Sharing The Possibilities

Annual Report 2011 - 2012

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY
The Developmental Disabilities Institute (DDI) focuses on supporting, developing and empowering the abilities of those with disabilities. Our mission is as follows:

Contribute to the development of inclusive communities and quality of life for people with disabilities and their families through a culturally sensitive, statewide program of interdisciplinary education, community support and services, research and dissemination of knowledge and information to and for Michigan’s disability community.

Our work includes assisting community agencies and human service systems as they shift policies and procedures to support persons with disabilities in making choices and controlling their own lives. Innovative strategies, systematic qualitative and quantitative methods are consistently engaged to help us achieve our goals.

Established in 1983 at Wayne State University, DDI was mandated to deliver on this mission by the Federal Administration on Developmental Disabilities (ADD). We are one of 67 University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDDs), nationwide and in U.S. possessions such as Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

As we move forward, we will continue to explore and champion a world of possibilities for this unique community.

Barbara LeRoy, Ph.D., Director
Developmental Disabilities Institute 2012

DDI provides support to more than 20,000 persons with disabilities, every year.
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Michigan Family Support Initiative Empowers and Unites Families Statewide

The Michigan Family Support Initiative (MFSI) is a statewide initiative aimed at reuniting, preserving, strengthening, and maintaining families of individuals with developmental disabilities. In keeping with this mission, the MFSI works to ensure that individuals with developmental disabilities in Michigan receive ample support and opportunities to exercise true choice and self-determination in their home communities. The Initiative is funded by a 5-year grant from the Administration on Developmental Disabilities, Administration for Children and Families under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (Grant #90DN0274).

MFSI Project staff members, led by Project Director, Elizabeth Janks, employ a train-the-trainer model to prepare Community Liaisons who work with individuals currently living in settings where they share a residence with five or more other individuals. The project serves the entire state and has expanded into Kalamazoo and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. As the MFSI’s reach expands, the capacity to serve more and more persons with developmental disabilities will also increase.

The main goal of MFSI is to assist persons with developmental disabilities to be able to exercise choice when it comes to their living situation. Project details can be viewed at http://ddi.wayne.edu/mfsi.php through the DDI website.

Exploring the Possibilities of Living Self-Determined Lives

At the beginning of 2012, DDI officially launched its new series of videos showcasing the lives of four individuals with developmental disabilities. The Possibilities Series highlights the accomplishments of individuals who are living self-determined lives in their communities and how they overcame different barriers to realize their dreams. Each four-to five-minute video gives the individuals and their families and friends the opportunity to share their stories in an effort to inspire others to live fully inclusive lives in their own communities. The videos are free to the public and available on YouTube or on DVD.

The Possibilities Video Series was launched during a gala event at the Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA) on January 13, 2012. The event welcomed more than 400 people who enjoyed a night at the DIA which included a screening of the videos and an opportunity to meet the individuals and families involved in the videos. The group also enjoyed brief talks given by Dr. Barbara LeRoy, DDI Director, and Larry August from Avalon Films in Royal Oak, Michigan, who shot and produced the videos.

To order your own copy, please visit http://ddi.wayne.edu/possibilities.php or email DDI@wayne.edu for details.
Michigan Partners for Freedom Joins in Michigan Peer-to-Peer Project

Michigan Partners for Freedom (MPF), along with the Michigan Department of Community Health, Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Administration, was awarded a prestigious “Innovative Grant” from the National Resource Center for Participant-Directed Services. The project is called the Michigan Peer-to-Peer Supports to Advance Self-Determination and was one of three grants awarded through a countrywide competition. The MPF project was identified as having vast potential to meaningfully impact the development and expansion of each participant’s life direction.

MPF Local leaders in Oakland, Wayne, Genesee, Kalamazoo, and Kent Counties are learning to advance their skills at assisting individuals with disabilities who receive mental health services and supports with the Self-Determination arrangement process in Michigan. Specific training topics include:

1. Who can help with arrangements that support Self-Determination
2. The value of Person Centered Planning
3. The use of the individual budget
4. The Self-Determination and employment agreements

Please visit the MPF website at http://www.mifreedom.org for more information regarding this project and other activities being conducted by the Michigan Partners for Freedom.

DDI Partners with Autism NOW National Resource Center

Autism NOW: The National Autism Resource Center is a national effort to provide a comprehensive, one-stop resource for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and their families. The mission of Autism NOW is to offer a dynamic and interactive, highly visible and effective central point of quality resources and information for individuals with ASD and other developmental disabilities, their families, and other targeted key stakeholders. As a national partner in this effort, DDI provides ongoing research expertise and support for Autism NOW’s resource gathering work. The Institute also promotes the Project’s mission through multiple online outlets including Facebook, Twitter, and partner websites.

Autism NOW is supported by the Administration on Developmental Disabilities, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. For more information, visit autismnow.org or find us on Facebook.
Michigan Self-Advocacy Team Represents State at Midwest Summit

In April, 2011, the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD) sponsored the Allies in Self-Advocacy Summit in Columbus, Ohio. The Summit was part of a series of national events aimed at assessing what is currently happening in the states in self-advocacy. The Summits were also intended to help state advocacy teams develop and plan next steps for strengthening and enhancing advocacy efforts, to develop recommendations for actions to be presented at the national level, and to address policy that could lead to stronger, more effective self-advocacy across the country. AIDD Commissioner, Sharon Lewis, also attended the Summits.

The Michigan State Self-Advocacy Team consisted of members of the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council, Michigan Protection and Advocacy Services, Inc., DDI and self-advocates, Andre Robinson and Sheryl Kuenzer. The team made a presentation at the Summit outlining the self-advocacy efforts going on in Michigan. Following the event, the team addressed the future direction of self-advocacy in Michigan.

Please visit http://alliesinselfadvocacy.org/ for information regarding the Allies in Self-Advocacy Summit series. For a copy of the Michigan Team’s presentation, please email angela.martin@wayne.edu at DDI.

Work of Sibling Leadership Network Enhances Role of Family Members in Lives of Individuals with Disabilities

The Sibling Leadership Network is a national organization devoted to supporting siblings of individuals with disabilities. Their mission is to provide siblings of individuals with disabilities the information, support and tools to advocate with their brothers and sisters and to promote the issues important to them and their entire families. DDI staff member, Angela Martin, has been an active member of the Network for several years. She has participated in the planning and organization of the Network, has been a board member for over three years, has served as Chair of the Policy and Advocacy Workgroup, and currently serves as Secretary of the Board of Directors.

For more information on the Sibling Leadership Network, please visit http://www.siblingleadership.org/ or email the Network Chair, John Kramer, at john.kramer@siblingleadership.org.

DDI Monitoring Project Assesses Supports, Quality of Life of Adults with Disabilities

The DDI Monitoring Project is a statewide effort to assess the quality of life and supports for individuals who receive community mental health services through the Habilitation Supports Waiver. Many Monitoring Project participants are also former residents of the state’s last Intermediate Care Facility (ICF/MR), Mount Pleasant Monitoring Center.

Individuals qualify to participate in the project if they satisfy one or more of the following: have experienced the use of physical management; have a serious health concern or a recent emergency medical situation that was unexpected; have questions of an individual’s community mental health services and supports team; have serious safety concerns as determined by the Michigan Department of Community Health; or are transitioning from a more restrictive living arrangement to a more person-centered, shared living situation.

DDI Monitoring Project staff review participant documentation, conduct in-person monitoring visits, and report findings to the Michigan Department of Community Health.

Please visit our website ddi.wayne.edu or email angela.martin@wayne.edu for further details regarding the DDI Monitoring Project.
DDI Staff Lends Expertise to Committees, Taskforces

In order to steer disability policy, best practices, and advocacy in the state of Michigan, various committees, taskforces, and research groups are formed. These entities are often collaborations between many organizations, government bodies, advocates, and individuals with disabilities. Personnel from the Developmental Disabilities Institute regularly contribute to these collaborative efforts. This work is in keeping with the UCEDD’s mission to bolster the development of inclusive communities and quality of life for people with disabilities and their families through culturally sensitive, statewide programs of interdisciplinary education, community support and services, research, and dissemination of information.

Michigan committees that DDI staff currently serve on include the following:

- Department of Community Health Parent-to-Parent Committee
- Michigan Health and Disability Project (CDC)
- Michigan CSHCS Strategic Planning Team
- Michigan Alliance for Families Advisory (Arc Michigan)
- State of Michigan Service Inclusion Team
- Wayne State University Research Council Advisory
- Michigan State University Rehabilitation Counsel Advisory Group
- Restraint and Seclusion Taskforce
- Connections for Community Leadership Advisory Group
- Detroit Regional Interagency Consumer Committee (RICC)
- Detroit Parent Advisory Council
- Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) Taskforce
- Dual Eligible State Plan Advocacy Group
- Michigan Postsecondary Education (PSE) Team
- Dual Diagnosis Group
- Council On Community Advocacy (COCA) Board
- Violence and Disabilities Coalition
- Michigan Partners for Freedom
- Wayne County Turn Around Project (TAP) Group
- Developmental Disabilities Practice Improvement Team (DD PIT)
- Washtenaw ACA Board
- CLS (Community Living Services)
Statewide Training Initiative Empowers and Educates Direct Support Professionals

The Empowerment Education: Consumer-Driven Training for Michigan Direct Support Professionals Program has been offering statewide training opportunities to Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) since 1998. Empowerment Education utilizes a train-the-trainer model, which enables training to be conducted throughout Michigan at no cost to the DSPs or organizations who request it. Trainers come from various backgrounds and include persons with disabilities, family members, and former or current DSPs. After participating in a train-the-trainer event, Empowerment Education Trainers return to their home communities where they are then available to offer training to their peers, colleagues, and friends.

The 13 training module topics range from Self-Determination, to Stress Management, to Making Community Connections. Recent updates to the modules ensure that the concepts and techniques being trained reflect current best and promising practices in the field. In addition, all modules have 1.5 Continuing Education, Adult Foster Care Licensee and Administrator Credits.

Empowerment Education training is also offered in a CDROM format. Several modules have been adapted for individual, self-paced use. All modules on CDROM are narrated, allow the user to advance at their own speed, and contain printable versions of all tests and exercises. For more information on Empowerment Education, or to request free training for you or your organization, please visit DDI online at http://ddi.wayne.edu/empowerment_education.php or email DDI@wayne.edu for details.

SEAM Project Impacts Educational Outcomes for Minority Youth and Young Adults

The SEAM (Supporting Educational Achievement for Minorities) Project began in 2009 and has positively impacted the lives of dozens of Hispanic, African-American and Arab-American families living primarily in the Southwest region of Detroit. The project provides parent training and support to parents of minority-children with developmental disabilities. The goals of SEAM are to improve educational services, retention, and post-high school outcomes for children in Southwest Detroit. To date, the SEAM Project has trained over 90 individuals and mentored approximately 60 families.

For more information about SEAM, please send all correspondence to Project Director, Julia Hernandez, juliaphernandez@wayne.edu or visit http://ddi.wayne.edu/seam.php for the SEAM webpage.

Empowerment Education Training Modules

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

*Also available on CDROM **Only Available on CDROM
Healthy Relationships Training Empowers, Informs Men and Women with Disabilities

Since 2007, DDI has offered Healthy Relationships Training for women with developmental disabilities. This training focuses on how to develop healthy, positive relationships as well as how to identify and avoid negative, possibly abusive situations. In 2010, a version of the Healthy Relationships training was offered for men with disabilities. Both men’s and women’s trainings have been conducted throughout Michigan and are available for any organization or group of people who wish to become more informed and aware of how to engage in healthy, happy relationships with friends, family and co-workers. To date, over 25 Healthy Relationships training events have been done in several Michigan counties including Oakland, Macomb, Wayne, Kent, Shiawassee, Washtenaw, Jackson, and Muskegon.

For more information about Healthy Relationships Training, please contact DDI by email DDI@wayne.edu, phone (888) 978-4334, or visit http://ddi.wayne.edu for training dates.

Students Sharing Success Learning Community to Begin at WSU, Fall 2012

The Developmental Disabilities Institute, along with the WSU Student Disability Services office and the College of Education (COE) Special Education Department, will coordinate a Learning Community on campus for students with developmental disabilities. Students Sharing Success (S3) will provide resources for students with disabilities in the form of tutoring, peer mentoring, presentations by educational and disability professionals, and opportunities to network and get more involved with other groups in the WSU campus community. The S3 Learning Community will meet weekly, both in person and online, and is open to any WSU undergraduates with disabilities. S3 will be facilitated by faculty, staff, and students from DDI, Student Disability Services, and the COE Special Education Program.

There are over 40 Learning Communities on the campus of Wayne State. They serve hundreds of students by providing structured resources and learning opportunities. To learn more about the LC program, please visit http://www.lc.wayne.edu anytime.

Students Trained by DDI Staff in 2011-2012

<table>
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<th>Discipline</th>
<th>Total: 297 students</th>
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<td>Disability Studies</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Occupational Therapy</td>
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Collaboration Key to Improving Access to Postsecondary Education in Michigan

DDI has formed partnerships with several educational and disability advocacy organizations in Michigan to address the issue of postsecondary education (PSE) for students with developmental disabilities. Despite recent work done to enhance PSE services for individuals with developmental disabilities, there still exists a significant gap between the youth and young adults with disabilities who access PSE and those who do not.

The Michigan PSE Team was formed out of a 2010 - 2011 Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council grant project that assessed how families and individuals in Michigan accessed PSE options and what options were available to them. As a result of this project, a PSE Action Plan was developed. The Action Plan will help direct the Team’s efforts to improve access to Michigan PSE as well as increase the knowledge of post high school options for families and persons with developmental disabilities. Members of the Michigan PSE Team are slated to present on the work of the team at multiple conferences in 2012 including the American Educational Research Association (AERA) conference in April in Vancouver, B.C., Canada; The Michigan College Access Network (MCAN) State Conference in East Lansing, Michigan; and the State-of-the-Art Conference on PSE, George Mason University.

For more information on the work of the Michigan PSE Team, please contact Michael Bray mikebray@wayne.edu at DDI.
DDI Training Empowers Caregivers, Families to Prepare for Future

The Aging Caregivers Training Project, in collaboration with The Arc Michigan, has provided individuals with disabilities and their caregivers with information and resources so that they can ensure stable futures for when the caregivers are gone. The project provides training in the form of workshops, information and tools for adults with developmental disabilities and their families, especially those who are eligible for services and supports from their CMH but are not currently receiving services. Training was conducted in six regions across the state with support provided by regional collaboratives. Each regional collaborative provided outreach, recruitment, collection and dissemination of materials and project announcements.

For more information regarding Aging Caregivers Training, please contact Elizabeth Janks through email e.janks@wayne.edu or by phone at (313) 577-2654.
Family Quality of Life Research Explores Impact of Disability on Family Unit

Raising a child with a disability can be a profound and life altering experience for a family. But, to what extent a family’s quality of life is impacted by having a family member with a disability remains an unanswered question amongst researchers and human service professionals alike. To explore this area further, Dr. Preethy Samuel, Assistant Professor of Occupational Therapy in the Department of Health Care Sciences, Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, WSU has teamed up with DDI’s Ann Carrellas, MSW. Their research uses the Family Quality of Life Survey (FQOLS) pioneered by Dr. Ivan Brown from the University of Toronto. Through funding from the National Institute of Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) and the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disability (AIDD), Dr. Samuel has pioneered the use of the FQOLS in Michigan with families of children with developmental disabilities. This work has helped to evaluate the psychometrics of the FQOLS when used to assess the family quality of life of families of children with developmental disabilities.

Ms. Carrellas and Dr. Samuel have been presenting preliminary findings from this study at various national and international conferences. Findings have also been disseminated through four peer-reviewed publications.

Contact samuel.preethy@wayne.edu or ann.carrellas@wayne.edu if you would like more information regarding this research.

Study Sheds Light on the Role of Empathy in Adults with Autism

A joint study between DDI, the Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences at Wayne State University, and the University of Windsor, Ontario, Canada, is examining the role that empathy plays on the social functioning of adults with Autism Spectrum disorders. Dr. Preethy Samuel, Assistant Professor of Occupational Therapy in the WSU Department of Health Care Science, has teamed up with Ann Carrellas, MSW of DDI, and Dr. Karen Hobden from the University of Windsor, to conduct this study. Both Drs. Samuel and Hobden are former DDI Research Associates who continue to partner with the Institute on many research opportunities.

Dr. Samuel and Ms. Carrellas have presented preliminary findings through several poster presentations. Early results indicate that severity of Autism has a significant, inverse relationship with level of empathy, suggesting that individuals who fall on the more severe end of the Autism Spectrum would tend to have lesser abilities to empathize with others. In turn, lower levels of empathy are found to be significantly linked to fewer numbers of close friendships, which can increase feelings of loneliness and depressions.

For more information about this research, please contact Ann Carrellas at ann.carrellas@wayne.edu at DDI.
WSU Researcher Receives Grant to Explore Disability and Grandparents as Caregivers

Dr. Preethy Samuel, Assistant Professor of Occupational Therapy in the Department of Health Care Sciences, Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences and DDI affiliate was awarded a pilot grant from the Michigan Center on Urban African American Aging Research in 2012. Her project, entitled Impact of Caregiving for Children with Disabilities on the Quality of Life of Urban African American Grandparents, will look at grandparents raising grandchildren with developmental disabilities. These caregivers often face unique and ongoing challenges, as the demands of assuming a parental role later in life are exacerbated by raising a grandchild with physical, emotional, or behavioral challenges. This study will utilize the conceptual framework of the Family Quality of Life Survey (FQOLS) to guide the secondary data analysis of cross-sectional survey research data collected from 500 aging African American elders in the Detroit Metro area. These individuals had volunteered to participate in a survey research study conducted by the Lifespan Investigation of Family, Health and Environment (LIFHE) at the Institute of Gerontology at Wayne State University. The long-term goal of this project is to improve the quality of life of African American grandparents caring for children with developmental disabilities by developing an effective and accessible family support project.
DDI Hosts Inclusive Education Seminar for Educators from Uzbekistan

In March of 2011, DDI and Wayne State University welcomed a contingent of educators and administrators from Uzbekistan who visited the WSU campus during their trip to the United States. The group was visiting various educational destinations and professionals in the field of disability research in an effort to bring inclusive educational practices back to Uzbekistan.

During their visit to WSU, Dr. Barbara LeRoy, DDI Director, hosted them for a daylong seminar on Inclusive Education. Speakers from various Michigan disability organizations highlighted the day. Speakers included Dr. LeRoy, Sherri Boyd from The Arc Michigan and Michigan Alliance for Families, LuAnn Loy and her daughter Miss Abby Loy, and Dr. Jay Michael Peterson, Professor of Special Education from WSU’s College of Education. Real time translation and translated written materials were provided for attendees. A catered lunch was provided and attendees and presenters had several opportunities to interact and share ideas and best practices in the area of inclusive education.

Dr. LeRoy is DDI Director and Board Secretary to the United States International Council on Disability (USICD). On behalf of the USICD, Dr. LeRoy acts as a liaison to the world community to promote the exchange of ideas and information regarding various disability related issues and topics. Please visit http://www.usicd.org for more information regarding the USICD.

DDI Staff Present Research to Local, National, and International Audiences

A primary activity of the Developmental Disabilities Institute is to report on the many research findings, training outcomes, and projects engaged in by the UCEDD. Between 2011 and 2012, DDI staff and affiliated faculty offered many research and training outcomes in the form of conference posters, panel discussions, and paper presentations. In addition, many staff members are currently scheduled to present at upcoming 2012 conferences in Michigan and abroad. Below is a list of these past and forthcoming events.

The Developmental Disabilities Institute (DDI) has performed international outreach activities on a consistent basis. This is done through a combination of activities that include information dissemination, scholar exchange, training and technical assistance, policy consultation, invited conference presentations, international committee meetings, and juried publications. Locations include:

- Argentina
- Australia
- Bangladesh
- Belgium
- Brazil
- Canada
- China
- Costa Rica
- Cuba
- Ecuador
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Hawaii (U.S.)
- Holland
- Hong Kong
- India
- Ireland
- Israel
- Italy
- Kuwait
- Malaysia
- Mariana Islands
- Mexico
- New Zealand
- Pakistan
- Puerto Rico
- Romania
- Russia
- Saudi Arabia
- South Africa
- South Korea
- Spain
- Sweden
- Tanzania
- Thailand
- Tunisia
- UAE
- United Kingdom
- U.S. Virgin Islands
- Uzbekistan

Locations include:


Systems Change Directed at Improving Quality of Lives Presentation, Administration on Developmental Disabilities Technical Assistance Institute, Barbara LeRoy, Elizabeth Janks, & Angela Martin, Silver Spring, Maryland, May, 2012


To obtain Roadmaps and/or the brochures electronically, go to http://ddi.wayne.edu/publications.php or for print copies, contact Michael Bray at mikebray@wayne.edu or (313) 577-2654.
Publications by DDI Staff 2011 – 2012


Please visit http://ddi.wayne.edu to check out our changes. You can also complete a brief online survey to let us know what you think of the site, logo, or any of DDI’s services or materials. By completing the survey you can enter for a chance to win a gift card.