The Developmental Disabilities Institute

The Developmental Disabilities Institute (DDI) is Michigan’s Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities. It is one of 61 UCEDDs nationwide, established in 1983 at Wayne State University by the 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 to individuals;
- 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 in almost every Michigan county 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 Programs and Projects

The Developmental Disabilities Institute participates in a wide variety of federal, state and locally-funded projects.

Projects and Research Studies

**Project CARE** provides evaluation services, technical assistance and training in promising practices at Detroit-Wayne County Community Mental Health Agency.

**Community Integrated Personal Assistance Services and Supports**, funded by Michigan Department of Community Health’s Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, aims to optimize community integration and quality of life for people with disabilities by maximizing consumer control across all programs in Michigan that offer personal assistance services.

**Aging of Women with Intellectual Disabilities** examines aging issues across 18 countries.

**Implications of the Human Genome Project: The Potential for Health Insurance Discrimination** examines what policies and practices Health Maintenance Organizations have regarding genetic testing and services for individuals with genetic-related disabilities.

**Preventing Guardianship** is a study of guardianship training in Michigan with regard to self-determination.

**Consultation for Irish Family Court** in which an expert witness brief was developed for an individual with multiple severe disabilities.

**Supporting Families in Pediatric Practice**, with funding from the Skillman Foundation, promotes and supports the optimal development of at-risk young children (birth to 5 years of age) who receive care from the Children’s Hospital of Michigan Pediatric Mobile Team.

**Demography of Inclusive Education** examines the under-representation of students of color in special education promising practices.

**Community Living Services Consumer Satisfaction Survey** is a project designed to measure and validate satisfaction levels of consumers receiving services from community providers.

**The Detroit 360 Project** uses a family-centered, empowerment model to develop a plan to create a one-stop center that will assist underserved families who have a member with a disability, to preserve, strengthen and maintain the family.

**Project SPARK** examines barriers to physical activity and fitness in the city of Detroit and identifies ways of overcoming these barriers to tailor future programs to overcome them.
Targets of Opportunity – Health, Health Care and Family Across the Life Span
studied osteoporosis and women with disabilities; and the sociology of managed care.

The Parent Coalition evaluated a comprehensive training model for parents of children with disabilities throughout Michigan.

The Guardianship Study, funded by the Barber Foundation examines guardianship decision-making in four counties in southeast Michigan.

The Families Advocating for Self-Determination Through Technology and Communication Supports (FAST CATS) provides families with information they need to support self-determination in their children with disabilities. The project’s web site provides families with a chat room and message board, as well as archived video teleconferences on topics such as alternatives to guardianship and self-determination.

In Memoriam – Harold Celice

Harold Celice was a gentle and determined advocate and research assistant at DDI. Despite his lifelong health concerns, he completed two university degrees while he worked at various positions promoting the public image of people with disabilities. At the time of his death, he was working as a facilitator of learning opportunities for students and their parents related to community transitions.
Training Programs and Events

The **Empowerment Education** project, funded by the Administration on Developmental Disabilities, trains direct support professionals in best practice strategies across the life span. Training topics include:

- Conflict Resolution
- Stress Management: It’s All About Awareness, Attitude and Action at Work
- Self-Determination: Our Right to Meaningful and Fulfilling Lives
- Person-Centered Planning: Valuing the Contributions of Direct Support Professionals
- Supporting Growth Through Opportunity and Choices
- Supporting People in Establishing Friendships and Making Community Connections
- Empowering Teams
- Ten Successful and Assertive Steps for Working with Professionals
- Teaching Made Easy
- Self-Determination
- Self-Advocates Working in Partnership with Direct Support Professionals to Achieve Life’s Dreams

The **Independent Facilitation Project** trains individuals on how to become independent facilitators in the person-centered planning process.

**Cross-cultural Perspectives on Disability: An Exchange Program at the Abbey** is designed to develop cross-cultural perspectives on disability through an exchange program for university students at the Abbey of Pontlevoy in France.

**Families Advocating for Self-determination Through Communication and Technology Supports (FAST CATS)** informs and supports families to enhance their child’s self-determination using multimedia channels such as video teleconferences, chat rooms, message boards and a web site. Project teleconference topics included:

- Self-Determination
- Alternatives to Guardianship
- Inclusion

**DDI’s Disability Film Series** aims to increase understanding of cross-cultural perspectives on disability by selecting films from different countries and cultures in which persons with disabilities and/or disability themes are central.

**DDI’s Graduate Certificate Program** is an interdisciplinary curriculum aimed at preparing individuals to assume leadership positions as service providers, policymakers, administrators or educators who are committed to the full community inclusion of persons with disabilities.

**DDI Students**

168 students from the disciplines of:

- Genetics
- Pediatrics
- Psychology
- Special Education
- Occupational Therapy
- Social Work
- Speech and Language
- Law

received training related to developmental disabilities from DDI staff.

Community Support for People with Disabilities. Course taught at Schoolcraft College. Students learn how supports provision can form the basis for administration and management of human service agencies.

Inclusion and Natural Supports Training to Consumers.

What is it Really Like to Have a Child with Special Needs? Training for parents at Cloverdale School.

Person Centered Planning and Evidence-based Learning. Presentation to Detroit-Wayne County Community Mental Health Agency.

What's in Your Community for Fun and Learning? Presentation to parents at Wingert School.


Microenterprise Training in collaboration with MARO Employment and Training Association.

Violence and Women with Disabilities Presentation to students at the Midwestern Eco-Community Psychology Conference.

Enhancing the Skills of Professionals: Respecting and Supporting Culturally Diverse Families who have Children with Disabilities. Family Support Minority Outreach Project Training to the Wayne County Interagency Coordinating Committee and Woodhaven-Brownstown Schools, Teach Our Tots Early (TOTE) Program.

Person-Centered Planning for Parents of Children with Disabilities. Presentation at Helen Field School.

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.

Established Conditions and Early On - Prematurity. Lectures for Wayne County Early On Service Coordinators at Detroit Health Department.

Outcomes for Children with Mild and Unilateral Hearing Impairment. Bridges to Literacy presentation to Wayne State University Audiology/Speech Language Pathology faculty.

Person Centered Planning and Independent Facilitation. Training for staff at Blue Water Centers for Independent Living.

Fetal Alcohol Syndrome. Grand rounds lecture for medical staff and allied health professionals at Children's Hospital of Michigan.

Genetic Counseling and Testing from the Disability Community Perspective. Presentation to students in the graduate Genetics Counseling program, Wayne State University School of Medicine.

Crisis Intervention in the Hospital Emergency Room for Children and Adolescents. Presentation to Project Care and agency staff at Detroit-Wayne County Community Mental Health Agency.
Dissemination

Central Conference of University Training Programs in Developmental Disabilities Media Exchange. Topics included:

- Supporting Adults with Developmental Disabilities and their Families in Futures Planning
- Best Practices in Pooled Trust Programs and Family Financed Housing
- Congregational Coaching
- Spirituality from the UCE to the Local Group Home

Living My Own Life: Adults with Disabilities. VHS Video.

Who’s There? Demography of Inclusive Education CD.

Early Childhood Collaborative Update newsletter distributed to medical and allied health professional staff at Children’s Hospital of Michigan.

Respect and Disabilities Go Hand in Hand. Family Support Minority Outreach project poster.


FAST CATS Teleconference. Self-determination.


Publications and Resources developed by DDI staff


Lacey, K. & LeRoy, B. (2003). Predicting the rate of inclusion across the state of Michigan. Developmental Disabilities Institute, Detroit, MI.


Martin, A. (2003). Self-Determination VHS video and DVD. Developmental Disabilities Institute, Detroit, MI.


Martin, A. (2003). Self-Determination VHS video and DVD. Developmental Disabilities Institute, Detroit, MI.


State, National and International Presentations


Kulik, N. (2003, August). Voices from the Margins: Minority and Low Income Parent Perspectives on Their Children’s Special Education. American Sociological Association Conference. Atlanta, GA.


Staff Professional and Community Service

Barbara LeRoy, Ph.D.
Advisor
• Rehabilitation Counseling Program, Michigan State University
• BEAM ( Bringing the Eden Alternative to Michigan), Lansing
• Center and Institute Council – Office of the Vice President for Research, WSU
• Skillman Center for Children
• Everyone Together, Inclusive Education Project
• Rehabilitation Counseling Program, WSU
• Early On Collaborative, Children’s Hospital of Michigan
Member
• Children’s Research Initiative, Office of the Vice President for Research, WSU
• AUCD Legislative Affairs Committee
• Statewide Education Coalition
• 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 Mental Retardation, Michigan Chapter
• Association for Community Advocacy (Ann Arbor)
• Arcadia Institute (Kalamazoo)
• United States International Council on Disabilities
U.S. Delegate
• Education Commission, Rehabilitation International

Terry DeRocher Lerma, Ph.D.
Chair
• American Psychological Association Committee on Disability Issues in Psychology
• Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council Workgroup on Cultural Competence
Secretary
• Board of Directors, Urban Caring Institute
Proposal Reviewer
• American Psychological Association Convention, Society for the Psychological Study of Ethnic Minority Issues
Reviewer
• Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council RCC Mini-grant Program
• Community Reviewer
• National Institute for Mental Health
Member
• South Eastern Michigan HIV/AIDS Council
• Centers for Disease Control Standing Panel

Angela Martin, M.S.W.
Board Member
• American Association on Mental Retardation, Michigan Chapter
Facilitator
• People First of Oakland County
Member
• Oakland County Regional Interagency Coordinating Council (ORCC)
• Wayne County Regional Interagency Coordinating Council
• Arc of Livingston County Advisory Committee
• Oakland County Arc
• National Association of Social Workers
• American Association on Mental Retardation
• Association of University Centers on Disabilities National Consumer Council
• The Association for Persons with Severe Handicaps (TASH)
• The Howell Group
• Michigan Olmstead Coalition

Harold Celce
Member
• Wayne State University Public Relations Student’s Association
Volunteer
• Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan

Krim Lacey
Member
• Council for Exceptional Children
• American Sociological Association

Janette Jennings
Member
• American Occupational Therapy Association
• Michigan Alliance of Direct Support Professionals
• Pi Theta Epsilon Honor Society

Donna M. Johnson
Member
• Michigan Association for Evaluation
• Mid-Western Evaluation and Research Association

Michael Bray
Member
• American Psychological Society
• Michigan Alliance of Direct Support Professionals

Nathaniel Israel
Member
• American Psychological Association
• Society for Community Research and Action
• Division on Mental Retardation and Developmental Disability
• Society for Prevention Research
• Society for Research on Adolescence

Kirsti Reeve, Ph.D.
Member
• Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists (UK)
• Michigan Speech and Hearing Association
• The Association for Persons with Severe Handicaps (TASH)

Sharon Milberger, Sc.D.
Adjunct Assistant Professor
Wayne State University Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neurosciences
Board Member, President-Elect
• Michigan Alliance for Gifted Education
Member
• The Michigan Adolescent and Adult ADD Network
• American Public Health Association
• American Association on Health and Disability
• Southeast Michigan Census Council
• Supporting the Emotional Needs of the Gifted
• Society for Epidemiologic Research Volunteer
• Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit, Research Committee
• Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit, Community Services Division

Noel Kulik
Member
• The Association for Persons with Severe Handicaps (TASH)
• American Sociological Association

Elizabeth Janks, M.S.W., A.C.S.W.
President
Farmington Education Connection
Member
• National Association of Social Workers
• State Board of Directors – Michigan 4Cs (Child Care Coordinating Council)
• University Centers of Excellence National Consumer Council
• Children’s Hospital of Michigan Skillman Early On Advisory Council
• Arc Michigan
• Wayne County Inter-Agency Coordinating Council
• Wayne County Chapter Board of Directors, CHADD (Children & Adults with Attention Deficit Disorder)
• Wayne County Head Start Advisory Council

Katherine A. Dukhan
Member
• Society for Applied Anthropology
• The Howell Group
• Aging and Developmental Disabilities Coalition
2003 Community Advisory Council

Sally Burton-Hoyle – Autism Society of Michigan
Vendella Collins – Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council
Jack Dobrecki – Self-advocate
Arlene Gorelick – Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan
Virginia R. Harmon – Michigan Department of Community Health
Dohn Hoyle – Association for Community Advocacy
Sarah Irvine – People First of Oakland County
Chuck Jenkins – Parent
Radwan Khoury – Arab-American and Chaldean Social Services Council
LuAnn Loy – Partners in Policymaking
Larry Maniaci – Wayne County Residential Association, Homes of Opportunity
Dennis McDougal – Self-advocate
Mark McWilliams – Michigan Protection and Advocacy Services, Inc.
Deborah Patterson – Self-advocate
Linda Potter – United Cerebral Palsy Association of Michigan
Hugh Reid – Michigan Department of Education-Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services
Rosanne Renauer – Michigan Department of Career Development - Michigan Rehabilitation Services
Robin Sefton – Self-advocate
Verna Spayth – ADAPT/Michigan
Sheila Starks – Self-advocate
Robert Stein – Michigan Assisted Living Association
Mark Weeks – Freedom Work Opportunities, Inc.
Cassandra Wells – Office of Services to the Aging
Vanessa Winborne – Department of Education Comprehensive Program for Health & Early On Child Care

Developmental Disabilities Institute
Wayne State University
268 Leonard N. Simons Bldg.
4809 Woodward Ave.
Detroit, MI 48202

313-577-2654
313-577-3770 – Fax
888-WSU-4DDI (888-978-4334) – toll-free

WEB site: www.wayne.edu/DDI

Annual Report Coordinator:
Katherine Dukhan

Produced by the Developmental Disabilities Institute at Wayne State University May 2004.

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