

ONE COMMUNITY.
WORKING TOGETHER.
HELPING EACH OTHER.



3839 NORTH THIRD STREET, SUITE 306
PHOENIX, AZ 85012

602.277.4986 OFFICE
866.771.9378 TOLL FREE
602.277.4949 TTY
602.277.4454 FAX

VISIT US ON THE WEB AT WWW.AZGCDD.ORG!





community

Working Together

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

As you know, this past year has been the impetus for new and extraordinary challenges for all of us. With the catastrophic turn of the national, state and local economies, we've found ourselves challenged to do more with less and left contorting in our efforts to support each other in ways heretofore un-experienced.

The economic downturn and the resultant cuts to services and supports on the state and local levels have posed a very serious threat to the quality of life of many Arizonans with disabilities and their families.

This said however, the aforementioned circumstances have not conquered our resolve. In fact, it has unquestionably brought us closer together and also helped to universalize our efforts. We are doing more with less, but we are doing so together, and in a plethora of ways, these challenges have given genesis to a spirit of collaboration and understanding that we may have been hard-pressed to realize otherwise.

We, now more than ever, are looking past any differences and rather towards our commonalities. Individuals with disabilities, their families, service providers, state officials and a consortium of supporters, are working to actuate a more inclusive, more sensitive, more compassionate and understanding partnership, one person, one household, one community at a time.

Although the times are difficult at current, we will negotiate through these difficulties together, and in the final analysis, we may indeed discover these growing pains have taken us to the precipice of a stronger commitment to one another.

Thank you for your tireless devotion and commitment in supporting these efforts.

Hello Fellow Arizonan's

I am happy to present the 2009 Annual report of the Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities. We are a Council that works very hard at seeing that people with Developmental Disabilities have all the same opportunities that the rest of us enjoy on a daily basis.

In these tough times of State Budget shortfalls, we find ourselves having to switch gears in how we approach things. Between our Special Needs population having services cut, to loosing services entirely, we are developing and supporting programs that can help on a daily basis. We continue to support programs that enhance the lives of our Special needs population on a regular basis.

The Self Advocacy Coalition is becoming quite an agency in it self through support of the Council. They have found a forum which is working well to get their voices heard. We are very proud of them and their work!

I hope you enjoy reading about the other things the Council is working on as you read through this report. We continue to welcome and encourage you to participate in the work we all are dedicated to.

Thank You
Art Gode
Council Chair

The Council's mission is to work in partnership with individuals with developmental disabilities and their families through systems change, advocacy and capacity building activities that promote independence, choice and the ability of all individuals to pursue their own dreams.

The Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities is a lead state planning and advocacy agency on developmental disabilities and is authorized under the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (P.L. 106-402). Twenty-five members serve on the Council. Members include:

- Individuals with developmental disabilities
- Family members of individuals with developmental disabilities
- Individuals who represent the agencies that serve persons with developmental disabilities

General policy and oversight for the Council is facilitated by a twenty-five member, Governor-appointed board comprised of individuals with developmental disabilities, family members, and representatives of the agencies that serve them. The day to day administration and oversight of the organization is facilitated through an Executive Director and the goals and objectives of the agency, accomplished through the efforts of the director and his twelve member staff contingent, often in partnership with a multitude of stakeholders. The Council operates under the federal definition of developmental disability, which is categorized as a severe, chronic disability of an individual that:

- Is attributable to a mental or physical impairment or combination thereof
- Is manifested before the individual attains age twenty-two
- Is likely to continue indefinitely
- Results in substantial functional limitations in three or more of the major life activities (self-care, receptive or express language, learning, mobility, self-direction, capacity for independent living and economic self-sufficiency)
- Reflects the individual's need for a combination and sequence of special, interdisciplinary, or generic services, individualized supports, or other forms of assistance that are of lifelong or extended duration and are individually planned and coordinated.

The Council can provide you with:

- Information and referral assistance
- Information on the projects currently being pursued by the Council
- Opportunities for input and involvement in the goals and objectives of the five-year plan
- Information on upcoming Council meetings and events

Arizona's Developmental Disabilities Network

The Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities, the Arizona Center for Disability Law, Sonoran UCEDD and the Institute for Human Development are partner organizations that, together, form the Arizona Developmental Disabilities Network. The three organizations are authorized under the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (Public Law 106-402) and receive funding from the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Developmental Disabilities. These partners work collectively and collaboratively to foster the independence, advocacy and community integration of individuals with developmental disabilities.



LEGISLATIVE AWARENESS DAY 2008

The Council held the 19th Annual Legislative Awareness Day event at the Arizona State Capitol in February of 2008. This event was attended by over 800 people, and provided individuals with developmental disabilities, their family members and other concerned citizens with the opportunity to educate and inform their legislators about the importance of preserving critical services for people with disabilities during the budget negotiation process.

community

Working Together

The Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities operates with the understanding that we are not only a leader in the "disability advocacy movement", but that we exist as a participating and vibrant member of the overall community

Individuals with developmental disabilities have the desire and capability to be active and contributing members of society, and actively involved in all aspects of community life.

To that end, the Council, in partnership with individuals with disabilities and their families, has worked to develop new and unconventional partnerships and opportunities that support this concept. Our efforts have also involved reaching out to a wider circle of constituents and elected officials, in the spirit of heightening awareness, improving communication, facilitating greater understanding and developing meaningful relationships.

In summation, we are always working to foster the "one community" value system. This is a paradigm driven by the passionate belief that everyone matters and a value that works to support maximum collaboration and interactivity. We believe that it takes every member of the community to enrich and enhance society, and individuals with developmental disabilities and their families are a very important part of that effort.



In an effort to be responsive to the community, the Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities continued to provide information and referral services related to Special Education advocacy resources throughout the state. This included working with partner agencies including, but not limited to: The Arizona Center for Disability Law, the Arizona Department of Education – Parent Information Network, Raising Special Kids and the local Parent Led Action Teams. Upon referral, these agencies worked with students and families to ensure that they were educated on their rights & responsibilities related to receiving Special Education services.



The Council worked to address constituent concerns related to Special Education services by developing a plan of action in order to realize a ground level impact to the community that would assist students with disabilities and their families in receiving the best education possible.

The Council partnered with the Rehabilitation Services Administration, the Arizona Workforce Connection, the Arizona Councils of Government, and a number of other stakeholders in a statewide initiative designed to educate employers about best practice models currently utilized nationally to recruit, hire and support individuals with developmental disabilities in the workplace.

These efforts include the facilitation of job fairs designed to afford individuals with developmental disabilities the opportunity to apply for competitive, integrated employment opportunities in their communities.



support

COLLABORATIVE AWARENESS INITIATIVES

The Council developed partnerships with businesses and organizations as a means of raising awareness regarding the innumerable contributions that individuals with developmental disabilities make to their communities. Further, this initiative helped to facilitate awareness regarding methodologies for supporting individuals with disabilities in their efforts as vibrant members of society. This included a “Disability Awareness Night” event with Arizona’s local NHL franchise, the Phoenix Coyotes. Additional efforts involved forming relationships with city, county & other public officials throughout the state.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TRAININGS

The Council partnered with Ready.gov, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security; to facilitate the provision of resources to educate individuals with developmental disabilities and their families statewide on effective planning for emergency situations. The Council sponsored numerous trainings statewide which included information about emergency kits, evacuation plans and special instructions to caregivers.



The Council has worked to support individuals with disabilities to serve on local boards & commissions so that considerations for people with disabilities are included during the planning stages of a project to ensure that every member of the community can access services and programs in their area. If you are interested in serving on a local board or commission, please contact our central office at 1-866-771-9378.

SELF ADVOCACY COALITION

The Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities' federal funding agency (the United States Department of Health and Human Services/Administration on Developmental Disabilities) requires that the Council’s five year strategic plan for services “include a goal, for each year of the grant, to establish or strengthen a program for the direct funding of a State self-advocacy organization led by individuals with developmental disabilities.”



Accordingly, since 2004, the Council has supported the Self Advocacy Coalition of Arizona in its efforts to become an autonomous 501c3 non profit agency. During 2008, the Council supported leadership from the Self Advocacy Coalition in their efforts to successfully file Articles of Incorporation and submit application for 501c3 tax-exempt status. During this time, the Council supported the Coalition’s board membership to improve their knowledge of financial sustainability & non profit management. This was accomplished through a partnership with the Technical Assistance Program offered by St. Luke’s Health Initiative.

The Coalition also identified the person who would become their first Executive Director. In an effort to support the new Director with these new administrative responsibilities, the Council funded and the new Director completed a one year Certificate of Non Profit Management at Arizona State University. The Coalition also worked to negotiate a lease for office space through a partnership with the Arizona Bridge to Independent Living. The Council has also worked with Coalition leadership to provide additional training in the concepts of sustainability and financial management. The Council further supported the Coalition leadership in the areas of sustainability and financial management training.



The Council is currently supporting an Adopt a Board Member program, which will provide one on one mentoring to incoming board members of the Coalition,. The Council is considering a number of potential contract opportunities that may exist with the Coalition. At the time of the publication of this report, the Coalition had received their 501c3 tax exempt status and had been awarded funding, through the Council, for the first two years of operation. In addition, several disability advocacy organizations have committed their support to long term sustainability for the Coalition. These include: the Arizona Bridge to Independent Living, the Arizona Statewide Independent Living Council, the Institute for Human Development at Northern Arizona University, the Arizona Center for Disability Law and the Sonoran University Center of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities.

PRESERVING CRITICAL SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

During Arizona's 2008 Legislative Session, state policymakers were challenged with balancing two considerable budget deficits; \$1.2 billion budget shortfall in FY2007 - FY2008, and approximately \$2.3 billion budget deficit in FY2008- FY2009.

Accordingly, Council Staff worked to educate policymakers and members of the community on the importance of preserving critical services that individuals with disabilities and their families depend on for quality of life, in all budget solutions.

The Council, in conjunction with self advocates, family members, and concerned citizens, successfully advocated to preserve critical services in the FY2007-FY2008 Budget solution. As the state continues to face considerable fiscal challenges, safeguarding critical services for Arizonans with disabilities and their families will remain at the forefront of the Council's public policy priorities.

DENTAL COVERAGE WORKGROUP

The Council established a Dental Coverage Workgroup to facilitate a strategic plan aimed at the provision of comprehensive oral health care for adults with developmental disabilities. Due in large part to the efforts of the Dental Coverage Workgroup members, the Arizona Legislature established and funded a Preventive Dental Program for individuals with disabilities and seniors who are enrolled in the Arizona Long Term Care System (ALTCS) through state Medicaid. Unfortunately, this program was defunded in 2008 due to the state's considerable fiscal challenges. The Council is committed to the reinstatement of this program.

ARIZONA TRAINING PROGRAM AT COOLIDGE

In response to legislation that was presented during the 2008 Legislative Session, the Council voted to take a specific position regarding the potential closure of the Arizona Training Program at Coolidge (ATPC). The Council's position states:

If a bill is authored on the closure of Coolidge, the Council will support it, provided the bill:

- Puts reasonable plans, including procedures and timelines in place for the psycho-emotional & medical supports of individuals with developmental disabilities at ATPC to move into the community

ARIZONA TRAINING PROGRAM AT COOLIDGE (CONTINUED)

- Provides adequate funds and supports for the transition
- Utilizes funds from any sale of state property & land related to the Coolidge facility in a reasonable way that will benefit persons with developmental disabilities

If a bill doesn't contain these provisions, then the Council will advocate for the inclusion of these provisions in the proposed legislation.

LEGISLATIVE CONSORTIUM

The Council's Legislative Consortium, which includes individuals with disabilities and their families, meets year round and serves as a multi-stakeholder think tank to support the Council's public policy initiatives. The focus of the Legislative Consortium during the 2008 legislative session was to preserve critical services for people with disabilities and the preservation of funding for the recently adopted preventative dental program.

AZDAC LEGISLATIVE TRAINING EVENT

The Council once again supported the Arizona Disability Advocacy Coalition's Legislative Training event. The training is designed to help familiarize self advocates with the legislative process by providing instruction on how a bill becomes a law, meeting with legislators, principles of self advocacy, and current legislation impacting individuals with disabilities. Self advocates utilize their acquired knowledge through self-drive and Council initiated meetings with their legislators.

LOCAL LEGISLATIVE TRAININGS

The Council worked to develop a training that provides information to people with disabilities, their family members and other concerned citizens about the fundamentals of legislative advocacy. The training specifically familiarizes attendees with strategies for interactions with their legislators through phone calls, letters/emails, or in person meetings. The Council also partnered with the Self Advocacy Coalition of Arizona to develop legislative advocacy cards which provide a framework to craft legislative testimony.



FIRST RESPONDER SMARTCARD PROGRAM

The Council contracted with the Tri-City Partnership for Children and Families to train first responders on general disability awareness and provide information on how to better support individuals with disabilities in emergency situations.

The Tri-City Partnership for Children and Families, in cooperation with local first responders (law enforcement, fire and paramedic) has developed the First Responder Smart Card Program (FRSCP). This program offers a registration process, alerting first responders that there is a Smart Card on site and an individual with a disability may be at the registered address. The information pertaining to the registered address and provided by either the individual with a disability, family member and/or provider notifies first responders ahead of time that there is an individual with a disability at the address and that a Smart Card is on site. A Smart Card is a four by six inch card printed in blue on one side and red on the other side. The blue side was developed by law enforcement first responders and contains information law enforcement officers require on the scene of a call for service. The red side was developed by fire/paramedic first responders and contains essential medical information critical when responding to a call for service. In addition to the "Smart Card" itself, the FRSCP includes training for first responders on general disability awareness and how to better recognize and respond to an individual with a disability in an emergency situation.

YOUTH IN TRANSITION PROGRAM

The Council contracted with Arizona State University, University College/Academic Community Engagement Services to implement the Youth in Transition mentoring program. The program matches young women from the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections Black Canyon School for Girls with mentors from Arizona State University. Further, the program provides young women with developmental disabilities in juvenile corrections facilities with counseling and advocacy support as they prepare for their transition back into their home communities. During the facility phase, these young women and their mentors meet on a weekly basis to engage in relationship building, reentry planning, and employability skills training. Upon release, the young women and their mentors continue to meet on a weekly basis to implement the goals that they have set during their reentry plans.

PARTNERS IN POLICYMAKING

The Council contracted with Pilot Parents of Southern Arizona to train individuals with disabilities and their family members to be community leaders and to affect systems and policy change at the local, state and national levels. The Partners in Policymaking program is an innovative leadership training program that teaches people to be community leaders, and to affect systems and policy change at the local, state and national levels.

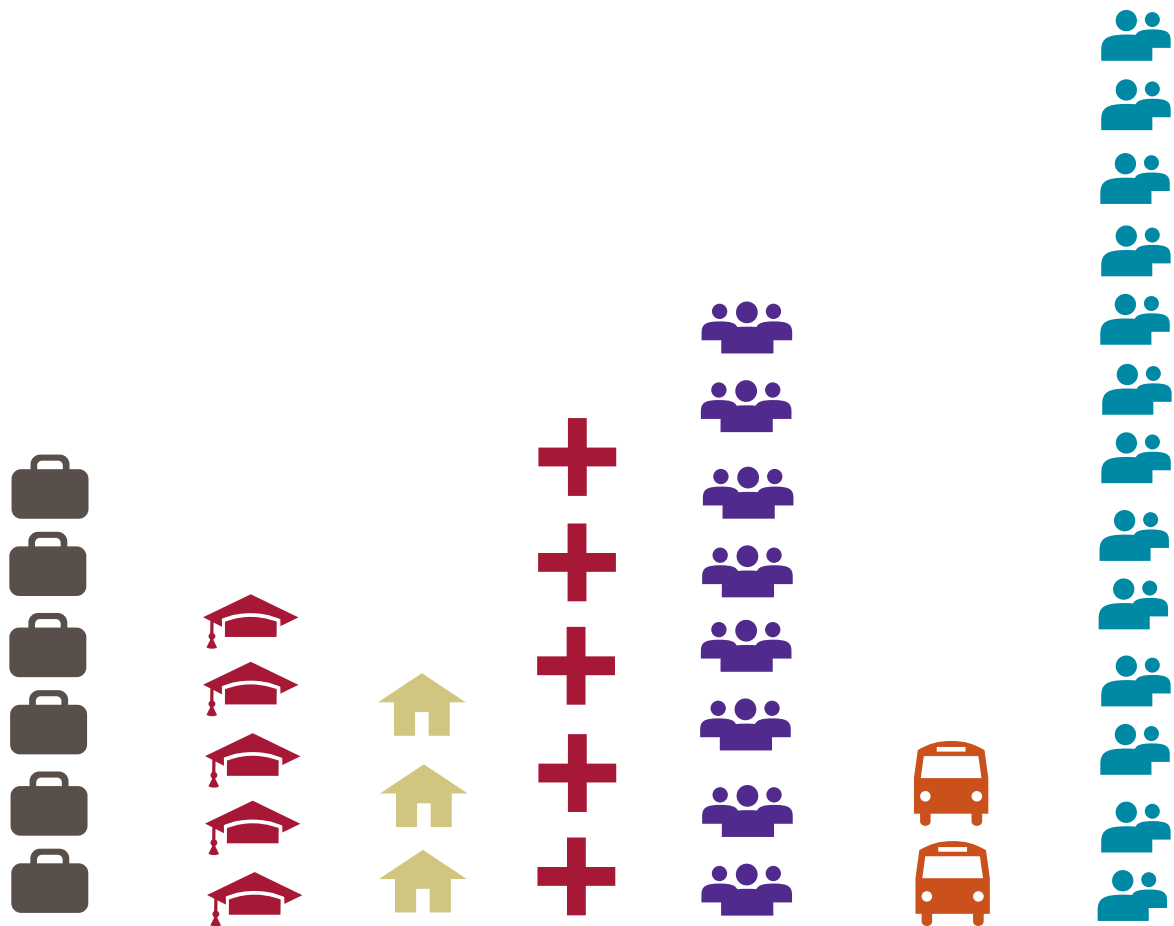
The nationally based model program is specifically designed to assist individuals with disabilities and/or parents who are raising children with a disability. The program provides the most current information and education about disability policy, the legislative process, and local, state and national issues that affect individuals with disabilities. Pilot Parents of Southern Arizona supports graduates of the program to attain membership on public and/or private planning groups and leadership coalitions.

HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

The Council contracted with the Sonoran University Center of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (Sonoran UCEDD) to enhance the capacity of the health care service system to provide competent, caring services to individuals with developmental disabilities through the education and training of 120 medical students, 20 medical residents and 280 other health care professionals. The project was implemented through the facilitation of various workshops designed to familiarize medical residents, physicians, and other healthcare professionals with best practices for supporting patients with developmental disabilities. Additionally, this program intended to expand the capacity of the University of Arizona's School of Medicine curriculum to include training on the diagnosis, treatment and management of disabilities and other healthcare concerns.

FY2008 BUDGET - EXPENDITURES
 PERIOD COVERED OCTOBER 1, 2007 - SEPTEMBER 30, 2008

EXPENDITURES	EXPENDED
GENERAL MANAGEMENT	313,746
PROJECTS	
Employment	107,162
Education	81,511
Housing	62,572
Health	124,702
Transportation	56,133
Quality Assurance	445,820
Community Support	155,008
	1,032,908
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	1,346,654



Employment Education Housing Health Community Support Transportation Quality Assurance