The Developmental Disabilities Institute

Barbara LeRoy Ph.D.

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.

Our mission

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.
Table of Contents

Michigan Family Support Initiative 04
Mount Pleasant Monitoring Project 04
Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council Funds 05
DDI, Beaumont Hospital to Conduct Research 05
Detroit Family Support 360° Project 06
Family Quality of Life (FQOL) Project 08
Michigan Partners for Freedom 08
Building Healthy Relationships 09
GEAR UP Program 09
DDI Director Appointed to Board 09
SEAM Project 10
DDI’s Author Series 10
DDI and Michigan Alliance for Families 11
Planning our Futures Project 11
Violence Coalition 11
Family Support Navigator Academy 12
S.A.F.E. Project 14
Autism NOW 14
Inclusive Education, Hong Kong 15
New Empowerment Education Trainers 15
Presentations and Training Events 16
Publications 18
Classes Taught 18
Students Trained By DDI Staff 18
DDI Monthly Newsletter 18
Staff Professional and Community Service 19

WSU Board of Governors
Tina Abbott  
Chair
Debbie Dingell  
Vice Chair
Eugene Driker
Diane L. Dunaskiss
Danielle Karmanos
Paul E. Massaron
Annette Miller
Gary S. Pollard
Allan Gilmour  
President

DDI Community Advisory Council
Leslynn Angel  
Executive Director, UCP Detroit
Theresa Arini  
Department of Community Health
Glen Ashley  
United Cerebral Palsy of Michigan
Celena Barnes  
Parent
Elmer Cerano  
Michigan Protection and Advocacy Services, Inc.
Noel Cole  
Michigan Department of Education
Vendella Collins  
Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council
Arlene Gorelick  
Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan
Pamela Hall-Webb  
Office of Services to the Aging
Dohn Hoyle  
Executive Director, Arc Michigan
Radwan Khoury  
Arab-American and Chaldean Social Services Council
Bill Leavell  
Michigan Rehabilitation Services
LuAnn Loy  
Partners in Policymaking
Melinda Luebeck  
Parent
Larry Maniaci  
Wayne County Residential Association
Jane Reagan  
Michigan Department of Education, Office of Special Education
Janet Reed, Ph.D.  
Henry Ford Health Systems
Andre Robinson  
Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council
Robin Sefton  
Self-Advocate
Verna Spayth  
ADAPT/Michigan
Rita Walter  
Parent
Cynthia Wright  
Michigan Rehabilitation Services
In 2010, the Developmental Disabilities Institute (DDI) was awarded a five-year contract by the Administration on Developmental Disabilities to assist families with children and adults with disabilities to access the services and supports that they desire. The State of Michigan is regarded as a leading provider of family support services that enhance a family’s ability to care for and enable the growth and independence of family members with disabilities. However, a discrepancy remains between families in need of support and those who are accessing the programs, especially among our most vulnerable children and adults with developmental disabilities – those living in private institutions and large congregate settings statewide.

The primary goal of The Michigan Family Support Initiative is to assist Michigan’s most vulnerable citizens with disabilities to reunite, preserve, strengthen, and maintain their family units in their home communities. The project goal will be met through the following objectives:

- Identify and serve at least 50 families per year.
- Provide information and referral to at least 100 families per year.
- Evaluate the project process, effectiveness, and outcomes.

The Michigan Family Support Initiative will utilize the Detroit Family Support 360° Project navigation, training, and monitoring model, but on a statewide rather than county-wide level. The Detroit 360° Project, which recently concluded, provided family support and systems navigation to families of children with disabilities in Wayne County, Michigan. With the expansion of this model into the rest of the state, the Michigan Family Support Initiative has the potential to serve a significant number of families from all regions of Michigan.

Please visit the DDI website at ddi.wayne.edu or contact Project Director Elizabeth Janks at (313) 577-6368 or e.janks@wayne.edu for more information.

The Mount Pleasant Center Monitoring (MPC) Project is designed to monitor the quality of supports provided to individuals who formerly lived in the Mount Pleasant Center and who are now residing in their communities. Angela Martin (DDI) has directed the project with monitoring assistance from Judy Cerano, Rebecca Freier, and Mary Rehberg. They have worked to assure that those individuals transitioning to the community were given the best care and support possible in order for them to transition successfully. Each individual has received a minimum of two visits from a monitor following their move to the community. Additionally, intermediary visits are being conducted (when necessary) to follow-up on any items discovered at the initial monitoring visit and also to monitor changes in progress the individual may have experienced as a result of the move.

On September 8, 2009, Mount Pleasant Center officially closed its doors. Some individuals were moved to the Caro Center for a short period of time while preparations for their community living arrangement were finalized. On November 8, 2010 the last person moved from the Caro Center into the community. The state of Michigan no longer operates an Intermediate Care Facility for Persons with Mental Retardation (ICF/MR) as designated by Medicaid. As a result of this closure, Michigan is the eleventh state to close all state-operated ICF/MR facilities. For more information, please contact Angela Martin by email angela.m.martin@wayne.edu at DDI.
Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council Funds New Research and Evaluation Activities

The Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council awarded funding to the Developmental Disabilities Institute (DDI) in 2010 to conduct several research projects. The MDDC’s mission is to work together with other human service agencies in Michigan to assist persons with developmental disabilities and to help carry out Council responsibilities set forth in the Developmental Disabilities Act. Projects conducted by DDI in conjunction with the Council in 2010 included Expanding the Freedom to Ride Project, the Youth Needs Assessment Project, and the Postsecondary Education for Students with Disabilities Project.

Expanding the Freedom to Ride Project
From 2005 to 2008, the Michigan DDC funded a transportation voucher program to address barriers to transportation for individuals with developmental disabilities. The focus of the Expanding the Freedom to Ride Project was to evaluate the effectiveness of this voucher program in addressing the transportation needs of individuals with disabilities who used the voucher. The project utilized an online survey format to assess how those who were part of the voucher program were affected by its use and whether a similar program could be used in Michigan in the future.

Michigan Youth Needs Assessment
DDI was asked to assess the needs and experiences of Michigan youth and young adults with disabilities in order to help inform the development of the new MDDC five-year plan. To accommodate this request, DDI staff conducted a three-phase needs assessment utilizing a participatory action approach. Key stakeholders and professionals were instrumental in designing and implementing the needs assessment which included the use of an online survey and focus groups conducted around the state. Focus group participants included youth and young adults with disabilities ages 14 to 26 years. Results were used to help the MDDC focus their efforts more narrowly on the unique needs of Michigan’s youth and young adults with disabilities.

Postsecondary Education for Students with Disabilities
Too few students with intellectual and developmental disabilities successfully enter and complete postsecondary educational (PSE) programs in Michigan colleges. One aspect of the MDDC’s mission is to address this issue through funding research that helps the Council to better understand the obstacles that students with intellectual and developmental disabilities face as they transition from high school to young adulthood. DDI aided the MDDC in this effort in 2010 and into 2011 by conducting a needs assessment focused on PSE and students with disabilities in Michigan. The results from this project – which wraps up in June 2011 – will aid the MDDC in better serving individuals with disabilities who wish to benefit from PSE programs and other educational opportunities following high school.

DDI, Beaumont Hospital to Conduct Research on ASD and Emotion Recognition
Funded by the Organization for Autism Research (OAR), researchers at DDI (Dr. Karen Hobden) and at the Center for Human Development, William Beaumont Hospital (Dr. Ruth Anan), are partnering to test the effectiveness of a new intervention designed to improve emotion recognition in three to eight-year-old children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). The intervention incorporates the use of a children’s show to teach about emotions. The animated children’s series, entitled The Transporters, features vehicles onto which actors’ faces have been superimposed. Each of the 15 episodes of the series features a different emotional or mental state. Researchers will test to see whether the show can help children with ASD to improve their abilities to recognize emotions in other people. This collaborative research effort runs through the end of 2011. Please contact Karen Hobden, khobden@wayne.edu, for information regarding this project.
Seven Years of Support: The Detroit Family Support 360° Project Comes to a Successful Close

Since 2003, the Detroit Family Support 360° Project has served families of children with developmental disabilities within the city of Detroit and Wayne County by providing navigation, referral and support services. Family navigators have provided guidance and custom service navigation to over 300 families during the project’s seven-year run. In addition, Detroit 360° families were provided information and referral services. Families reported positive outcomes including maintenance of services and supports after project intervention.
**Family Support Groups**

Meeting on a monthly basis, Family Support Groups gave families participating in Detroit 360° opportunities to network with other parents with children with disabilities and the chance to tell their stories. Presentations by experts in the disability and human service fields also helped parents gain insight into how the service system works and how they could best position themselves to secure the services that they needed for their families. In 2006, a Family Support Group was started for Hispanic, Spanish-speaking families that were part of Detroit 360°. A new project - Supporting Educational Achievement for Minorities (SEAM) - grew from the Spanish-speaking Family Support Groups and continues to operate today.

**Detroit 360° Zoo Day**

The first of three annual Detroit 360° Project Family Zoo Days was held on August 7th, 2008 at the Detroit Zoo in Royal Oak, Michigan. The Zoo Day events gave families a chance to relax and enjoy a day at the zoo with their families and others from the Detroit 360° Project. The event started with a catered breakfast on the zoo grounds. Families then enjoyed the zoo for the rest of the day. Between 50 and 70 family members attended the zoo day events on average. Staff from Detroit 360 and DDI helped facilitate the annual event.

**Scrapbooking Events Held for Families**

Commencing during the second year of the project, the Detroit 360° Scrapbooking Events gave families a creative means by which to tell their family stories. Families were given disposable cameras and asked to take pictures of their family members. DDI staff assisted in getting pictures developed and supplied various scrapbooking supplies. Several scrapbooking days were hosted at the offices of DDI and families gathered together with their materials to assemble their own family scrapbooks. The scrapbooks were also a way for Detroit 360° families to tell the story of their experiences with Michigan policymakers and legislators.

**Parenting Workshops**

Detroit 360° Family Support Navigators Rosetta Howard and Andrea Alvarez began presenting a series of fun and informative Parenting Workshops in 2009. Workshops are intended for parents of children with disabilities and cover a variety of topics ranging from Learning to Play is Playing to Learn, Person Centered Planning, and Positive Self-Image. Four workshops were held in 2010 with more than 50 parents attending the series. Workshops will continue in 2011 and offer parents opportunities to learn new skills and try out innovative strategies for addressing obstacles and issues that may occur in their families’ lives.
Family Quality of Life (FQOL) Project Yields Preliminary Findings, Presentations

Dr. Preethy Samuel, former DDI Research Associate and current faculty member with the Wayne State University Department of Occupational Therapy, completed her National Institute on Disability Research and Rehabilitation (NIDRR) funded research project. The project, entitled Psychometric Evaluation of the Family Quality of Life Survey for Minority Families Raising Children with Disabilities in Michigan, examined the effectiveness of a measure used to assess the quality of life of families with children with developmental disabilities. The measure was developed by Dr. Ivan Brown at the University of Toronto along with an international team of researchers. Dr. Samuel is currently disseminating the findings of her study while seeking further funding to expand the project to include both Spanish-speaking families and families in middle and high income categories.

Local Leader Training One Aspect of Michigan Partners for Freedom’s Mission

Michigan Partners for Freedom (MPF) is a grassroots coalition of people with disabilities, family members, advocates, and organizations working together toward the primary goal of increasing statewide awareness of and demand for self-determination. Part of the work being done to achieve this goal includes a statewide training program focused on developing Local Leaders. The MPF Local Leaders Training gives persons with disabilities the tools to become leaders in their communities. The training empowers individuals to advocate for themselves and others based on the principles of Self-Determination which include freedom, authority, support, responsibility and confirmation.

DDI staff member, Angela Martin, works with The Arc Michigan to coordinate MPF’s steering committee and aids the MPF in providing Local Leader training events statewide. MPF is supported by a grant from the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council to The Arc Michigan. Please contact Angela Martin, angela.m.martin@wayne.edu, for information regarding MPF.
Building Healthy Relationships Training Continues Through 2011

Building and maintaining healthy relationships continues to be an important topic of interest for individuals with disabilities. DDI has addressed this issue by offering training on safe and healthy relationships since 2009. Initially for women with disabilities, the Healthy Relationships Training expanded to offer sessions for men with disabilities in 2010 and continues on into 2011 with trainings scheduled to be held in Oakland County.

Training shows participants how to spot and address issues of abuse and also how to build healthy, positive relationships by being aware of one’s own actions in addition to the actions of others. Each interactive training gives participants a chance to apply strategies covered during the training to their own lives and situations and trainers use a hands-on approach to engage all participants in the activities.

Training has been conducted statewide and continues to be very well-received and sought by groups and organizations throughout Michigan. If you are interested in learning more about the Healthy Relationships Training, please feel free to contact DDI for details or check out the DDI training calendar at ddi.wayne.edu/events_calendar.php for future offerings.

Focus Groups Reveal Impact of GEAR UP Program on Students with Disabilities in Michigan

In 2010, DDI partnered with The Michigan Alliance for Families in a project which examined the participation of students with disabilities in the state of Michigan GEAR UP program. GEAR UP is a federally funded program that helps prepare middle and high school students for college through academic programs and scholarships.

Focus groups and interviews with school administrators, parents, and students were conducted at ten Michigan high schools including Robichaud High School (Dearborn, MI), Benton Harbor High School, Baldwin High School, and Central High School in Detroit. Results indicated that many students with disabilities were aware of GEAR UP and several had been participating in GEAR UP activities held in their schools. Level of participation of students with disabilities was largely school and personnel dependent, however, with many students only hearing about the program through friends in some cases. In the end, both students and educators felt that the GEAR UP program and the college preparedness activities hosted through it were very positive and reinforced the importance of such programs to the successful transition of students with disabilities to postsecondary education (PSE)

and similar programs following high school. For more information please contact Michael Bray at DDI by phone (313) 577-6684 or email at mikebray@wayne.edu.

DDI Director Appointed to International Advisory Board

In 2010, DDI Director, Dr. Barbara LeRoy, was appointed as an Ex-Officio member of the International Advisory Board overseeing the development of a Global Disability Rights Library. The United States International Council on Disability (USCID) is collaborating with the University of Iowa’s WiderNet Project, and operating under a grant from the U.S. Agency for International Development. The Global Disability Rights Library will be “an enhanced version of WiderNet’s eGranary Digital Library which is an off-line internet storage and collaboration platform that provides internet-like access to digital resources without requiring internet connectivity. This project was inspired by a growing international movement toward increased disability rights, including the U.N. sponsored Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), which was signed by President Obama in July of 2009. The Global Disability Rights Library seeks to build a bridge between global information sources, disability advocates, and policy makers in order to encourage the availability and use of information.

Barbara LeRoy, Ph.D.
SEAM Project Continues to Grow, Welcomes New Families

Supporting Educational Achievement for Minorities (SEAM) is a project that aims to improve educational services, retention and postsecondary outcomes for minority families living in Southwest Detroit. In 2010, SEAM Project Director, Julia Hernandez, and project staff provided training opportunities for both Spanish and English speaking families. Training sessions were focused upon issues faced by parents and children when navigating the special education system. Topics included transition, least restrictive environment, special education law, and individualized education planning (IEP).

In addition to training opportunities, SEAM also hosted several playgroups at the Weiss Playlot in Southwest Detroit. Play groups not only gave children a chance to play and meet new friends, but they also aided parents in networking with each other and in attaining information and resources from DDI and SEAM staff. The playgroups were also open to relatives and friends of SEAM families so as to make the events more in tune with the cultural traditions and beliefs of the Latino community.

The SEAM Project was also fortunate to host its Third Annual Picnic for families in Southwest Detroit to which 16 families accounting for over 30 adults and 60 children attended. Family friends and relatives were again welcomed to the event, as well as special guests such as Tedra Jackson from the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council. The annual picnic provides yet another opportunity for families to meet others who may have similar questions and experiences.

The SEAM project runs through 2012. For more information regarding SEAM, please visit the project website at ddi.wayne.edu/seam.php or email (juliaphernandez@wayne.edu) Project Director Julia Hernandez.

DDI’s Author Series Highlights Inclusive Education in 2010

The Developmental Disabilities Institute’s Author Series gives the disability and Wayne State University communities a chance to hear prominent authors and advocates in the area of disability speak about their experiences and published works. In 2010, the Author Series welcomed Dr. Phil Smith from Eastern Michigan University and Ms. Abby Loy, a student with disabilities attending Washtenaw Community College. Dr. Smith teaches special education at Eastern Michigan University, with an emphasis on inclusive education, families with members with disabilities, disability studies, and overrepresentation. Ms. Loy is attending Washtenaw Community College pursuing a career in child care. She started her formal education in Montessori school and has attended only regular education classes in the public school system. At Brighton High School she earned her Varsity letter as a member of the marching and wind symphony bands and choir. She has given several presentations on Down syndrome to educators, physicians and decision makers across the state.

The DDI Author Series has been offering talks by local and regional authors since 2009. The series will continue in 2011 with author and Family Support Navigator Ms. Rosetta Howard, and Dr. Jeffrey Martin, Professor of Kinesiology, researcher and author who has been with Wayne State University for the last 18 years. Please visit the DDI Author Series website for updates, web-links, and schedule of events ddi.wayne.edu/author_series.php.
Planning Our Futures Project Focuses on Life Planning, Securing the Future

A significant number of adults with developmental disabilities in Michigan live with their parents until the last care-giving parent dies. This puts considerable strain on the surviving individual, who may be forced to transition to living on his/her own following a parent’s death, often with little to no systematic planning.

In Planning Our Futures, DDI, The Arc Michigan, the Area Agencies on Aging Association of Michigan and the Michigan Disability Rights Coalition are working together to provide a regionally-based network of information and training to support adults with developmental disabilities and their aging families in developing a plan for the future. This plan will enable individuals with developmental disabilities to actively participate in the community while their aging parents identify and implement long-term options for themselves and their loved ones.

Training topics include:

- Person-Centered Planning: including the value of Independent Facilitation, how Medicaid supports can be used to build a meaningful community life, and methods for building personal support networks.
- Self-Determination: including fiscal intermediary services and other Self-Determination tools.
- Long-Term Care options for aging parents.
- Financial Planning: such as estate planning, alternatives to guardianship, and benefits planning.

The project will run through December 2011. Please contact Elizabeth Janks ejanks@wayne.edu for more information.

Michigan Partnership to Promote Education, Training, and Enhanced Services to Women with Disabilities

DDI is partnering with the Michigan Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence (MCADSV), the Michigan Disability Rights Coalition (MDRC) and the Disability Network/MI (DNM) to develop and pilot a strategic plan to address violence against women with disabilities. This project is funded by the Office of Violence Against Women (OVW). While the first 2 years of the project focuses on the development of a comprehensive strategic plan, this project will ultimately conduct cross-trainings and technical assistance for victim service organizations, governmental agencies, and NGOs serving individuals with disabilities. For more information, contact Ann Carrellas at DDI ann.carrellas@wayne.edu.
The Developmental Disabilities Institute, in collaboration with Easter Seals Incorporated, sponsored 2 Family Support Navigator Academies in Detroit, Michigan. Funding for the training was provided by an ADD grant on Family Support. The two-day events were held in February and November, 2010 and brought together over 100 parents of children with disabilities and self-advocates who wanted to become future Family Support Navigators.
The role of the Family Support Navigator originated from the Administration on Developmental Disabilities 360° grant funded projects of national significance. The Family Support Navigator assists individuals with developmental disabilities and their families in identifying needs for support, developing a plan of action, and obtaining access to identified supports in their communities. The Navigator’s priority is to educate, navigate, and teach individuals and/or families to make their own decisions and achieve self-directed goals. The Navigator is often a parent of a child with a disability who teaches parents and individuals the skills necessary to access services. The Navigator’s role includes helping parents gain access to community opportunities that promote community inclusion.

Topics covered during the Navigator training included:
- Family Support Navigation Philosophy
- Navigation versus Traditional Case Management Model
- Effective Communication Strategies
- Family Support Service Systems: Federal and State Resources
- Cultural Diversity
- Fostering Self Advocacy and Self Determination
- Family Needs Assessment, Planning & Follow Along Supports
- Support Strategies & Service Brokering
- Family Support Activities
- Action Planning

The training incorporated activities and the design of an action plan that identified goals that participants want to achieve as a result of their participation in the training. Examples of action plan goals included starting a parent support group and assisting parents in their community with family support navigation. DDI provided technical assistance to all of the participants to ensure they achieved their goals. After the goals on the action plan were completed, the Institute certified the participant as a Family Support Navigator.

The training team included Elizabeth Janks, Angela Martin, Chesley Giertz, Andrea Alvarez, and Fatimah Alismail. Several participants commented on the pertinence of the training topics and that they felt the training toolkit was very well put together and useful. Please contact Elizabeth Janks, e.janks@wayne.edu, for information regarding the Family Support Navigator Academy.
S.A.F.E. Project Reaches Out to First Responders, Informs Community

The Support All Families in Emergencies (S.A.F.E.) Project was a successful collaboration between the Developmental Disabilities Institute (DDI), Michigan Protection & Advocacy, Inc., the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council and key personnel from Emergency Preparedness Agencies. The project advisory team shared resources and knowledge to help people with disabilities and their family members to be prepared for a possible disaster in Detroit and Wayne County. Additionally, a needs assessment conducted by project staff revealed that first responders need and want more information about how to interact and engage people with developmental disabilities in an emergency or disaster. The focus groups with people with disabilities and their family members indicated that very few of them had an emergency plan in place.

The grant also provided emergency preparedness training to 60 individuals and their family members. The training participants completed The Safe Place toolkit, which gave a detailed account of what first responders would need to know, including direct care workers, physicians and family contact information. The project also provided disability awareness training to first responders and volunteers. The Community Advisory Team was comprised of members from the United States Department of Homeland Security, Michigan Protection and Advocacy Services, Inc., the local chapter of the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army, Community Emergency Response Team Supports (CERTS), Wayne County Health Department, People First of Detroit/Wayne County, an elected official and the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council. Michigan Protection & Advocacy Services, Inc. developed a legal analysis that reviewed existing State and Federal legislation and barriers that exist in current policy and made recommendations as to possible changes that could support better access for people with disabilities when they encounter disasters. Please contact Elizabeth Janks, e.janks@wayne.edu, for information regarding the S.A.F.E. Project.

Autism NOW to Establish National Autism Resource and Information Center

The Administration on Developmental Disabilities (ADD) has awarded The Arc of the United States funding to establish a national resource and information center on Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and other developmental disabilities. Known as Autism NOW, the project links the Developmental Disabilities Institute (DDI) up with several partners including the Autistic Self Advocacy Network (ASAN), Self Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE), the Institute for Community Inclusion (ICI) at the University of Massachusetts, the Center for Community Inclusion and Disability Studies from the University of Maine, Brandeis University’s Heller School of Public Policy, and the National Council on Aging (NCOA).

The Autism NOW team of research and advocacy partners and individuals provides valuable and diverse resources which will be made available through a national network of disability, aging, military, and family organizations in order to effectively deliver information and resources desired by individuals with ASD and other developmental disabilities and their families. This national dissemination team will be comprised of the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD), National Disability Rights Network (NDRN), Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD), the National Military Family Association (NMFA), National Council on Independent Living (NCIL), and the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD).

DDI Director, Dr. Barbara LeRoy, and new DDI Research Associate, Ann Carrellas, are leading DDI’s efforts to Autism NOW. The project began in the Fall of 2010 and will wrap up in September of 2011. Please visit the DDI website (ddi.wayne.edu), the Autism NOW website (autismnow.org) or contact Dr. LeRoy b_le_royn@wayne.edu for more information regarding this important national effort.
Hong Kong Inclusive Education Consultation and Seminar

Fifteen years ago, Dr. Barbara LeRoy, DDI director, was invited to Hong Kong to train special education teachers and administrators from 10 pilot schools in inclusive education implementation. In December 2010, she was invited back to review their progress, to provide further consultation, and to give a seminar on effective practices and emerging developments in inclusive education. Today, the pilot project has expanded to 150 schools with many of the students from the initial first wave preparing for graduation. Visits were made to several secondary schools where consultation was provided on accommodations, social relationship building, and postsecondary options. Meetings were also held with parents in which they shared their perceptions and experiences. The seminar was attended by more than 100 teachers and administrators, where they shared their successes and concerns, as well as learning about systems change to support full inclusion.

New Empowerment Education Trainers Welcomed in the Upper Peninsula

DDI’s Empowerment Education Project brought free training opportunities to over 1,200 Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) and persons with disabilities in Michigan in 2010. Empowerment Education training utilizes a “Train-the-Trainer” model which enables trainers to deliver information and skill building activities to DSPs and other individuals in their own towns, cities, and regions. To date, over 17,000 direct support professionals and persons with disabilities have received Empowerment Education training in almost every county in Michigan.

In September of 2010, a Train-the-Trainer event was held in Marquette, Michigan. Fifteen new Empowerment Education trainers were trained during the 2-day event. Working with Pathways Community Mental Health, DDI staff provided training and technical assistance to individuals who will provide Empowerment Education Training to DSP’s, persons with disabilities and family members. The new 2-day format provided extended opportunities for trainees to showcase their skills during training demonstrations held on day two.

Updated Report on DSP Training Out in 2011

In 2004, DDI released A Hand for Their Hands, a report on the progress of the Empowerment Education Project and research findings on various employment issues facing Direct Support Professionals (DSP) in the state of Michigan. An update to this publication is set to be released in the Summer of 2011. The new publication will outline findings and data regarding DSPs and employment in Michigan from 2004 through 2010. Michigan’s DSPs face many challenges and issues surrounding wages, training needs, health care and professional certification.

Part of the mission of DDI and the Empowerment Education Project is to address the issues facing Michigan’s DSPs through research and training activities.

Tom Pomeranz Speaks at 2010 Lenawee County MADSP Forum

The Michigan Alliance of Direct Support Professionals (MADSP) and DDI returned to Adrian, Michigan in 2010 to provide technical assistance for the Fifth Annual Lenawee County DSP Training Forum. The Brenda Ross Fund, along with other members of the Lenawee County Forum Planning Committee, host the annual forum which is a day that recognizes the hard work and commitment of Lenawee’s DSP workforce. The Fifth Annual Forum welcomed keynote speaker and nationally recognized authority on developmental disabilities, Thomas Pomeranz. Several DSPs were honored by their peers and many prizes and awards were given out during the festive event.
2010 Presentations and Training Events


Andrea Alvarez & Rosetta Howard. Learning to Play is Playing to Learn presentation during Annual Parenting Awareness Conference, held November, 2010 in East Lansing, Michigan.

Andrea Alvarez & Rosetta Howard. Parenting Workshop Series. Training sessions covering topics such as personality profiles, self-image, and learning to play is playing to learn. Throughout 2010 in Detroit, Michigan.


Michael Bray (Coordinator). Empowerment Education: Consumer-Driven Training for Michigan’s Direct Support Professionals – Various Topics. Multiple (96) training events were conducted in several locations throughout Michigan in 2010.


Julia Hernandez. Supporting Educational Achievement for Minorities (SEAM) Project Trainings for English and Spanish Speaking Parents. Training sessions covering topics such as Least Restrictive Environments, Transition, and Special Education Law, 2010, Detroit, Michigan.

Julia Hernandez. Supporting Educational Achievement for Minorities (SEAM) Project Poster Presentation at the Southwest Conference on Disability, October, 2010, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Julia Hernandez. Interviewed by WDET’s Martina Guzman about her work with Latino families living in Southwestern Detroit through the SEAM Project. Detroit, Michigan.


Elizabeth Janks, Angela Martin, Chesley Giertz, Julia Hernandez, and Andrea Alvarez. Easter Seals National Family Support Navigator Academy. Two-day training event to inform family members and self-advocates on topics including family service navigation, person-centered planning, communication, and identifying resources. Trainings conducted February and November 11th and 12th, 2010, Detroit, Michigan.


Barbara LeRoy. Inclusive Education Consultation and Seminar, December, 2010, Hong Kong, China.


Barbara LeRoy. Presentation at Future Planning Conference held August, 2010 at Adult Well-Being Services, Detroit, Michigan.


Angela Martin. Three Healthy Relationships for Women with Disabilities Training Events, held October 6th, October 7th, and November 10th, 2010 in Muskegon, Owosso, and Grand Rapids, Michigan.


Angela Martin. Two Concurrent Conference Presentations regarding the Mount Pleasant Center Project for The Arc Michigan 2010 Annual Conference held in Grand Rapids, Michigan.


Angela Martin. Presentation on Mount Pleasant Center Monitoring Project made during TASH Annual Conference, held December, 2010 in Denver, Colorado.


Angela Martin. Presentation on Mount Pleasant Center Monitoring Project made during Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority Board of Directors Meeting, held December 21, 2010 in Auburn Hills, Michigan.


Preethy Samuel. Poster presentation on the Family Quality of Life Measurement and its Applications, December 9, 2010 at the Annual Research Day of Occupational Therapy at the Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan.


2010–2011 Publications


Staff Professional and Community Service

Barbara LeRoy, Ph.D.
Advisor
- Rehabilitation Counseling Program, Michigan State University
- Rehabilitation Counseling Program, WSU
- Autism Taskforce, Department of Community Health
- Developmental Disabilities Performance Improvement Team, Department of Community Health
- Volunteers, Administrators, and Coaches Program, WSU College of Education
- Michigan Alliance for Families
- Disabilities Steering Committee, Health Promotion for Persons with Disabilities, Department of Community Health

Member
- Rehabilitation International (RI) Nominating Committee
- 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
- Michigan Act Early State Team, Co-Coordinator
- Michigan Coalition Against Violence for People with Disabilities

Governor’s Appointee
- Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council

Panel reviewer
- U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs
- U.S. Department of Education, National Institute on Disability, Rehabilitation and Research

Board Member
- Association for Community Advocacy (Ann Arbor, MI)
- United States International Council on Disabilities (Board Secretary)

U.S. Delegate and Vice Chair
- Education Commission, Rehabilitation International

Angela Martin, M.S.W., L.M.S.W.
Board Member
- Sibling Leadership Network (SLN) Member
- Association of University Centers on Disabilities, Council on Community Advocacy
- The International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual Disabilities, Special Interest Research Group on Comparative Policy and Practice
- Sibling Leadership Network, Chair of Policy and Advocacy Committee
- The Arc of Oakland County
- National Association of Social Workers
- TASH
- American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
- The Howell Group, Representative
- Michigan Olmstead Coalition
- Michigan Partners for Freedom, Representative
- Wayne County Interagency Coordinating Committee, Representative

Elizabeth Janks, L.M.S.W., A.C.S.W.
Member
- National Council on Community Advocacy (Coca)
- National Alliance of Direct Support Professionals
- National Association of Social Workers
- The Howell Group
- University Centers for Excellence in Disabilities National Consumer Council
- The Arc Michigan
- Wayne County Inter-agency Coordinating Council
- Wayne County Head Start Advisory Council

Michael Bray, M.A.
Member
- Association for Psychological Science
- Michigan Service 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

Karen Hobden, Ph.D.
Member
- Autism Society of America (ASA)
- AUCD Autism Special Interest Group
- National Association for the Dually Diagnosed (NADD)
- National Organization for Albinism and Hypopigmentation (NOAH)

Preethy Samuel, Ph.D.
Member
- American Occupational Therapy Association
- Michigan Occupational Therapy Association
- All India Occupational Therapy Association
- Editorial Team of American Journal of Occupational Therapy
- Ad Hoc Reviewer for the Journal of Intellectual Disability Research
- Ad Hoc Reviewer for the Journal on Developmental Disabilities

Julia Hernandez
Member
- Detroit Public Schools, Detroit Parent Advisory Committee (PAC)
- Diversity Advisory Committee - Wayne County Health and Family Services Head Start
- Michigan Alliance - Parent Training and Information
- Great Start Collaborative - Wayne (GSC-W) Family Support Workgroup

Chesley Gertz, L.M.S.W.
Member
- Detroit Department of Transportation’s Mobility Advisory Committee
- Michigan Expanding Opportunities Initiative
- AAIIE’s Students and Early Career Professionals Committee.
- Michigan Association of School Social Workers (MASSW)