Empowerment Through Education.
Annual Report 2013 - 2014
Wayne State University
The Developmental Disabilities Institute, 2014

The Developmental Disabilities Institute (DDI) focuses on supporting, developing and empowering the abilities of those with disabilities. Our mission is to 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 Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD). We are one of 67 University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDDs), nationwide.

We are dedicated to exploring a multitude possibilities that best serve this unique community of individuals. In this way, we work to empower those in it in new ways, each and every day.

Barbara LeRoy, Ph.D., Director
Developmental Disabilities Institute 2014

DDI benefits thousands of persons with disabilities, their families, and their communities.
Table Of Contents

Section I: Community Service
Section II: Education
Section III: Research
Section IV: Dissemination

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Section I: Community Service
EMPOWER Partnership Exchange Program Opens Pathways for Professional Education, Support, and Development

DDI was selected in 2013 to participate in a U.S. Department of State sponsored Professional Fellows EMPOWER Program, administered by Mobility International USA (MIUSA). This two-way international exchange program is designed to expand the capacity of organizations in the U.S. and abroad to promote inclusive communities and advance the rights of persons with disabilities around the world. As a result, a partnership was formed between DDI and multiple organizations located in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

In August 2013, DDI’s Community Support Specialist, Angela Martin, visited the EMPOWER Program partner organization in Tajikistan, IRODA: Parents of Children with Autism Initiative. During her visit, Ms. Martin presented on inclusive schools and best practice, community-based services and supports to staff at Dushanbe child-caring institutions, several community-based and family-led organizations. Ms. Martin also showed the DDI Possibilities Video Series while in Tajikistan. The videos were so well received that the partnership proposed a new EMPOWER Partnership grant to translate the DVDs into Tajik and Russian.

Another activity that was facilitated during the visit was a Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) Roundtable session on “Developing Strategic Partnerships” to advance advocacy for NGO key stakeholder groups. These stakeholders include individuals with disabilities, individuals who are HIV positive, and individuals who are part of the human trafficking industry. Ms. Martin also met with several family-led advocacy groups to discuss their work in advocating for individuals with disabilities. Angela was also treated to various culturally rich activities including visits to the Dushanbe Botanical Gardens, Rudaki Park, and points of historical interest.
Visit to the United States

In October 2013, DDI, along with other EMPOWER Program partners, hosted representatives from two Tajikistan-based organizations to address issues such as disability law, policy advocacy, and access to services for persons with Autism and other disabilities. Representatives from both IRODA and Equal Opportunities traveled to the United States to collaborate further with Ms. Martin and other disability and human rights professionals from Michigan.

The Tajik representatives began their visit to the United States with a project orientation hosted at Mobility International USA (MIUSA) in Eugene, Oregon. The second part of the exchange was a 10-day visit to Detroit where our colleagues from Tajikistan were able to experience many learning opportunities, meet with individuals with disabilities, family members, direct service providers, and state agency staff, and visit local service providers and agencies. They also had the opportunity to present to DDI’s Community Advisory Council, graduate students, and community partners, have meetings with University staff and faculty to learn about current research activities in developmental disabilities, and experience many of the cultural destinations of Midtown Detroit. The U.S. visit concluded with a conference for all 19 EMPOWER Partnership Teams in Washington, D.C. There, the U.S. Department of State hosted a reception and poster presentation to celebrate all of the work that was done through the international exchange partnerships.

For more information, you may contact Angela Martin, LMSW, (888) 978-4334, angela.martin@wayne.edu.
Michigan Partners for Freedom Empowers Individuals and Communities through Training and Awareness

The mission of Michigan Partners for Freedom (MPF) is to build statewide demand for Self-Determination. The Michigan Partners for Freedom is a 5-year project funded by the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council (MDDC) and is facilitated through The Arc Michigan. The project is currently in its third year and continues to work towards the goal of increasing awareness of the principles of self-determination and of the services and supports based on these principles that are currently offered through the Michigan Community Mental Health system.
DDI’s Angela Martin works closely with other members of the MPF to educate and assist individuals with disabilities and their families who wish to build support systems based on the principles of self-determination. MPF regularly conducts training events throughout the state to inform and empower individuals with disabilities, family members, and community mental health professionals. MPF Community Training events offer participants information on the resources that exist in their own communities that they can use to set up self-determined supports and services. Ms. Martin and other MPF members also provide technical assistance to families and Community Mental Health organizations who wish to explore self-determination as a platform from which to build individualized support systems for those they care for and serve.

Local Leader Training

Another part of the mission of the Michigan Partners for Freedom is to facilitate regional Local Leader Training events. These training events are designed to prepare individuals with disabilities to become advocates of self-determination and leaders in their communities. Local Leaders facilitate community outreach activities and become the faces of the Partners for Freedom. These individuals provide resources for others in their communities who wish to learn more about self-determination, how to implement self-determined principles in their own lives, and how they can find and use existing self-determined resources offered by organizations near them. Local Leaders participate in an Annual MPF Summit where they connect with each other and MPF advocates from around the state. The Summit serves as a time to learn about new developments in self-determination, emerging activities and progress being made throughout the state, and how they can be more effective leaders as they advocate for self-determination and independence.

If you would like to learn more about the Michigan Partners for Freedom, upcoming training dates and locations, or how you can advocate for self-determination in your community, please contact Angela Martin at angela.martin@wayne.edu or (313) 577-2654. Or you can visit the MPF website at http://www.mifreedom.org.
Michigan Supporting and Including Brothers and Sisters Hosts Inaugural State Conference in 2013

Siblings of individuals with disabilities are an important link in the support and advocacy network. At the national level, the Sibling Leadership Network strives to empower and inform siblings of individuals with disabilities to advocate more effectively for their brothers and sisters. In our state, the Michigan Supporting and Including Brothers and Sisters (MI SIBS) provides adult siblings of individuals with disabilities with the information, resources, and support they need to advocate with and for their siblings. MI SIBS also promotes leadership roles of siblings within the greater disability community in Michigan. The role of siblings in the disability community has classically been underutilized as a potential source of advocacy both in community and legislative activities.
2013 Sibling Conference

In October of 2013, the MI SIBS hosted its first statewide conference. Siblings, persons with disabilities, and other advocates and professionals attended the conference which was held in Novi, Michigan. The conference brought siblings together to discuss their experiences, the roles that they play in the lives of their siblings and families, how they currently advocate for their brothers and sisters, and what they can do moving forward to promote the happiness and success of their siblings and themselves. Conference participants learned that it is important to embrace and celebrate the role that they play in their siblings’ lives and the lives of their families.

Many sponsors contributed to the success of the 2013 MI SIBS Conference. In addition to DDI, sponsors included the Arc of Western Wayne County, Friends of Community Living Services, Community Living Services, MOKA, and Community Drive, Inc. Conference speakers and presenters included Angela Martin, Don Meyer, Patricia Carver, Deb Tsutsui, and Tom Kendziorski.

The MI SIBS are currently planning the 2014 Statewide Conference to be held Saturday October 18, 2014 in Lansing, Michigan. For more information on the work of the MI SIBS or the 2014 Statewide Conference, please visit http://www.misibs.org.
DDI Staff Lend Expertise to Committees and Task Forces

In order to address disability policy, best practices, and advocacy for individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities, various committees, task forces, and research collectives are formed. DDI staff members regularly contribute to these collaborative efforts. Local, state, national, and international committees on which DDI staff members currently serve include the following:
Aging and Disability Research Group, Toronto
Association of University Centers on Disability (AUCD) Program Advisory Committee
Community Living Services Board of Directors
Connections for Community Leadership Advisory Group
Council On Community Advocacy (COCA) Board (AUCD)
Detroit/Wayne County Regional Inclusive Community Coalition (RICC)
Developmental Disabilities Practice Improvement Team (DD PIT)
Education Commission, Rehabilitation International (RI)
Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) Taskforce
Howell Group
Integrated Healthcare State Plan Advocacy Group
Michigan Alliance for Families Advisory (Arc Michigan)
Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council
Michigan Family Voices, Advisory Council
Michigan Health and Disability Project (DCH) Advisory
Michigan National Core Indicators (NCI) Advisory Committee
Michigan Partners for Freedom
Michigan Postsecondary Education (PSE) Team
Michigan State University Rehabilitation Counseling Advisory Group
Michigan Supporting and Including Brothers and Sisters (MI SIBS)
Rehabilitation International (RI), Executive Committee
Restraint and Seclusion Taskforce
Sibling Leadership Network Board of Directors
State of Michigan Service Inclusion Team
Statewide Standardized Assessment for Individuals with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities Committee
United Cerebral Palsy of Metro Detroit Board
U.S. International Council on Disability Board of Directors
Violence and Disabilities Coalition
WAY Academy School Board, Detroit
Wayne State University Accessibility Committee
Wayne State University Research Dean’s Council
Section II: Education
The Students Sharing Success Learning Community (S3LC) was launched in September of 2012 through the Wayne State University Learning Community (LC) Initiative. The goal of the Learning Community Initiative is to enhance the experiences of undergraduate students at Wayne State through a diverse program of peer mentoring and faculty involvement in order to create dynamic, student-focused communities of learners. The LCs function as small groups that encourage learners to socialize and learn together outside of the typical course environment. With almost fifty Learning Communities, the Initiative provides students with many choices to find a community that best fits their interests and goals.

The S3LC emerged out of a collaboration between DDI and the WSU Student Disability Services Office (SDS). The SDS provides academic accommodations and other requested supports to students with documented disabilities. The S3LC model addresses the need to engage students with disabilities early on in their academic careers. Increased student engagement with faculty is an important aspect of a successful postsecondary experience. At the center of the Learning Community is the Peer Mentor, who is an experienced WSU student who either has a disability his or herself, is a sibling of an individual with disabilities, or has knowledge and experience working with individuals who have unique support needs. The Peer Mentor leads the S3LC activities, communication, and acts as the point of contact for S3LC students.

To enhance the student experience further, valuable partnerships have been formed with the WSU Library system and the AmeriCorps Urban Safety Project. Wayne State Library staff have provided S3LC students with information through training sessions focused on the tools and knowledge needed to effectively conduct research for papers and assignments. These sessions are offered each semester.

The AmeriCorps Urban Safety Project works to improve and support the campus and Midtown Detroit community through activities aimed at removing blight, educating students, and instilling a sense of community connectedness. As a result of this partnership, S3LC students are able to participate in various community events. These opportunities provide students with experiences that foster a greater sense of
Training Initiative Continues to Offer Educational Experiences to Michigan Direct Support Professionals

The Developmental Disabilities Institute has offered training and educational experiences to Michigan Direct Support Professionals (DSP) through the Empowerment Education training initiative since 1997. The primary goal of Empowerment Education is to empower DSPs with skills, knowledge, and awareness that will ultimately enhance the services and supports that they provide to individuals with disabilities. DSPs routinely work on the front lines of direct care. The duties that they carry out in their diverse work environments can vary widely. Empowerment Education training is designed to address an array of topics and functional skill areas. Many of these areas may not be emphasized in the training DSPs receive through their employers, service provider agencies, or other community-based training sessions. Empowerment Education modules are competency-based and written by experts and practitioners in the field. Those who complete a training module must demonstrate the knowledge and skills that they’ve acquired and how they would apply these tools in their work. An emphasis is also placed on how the training topics relate to the people they care and work for, maintaining a person-centered approach to what they learn.

Student Success

community through teamwork and build self-confidence and leadership skills. Students also learn about the value of volunteerism and how they may benefit from programs like AmeriCorps. The goal is that this impact carries over to courses and participation on the WSU campus.

The S3LC will continue to serve WSU students with disabilities during the 2014-2015 academic year. If you would like to learn more about the Students Sharing Success Learning Community, please contact the S3LC Coordinator Michael Bray, at mikebray@wayne.edu.
Module topics include the following:

- 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 (Addresses coworker turnover in the workplace)
- Self-Determination: Our Right to Meaningful and Fulfilling Lives (SD 1)
- Living a Self-Determined Life (SD 2)
- Introduction to Dual Diagnosis
- Education for All: Postsecondary Education is an Option for Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Each topic was chosen and launched in response to needs identified by DSPs in the field. Training is typically conducted with groups of 10 to 30 DSPs in their place of work and led by one of many Empowerment Education trainers. All trainers are either current or former DSPs themselves, have a disability, or are family members of persons with disabilities.

The Empowerment Education project continues to train at least 1,200 DSPs per year through 70-80 training events held around the state. Since 1997, approximately 18,000 DSPs, persons with disabilities, and other professionals have received Empowerment Education training. Watch for new training modules in 2014!

Please visit the Empowerment Education web page at http://ddi.wayne.edu/empowerment_education.php to learn more about the project and how to go about scheduling Empowerment Education training in your area or contact Michael Bray at DDI by email mikebray@wayne.edu or phone toll free at (888) 978-4334.
SEAM Project Continues to Promote Education and Empowerment for Hispanic and Latino Families of Children with Developmental Disabilities

Since 2009, Supporting Educational Achievement for Minorities (SEAM) has been providing educational opportunities and family support to families living in Southwest Detroit. The goal of the SEAM project is to improve educational services, retention, and postsecondary outcomes for minority students with disabilities. This is achieved by providing parent training and support to families of school age children.

The SEAM project is coordinated by DDI’s Julia Hernandez. SEAM training focuses on educational issues and family support within a diverse setting. Training events are provided in both English and Spanish languages for families. Topics include:

- Special Education Law
  - Individualized Education Planning (IEP) and related components
  - Least Restrictive Environments (LRE)
  - Medicaid changes
  - Children’s Special Health Care Needs (CSHCS)
  - Completing “mock” IEPs

- Emergency Preparedness
  - Academic accommodations and modifications
  - School supports and services
  - Nutrition for children
  - Self-Determination
  - The complaint process

SEAM also holds an annual family picnic where families come to connect with each other, relax, and share their experiences with others who have had similar journeys through the education system. Families also have opportunities to attend SEAM Play Groups throughout the summer months. Playgroups provide a relaxed setting for parents and children to connect and meet with SEAM parent navigators. The play groups are held at Weiss Park, which is an accessible playground in Southwest Detroit.

For more information on the SEAM project, contact Julia Hernandez at juliaphernandez@wayne.edu. Si su idioma principal es el español, puede comunicarse con Julia en (313) 577-5819.
DDI’s Emergency Preparedness Training is a multi-faceted training initiative which provides information and experiential learning opportunities to individuals with developmental disabilities, family members, and Michigan first responders. The primary goal of the training is to inform all participants about the importance of being prepared for emergency situations and understanding the unique needs of individuals with developmental disabilities when these critical situations arise. The three-year project began in 2012 and is funded by a grant from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) through the Michigan Department of Community Health. In 2013, 240 persons with developmental disabilities and caregivers and over 200 emergency first responders participated in Emergency Preparedness training events in several Michigan counties.

Emergency Planning for People with Disabilities, Family Members, and Caregivers

The Emergency Preparedness Training project consists of two separate initiatives. First, the project provides training for persons with disabilities, family members, and their caregivers. The training helps participants develop an emergency plan.
Special considerations are included in the emergency plan to provide for medical equipment, assistive technology, medications, helping animals, and direct care staff. All participants leave with a completed “Safe Place” emergency tool kit. The tool kit includes a protected cover to store a participant’s emergency plan in a safe place in the person’s home as well as a mini version that can be carried in purse, wallet, or backpack. Information that is commonly included in the emergency plan includes contact information of relatives, friends and direct care staff, care directions for helping animals, medical equipment, medication list, and other information pertinent to the needs of people with disabilities in the event of an emergency situation or natural disaster.

First Responder and Emergency Volunteer Training

The second part of the training initiative focuses on educating Michigan first responders and emergency volunteer personnel. These individuals are an essential part of the disaster and emergency response teams across the state. The training aims to inform participants about the unique needs of people with disabilities during disasters. These needs can include physical access to shelters, communication concerns, sign language, equipment use, transportation, and reunification with family and caregivers. Participants complete competency-based activities and are trained by the project director and individuals with disabilities who provide first-hand knowledge and examples for participants.

For more information about the Emergency Preparedness Training project and how to schedule training events, please contact Elizabeth Janks at e.janks@wayne.edu or visit the project web page at http://ddi.wayne.edu/emergencyprep.php anytime.
Students Trained by DDI Staff

In 2013, DDI staff trained postsecondary students through course work, community training, and conference presentations. Approximately 422 students received information regarding research, best practices, advocacy, self-determination, community inclusion, person-centered services, and policy in the field of developmental and intellectual disabilities. Student disciplines of study included Social Work, Disability Studies, Occupational Therapy, Education, Psychology, and Medicine.

Recipients of DDI Disseminated Materials

\[ N = 61,172 \]

- **General Public**: 46171 / 75%
- **Professionals/Paraprofessionals**: 8548 / 14%
- **Trainees & Students**: 1957 / 3%
- **Families, Adults & Youth with Disabilities**: 4030 / 7%
- **Legislators**: 466 / < 1%
Section III: Research
DDI Collaborates with Boston University to Educate and Empower Youth and Young Adults with Disabilities

Growing up with a developmental disability often requires individuals to address a unique set of issues as they live in their communities, take part in the education system, and eventually pursue careers. Many times, youth with disabilities are either unaware of the resources that are available to them or do not have the self-advocacy skills to successfully navigate their support systems.

To address the needs of youth with disabilities, DDI is working with researchers from Boston University to implement and evaluate a training intervention for youth with developmental disabilities between the ages of 14 and 21. Project TEAM (Teens Making Environmental and Activity Modifications) is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services, National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation. The goals of Project TEAM include:

- Increasing the knowledge of youth regarding environmental barriers and strategies for modifying them.
- Reducing the impact of environmental barriers on participation in education, their community, and employment.
- Increasing self-efficacy and self-determination.
- Increasing participation in personally defined goal activities related to education, employment, or community involvement.

DDI is implementing the training intervention with Michigan youth. The 12-week intervention includes eight training modules and two field trips in the community. The modules give youth examples of barriers and various strategies that they can use to overcome these barriers.
These field trips are meant to give participants a chance to use what they have learned and to identify environmental barriers as they encounter them. The program is facilitated by one peer mentor who works directly with the participants and one licensed disability professional. DDI’s Ann Carrellas is leading the team implementing the intervention in Michigan.

To learn more about this project, please contact Ann Carrellas, at ann.carrellas@wayne.edu
Research Examines Prescription Trends and Knowledge of Persons with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and their Caregivers

Dr. Steven Erickson is an Associate Professor in the College of Pharmacy at the University of Michigan. Dr. Erickson and DDI collaborate on research which examines the relationships between prescription drug knowledge and use on the part of individuals who are diagnosed with both a medical condition and an intellectual or developmental disability (IDD).

Dr. Erickson’s research team is entering the analysis phase of a study designed to assess trends in prescription use and outcomes for cardiovascular disease risk factors as well as for patients with hypertension who also have conditions associated with IDD. A similar study is underway for people with IDD and diabetes. Through these studies, people with IDD are compared to a matched group of patients from the same clinics who do not have an IDD associated condition.

Another project is seeking to assess the complexity of medication regimens of patients in general medicine clinics who have IDD related conditions, compared to regimens of those without IDD. A fourth study is looking at the health literacy and knowledge of diabetes treatment in people who are caregivers of patients with IDD and diabetes.

Dr. Erickson is also developing a survey study for caregivers of people with IDD to examine the issues they encounter, and solutions they employ, when working with medications. A large, national advocacy organization will collaborate with the investigators to conduct a web-based dissemination of the survey. Finally, his research team is developing a project to assess the availability of patient-centered medical home models used by people with IDD. The aim of the study is to assess the medical outcomes of individuals with IDD when compared to patients who are part of traditional medical practices.

For more information on the work being done by Dr. Erickson, please direct your email to serick@umich.edu or contact DDI if you have further questions.
DDI Part of Michigan’s National Core Indicators Project Effort

In 2012, the state of Michigan joined the National Core Indicators (NCI) Project through a grant from the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD) to the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH). The NCI program has been implemented in 35 states to provide a standardized way of measuring and tracking indicators for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities who are served by the public mental health system. NCI tracks indicators related to employment, rights, service planning, community inclusion, choice, health, and safety. Surveys are sent out to and conducted with service recipients and their family members. DDI has partnered with MDCH for two cycles of NCI project data collection. Specifically, DDI sits on the state level NCI Advisory Team, assists in secondary data analysis of the service recipient data, and directly enters and manages the family response database.

Findings from the first cycle of NCI data collection have generated a series of informational papers and presentations. This dissemination effort has focused on employment, housing, health, and personal relationships. Each informational paper presents the relevant topical data, barriers to systemic improvements, best practice models, and resources. Preliminary analyses has shown that the Michigan sample, thus far, is consistent with the national sample of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities completing the NCI surveys.

For more information, or to request copies of papers published thus far, please visit the DDI website at http://ddi.wayne.edu or contact DDI Director, Dr. Barbara LeRoy, at b_le_roy@wayne.edu.
Michigan 2013 FASD Conference Marks 40th Anniversary of Identification of Fetal Alcohol Disorder

The Michigan Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) Task Force is comprised of individuals with FASD, researchers, advocates, disability and health professionals, family members, and legislators from around the state. The primary goal of the task force is to raise awareness of FASD in Michigan and the growing need for effective prevention, evaluation, treatment and support for individuals and families.

In 2013, the Michigan FASD Task Force hosted a statewide conference entitled Our Journey of 40 Years and Beyond: Living and Learning with FASD. The conference, which was attended by over 220 people from across Michigan, celebrated the 40th anniversary of the use of the term Fetal Alcohol Disorder in a study published by Drs. Kenneth Lyons Jones and David Smith. Dr. Jones gave the key note address. His talk highlighted what has been learned thus far regarding the impact of prenatal alcohol exposure on individuals throughout their lives and best practices regarding prevention and intervention strategies.

Conference speakers also included Dr. Mark Sloane who spoke about the intersection of genetics, toxic traumatic stress and prenatal drug and alcohol exposure. Dr. Sally Burton-Hoyle gave a talk on understanding behavior as communication and positive ways to support people. Dan Dubovsky closed out the conference with a session on building upon the strengths of individuals with FASD and their families to increase their abilities to self-advocate. The educational conference also offered breakout sessions and panel discussions led by parents and adults with FASD and other professionals from various fields which discussed the experiences of families and adults with FASD.

For more information about the Michigan FASD Task Force, the Conference, or the ongoing efforts to improve the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of FASD in Michigan, please contact the Michigan FASD Task Force Chair, Ann Carrellas, at ann.carrellas@wayne.edu or (313) 577-8562.
Possibilities Video Series Adds Two New Stories and Highlights Impact of Inclusive Education

Two new videos were added to the Developmental Disabilities Institute’s innovative, award-winning Possibilities Video Series in 2013. The first shares the stories of three roommates who reside in the northwestern Lower Peninsula of Michigan. Bjorn, Danny, and Tom are young men with developmental disabilities that live and work in their community. Their video highlights the small business they operate, the individuals who provide support to them in their home, and how self-determination and teamwork combine to enable each of them to not only live independently, but to also maintain their individuality as they pursue their goals and dreams alongside one another. Bjorn, Danny, and Tom exemplify the value of self-directed lives and how having a disability does not have to be a barricade to achieving personal and professional success.

The second new video portrays Karen, a young woman with Williams Syndrome, who attends Cesar Chavez Academy in Southwest Detroit. Karen attends classes with her peers in an inclusive setting. Her experiences illustrate the positive impact that inclusion can have on students, teachers, and families. Karen is shown hanging out with her friends and siblings, working with her paraprofessional and teachers in the classroom, and interacting with members of her community. The video reinforces the importance of inclusion and how it can expand one’s future possibilities and contribute to an overall higher quality of life.
Dissemination of the TASH Award-Winning Possibilities Series

Since its release, the Possibilities Video Series has been distributed internationally and shown to audiences at various conferences, training events, and meetings. Collectively, close to 5,000 Possibilities DVDs have been disseminated and the videos have received over 11,000 views on YouTube.

The Possibilities Series received further recognition when it was shown on Grand Rapids, Michigan’s public television station, GRTV, during Disabilities Awareness Month in March of 2013. The videos played on four occasions during the month in honor of Disability Awareness. Also in 2013, the videos were hosted on the state of Minnesota’s Governor’s Council website (http://mn.gov/mnndc/parallels2/one/095.htm). In addition to hosting the videos, the Minnesota Governor’s Council also provided full captioning of each video so that individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing can fully experience the Possibilities Series.

All videos in the Possibilities series are offered free of charge online at http://ddi.wayne.edu/possibilities.php or on a free DVD containing all six videos. To request copies, contact Michael Bray at mikebray@wayne.edu.
DDI Webinar Series on Disabilities Field Tested in 2014

The Developmental Disabilities Institute has consistently provided Michigan residents and professionals in the fields of disability, social services, and community health regular opportunities to take part in educational programs, projects, and training events. In early 2014, DDI pilot-tested a Disability Leadership Webinar Series. The first run of the series assessed the effectiveness and accessibility of this type of training for individuals on a diverse array of disability-focused topics. The nine-part series ran weekly from March to May 2014 and addressed the following topics:

- History of disability models and practice
- Community membership and evidence-based practices – person centered planning, independent facilitation and person-first language
- Self-determination and the importance of choice
- Inclusive classrooms for students with disabilities
- Increasing cultural competency and engaging Hispanic families
- Family support models that work – mentorship and parents with disabilities
- Legislative advocacy
- Postsecondary educational options for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities
- Step into my shoes – one man’s journey with a developmental disability

Participants completed competency-based activities and surveys which were used to evaluate several aspects of the training series including the content, webinar platform, accessibility, cost, effectiveness of presenters, and the overall format of the training series. A focus group was also convened to gather further information that could be used to maximize the effectiveness and accessibility of the webinars. Results of the evaluation will be used to improve training design and delivery.

For more information on the DDI Webinar Series or other training opportunities offered by DDI, please visit http://ddi.wayne.edu/events_calendar.php for a list of upcoming opportunities.
Conference Presentations
2013-2014


Self-Determination: Getting a Good Life!, Michigan Transition Services Association 2013 Annual Conference, Angela Martin (Co-Presenter), Frankenmuth, Michigan, March 2013


Michigan’s Integrated Care Model Presentation, Association of University Centers on Disability Technical Assistance Institute, Washington, D.C., Dr. Barbara LeRoy, March 2013

Reducing Teen Sexual Violence within Special Populations and Minorities Panel Presentation, Wayne County Turn Around Project (TAP) Symposium, Detroit, Michigan, Michael Bray (Co-Presenter), April 2013

Working with Multicultural Families with Disabilities Guest Lecture, University of Michigan Master of Social Work Program, Ann Arbor, Michigan, Julia Hernandez, April 2013


Empathy, Autism, and Interpersonal Relationships: A PATH Analysis Poster Presentation, WSU Graduate Student Research Exhibition, Detroit, Michigan, Ann Carrellas, April 2013

Supporting Students with Disabilities In and Outside of the Classroom Presentation, 23rd Annual Equity within the Classroom Conference, Michael Bray and Ruth Propst, Detroit, Michigan, April 2013

Postsecondary Education for Students with Disabilities: Implementing a Learning Community for New Students Presentation, Communities United: Moving from ‘Me’ to ‘We’, Michigan College Access Network Conference, East Lansing, Michigan, Michael Bray, Ruth Propst, and Leah March-Pons, April 2013

Siblings of People with Disabilities: The Next Generation of Supporters Presentation, Michigan Association of Community Mental Health Boards 2013 Annual Spring Conference, Angela Martin (Co-Presenter), Grand Rapids, Michigan, April 2013

Growing Advocates: Creating Training and Opportunities for Individuals with Disabilities and Family Members to Become Leaders, Michigan Association of Community Mental Health Boards 2013 Annual Spring Conference, Angela Martin, Grand Rapids, Michigan, April 2013

National Core Indicator Project Presentation, Michigan Association of Community Mental Health Boards 2013 Annual Spring Conference, Dr. Barbara LeRoy, Grand Rapids, Michigan, April 2013


Preparing for an Emergency: What You Need to Know and Do Presentation, Arc Michigan Annual Conference, Elizabeth Janks, Battle Creek, Michigan, June 2013

CPLS Research Outcomes: Supporting Individuals who Transitioned from the Mount Pleasant Center Presentation, Center for Positive Living Supports Annual Gentle Teaching Conference, Grand Rapids, Michigan, Dr. Barbara LeRoy and Angela Martin, June 2013

DDI’s Possibilities Video Series and the Importance of Self-Determination Presentation, 9th Annual Lenawee County Direct Support Professionals Training Forum, Adrian, Michigan, Michael Bray, August 2013
Health and Disabilities Presentation, Michigan Health and Disabilities Symposium, Lansing, Michigan, Dr. Barbara LeRoy, September 2013


Persons with Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities Guest Lecture, WSU Course on Genetics, Detroit, Michigan, Elizabeth Janks, September 2013

Working with Multicultural Families with Disabilities Guest Lecture, WSU Disability Certificate Graduate Course, Detroit, Michigan, Julia Hernandez, September 2013

Siblings of Persons with Disabilities: The Adult Sibling Movement Guest Lecture, WSU Disability Certificate Graduate Course, Detroit, Michigan, Angela Martin, September 2013

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) Guest Lecture, WSU Disability Certificate Graduate Course, Detroit, Michigan, Ann Carrellas, October 2013

Employment of People with Disabilities in Michigan, Michigan Department of Community Health Summit, Lansing, Michigan, Dr. Barbara LeRoy, November 2013

The Role of Siblings of Persons with Developmental Disabilities Presentation, Michigan Association of Community Mental Health Boards Conference, Lansing, Michigan, Angela Martin, November 2013

Michigan’s Integrated Care Model Presentation, Association of University Centers on Disability (AUCD) 2013 Conference, Washington, D.C., Dr. Barbara LeRoy, November 2013

Family Support Special Interest Group Poster Presentation, Association of University Centers on Disability (AUCD) 2013 Conference, Washington, D.C., Angela Martin, November 2013


DDI’s Possibilities Video Series Presentation, Annual Home and Community Based Waiver Conference, East Lansing, Michigan, Dr. Barbara LeRoy, November 2013

Students Sharing Success Learning Community for WSU Students with Disabilities, Michigan Pre-College and Youth Outreach Conference, Ann Arbor, Michigan, Michael Bray and Ruth Propst (Co-Presenters), November 2013


Postsecondary Education for Students with Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities Pre-Conference Workshop, TASH 2013 Annual Conference, Michael Bray (Co-Presenter), Chicago, Illinois, December 2013


Working with College Students with Disabilities: Understanding the Need for Reasonable Accommodations and the Roles of Faculty Presentation, Macomb Community College Faculty Development Day, Clinton Township, Michigan, Michael Bray, January 2014

Students with Disabilities in Postsecondary Education: The Evolving Role of Faculty in Creating a Welcoming Educational Experience, 20th Annual Equity Within the Classroom Conference, Michael Bray, Ann Arbor, Michigan, April 2014


Dhas, B., Chockalingam M., & Samuel P. (Early Online). Computer access technology as an alternative to writing for a pre-schooler with athetoid cerebral palsy – A case report. Occupational Therapy in Health Care. DOI: 10.3109/07380577.2013.874063


We continue to build our presence...

Online and everywhere else!

For the latest on DDI, just visit our website. You can also follow us on Twitter and Facebook and see our videos on YouTube.

Follow us on twitter @DDIatWSU
We would like to take the opportunity to express our thanks to Hind Omar and Desmond Smith for participating in the DDI photo shoot. Both were kind enough to represent students like themselves, who pursue higher learning while balancing the challenges of their individual disabilities.

Concept and layout for Annual Report by Suzanne Rondeau and Izabela Skonieczka