The Developmental Disabilities Institute

The Developmental Disabilities Institute (DDI) is Michigan’s University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD). We are one of 61 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:

- 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 provided support statewide to more than 40,000 persons with disabilities in 2006. 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.
# Table of Contents

Dual Diagnosis Project Enters Second Phase............................................................................. 1  
Detroit 360° Project Experiences Growth...................................................................................... 2  
Detroit 360° Family Navigators and Families Forge Special Relationships.......................... 4  
DDI Director Lends Expertise to Dubai Inclusive Education Project....................................... 5  
Graduate Certificate Program in Full Swing in 2006.................................................................. 6  
DDI Students Trained in 2006....................................................................................................... 7  
New and Improved DDI Website Launched ................................................................................. 7  
Empowerment Education Training Takes on New Format......................................................... 8  
Healthy Relationships Training Reaches Women Around the State.......................................... 9  
DDI Programs and Projects........................................................................................................ 10  
Distance Learning Pilot Study Approved .................................................................................... 13  
Evaluation of Recreation Project Shows Positive Impact on Kids............................................. 14  
State, National, and International Presentations........................................................................ 15  
AAMR Sees Changes at State and National Levels ..................................................................... 17  
Toronto Festival of International Conferences Fast Approaching............................................. 17  
Publications and Resources Developed by DDI Staff in 2006................................................... 18  
Sixth Annual MADSP Forum Finds New Home in 2006............................................................ 19  
Michigan Partners for Freedom Holds Second Annual Retreat................................................. 20  
New Staff Members Join the Developmental Disabilities Institute.......................................... 20  
Walk in My Shoes Event Attracts Policy Makers.......................................................................... 21  
DDI Staff Professional and Community Service......................................................................... 22
Dual Diagnosis Project Enters Second Phase

DDI, along with the Macomb Oakland Regional Center (MORC), continued to partner in 2006 on a project aimed at improving the diagnosis and management of mental illness in people with intellectual disabilities in the state of Michigan. The project is aimed at accomplishing two primary goals:

1. To evaluate the effectiveness of a new specialized diagnostic instrument for identifying dual diagnoses.

2. To evaluate the impact of dual diagnosis on an individual’s ability to self-advocate.

DDI and MORC staff received training in May 2006 on the use of the diagnostic tool being evaluated in the project. Dr. Steve Moss of Munro-Guy’s Hospital, London, facilitated the two-day event. Participants learned how to administer the diagnostic tool through small group interaction and role-playing using real world scenarios.

The project has recruited over 300 participants who are completing the screening assessment and self-determination checklist. Dr. Karen Hobden has also joined the project as the coordinator. Presentations on project findings are already scheduled in Michigan, Ontario, Italy and Georgia.

For information regarding the Dual Diagnosis project, please contact Dr. LeRoy at B_Le_Roy@wayne.edu or call the Developmental Disabilities Institute at (313) 577-2654.
Detroit 360° Project Experiences Growth, Offers Unique Opportunities

The Detroit Family Support 360° project is a one-stop support center for families who have children with disabilities. The project’s goal is to connect underserved and underserved families of the city of Detroit to services and supports in their community. This is accomplished through the use of close partnerships with local and state health care and service agencies and the work of the Family Support Navigators who act as the families’ conduit to the project.

Now in its third year of operation, the Detroit Family Support 360° project continues to receive referrals from its project partners, local and state health care professionals and community members. Of the referrals made to date, the project has helped well over 80 families get connected to the services they’ve needed as well as aided these families in more effectively navigating the health care system.

In addition to these services, Detroit 360° also hosts monthly family support groups. These meetings allow families to connect with each other in order to network, exchange stories and information and build friendships. Presentations on topics relevant to family support are also given by project staff and child care is provided on site.

Photo Journaling Events

Detroit Family Support 360° Project families also had the opportunity to participate in a unique event in 2006. As part of the project, Detroit 360° staff and families participated in four photo journaling sessions. Photo journals are very similar to the scrapbooks and can include photos, memorabilia and narrative descriptions or stories outlining the family’s experience in participating in the Detroit 360° Project and how this participation has enhanced their family’s life.

In February, Jane Stewart, a colleague from New Zealand, visited the Detroit 360° Project and facilitated the first two of four photo journal events. Ms. Stewart has expertise in assisting families who have children with disabilities to create dynamic photo journals and scrap books. Prior to the event, families were given disposable cameras to record important family moments that they wished to include in their photo journal. They were also asked to bring existing photos and mementos to the photo journaling session. The families embraced the activity, bringing in wonderful photos, baby memorabilia, and other items that represented their child’s success, including growth charts, report cards, hospital baby bracelets and photos of extended family members.

The photo journals were as unique as the families telling their stories. Narrative portions of the journals included stories of how the Detroit 360° project impacted the family and the life of their child. Some of the narratives also explored how the family discovered the project and what having a family support navigator has meant to them as they have become educated about the array of supports available to them.
Following the initial two events’ success, two more photo journaling events were facilitated with the help of Julie Janks. A photo journal documenting the project’s progress was also done by Detroit 360° Project staff. And in addition to the families’ books, these photo journals have illustrated the project’s personal impact and positive influence to local, state and national policy makers.

**Detroit 360° Receives Stamp of Approval**

In July of 2006, the Detroit Family Support 360° Project was honored by the Detroit City Council. The council recognized the Detroit 360° Project, DDI and all partner agencies for the numerous contributions to Detroit’s families who have children with disabilities. The City Council also noted its desire for the project to continue to provide personal support and services to families into the future. This stamp of approval is a great honor for the staff and partners of the Detroit 360° project and can be seen as an affirmation of the work that has been done thus far, as well as the future work of the Project.

**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)
Grandparents as custodial caretakers for their grandchildren, as well as their nieces and nephews are becoming increasingly commonplace. One such grandmother is legal guardian for fourteen great nieces and nephews. Two of the children, who have intellectual disabilities, participate in the Detroit Family Support 360° Project. Claudette Cameron has been this family’s Family Support Navigator since they were referred to Detroit 360° and has formed a special bond with not only the grandmother, but also with all of the children.

At the age of 82, the grandmother is currently raising five of the 12 children — who range in age from 14 to 32 years — and one great, great nephew. Claudette has helped the family become educated about the Individualized Education Plans (IEP) process, connected the family to community mental health services, and supported the family in expanding its connection to community supports such as those offered through the children’s school and the family’s church.

The assistance that Claudette has offered this family has extended beyond most traditional requests for support. For example, one of the children had expressed interest in learning about television production. Knowing this, Claudette helped him to make a connection with one of the longest running television shows in the Detroit area where he witnessed first hand how a television show is produced. This connection has since enabled him to enroll in classes so that he could develop skills needed for a career in the television industry.

The grandmother regularly attends the Family Support Groups offered by the Detroit 360° project and often raves about the job that Claudette has done as her family’s support navigator. The combination of personal support from their navigator and the opportunity to connect with other families who are raising children with developmental disabilities has both enhanced this family’s well-being and promoted their success.
DDI Director Lends Expertise to Dubai Inclusive Education Project

The Association of University Centers on Disability (AUCD) has entered into a five-year contract with the Takamul project in Dubai (UAE) to assist them in developing a University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) in the United Arab Emirates (website: www.takamul.gov.ae). As part of this contract, DDI director Dr. Barbara LeRoy has had the opportunity to work with the Takamul team to develop an inclusive education initiative within their public school system. Since training began in December of 2006, administrators, teachers and families have been very receptive to the concept of inclusive education. Not surprisingly, they share the same universal concerns of any systems change effort: Will supports be ongoing? Will we have adequate training? Will parents be satisfied with the program?

Translation of Materials into Arabic

In order to ensure a smooth transition and understanding of the inclusive education materials used in conjunction with the Takamul project, DDI has enlisted the services of an Arabic translator. All inclusive education presentations were translated into Arabic and distributed to Arabic speaking individuals involved with the project. Having Arabic translations of presentation materials helped to minimize incidences of misunderstanding or confusion related to language barriers. The ability to have DDI training and informational materials converted into the Arabic language is a highly valued asset which will help the Institute reach a wider audience in the Detroit Metropolitan area and around the world. DDI plans to implement a wider translation of its training, informational and online materials in the near future.

If you would like further information on The Dubai Takamul project, or details regarding DDI’s translation capabilities or our translated materials, please contact Dr. LeRoy at b_le_roy@wayne.edu.
Graduate Certificate Program in Full Swing in 2006

DDI’s Graduate Certificate in Disabilities is a program designed to prepare master’s level students for a career in the disabilities field. The certificate program, now housed in the School of Social Work, is designed to help students:

- Learn to be better advocates for persons with disabilities,
- Expand their career options,
- Prepare them for leadership positions in the field,
- Receive assistance in finding a job in the disabilities field, and
- Get a certificate quickly by taking 10 core credits (three courses) and five elective credits, which can be integrated into their degree program.

The program enrolled its first group of students during the Winter 2006 semester and another class of master’s candidates in the Fall of that year. The first of the three core courses was offered. Cilene Susan Adam Rita of DDI instructed the course – SW 6700 Disabilities in an Urban Society. Several DDI staff members assisted as guest instructors throughout each semester.

If you would like more information regarding the Graduate Certificate in Disabilities program, or if you would like to apply, please visit the certificate website www.ddi.wayne.edu/certificate.php or e-mail Cilene Susan Adam Rita at av2438@wayne.edu.
New and Improved DDI Website Launched

The Developmental Disabilities Institute closed out 2006 with the launching of its newly redesigned website. DDI staff worked with the WSU’s Office of Marketing and Communications to revamp and update the site. In addition to a new look and navigation, the DDI website has many added features and tools that will allow users who are interested in finding out about the Institute’s services, programs and research to more easily access the desired information. Some of the new features include:

- Improved navigation and page listings,
- Interactive training and events calendar,
- Online training and project referral forms,
- Easy to use publications and materials order form, and
- Fresh look.

Please visit the new DDI website at www.ddi.wayne.edu and if you have any questions or comments, please contact DDI staff at mikebray@wayne.edu.

DDI Students Trained in 2006

The 527 DDI students were from a wide-variety of disciplines:

- Audiology
- Disability Studies
- Early Intervention/Early Childhood
- General Education
- Special Education
- Interdisciplinary Studies
- Medicine
- Occupational Therapy
- Pediatrics
- Psychiatry
- Psychology
- Public Health Administration
- Social Work
- and others
Empowerment Education Training Takes on New Format

In 2006, the Empowerment Education: Consumer-Driven Training for Michigan Direct Support Professionals project continued to provide direct support professionals throughout the state of Michigan with free training on topics ranging from self-determination to stress management. More than 1,760 direct support professionals and persons with disabilities were trained during 82 events in 2006. The project also saw the addition of two new training modules that will be formally added to the list of topics for 2007. The modules, entitled Living a Self-Determined Life and So You Think You Want to be a Direct Support Professional?, will expand the number of available training topics to twelve.

Also new in 2006, five training modules of the Empowerment Education project were transferred to CDROM format. The new medium will allow the training modules — which were previously intended for groups of no less than 10 direct support professionals — to be used by individuals who wish to complete the modules on their own time. This increased versatility will also enable a wider distribution of the Empowerment Education training modules. Direct support professionals who may not live in areas where trainings are generally conducted will now have access to the array of training topics offered by the project.

The first training modules to be converted to the CDROM format include the following:

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
- So You Think You Want to be a Direct Support Professional?

The CDs will be officially rolled out to the public in early 2007. The remaining seven training modules are scheduled to be converted to CDROM format in the near future. Information regarding purchasing the CDs can be found on the DDI website at: www.ddi.wayne.edu/publications.php.

The training module found on CD #3 is a new addition to the Empowerment Education training curriculum. If you have any questions regarding the Empowerment Education training curriculum, please contact Elizabeth Janks at DDI by e-mail at e.janks@wayne.edu.
Healthy Relationships Training Reaches Women Around the State

Staff members of the Developmental Disabilities Institute took part in a training project aimed at educating women with disabilities about the warning signs and dangers of abusive relationships. Research has shown that young women with disabilities, particularly those who are deaf or hard of hearing, are at increased risk of being victims of relationship violence or abuse. In response to these findings, DDI, along with other local and state disability organizations, developed a training curriculum aimed at educating women with disabilities before they become victims of such abuse.

Angela Martin and Susan Adam Rita of DDI facilitated the one-day training opportunities which were held throughout the state. Supported by a grant from the Blue Cross/Blue Shield Foundation of Michigan, this project utilized curriculum developed by DDI staff. This curriculum, entitled End the Silence, was designed to enhance a woman’s knowledge about the warning signs and characteristics of unhealthy, abusive relationships. Training participants had the opportunity to ask questions of the trainers as well as offer their own feedback based on their past experiences and future expectations.

Thus far, training has been done in Flint, Shiawassee County, Detroit, Macomb County, Grand Rapids, Livingston County, Kalamazoo, Lawrence (Van Buren County), Midland, Lansing, Washtenaw County, Muskegon, and Jackson.

If you would like more information regarding the Healthy Relationships Training, please contact Angela Martin at (313) 577-9470 or angela.m.martin@wayne.edu.

(Left to right) Cynthia Mayhew, Executive Director of The Arc of Shiawassee; Susan Adam Rita, Healthy Relationships Project Trainer; Jody Smith, Executive Director of Relief After Violent Encounter, Inc.; Angela Martin, Healthy Relationships Project Coordinator and Trainer; and Hope Hause, Domestic Violence Counselor and Advocate for Relief After Violent Encounter, Inc.
DDI Programs and Projects

Projects, Research and Training

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

The Did You Know? project will inform families and support coordinators about the Department of Community Health’s policies and initiatives, promising practices, and strategies for achieving desired services, supports, and outcomes.

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

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. The project’s one-stop center connects families with the services and supports that they need and desire.

Community Living Services Consumer Satisfaction Survey measures and validates consumers’ levels of satisfaction with community service providers.

In collaboration with the Macomb Oakland Regional Center (MORC), the Independent Facilitation Training Project trains individuals on how to become independent facilitators in the person-centered planning process.

Families Advocating for Self-Determination Through Communication and Technology Supports (F.A.S.T.C.A.T.S.) provides families with information to support self-determination in their children with disabilities. Online, the project provides resources such as a chat room, message board, and archived video teleconferences on topics such as alternatives to guardianship and self-determination.

The Distance Learning for Students with Disabilities project is a collaboration between DDI and WSU’s Department of Interdisciplinary Studies. The aim of the project is to increase accessibility and enrollment of students with disabilities in an online Bachelor’s degree program in Interdisciplinary Studies.

Michigan Partners for Freedom is a grassroots movement of people with disabilities, family members, advocates, and organizations working in the field to make self-determination more widely available to those who can benefit from it.

The Michigan Medicaid Long Term Care Governor’s Task Force addresses current and future issues related to long term care and Medicaid in the state of Michigan.

In association with the Community Housing Network, the Housing Needs Assessment project looks at the housing needs of Oakland county’s citizens with disabilities.

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.

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan (BCBSM): Ending the Silence in Michigan is a project supported by BCBSM in which adolescent women with disabilities are trained to identify and avoid situations that may involve or have tendencies toward domestic violence.
WSU/VAC Phase II: Youth with Disabilities is an after-school sports and recreation program for youth with disabilities coordinated by the Wayne State Department of Kinesiology and supported by a grant from the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan. DDI is coordinating the evaluation process for this multifaceted program.

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.

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

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.

Inclusion and Natural Supports Training for persons with disabilities.

The Empowerment Education: Consumer-Driven Training for Michigan’s Direct Support Professionals project, funded by the Administration on Developmental Disabilities, trains direct support professionals on best practice strategies across the life span. Approximately 1,762 direct support professionals and consumers received training at 82 events statewide during 2006. Training topics included:

- 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
• Evaluation of Direct Care Training in Southwest Michigan Works.

DDI staff members are involved with evaluating the effectiveness of the Michigan Regional Skills Alliance.

The Parent Coalition evaluates a comprehensive training model for parents of children with disabilities around the state.

The Festival of International Conferences on Care-giving, Disability, Aging and Technology is a conference set to take place June 16-19, 2007, in Toronto, Canada. DDI is involved in the planning and implementation of this multifaceted event. The goal of the conference is to share knowledge, create and enhance recognition and collaboration in policy formation and practice to better the lives of older people, persons with disabilities and their caregivers.

The Sixth Annual Michigan Alliance of Direct Support Professionals Forum took place June 2, 2006, and was well-received by Michigan DSPs and consumers. The day was aimed at presenting topics and training related to improving the conditions and the field of direct care as a whole in the state of Michigan.

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.

Walk in My Shoes was a half-day event put on by DDI staff and local health care providers in which a health-care simulation activity was used to place focus on the experience of low-income families and the barriers they face accessing health services.

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.

Strengthening Relationship for Diversity: Include All of Us is a project that brings together a coalition of organizations that work for people with developmental disabilities and people from culturally distinct populations to provide a way for people from minority groups who have developmental disabilities and their allies to impact public policy and get involved in DD Council activities.
Distance Learning Pilot Study Approved

DDI staff, collaborating with members of the WSU Department of Interdisciplinary Studies (IS), were approved by IS faculty to conduct a pilot study examining the accessibility of online courses for students with disabilities. The Department of IS offers an online Bachelor’s degree program in Interdisciplinary Studies. The pilot study was approved to recruit and enroll up to 15 students with disabilities who will help DDI and IS staff in addressing both existing and future issues related to student accessibility in successfully obtaining a Bachelor’s degree through online course completion. The ultimate goal of the study is to increase the overall postsecondary enrollment of students with disabilities by exploring the value of online coursework. It has been found that offering courses online minimizes some barriers to postsecondary education for students with disabilities. These barriers include issues related to transportation to and from campus, barriers having to do with building inaccessibility, time sensitive issues and social stigmas related to different disabilities.

Another aim of the pilot study is to identify best practices when it comes to equipment and software usage applied to online coursework. There are several different adaptive devices and software choices on the market that allow students with disabilities to more effectively use a computer to complete work, surf the internet, etc. But, which equipment is best suited for different applications is often debated by both the student users and those that create the materials. Through the course of the pilot study, it is hoped that a better understanding of the various adaptive devices and software will be reached.

If you have any questions regarding this study or issues related to post-secondary education, please contact Michael Bray at mikebray@wayne.edu.

[Image: Poster presentation]
Evaluation of Recreation Project Shows Positive Impact on Kids

In 2006, DDI continued to work with the Wayne State University Volunteers, Administrators and Coaches (VAC) program to facilitate an after-school recreation program geared toward children and teenagers who have disabilities. The recreation program is aimed at increasing exercise and knowledge regarding proper nutrition among students with disabilities. The involvement of children with disabilities in structured programs promoting physical activity has been shown to be at a significantly low level nationally. The goal of the program is to introduce kids to different types of activities and promote the value of staying physically active during and after leaving the recreation program.

Faculty and staff of the VAC program, volunteers and coaches from the Detroit Day School for the Deaf and local Judo instructors facilitated the program at the Detroit Day School for the Deaf. Activities were held after school one day a week. Students participated in judo, double-dutch jump rope, and basketball skills training. Multiple sessions were held throughout 2006 coinciding with the school’s semester schedule. DDI staff members were involved with the evaluation of the project and also assisted as volunteers, helping out with different activities.

Early findings indicate that student participants were satisfied with the activities and instruction that they were involved with and most were confident that they would continue to be involved with the activities following their exit from the program. There is currently an effort underway to secure funding to sustain the program as well as expand it to other Detroit schools and add additional activities such as soccer and goal ball.

If you would like to know more about the WSU/VAC After School Recreation Program, please contact Ron Simpkins at VAC at ae1590@wayne.edu.
State, National and International Presentations 2006

M. Bray (May, 2006). Is Distance the Key? Making Postsecondary Education Accessible for Students with Disabilities. Poster presentation, International Summit on the Alliance for Social Inclusion, Montreal, Quebec, Canada.


J. Cerano (Sept, 2006). Self-Advocacy Training. Two trainings done in conjunction with the Upper Peninsula Action Days event. Marquette, MI.


E. Janks (Feb, 2006). Reaching Out to Detroit’s Underserved Families. Michigan Human Services Bureau case coordinator’s training. Detroit, MI.


State, National and International Presentations 2006


A. Martin (Aug, 2006). Sharing Our Stories: A Journey of Strength and Determination (Co-Presenter). Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority Self-Determination Conference. Troy, MI.


A. Martin (June, 2006). Needs Assessment of Housing in Oakland County for Citizens with Disabilities. Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority Care giving Conference. Troy, MI.


DDI Training Reaches Diverse Audience in 2006
In 2006, DDI training reached over 44,000 people with the following backgrounds:

- 23,000 Professionals
- 1,700 Paraprofessionals
- 3,500 Families
- 2,700 Persons with Disabilities
- 150 Legislators
- 13,000 Michigan Citizens at Large
AAMR Sees Changes at State and National Levels

The American Association on Mental Retardation (AAMR) underwent some significant changes in 2006.

At the national level, AAMR members voted to change the name of the organization in an effort to move away from the use of the term Mental Retardation (MR). The newly named American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) better reflects the organization’s mission in the field and commitment to persons with disabilities across the United States. The name change officially takes effect in 2007. Please reference the AAIDD website for further information regarding the association (www.aaidd.org).

At the state level, the Michigan chapter of the AAIDD elected a new chairperson in April of 2006. DDI’s own Angela Martin was chosen as the new chair of the Michigan AAIDD and will serve in that capacity until March of 2007. Barbara LeRoy, DDI Director, also serves on the board. If you would like any information regarding the Michigan AAIDD, please contact Angela at aa7939@wayne.edu.

Toronto Festival of International Conferences Fast Approaching

The Developmental Disabilities Institute (DDI) is participating in a major international gathering scheduled for the summer of 2007. The Festival of International Conferences on Caregiving, Disability, Aging, and Technology (FICCDAT) is holding five important concurrent conferences — in addition to many joint events — in Toronto from June 16 - 19, 2007. DDI is an active partner and member of the planning committee for the Growing Older with a Disability Conference at FICCDAT.

This conference will examine how persons with pre-existing disabilities cope with increased impairment as they age. Health and rehabilitation professionals note significantly increased demands on resources, which creates caregiver issues and requires new solutions to maintain independence, community living and access to services.

Growing Older with a Disability will explore aging populations with disabilities. Consumers will be encouraged to speak about their experiences and practitioners will be invited to present data and best practices. The conference seeks new models of service as well as new policies and solutions from the field. It will focus, not on a population with problems, but on a creative spirit of cooperation, societal support and consumer-directed empowerment.

Other conferences scheduled for FICCDAT include: The Second International Conference on Technology and Aging, the Advances in Neuro-Rehabilitation conference, a conference entitled Caregivers: Essential Partners in Care, and the 30th Canadian Medical and Biological Engineering Conference: Improving Medical Device Usability.

For more information regarding any of these conferences, contact FICCDAT by phone at: (416) 425-3463; by mail at 10 Overlea Blvd., Toronto, ON M4H 1A4, Canada; or on the website at www.ficcdat.ca.
Publications and Resources Developed by DDI Staff in 2006


Sixth Annual MADSP Forum Finds New Home in 2006

For the sixth year in a row, the Michigan Alliance of Direct Support Professionals (MADSP) held its annual Direct Support Professional Forum. The forum was once again successful in bringing together Direct Support Professionals (DSP) from around the state of Michigan for a day of discussion, learning, networking, and appreciation. Several DSPs were recognized for their dedication and tireless contributions to the field of Direct Care and all in attendance enjoyed a catered lunch and many chances to network with colleagues. As in past years, several small businesses owned by persons with disabilities were present to showcase their goods and services and to provide forum attendees with many shopping opportunities.

The MADSP Forum was again fortunate to have many talented and knowledgeable speakers provide workshops and keynote addresses. Speakers included State Representative Rick Shaffer, Hollis Turnham of the Paraprofessional Healthcare Institute, Michael Vincent of MORC, Inc., Elizabeth Janks and Angela Martin of DDI, and Kathy McGeathy of the Disability Network. Presentation topics included information on self-determination and person centered planning, creating a positive atmosphere in the workplace, the responsibilities of becoming a direct care supervisor, and the establishment of a single-point-of-entry for services in Michigan.

One noticeable difference seen at the 2006 forum was the choice of a new location and facility. Macomb Community College in Clinton Twp., MI hosted the forum in their beautiful University Center facility. The new venue was very well received by Forum participants and will no doubt see future MADSP events.

The 2007 MADSP Forum is tentatively scheduled for Friday June 1, 2007 and will once again be held at the Macomb Community College University Center. Alliance members are currently in the process of planning the forum and invite anyone interested in helping shape the seventh annual event to join them at meetings scheduled for early 2007. All ideas and feedback are welcome. You can view information regarding the MADSP at: www.ddi.wayne.edu/michigan_alliance.php.

If you have any questions regarding the Alliance or the MADSP Forum, please contact Michael Bray at DDI at mikebray@wayne.edu.
Michigan Partners for Freedom Holds Second Annual Retreat

The Michigan Partners for Freedom is a grassroots movement of people with disabilities, family members, advocates and organizations working in the field of disabilities to make self-determination a reality for all Michigan citizens. Throughout 2006, Michigan Partners for Freedom members held trainings around the state of Michigan. The trainings offered participants information regarding the Partners for Freedom as well as self-determination and its place in the state of Michigan. DDI staff member Angela Martin helped in the facilitation of several of these training opportunities.

In September, the Partners for Freedom held their second annual retreat in Saugatuck, MI. The retreat was a chance for individuals to discuss issues concerning self-determination in the state and how to address these issues at the community level. The executive director of the Midland Arc, Jan Lampman, was the retreat facilitator.

The retreat concluded with a review of the group’s goals and progress made thus far on the Michigan Partners for Freedom five year plan. If you would like more information regarding the Partners for Freedom, please visit their website at www.mifreedom.org or contact Tammy Finn, Project Coordinator for Michigan Partners for Freedom, at The Arc Michigan, at (800) 292-7851, ext. 106.

New Staff Members Join the Developmental Disabilities Institute

DDI was very pleased to welcome two new staff members in 2006. Preethy Samuel, PhD and Karen Hobden, PhD joined the staff of DDI and brought with them extensive and diverse research expertise and experience.

Dr. Samuel earned a PhD in Sociology from Wayne State University in 2006. Her research has focused primarily on Family Sociology and more specifically on the family practices of the Guyanese in South America. She also has expertise in evaluation and quantitative methodology. Dr. Samuel currently serves as the project evaluator for DDI’s Detroit Family Support 360° Project. She will be examining family quality of life and cultural diversity for the Project and will also be working on project sustainability.

Dr. Hobden received her PhD in Social Psychology from the University of Toronto in 1997. She has extensive experience in research and program coordination, having recently served as a project coordinator on a five-year study of mental health outcomes in homeless adolescents and on a 10-year follow-up study of dementia in elderly adults. Currently, Dr. Hobden serves as the project coordinator for the Institute’s study on dual diagnosis and as the Core Program Coordinator and Evaluator. She also assists the Institute in the evaluation of various training programs.

You may contact Dr. Samuel by e-mail at preethy@wayne.edu or Dr. Hobden at khobden@wayne.edu.
“Walk in My Shoes” Event Attracts Policy Makers, Local Providers

In May of 2006, DDI staff took part in a unique event aimed at shedding light on the barriers and difficulties that low-income families face when attempting to access the health care system. The Walk in My Shoes health care simulation was held at the Sacred Heart Seminary in Detroit, MI. Several state and local policy makers, parents, and staff from various provider agencies attended the half-day long simulation. Judy Cerano of DDI helped to facilitate the event along with Deborah Katz and Ms. Watson of the Boston-based non-profit association, Community Catalysts.

Walk in My Shoes was an in-depth participatory learning experience that focused on the experiences of low-income families as they take on the often daunting task of accessing health care services. Participants were assigned a role that specified their ethnicity, language, health problems, immigration status, employment and health insurance status. The mission of the family members was to obtain health care that was needed by their family. The families went to mock stations set up and designated as various services needed by families. The stations consisted of a Medicaid office, health plan, local health clinic, private physician’s office, pharmacy, dentist’s office and an emergency room. At these stations, the family encountered realistic policies and practices and used real state of Michigan applications. The family also had to meet actual eligibility standards currently in use.

The event was very well-received by all who attended. Discussion following the event focused on how to more aggressively address the barriers faced by low-income families and facilitating more events like Walk in My Shoes around the state of Michigan.

Staff Professional and Community Service

Barbara LeRoy, PhD
Advisor
- Rehabilitation Counseling Program, Michigan State University
- Center and Institute Council — Office of the Vice President for Research, WSU
- Everyone Together, Inclusive Education Project
- Rehabilitation Counseling Program, WSU
- Early On Collaborative, Children’s Hospital of Michigan
- 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
Early On Redesign Team, Michigan Department of Education
VSA Detroit
Michigan Alliance for Families

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
- 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

U.S. Delegate and Vice Chair
- Education Commission, Rehabilitation International
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- American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD), Chair-person, Michigan Chapter
- The Arc Detroit, Secretary

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
- American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD)
- TASH International
- The Howell Group, Representative
- Michigan Olmstead Coalition
- Michigan Partners for Freedom, Representative

Elizabeth Janks, L.M.S.W., A.C.S.W.
President
- Farmington Education Connection

Member
- National Association of Social Workers

- Michigan Direct Care Workforce Initiative Task Force
- Michigan Medicaid Long Term Care Task Force
- TASH
- The Howell Group
- University Centers for Excellence in Disabilities National Consumer Council
- Children’s Hospital of Michigan Early On Advisory Council
- The Arc Michigan
- Wayne County Interagency Consumer Committee
- CHADD (Children and Adults with Attention Deficit Disorder), Wayne County Chapter Board of Directors
- Wayne County Head Start Advisory Council

Michael Bray, MA
Member
- American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD)
- American Psychological Society
- Michigan Alliance of Direct Support Professionals
- National Alliance of Direct Support Professionals
- Mental Health Association of Trainers
- Michigan Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Taskforce

Krim Lacey, MA
Member
- Council for Exceptional Children
- American Sodological Association
- Caribbean Studies Association
- Michigan Association for Evaluation

Judy Cerano, MPA
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- United Cerebral Palsy of Metro Detroit

Member
- Previous Joseph P. Kennedy Foundation Fellow
- Wayne County Regional Interagency Consumer Committee
- The Arc Michigan Public Policy Committee
- Detroit Mayor's Citizens with Disabilities Council
- Michigan Retailer Association

Megan George, MSW
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- Michigan Counseling Association

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- Society for Community Research and Action

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- All India Occupational Therapy Association
- Midwest Sociological Society
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