The Developmental Disabilities Institute

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

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

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

Our mission

... is to contribute to the development of inclusive communities and quality of life of people with disabilities and their families through a culturally sensitive statewide program of interdisciplinary education, community support and services, research and dissemination of information.

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Family Support Activities

Detroit Family Support 360° Project Continues to Expand, Serve Families in Wayne County

Now in its fifth year, the Detroit Family Support 360° Project continues to serve and advocate for families residing in Wayne County who are looking to secure services for their children who have developmental disabilities. Detroit 360° is a project that provides systems navigation, education, and advocacy to underserved families who have difficulty navigating the health and social service systems. To date, the project has provided system navigation to approximately 153 families and has referred another 128 families to project partners to receive desired and needed services.

In addition to navigation activities, the Detroit 360° Project continues to offer monthly Family Support Group meetings that are open to all present and past Detroit 360° participants. These meetings bring families and Project staff together and enable networking between families. The meetings also provide the opportunity for family members to give feedback regarding their experiences with the Project and the chance to attend topical presentations on subjects relevant to identified family issues.

Southwest Detroit Family Support Group Holds Meetings, Picnic

In addition to the monthly Detroit Family Support 360° Project Family Support Groups, there is a new support group for Spanish-speaking families. Organized by Detroit 360° Family Support Navigator, Julia Hernandez, the Southwest Detroit Family Support Groups are geared toward families who are of Spanish or Latino ethnic backgrounds and whose primary language is Spanish. Our Spanish and Latino family participants face a unique set of challenges when attempting to navigate the health and social service system. These meetings give Spanish-speaking families the chance to voice opinions and network with family members facing similar obstacles. In August of 2008, a picnic was organized for Southwest Support Group families at the All Saints Neighborhood Park in Southwest Detroit. The family picnic provided an opportunity for children and parents to relax and enjoy good food and good company. The All Saints Neighborhood Park has a fully accessible play structure where kids of all abilities can play and explore. Plans are already in the works for the 2009 picnic and further details will be announced when available.
Detroit Family Support 360° Project Annual Zoo Day a Big Success

The 1st annual Detroit Family Support 360° Zoo Day was held on August 9, 2008 at the Detroit Zoo. The event drew over 80 current and past Detroit 360° family members and staff and gave families an opportunity to have a day out together and to enjoy the Detroit Zoo and its many attractions. Following a catered breakfast served on the Zoo grounds, families had the chance to roam the Zoo at their own leisure. The 2009 Zoo Day is already in the planning stages and is currently scheduled for August 13, 2009. Please contact the Detroit 360° Project Director Elizabeth Janks e.janks@wayne.edu if you have any questions regarding this event.

Detroit 360° Presentation at Southwest Conference on Disability

In October of 2008, Detroit Family Support 360° Project Director Elizabeth Janks and Project Coordinator Angela Martin conducted a session outlining the efforts of the Detroit 360° Project at the Southwest Conference on Disability in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The presentation, entitled Family Support 360° Systems Navigation: Practical Solutions to the Real Challenges for Families Who Have a Child with a Disability, outlined how the Detroit 360° Project assists families in identifying and prioritizing family needs. The session informed participants about how to develop family goals and objectives that promote positive growth and well-being within their families. Elizabeth and Angela highlighted the importance of the Family Support Navigators in connecting families to inclusive service opportunities in their communities. The conference was attended by over 400 participants, the majority of whom were individuals with disabilities.

DDI’s Dr. Samuel Earns Research Fellowship, Examines Family Quality of Life

The National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) has selected DDI’s Dr. Preethy Samuel as one of a select group of Researchers nationwide to be the recipient of a 2008-2009 Switzer Research Fellowship. The Mary E. Switzer Research Fellowship Program was established to build rehabilitation capacity by providing support to qualified individuals to engage in scientific research relating to problems encountered by individuals with disabilities, or studies to improve the delivery of rehabilitation services to individuals with disabilities. The fellowship program honors the memory of the late Mary E. Switzer, whose extraordinary leadership, drive and dedication were the catalyst for legislation, programs and services that changed attitudes, enhanced employment opportunities, facilitated independence, and improved the quality of life for millions of people with disabilities and their families in the United States and abroad. Dr. Samuel’s research will explore the utility of the Family Quality of Life Survey (FQOLS) in assessing the impact of the Detroit Family Support 360° Project upon the quality of life of families of children with developmental disabilities.

Detroit 360° Project Expansion Activities

The Detroit-Wayne County Community Mental Health Agency (D-WCCMHVA) continues to support the Detroit Family Support 360° Project by providing project funding to not only expand its reach into Wayne County, but also to continue to provide navigation assistance through 2008 and into 2009. With this expansion, the project will continue to offer navigation and family support to families who reside throughout Wayne County. In addition to the project’s geographic growth, Detroit 360° is now able to serve families of children with developmental disabilities up to age 26. This expansion not only benefits the many families living in Wayne County who are in need of assistance with system navigation, but it may help sustain the Detroit 360° Project in the future.

Detroit Family Support 360° Project Navigators Attend Technical Assistance Institute

Family Support Navigators from the Detroit Family Support 360° Project attended the 2008 Technical Assistance Institute sponsored by the Administration on Developmental Disabilities. The theme of the 2008 conference was Services, Support, Sustainability: The Steps to Success and was held in Washington, D.C., July 23-25. The Technical Institute addressed topics such as advocacy, disability law, staffing issues, stress and time management, project sustainability, and working with families. Family Support Navigators and Administrators from around the country came together to discuss issues surrounding the sustainability of their various Family Support projects and how they can continue to offer services to families of people with developmental disabilities.

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)
Empowerment Education

Empowerment Education Project Trains Michigan DSP’s, Welcomes New Trainers

The Empowerment Education: Consumer Driven Training for Michigan Direct Support Professionals project has trained over 15,000 direct support professionals, consumers, and family members since it began in 1998. In 2008, the project offered 93 training events throughout the state of Michigan for approximately 2034 participants. Over 40 different organizations hosted Empowerment Education trainings in 2008 and outreach efforts continue to grow as the project expands. Currently, there are over 25 active trainers living around the state.

The Empowerment Education project welcomed a group of new trainers in May. The 2008 Train-the-Trainer day was held May 12 at the offices of DDI. Twelve participants received instruction on how to deliver Empowerment Education training modules and each new trainer gave their own training demonstration as part of the day. Empowerment Education uses a train-the-trainer model which allows DDI to offer this training throughout the state of Michigan. Trainers live in different areas of the state and conduct training events in their respective regions. Currently, Empowerment Education trainers are located in 11 counties and deliver free training to direct support professionals and persons with disabilities in their hometowns and surrounding areas. A 2009 Train-the-Trainer day is scheduled for May 14 and will once again be held at the offices of DDI at Wayne State University in Detroit.

New Training Module Focuses on Dual Diagnosis

A new training module was added to the list of Empowerment Education training topics in 2008. Written by DDI Research Associate Karen Hobden, Ph.D., An Introduction to Dual Diagnosis will give participants an overview of the topic of dual diagnosis and how being diagnosed with both a mental health concern and an intellectual disability can affect the delivery of services and the care that persons receive. The new Empowerment Education training module will provide information to direct support professionals so that they may be better informed about dual diagnosis and how it impacts the work that they do day-to-day. The new module revolves around five learning objectives:

- Define dual diagnosis.
- Identify 3 facts about mental health.
- State 3 risk factors that make people with intellectual disabilities more vulnerable to mental illness.
- Identify 3 signs of mental illness in individuals with intellectual disabilities.
- Identify 2 things you can do if you support an individual who may have a mental health issue in addition to an intellectual disability.

With the addition of the Dual Diagnosis module, the Empowerment Education project now offers free training on 13 topics of interest to the field of direct support. These topics include:

- Supporting Growth Through Opportunity and Choices
- Ten Successful and Assertive Steps for Working with Professionals*
- Person Centered Planning: Valuing the Contributions of Direct Support Professionals*
- Supporting People in Establishing Friendships and Making Community Connections
- Conflict Resolution
- Teaching Made Easy
- Stress Management: It’s All About Awareness, Attitude, and Action at Work*
- Self-Advocates and Direct Support Professionals Working in Partnership to Achieve Life’s Dreams
- Making the Transition A.S.A.P.: As Smooth As Possible
- Self-Determination: Our Right to Meaningful and Fulfilling Lives*
- Living a Self-Determined Life
- An Introduction to Dual Diagnosis
- Direct Support Professionals: Your Career Opportunity*
- *Modules also available in a CDROM, self-paced format.

DSP Appreciation Forums Held in Livingston and Lenawee Counties

The Michigan Alliance of Direct Support Professionals (MADSP) sponsored two regional direct support professional (DSP) appreciation and training forums in 2008. The first was held April 9 in Howell, Michigan and was organized by the Community Mental Health (CMH) Services of Livingston County. The second forum was held in Adrian, Michigan on September 10 and was hosted by the Lenawee CMH Authority, the Brenda Ross Fund, and other local disability service providers. DDI and the MADSP offered both financial sponsorship and technical assistance to the forums. During each event, DSPs were honored for their outstanding contributions and dedication to the field of direct care and to the persons whom they serve. In the past, the MADSP has hosted annual forums located in the Flint and Detroit Metro areas. The current direction of the Alliance is to lend assistance to local groups and service providers to honor their own hard working staff members so that the forum model can be replicated throughout the state. In this manner, the MADSP hopes to reach more individuals who deserve to be recognized for their efforts.
Center on Aging with Developmental Disabilities in the Department of Disability and Human Development at the University of Illinois at Chicago. The day of training focused upon the planning and implementation of exercise and nutrition programming for adults with disabilities and their staff. The model takes into account the different circumstances and living arrangements that persons with disabilities often encounter and adapts the exercise program to fit their needs. Ron and Michael are currently looking to bring the program to Michigan in order to address the growing need for exercise and nutrition training for adults with disabilities in our state.

Dual Diagnosis Project Wraps Up, Yields Publications & Presentations in 2008

The Developmental Disabilities Institute wrapped up its Dual Diagnosis Project in 2008. Working with the Macomb-Oakland Regional Center and funded by the Ethel and James Flinn Foundation, DDI’s Dual Diagnosis Project evaluated the effectiveness of a specialized diagnostic instrument for identifying dual diagnosis of developmental disabilities amongst individuals receiving mental health services. As a result of the project, a manual entitled Assessing Mental Health Concerns in Adults with Intellectual Disabilities: A Guide to Existing Measures was produced which gives an overview of the measures used to assess mental health concerns in adults with intellectual disabilities. In addition to the manual, project staff gave presentations on findings of the project. Listed below are the presentations given and some of the key findings from the Dual Diagnosis study.

Dual Diagnosis Presentations:

- Hobden, K. L. & LeRoy, B. W. November, 2008. A poster presentation entitled Dual Diagnosis and Polypharmacy was presented at the Annual Conference of the National Association for the Dually Diagnosed held in Niagara Falls, Ontario.

Key Findings of the Study:

- The Mini PAS-ADD assessment tool was found to be cost effective and easily administered, recommended for use as a general screening tool at intake and referral, and most effective in identifying dual diagnosis in individuals who are not currently taking psychotropic medications.
- Twenty-nine percent of individuals with intellectual disabilities who participated in the study were found to have a co-occurring mental health concern.
- Nearly 20% of study participants had multiple mental health concerns.
- Approximately 59% of participants were reported to be taking psychotropic medications.

**Individuals with Down Syndrome were eight times more likely to have dementia than individuals without Down Syndrome.**

**Characteristics of Oral Health Examined by Smiles Across Michigan Project**

Smiles Across Michigan is a statewide initiative headed up by Community Living Services, Inc. of Wayne County and supported by the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council. The project involves the assessment and eventual improvement of the oral health and hygiene practices of individuals with developmental disabilities. A statewide needs assessment is being used to help identify barriers to dental care that may exist and how these obstacles can be minimized or eliminated all together. The ultimate goal of the project is to provide data and support for policy initiatives on oral health in Michigan. DDI’s Dr. Karen Hobden currently provides research support to the project. Preliminary project findings show that some progress has been made to improve the oral health of persons with developmental disabilities in Michigan but that there is still much work left to be done. Changes in policy and practice in the future will increase the frequency and quality of oral healthcare for persons with developmental disabilities which will positively impact the overall health of this group.
DDI Provides Training on Healthy Relationships in 2008

DDI’s Healthy Relationships Training provides information to women with developmental disabilities on how to maintain healthy, positive relationships. These training opportunities help women to identify abusive behaviors within their relationships and show them how to avoid abusive situations in the future. Three Healthy Relationships training sessions were conducted in 2008 for 52 participants. Trainings were held in Monroe, Washtenaw, and Kent counties and more training dates are scheduled for 2009. Please visit the DDI website (www.ddi.wayne.edu) for information regarding future Healthy Relationships training.

CDC Funded Project Addresses Health Issues for Adults with Disabilities

The Michigan Department of Community Health (DCH) has received a Center for Disease Control (CDC) grant to address health issues for adults with disabilities. DDI Director Dr. Barbara LeRoy and Roanne Chaney of the Michigan Disability Rights Coalition (MDRC) serve as co-chairs for the program’s Advisory Council. The primary aim of the group is to create and implement a state strategic plan with the goal of preventing secondary conditions while promoting the health of people with disabilities. The program has four main goals:

- Improve the access of people with disabilities to health screenings and healthcare services.
- Promote management by people with disabilities of their own health and behavioral risks.
- Improve the effective response of health professionals to people with disabilities about their health needs.
- Integrate the needs of persons with disabilities into existing health promotion activities.

Related to the goal of creating a surveillance system, the program has produced its first datasheet on health outcomes for persons with disabilities in Michigan. This publication used data from the Michigan BRFSS survey. To obtain copies of the document, please contact Peter DeQuire at the Michigan DCH at (517) 335-8445.

Self-Determination and Advocacy

National Service Inclusion Project Wraps Up in 2008

In 2007, DDI Research Assistant Michael Bray received a Fellowship from the National Service inclusion Project (NSIP). The year-long Fellowship explored national and community service opportunities for individuals with disabilities in the Detroit area. Working in partnership with Andre Robinson of Michigan’s Developmental Disabilities Council, Michael and Andre addressed any barriers to Andre’s participation in Michigan’s Americorps Partnership and devised strategies to minimize or eliminate those obstacles. Andre performed his year of service with Southeastern Village of Detroit, a nonprofit neighborhood service organization. The primary project that Andre participated on through Southeastern Village was the Safe Routes to School project which is a nationwide effort to make children’s routes to school safer and free of obstacles. The project also encourages physical fitness and healthy lifestyles. DDI’s NSIP project wrapped up in October of 2008. Michael and Andre are currently working on a case study report of their experiences with the Fellowship were positive. Some findings and observations from the NSIP project included:

- Andre’s experiences with Americorps, Michigan’s Americorps Partnership, and Southeastern Village were positive and provided him the opportunity to contribute to his community, network with other Americorps members, and make new friends through his service opportunities.
- Andre’s service participation allowed him to meet other Americorps members and both ask and answer questions regarding his disabilities, service experiences, and plans for the future.
- Consistent, accessible transportation was the one primary, reoccurring obstacle.
- Strategies developed to address transportation issues included scheduling transportation services farther in advance to ensure availability, contacting new transportation companies in the region in order to create a network of options for Andre to call upon when transportation was needed for service obligations and events, and working with Americorps to make accessible transportation options more readily available for Andre and other Americorps members with disabilities.
- Greater outreach to individuals with disabilities by national and community service organizations has already begun in Michigan. In addition, Andre appeared in a new Americorps promotional video which can be viewed on the State of Michigan website at the following address: http://www.michigan.gov/mcss/0,1607,7-137-8074_52979---,00.html.

Mt. Pleasant Project Eases Transition, Ensures Quality Support

Beginning in 2008, the Mount Pleasant Monitoring Project was put into place to monitor the quality of life of and supports provided to individuals who formerly lived in the Mount Pleasant Center (MPC) but who are now residing in the community. The project has 3 monitors: Angela Martin and Judy Cerano, both from DDI, and Rebecca Freier, a consultant. The monitoring
process consists of at least 2 visits with each individual. The first visit is conducted ideally within one month of discharge and the second visit occurs 6 months following the initial visit. Additional, intermediary visits are also being conducted to follow-up on items discovered at the initial monitoring visit or if changes in progress that the individual may have experienced since the first visit are reported. During a monitoring visit, the individual and his or her key stakeholders are interviewed. Stakeholders can include family members or guardians, supports coordinators, case managers, and direct support staff. The project monitors also review documentation to assess the quality of the services and supports since moving from MPC to the community. Based on the early findings of the MPC Monitoring Project, the monitors are finding that transitions to the community have been very positive. The Project will continue on into 2009 and should provide an impression of peoples’ experiences of moving into the community and how quality of life and the appropriate services and supports are affected.

Did You Know? Project Brings Providers and Families Together in 2008

The Did You Know? Families and Support Coordinators Meetings project has worked to bring families and professionals together to express concerns and unite in making access to disability and health services as accessible as possible. Did You Know? began in January of 2007 with a grant from the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council, and concluded at the end of June, 2008. Over 500 people attended 9 events throughout the course of the project. Between January and July of 2008, three Did You Know? events were held in Ann Arbor and Grand rapids, Michigan and welcomed 188 participants. Persons with disabilities, family members, and disability service professionals learned together about topics such as person centered planning, family centered planning, independent facilitation, self-determination, Community Mental Health (CMH) customer service policies, the Department of Human Services, the Medicaid Fair Hearing Process, recipient rights, and advocacy activities at the local, state, and federal levels. Following the events, families and persons with disabilities reported that they were better educated about the CMH system, they felt better prepared to advocate for their children and themselves, and they made connections with other families and resources in their community as a result of their participation. From the service providers’ point of view, discussions with family members helped bring to light several of the barriers that families face when trying to access needed services and supports.

Independent Facilitation Training Informs Professionals, Provides Options

In May of 2008, Institute staff provided training on independent facilitation for members of Peer Choices of Oakland County. The 2-day event trained participants on topics regarding the use of independent facilitation in creating person centered plans and in facilitating planning meetings. Independent facilitation is a method of service planning in which an independent agent, who is not directly affiliated with a mental health agency, plans and conducts person centered planning meetings. The benefits of this model include having a person who knows the service system and who has strong community connections act as an unbiased coordinator for an individual’s person centered plan. This system puts more choice in the hands of the individual with disabilities and ultimately encourages greater self-determination. Training participants were given the opportunity to learn about independent facilitation in order to be confident in acting as independent facilitators themselves if called upon to perform those duties.

International Collaboration and Presentations

DDI Director Delivers Plenary Talk, Earns Re-Election to International Commission Chair

Rehabilitation International (RI) is one of the lead organizations in promoting the United Nations (UN) Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. In April 2008, RI held its Executive Committee meeting in Quito, Ecuador. In conjunction with that meeting the government of Ecuador convened a seminar on the UN Convention. As the Vice Chair of the RI Education Commission, DDI Director Dr. Barbara LeRoy delivered a plenary session on Article 24 of the Convention which addresses education issues. The audience was very interested in the philosophy of inclusion and strategies to implement it in their respective countries. DDI has provided follow up materials and training packages.

At the RI World Congress held in Quebec, Canada in August of 2008, Dr. LeRoy was re-elected as Vice Chair of RI’s Education Commission. Dr. Uma Tulli, founder of the Amar Jyoti Charitable Trust, was elected as the Chair of the Commission. The Education Commission, comprised of members from 42 nations, focuses primarily on promoting the right and opportunity to participate in quality education for children and youth with disabilities around the world. To accomplish this goal, the Education Commission works in partnership with various international agencies to address issues regarding education. The RI Education Commission works with such agencies as UNESCO, UNICEF, the World Health Organization, and OECD.

Collaborative Study Examines Student Academic Proficiency

Every three years, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) conducts PISA: Program for International Student Assessment. This effort assesses the academic competencies of a large sample of 15 year olds across the world. In 2006, more than 3,000 students with disabilities participated in the assessment. DDI, in collaboration with Dr. Peter Bahr from the Department of Sociology at Wayne State University, conducted a study on the PISA participation and performance of students with disabilities with regard to learning behaviors, attitudes, and academic proficiency in math, science, and reading. In addition, PISA 2006 examined students’ use of, and skills in, communication and information technology. Results of the study have been presented in Estonia and Croatia. The report will be published by the European Commission in collaboration with the OECD.

Visiting Russian Scholars Explore Postsecondary Opportunities, Empowerment Education

The Developmental Disabilities Institute welcomed Mr. Roman Zhhvoronkov and Ms. Victoria Arzindba of Moscow State University during a visit in May of 2008. Roman and Victoria study in the departments of psychology and education, respectively, at Moscow State and were interested in learning about educational opportunities and training for persons with disabilities. They spent their time at DDI with Michael Bray and Elizabeth Janks who presented training modules of the Empowerment Education project and discussed other educational opportunities. Following the training, Ms Janks and Mr. Bray presented Roam and Victoria with copies of the Empowerment Education training curriculum which they planned on translating into Russian and implementing for persons with disabilities in Russia. During their time in Michigan, Roman and Victoria also had the opportunity to meet with Ms. Diane FeRete of Oakland Schools to discuss postsecondary educational opportunities for students with intellectual disabilities and how programs might be started in Moscow to address similar issues.
DDI Director Provides Keynote Address at ACCESS Abu Dhabi 2008

ACCESS Abu Dhabi 2008, the Third International Conference on Special Needs, was held from March 11 to 13, 2008 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE). This annual conference provides a forum in which to present research results and shared experiences in all areas related to the educational and social inclusion of people with special needs in different parts of the world. DDI Director Dr. Barbara LeRoy provided an invited keynote address at the event. Dr. LeRoy’s presentation touched on topics regarding research and findings of the effectiveness and impact of inclusive educational practices.

DDI Welcomes Dr. Eman Gaad

In September of 2008, the Institute sponsored Dr. Eman Gaad, an internationally recognized leader in the field of developmental disabilities, to provide information on the disability inclusion movement happening throughout the world. Dr. Gaad provided guests and staff with a perspective of family support as it is evolving in the United Arab Emirates. She has devoted much of her work to the area of special needs and has published research articles in international journals, such as the British Journal of Special Education, and the Journal of Inclusive Studies. Dr Gaad is a national representative of the World Forum on Early Care and Education and is a senior lecturer at British University in Dubai’s Institute of Education. She is the Executive Director of the United Arab Emirates Down Syndrome Association which is a highly successful family support group for over 400 families. She is very passionate about disability rights and the family partnerships that have formed as a result of her work. Her presentation at DDI provided insight into how a region marked by cultural conflict and misunderstanding can overcome political differences to encourage and participate in family support activities. In addition to her lecture at Wayne State University, Dr. Gaad visited Dearborn, Michigan’s ACCESS agency, which supports Arab-American families who have children with disabilities.

DDI Students trained in 2008

277 students from the disciplines of:
- Disability Studies
- Education
- Interdisciplinary Studies
- Medicine
- Occupational Therapy
- Public Health Administration
- Rehabilitation
- Social Work
- and others

Received training related to developmental disabilities from DDI staff.

DDI Training Reaches Diverse Audience in 2008

In 2008, DDI training reached 14,830 people with the following backgrounds:
- 7,781 Professionals & Paraprofessionals
- 2,836 Families
- 1,848 Persons with Disabilities
- 406 Legislators
- 277 Students
- 1,682 Michigan Citizens at Large
DDI Programs and Projects

Projects, Research and Training

The Dual Diagnosis Study, sponsored by the Ethel and James Flinn Foundation, is aimed at evaluating and developing an assessment method for identifying dual diagnosis in adults with intellectual disabilities.

Using a family-centered, empowerment model to preserve, strengthen and maintain the family, the Detroit Family Support 360° Project assists underserved families who have a member with a disability by providing person centered systems navigation and support.

The Detroit Family Support 360° Expansion Project is aimed at assisting underserved families with children with disabilities throughout Wayne Count, Michigan and is supported by the Detroit-Wayne County Community Mental Health Agency.

Independent Facilitators Training is a 2-day training event offered in collaboration with the Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority’s Peer Choices of Oakland County. The training prepares Peer Choices members to serve as independent facilitators in the person centered planning process.

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

The Family Quality of Life Survey (FQOL) study examines the quality of life of families using a recently developed international assessment tool. Families who have participated in the Detroit 360° Project, as well as other Michigan families raising children with disabilities are being asked to complete the survey, to develop a reliable outcome measure for Family Support Projects like Detroit 360° Project.

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

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

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

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

- Supporting Growth Through Opportunity and Choices
- Ten Successful and Assertive Steps for Working with Professionals
- Person-Centered Planning: Valuing the Contributions of Direct Support Professionals
- Supporting People in Establishing Friendships and Making Community Connections
- Conflict Resolution
- Teaching Made easy
- Stress Management: It’s All About Awareness, Attitude, and Action at Work
- Self-Advocates and Direct Support Professionals Working in Partnership to Achieve Life’s Dreams
- Making the Transition A.S.A.P. – As Smooth As Possible

Self-Determination: Our Right to Meaningful and Fulfilling Lives

Living a Self-Determined Life

Introduction to Dual Diagnosis

Direct Support Professional: Your Career Opportunity

A one-year National Service Inclusion Project (NSIP) Fellowship was awarded to DDI for the 2007-2008 term. The project is aimed at making meaningful national and community service experiences more readily available to persons with disabilities by promoting inclusion and addressing barriers to participation.

The Michigan Alliance of Direct Support Professionals (MADSP) helped to facilitate two direct support professional appreciation events in 2008. Forums were held in Lenawee and Livingston Counties and were organized by local service providers and nonprofit foundations.

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.

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

The Mount Pleasant Center (MPC) Monitoring Project involves monitoring the quality of life of and supports provided to individuals who formerly lived in the Mount Pleasant Center but who are now currently residing in or moving into the community.

PISA: Program for International Student Assessment. This effort assesses the academic competencies of a large sample of 15 year olds across the world. In 2006, more than 3,000 students with disabilities participated in the assessment. DDI, in collaboration with Dr. Peter Bahr from the Department of Sociology at Wayne State University, conducted a study on the PISA participation and performance of students with disabilities with regard to learning behaviors, attitudes, and academic proficiency in math, science, and reading.

DDI is heading up the Michigan Quality Community Care Council (MQCCC) Training Evaluation project. The Institute is assessing the effectiveness of training done by MQCCC with the direct support work force in Michigan.

The CDC funded Health Promotion for People with Disabilities Project is addressing the health needs of persons with disabilities in Michigan and exploring strategies to prevent secondary conditions. DDI Director Dr. Barbara LeRoy co-chairs the project advisory council.

The State Inclusion Team works on strategies to encourage the participation of persons with disabilities in programs of national and community service such as Americorps and City Year.

Healthy Relationships Training is a statewide project that provides information and training for women with disabilities that shows them how to identify and avoid unhealthy relationships and abusive situations.

DDI is providing a person to provide training on behalf of the National Professional Development Center for Autism Training and Support. DDI Director Dr. Barbara LeRoy also participates on the project advisory committee.
Presentations, Publications and Resources Developed by DDI Staff in 2008


Barbara LeRoy, Ph.D.
Advisor

- Rehabilitation Counseling Program, Michigan State University
- Everyone Together, Inclusive Education Project
- Rehabilitation Counseling Program, WSU
- Educational Accessibility Services, WSU
- Customized Employment Strategic Planning Group, Goodwill Industries, Detroit
- Autism Taskforce, Department of Community Health
- Developmental Disabilities Performance Improvement Team, Department of Community Health
- Volunteers, Administrators, and Coaches Program, WSU College of Education
- VSA Detroit
- Michigan Alliance for Families
- Disabilities Steering Committee, Health Promotion for Persons with Disabilities, Department of Community Health
- American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD), Michigan Chapter
- Association for Community Advocacy (Ann Arbor, MI)
- Arcadia Institute (Kalamazoo, MI)
- United States International Council on Disabilities (Board Secretary)

Governor’s Appointee

- Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council
- ALCD/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
- U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs
- U.S. Department of Education, National Institute on Disability, Rehabilitation and Research
- Education Commission, Rehabilitation International
- American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD), Michigan Chapter

Angela Martin, M.S.W., L.M.S.W.
Board Member

- Association of University Centers on Disabilities Legislative Affairs Committee
- Special Interest Research Group on Aging and Intellectual Disabilities, World Health Organization
- U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs
- U.S. Department of Education, National Institute on Disability, Rehabilitation and Research
- Education Commission, Rehabilitation International
- American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD), Michigan Chapter
Member
- Wayne County Interagency Coordinating Committee, Representative
- Association of University Centers on Disabilities, Council on Community Advocacy
- TASH
- The International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual Disabilities
- The International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual Disabilities, Special Interest Research Group on Comparative Policy and Practice
- American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
- Sibling Leadership Network
- The Arc of Oakland County
- National Association of Social Workers
- The Howell Group, Representative
- Michigan Olmstead Coalition
- Michigan Partners for Freedom, Representative

Elizabeth Janks, L.M.S.W., A.C.S.W.

Member
- National Association of Social Workers
- Michigan Direct Care Workforce Initiative Task Force
- The Howell Group
- University Centers for Excellence in Disabilities National Consumer Council
- The Arc Michigan
- National Alliance of Direct Support Professionals
- Wayne County Inter-agency Coordinating Council
- Wayne County Head Start Advisory Council

Michael Bray, M.A.
- Michigan Inclusion Team
- National Service Inclusion Project Fellow
- 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

Judy Cerano, MPA
- United Cerebral Palsy of Metro Detroit
- United Cerebral Palsy of Michigan

Member
- Previous Joseph P. Kennedy Foundation Fellow
- Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council
- Family Support Workgroup
- Public Policy Committee
- United Cerebral Palsy of Detroit Program Services Committee
- Public Policy Committee
- Fund Development and Marketing Committee
- Wayne County Regional Interagency Consumer Committee
- The Arc Michigan Public Policy Committee
- The Howell Group
- Association of University Centers on Disabilities
- Public Policy Committee
- Sustainability Committee
- Detroit Mayor’s Citizens with Disabilities Council
- Michigan Retailer Association

Cilene Susan Adam Rita, M.S.
- American Counseling Association
- Michigan Counseling Association
- Conselho Regional de Psicologia de Santa Catarina - Brazil

Karen Hobden, Ph.D.
- Member
- National Association for the Dually Diagnosed

Preethy Samuel, Ph.D.
- 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)
- Great Start Collaborative – Wayne (GSC-W)
- Family Support Workgroup

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