Project assists underserved families in the city of Detroit who have a member with a disability.

Universal Education: Principles, Practices and Outcomes training is a three-part program designed to help special education and elementary school teams implement universal education practices in their schools.

Independent Facilitators Training is a two-day training event offered in collaboration with the Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority’s Peer Choices of Oakland County. The training prepared Peer Choices members to serve as independent facilitators in the person centered planning process.

Did You Know? Families and Support Coordinators Meetings Project. Events were held in Detroit, Baraga and Traverse City, Michigan. Participants were trained on topics such as Person-Centered Planning, Self-Determination, accessing Community Mental Health services, developing advocacy skills and the barriers families face when trying to attain services.

In association with the Amar Jyothi Charitable Trust, New Delhi, India, and the Departments of Developmental Pediatrics, Occupational Therapy and Rehabilitation Center of The Christian Medical College, Vellore, India, DDI staff conducted International Disability Research Collaboration Meetings aimed at developing international research partnerships. Formal presentations to an interdisciplinary audience were followed by one-on-one meetings with Occupational Therapy staff, interns, physicians and psychologists interested in research partnerships.

Training in the use of the Family Quality of Life Survey (FQOL) was conducted for DDI staff by Dr. Ivan Brown from the University of Toronto.

Ending the Silence in Michigan is funded by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan to educate women with disabilities on building healthy relationships and how to identify and avoid situations that may involve domestic violence.

People First of Oakland County is a group of self-advocates from Oakland county who have
joined together to advance their own knowledge as well as help other individuals with disabilities become better self-advocates. People First receives on-going support from DDI staff.

**Strengthening Relationships for Diversity: Include All of Us** is a two year project funded by the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council (MDDC) aimed at strengthening relationships between the MDDC and culturally distinct communities. Goals include cultivating relationships with community cultural leaders and organizations of Hispanic Americans, Arab Americans, African Americans, Asian Americans, and Native Americans; identifying and overcoming barriers that prevent the involvement of culturally distinct communities in the disability policy making and project design of the MDDC.

**Empowerment Education: Consumer-Driven Training for Michigan’s Direct Support Professionals** trains direct support professionals on best practice strategies across the life span. Training topics include:

- Supporting Growth Through Opportunity and Choices
- Ten Successful and Assertive Steps for Working with Professionals
- Person-Centered Planning: Valuing the Contributions of Direct Support Professionals
- Supporting People in Establishing Friendships and Making Community Connections
- Conflict Resolution
- Teaching Made Easy
- Stress Management: It’s All About Awareness, Attitude, and Action at Work
- Self-Advocates and Direct Support Professionals Working in Partnership to Achieve Life’s Dreams
- Making the Transition A.S.A.P. — As Smooth As Possible
- Self-Determination: Our Right to Meaningful and Fulfilling Lives
- Living a Self-Determined Life
- Direct Support Professional: Your Career Opportunity
A one-year National Service Inclusion Project Fellowship was awarded to DDI in 2007. The project is aimed at making meaningful national and community service experiences available to all people, regardless of their abilities.

The Festival of International Conferences on Care-giving, Disability, Aging and Technology was held June 16-19, 2007 in Toronto, ON, Canada. DDI staff sat on the conference planning committee.

The Seventh Annual Michigan Alliance of Direct Support Professionals Forum took place June 1, 2007 and was well attended by Michigan DSPs and consumers with more than 80 people in attendance. The day was filled with presentations on topics and training related to improving the conditions and the field of direct care as a whole in the state of Michigan. Many direct support professionals were honored for the dedication and service.

The Michigan Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Task Force examines issues affecting Michigan citizens with FASD and how policy, practice and research can be improved to influence best practices throughout the state.

Early On: What it Can Do For You, Your Patients, and Families. Lectures for pediatric residents, allied health and pre-service professionals, and Wayne State University medical students at Children’s Hospital of Michigan.

Healthy Lifestyles for Youth with Disabilities is an after school sports and recreation program for youth with disabilities coordinated by the Wayne State University Department of Kinesiology, VAC Program and supported by a grant from the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan. DDI is coordinating the evaluation process for this important health-focused program.

Michigan Partners for Freedom (MPF) Summer Local Leader Institute. Co-facilitated by MPF, The Arc Michigan, and others. Hosted by The Arc of Midland at the Northwood Institute. Participants were prepared to be local leaders to build demand for self-determination in Michigan.

The Smiles Across Michigan project is a collaboration with Community Living Services aimed at assessing and improving the oral health and hygiene of individuals with intellectual disabilities through the use of a statewide needs assessment.


The purpose of the Michigan Direct Care Workforce Initiative is to improve the recruitment and retention of the Michigan Direct Support Professional workforce through research and training of direct support supervisors and staff. DDI staff provide input and guidance to this group.

**DDI Students Trained in 2007**

213 students from the disciplines of:

- Disability Studies
- Early Intervention/Early Childhood
- Family Advocate
- General Education
- Special Education
- Interdisciplinary Studies
- Medicine
- Occupational Therapy
- Pediatrics
- Rehabilitation
- Public Health Administration
- Social Work
- and others

Received training related to developmental disabilities from DDI staff.
New Project Explores National Service Inclusion

DDI staff member Michael Bray and Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council Chair and self-advocate Andre Robinson were awarded a one year fellowship by the National Service Inclusion Project (NSIP) and the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD). The project is aimed at making meaningful service experiences available to all people, regardless of their abilities.

Michael and Andre will be working in collaboration with the NSIP team, the Michigan Community Service Commission (MCSC), and the Michigan Americorps Partnership (MAP) to explore opportunities for Andre to effectively participate in national and public service opportunities. The increased inclusion of individuals with disabilities in programs of state and national service is a priority of all project partners. Through the fellowship, Michael and Andre will confront and address any potential barriers that arise during Andre’s term of service.

The NSIP fellowship has been in existence for several years. The current incarnation is unique in that the fellowship was awarded to teams of two: one person being a University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) trainee and the other being an individual with a disability who acts as the fellowship peer. This arrangement allows for a more dynamic and effective approach to accomplishing project goals.

Beginning in November of 2007 and running until the end of October 2008, the NSIP Fellowship project at DDI represents an excellent opportunity to explore options for service inclusion in Michigan, and at the national level, for individuals with disabilities. Through the project’s partnerships with the MCSC and MAP, Andre conducts his service with Southeastern Village. Located on Detroit’s east side, Southeastern Village is a nonprofit organization involved with various community projects aimed at improving the lives of individuals living in the city of Detroit. Andre brings his expertise to a project looking specifically at developing safe routes to school for children with and without disabilities. Michael's duties include documenting project progress and coordinating interaction between project partners.

At the conclusion of the fellowship, Andre and Michael will be developing a paper for publication based on their experience with the NSIP project as well as an interactive presentation that Michael and Andre will use to inform others of their experiences and information on inclusion and community service.

For more information concerning the NSIP Fellowship project, please contact Michael at mikebray@wayne.edu.
Did You Know? Project Prepares Families and Informs Professionals

One of the biggest concerns cited by families of individuals with disabilities is that they do not know how to navigate the complex disability service system. Most families do not attain the full array of services that are available to them because of a lack of knowledge. The Did You Know? Families and Support Coordinators Meetings project addresses these issues by bringing individuals with disabilities, families and support coordinators together and giving them an overview of the Community Mental Health (CMH) system. Did You Know?, a project funded by a grant from the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council, also brings professionals into the conversation to inform them of different family issues that exist in order to better facilitate the sharing of information between families and those who work in the system.

Over the course of six Did You Know? events held in 2007, more than 338 participants learned about topics and ideas such as Person Centered Planning, Family Centered Planning, Independent Facilitation, Self-Determination, the CMH Customer Service Department, the Department of human Services, Medicaid Fair hearing process, Recipient Rights and advocacy at the local, state and federal levels. Events were hosted in Detroit, Baraga, and Traverse City, MI.

Families and individuals with disabilities who participated in the Did You Know? events expressed that they were very pleased with the information and instruction that they received. In particular, participants stated that the facilitated group discussions were very helpful. One discovery made through the Did You Know? Project was that prior to their participation, many families admitted not being familiar with the concepts of Person Centered Planning, Family Centered Planning or Self-Determination. At the conclusion of their participation, however, families stated that they felt more educated about the CMH system, were better connected to other families and resources in their communities, and that they were better prepared to advocate for their child and the services that their families needed. Participants of the CMH system indicated that they would continue discussions with their CMH’s about the family issues and concerns and would work to correct the barriers that existed.

For more information about the Did You Know? project, please contact Judy Cerano at judycerano@wayne.edu.
State, National and International Presentations 2007


B. LeRoy (May, 2007). Dual Diagnosis and Self-Determination: Any Relationship? Chronic Disease Management in People with Intellectual Disabilities Conference, Prato, Italy.


P. Samuel (Nov., 2007). A Comparative Analysis of Assimilation in the Indo-Guyanese Youth with the Afro-Guyanese Youth. 8th International Conference on Asian Youth and Childhood. Lucknow, India.


DDI Training Reaches Diverse Audience in 2007

In 2007, DDI training reached over 16,648 people with the following backgrounds:

- 12,265 Professionals & paraprofessionals
- 1,685 Families
- 1,235 Persons with Disabilities
- 434 Legislators
- 213 Students
- 13,000 Michigan Citizens at Large
DDI Hosts International Student Research

In November of 2007, the Developmental Disabilities Institute (DDI) was honored to host Sebastian Sahlberg, an international student from Lund University in Lund, Sweden. Sebastian joined DDI for two months in order to conduct a comparative study of Swedish and American disability service legislation. The study was a collaboration between Lund University, DDI, and the Manistee-Benzie County Community Mental Health Agency. Angela Martin of DDI and Ingemar Johansson of the Manistee-Benzie CMH provided guidance and mentorship to Sebastian during his stay in Michigan.

The intended purpose of the project was to examine information regarding the Swedish LSS and LASS legislations and to use that information to better understand the American counterpart legislation called the Community Choice Act, or CCA. LSS and the co-jointed LASS are legislations aimed towards benefiting services to people with disabilities in Sweden. The CCA aims to reform the existing Medicaid health insurance system by offering the supports within a person’s community. The study compared the two pieces of legislation in order to present a clearer understanding of disability policy in the two countries.

For more information regarding the study please contact Angela Martin at angela.m.martin@wayne.edu

DDI Conducts Pilot Research on Asperger’s and Empathy

Dr. Karen Hobden, a social psychologist and DDI Research Associate, is conducting a pilot study looking at the mechanisms underlying deficits in empathy in individuals with Asperger’s Syndrome and high functioning autism. It has been previously found that individuals with Asperger’s and high functioning autism are at an increased risk for depression, social isolation, and underemployment in part because they have difficulty understanding other people’s thoughts and feelings. Results of this pilot study should expand the existing knowledge-base as to how these conditions develop amongst persons with Asperger’s and autism. More accurate information concerning the factors that contribute to such deficits in empathic behavior will lead to the development of more effective intervention strategies that can help individuals with Asperger’s Syndrome and high functioning autism. If you are interested in learning more about this research, please contact Dr. Hobden by e-mail at khobden@wayne.edu or phone at (313) 577-7980.
Published and Resources Developed by DDI Staff in 2007


LeRoy, B.W. & Milberger, S. (Submitted for Publication). Health Promotion and Self-Determination for Youth with Disabilities: A Promising Program.


Direct Support Professionals Honored at 7th Annual Forum

DDI and the Michigan Alliance of Direct Support Professionals (MADSP) proudly presented the Seventh Annual Direct Support Professional (DSP) Forum in June of last year. The event drew over 80 Direct Support Professionals, consumers and family members from various Michigan counties including Alger, Genesee, Macomb, Montcalm, Oakland and Wayne. The day was filled with workshops and presentations focused on topics such as the importance of self-determination in Michigan, personal assistance, stress management, and peer mentoring.

The event was highlighted by a keynote address entitled Partnerships for a Better Life: A Personal and Professional Perspective, which was delivered by Ms. Maria Cebreco. Ms. Cebreco is the founder of Cebreco Consulting and is a federally certified Employment Navigator who assists people with disabilities in navigating the complex system of employment. Ms. Cebreco is a dynamic and multifaceted businesswoman who is a consumer herself and brought her unique perspective and experiences to the Forum.

As always, several Michigan Direct Support Professionals were honored for their hard work and dedication to the individuals that they serve as well as their contributions to the field of direct care. All award recipients were nominated by their peers or supervisors. Those receiving Outstanding DSP awards this past year included:

- Jacquie Pellegrino, Alternative Services, Inc.
- Doris Connley, Alternative Services, Inc.
- Adrianne Jackson, Alternative Services, Inc.
- Jonda Ackley, MQCCC
- Christine Bubier, MQCCC
- Reozand Dunbar, Adult Well-Being Services
- LaTonya Richards, Adult Well-Being Services
- Alberta Jowojori, Adult Well-Being Services
Thank you to all of our Outstanding Award recipients for their positive contributions to the field of direct care.

The Forum was hosted by Macomb Community College in their University Center facility. For more information regarding the Michigan Alliance of Direct Support Professionals, please visit us on the web: [www.ddi.wayne.edu/michigan_alliance.php](http://www.ddi.wayne.edu/michigan_alliance.php)

If you have any questions regarding the MADSP Forum or future MADSP meeting dates, please contact Michael Bray at DDI at mikebray@wayne.edu or (313) 577-6684.
Michigan Partners for Freedom Hold Summer Local Leadership Institute

The Michigan Partners for Freedom (MPF), a grassroots coalition of people with disabilities, family members, advocates, organizations and other allies working together to build statewide demand for self-determination, hosted a Summer Local Leader Institute. The event was held at Northwood Institute in Midland, MI and was co-facilitated by several local disability organizations including The Arc of Midland and The Arc of Michigan. More than 20 local leaders attended the event.

The purpose of the MPF Local Leader events is to prepare local leaders and self-advocates to go out into their communities and build demand for self-determination. Participants learned about the principles of self-determination and how they can effectively advocate for self-determination in their own lives and in the lives of others. MPF hosts similar events throughout the year and looks to facilitate more Local Leader Institute dates in 2008.

For more information regarding the Michigan Partners for Freedom or to learn more about future MPF Local Leader Institutes, please visit the MPF website at http://www.mifreedom.org or contact Angela Martin at angela.m.martin@wayne.edu.

Smiles Across Michigan Aims to Improve Oral Health

Individuals with intellectual disabilities often have difficulty accessing and receiving dental care. Research has indicated that barriers such as transportation and lack of or insufficient insurance coverage keep many of these individuals from receiving regular oral check-ups, leading to a decline in oral health and hygiene.

The Smiles Across Michigan project is a statewide initiative awarded to Community Living Services by the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council. The project is aimed at assessing and improving the oral health and hygiene of individuals with intellectual disabilities through the use of a statewide needs assessment and oral health fairs. This assessment will identify the barriers these individuals encounter in acquiring dental care and the mechanisms by which their oral health could be improved. The ultimate goal of the project is to provide data and support for policy initiatives on oral health. Dr. Karen Hobden of DDI provides research support to the project.

For more information regarding Smiles Across Michigan or for information on oral health and hygiene for persons with intellectual disabilities, please contact Dr. Karen Hobden at khobden@wayne.edu.
New Study Examines Link Between Health Promotion and Self-Determination

The promotion of physical fitness and proper nutrition amongst youth with disabilities is a topic that has received increased attention in recent years. Research has shown that the prevalence of obesity in children with disabilities is significantly higher than it is among children without disabilities. Elevated levels of obesity place these children at risk for other health issues and lead to a lower quality of life.

To examine this issue more closely, DDI Director Dr. Barbara LeRoy and Dr. Sharon Milberger, Associate Director for Research with the Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention at Henry Ford Health Systems, conducted a study which looked at existing barriers that prevented youth with disabilities from leading healthier, more active lives and how those barriers could be addressed and removed. Links between living healthier lifestyles and the underlying concepts of self-determination were also examined. Key community stakeholders were involved in the study as well. Drs. LeRoy and Milberger worked with these stakeholders to brainstorm ideas for improving the quality of life for children with disabilities through the promotion of active, healthy lifestyles. Study participants were comprised of athletes involved with the Michigan Special Olympics Program.

For more information regarding this research or the promotion of healthy lifestyles for youth with disabilities, please contact Dr. Sharon Milberger at smilber1@hfhs.org or Dr. Barbara LeRoy at b_le_roy@wayne.edu

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- Everyone Together, Inclusive Education Project
- Rehabilitation Counseling Program, WSU
- Educational Accessibility Services, WSU
- Customized Employment Strategic Planning Group, Goodwill Industries, Detroit
- Autism Taskforce, Department of Community Health
- Developmental Disabilities Performance Improvement Team, Department of Community Health
- Volunteers, Administrators, and Coaches Program, WSU College of Education
- VSA Detroit
- Michigan Alliance for Families
- Disabilities Steering Committee, Health Promotion for Persons with Disabilities, Department of Community Health
- U.S. Department of Education, National Institute on Disability, Rehabilitation and Research

Member
- AUCD/ADD Workgroup (Annual Report)
- Association of University Centers on Disabilities Legislative Affairs Committee
- Special Interest Research Group on Aging and Intellectual Disabilities, World Health Organization

Governor’s Appointee
- Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council

Panel Reviewer
- U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs

Board Member
- American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD), Michigan Chapter
- Association for Community Advocacy (Ann Arbor, MI)
- Arcadia Institute (Kalamazoo, MI)
- United States International Council on Disabilities (Board Secretary)

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- Education Commission, Rehabilitation International
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Angela Martin, L.M.S.W.
Board Member
- American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD), Michigan Chapter

Facilitator
- People First of Oakland County

Member
- Oakland County Regional Interagency Consumer Committee
- Wayne County Regional Interagency Consumer Committee
- Wayne County Interagency Coordinating Committee, Representative
- Association of University Centers on Disabilities Council on Community Advocacy
- The Arc of Oakland County
- National Association of Social Workers
- The Howell Group, Representative
- Michigan Olmstead Coalition
- Michigan Partners for Freedom, Representative

Elizabeth Janks, L.M.S.W., A.C.S.W.
Member
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- Michigan Direct Care Workforce Initiative Task Force
- The Howell Group
- University Centers for Excellence in Disabilities National Consumer Council
- The Arc Michigan
- National Alliance of Direct Support Professionals
- Wayne County Inter-agency Coordinating Council
- Wayne County Head Start Advisory Council
- Post-Secondary Education Conference Advisory Council

Michael Bray, MA
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- National Service Inclusion Project Fellow
- Michigan Inclusion Team
- Michigan Alliance of Direct Support Professionals
- National Alliance of Direct Support Professionals, State Contact
- Mental Health Association of Trainers
- Michigan Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Taskforce

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- Caribbean Studies Association
- Michigan Association for Evaluation

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Member
- Previous Joseph P. Kennedy Foundation Fellow
- Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council Family Support Workgroup Public Policy Committee
- United Cerebral Palsy of Detroit Program Services Committee Public Policy Committee

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