



North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities

Annual Report 2008-2009



A University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities

Introduction to NDCPD

North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities is pleased to present this summary report of our work during the 2008-2009 fiscal year. NDCPD is North Dakota's University Center of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, one of a network of 67 centers across the United States and the territories. These centers work to promote the independence, productivity and inclusion of people with developmental disabilities. NDCPD staff had a very busy and productive year, operating over 40 different projects funded through grants, contracts and fee-for-service dollars. It is important to know that at least one of these projects touched nearly every community in North Dakota. This point reminds us all that NDCPD is a statewide program, and shows that our staff are truly engaged with communities, agencies and the citizens of North Dakota. This community engagement is important for NDCPD, as we learn about citizen needs, and about what does and does not work for people with disabilities and their families. As a learning organization, we hope that we can then apply these "lessons learned" to more effectively support persons with disabilities in their pursuit of a productive, independent, and included life in North Dakota.

AT A GLANCE	2007-08	2008-09
Number of Employees	92	104
On-going Projects	33	45
Number of multi-year projects	33	33
Center-wide operating budget	\$5,480,038	\$6,232,834

NDCPD Core Executive Staff

Dr. Brent Askvig - Executive Director
Ms. Susie Mack - Operations Manager
Dr. Christy Carroll - Associate Director
Ms. Marcia Johnson - Fiscal Manager

NDCPD's Consumer Advisory Council Members

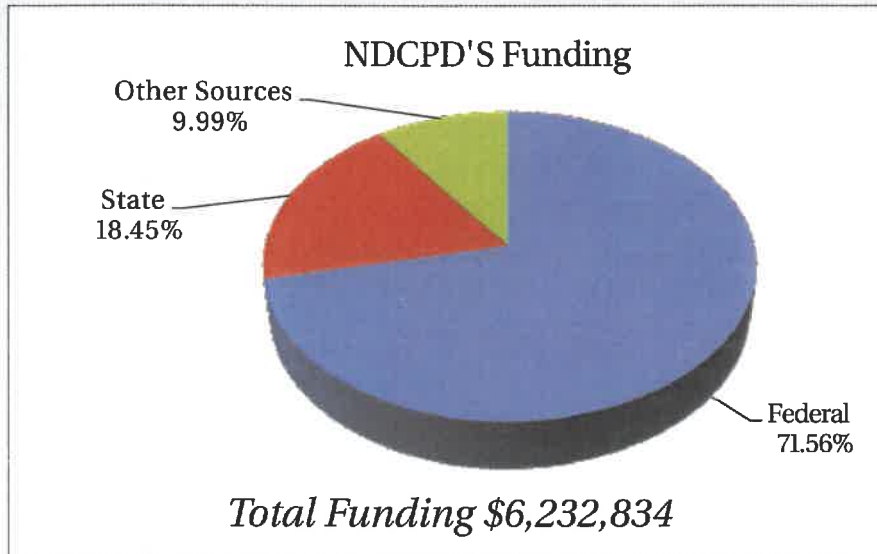
Carla Tice
Chennette' Jelleberg
Connie Springsted
Deanna Bakken
Deborah Unruh
Gloria Chavez
Jane Haerter
Jane Nelson
Janice Kern
Norma Nichols
Pam Mack
Sherris Richards
Sheryl Beard

Our Mission is

"To provide leadership and innovation that advances the state-of-the art and empowers people with disabilities to challenge expectations achieve personal goals and be included in all aspects of community life."



For every dollar of university support,
NDCPD generated \$40 in external funding.



*Access Scholarship Winner
Joseph Vetter, Minot*

Joseph Vetter received the NDCPD Access Scholarship to complete his MSU Business Degree.

Training and Technical Assistance

Ms. Mary Mercer, Coordinator

NDCPD staff provided over 37,000 hours of community education and technical assistance to 19,636 participants. Recipients included professionals, family members, citizens with disabilities, policy makers, and the general public. Topics included education, childcare, health issues, employment, transportation, housing, quality of life, assistive technology and leadership. The primary set of participants were direct care staff in North Dakota's disabilities service system.

Research

Dr. Christy Carroll, Coordinator

NDCPD staff conducted numerous research and evaluation activities in North Dakota. These included the annual evaluation of the ND State Personnel Development Grant, surveys of community housing and transportation needs, needs assessments for direct service provider training, and community summits on NDCPD's core emphasis areas. Nearly 900 hours of research activity involving 212 participants were conducted.

Interdisciplinary Preservice Training

Ms. JoLynn Webster, Coordinator

NDCPD had 13 trainees complete a variety of interdisciplinary training. Four undergraduate and two graduate trainees completed the NDCPD Disability Studies course. The Minot State University Faculty Senate approved this course as a general education course, and an option for the university diversity course requirement. Seven trainees completed portions of the Utah Regional Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (UR-LEND) training program with our sister program at Utah State University.



Community Services

Ms. Wendy Thomas, Coordinator

NDCPD staff provided nearly 9,000 hours of direct clinical or demonstration services to nearly 10,000 participants. The primary service recipients were children and families in NDCPD's early intervention programs. Other services included online realtime captioning services, model distance services for children with autism, and hospital-based hearing screening for newborns.

Information Dissemination

Ms. Linda Madsen / Ms. Cynthia Salazar, Coordinators

NDCPD staff produced numerous documents, technical reports and products for dissemination (see back panel). In addition the NDCPD website was accessed over 100,000 times. Our new Ask NDCPD system allows community members to pose disability-related questions via the web or our toll free number, with staff responding to the questions within one to two days.

2008-2009 NDCPD Goals

Goal 2.1 --

NDCPD will train one primary or secondary consumer in cooperation with the Utah LEND program.

Goal 2.2 --

NDCPD will develop and deliver a disability studies course to six undergraduate students.

Goal 2.3 --

NDCPD will conduct cultural exchange events providing training to 40 individuals addressing critical issues for individuals with the most significant disabilities.

Goal 2.4 --

NDCPD will conduct four community outreach events providing training to 40 individuals addressing critical issues for individuals with the most significant disabilities.

Goal 2.5 --

NDCPD will provide training to 20 NDCPD staff, trainees, people with developmental disabilities and other interested parties using the PAR curricula developed by AUCD.

Goal 2.6 --

NDCPD will provide training to 3,000 individuals who work as direct support providers for adults with developmental disabilities.

Goal 2.7 --

NDCPD will provide assessment and early intervention services to 100 families of infants with or at risk for developmental disabilities.

Goal 2.8 --

NDCPD will provide training and technical assistance to ten families of children with autism spectrum disorders.

Goal 2.9 --

NDCPD will evaluate the efficacy of distance services for children with autism spectrum disorders.

Goal 2.10 --

NDCPD will develop one product to acquaint policy makers with transportation issues faced by individuals with disabilities and their families.



NDCPD Products 2008-2009

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Highlights

MIDP is 30

September 2008 marked the 30th anniversary of the Minot Infant Development Program. This program has served over 1,000 children and their families in a seven county area in north central North Dakota. MIDP staff assist families in identifying natural learning and developmental opportunities for infants and toddlers birth to three years old who have or are at high risk for developmental delays. Specialists work on cognitive development, speech and language, hearing, vision, nutrition, motor and social-emotional issues. Nearly all interventions occur in the child's home or child care setting.

International Disability Experience



NDCPD served as host for Norwegian Professor Jan Meyer from Harstad University College. For eight weeks Professor Meyer conducted research, gave presentations on the social welfare model for supporting people with intellectual disabilities, and worked with NDCPD staff. With over 30 years of international experience in disabilities, Professor Meyer provided NDCPD staff with a broader perspective on disabilities services, staff development issues, and rural delivery models. In addition Professor Meyer and Dr. Askvig presented at the Association of University Centers on Disabilities on their comparative research regarding personal perspectives of institutional and community supports for citizens with intellectual disabilities.

MIG

The NDCPD Medicaid Infrastructure Grant has been in operation since 2001. The purpose of the grant is to remove barriers to employment, and facilitate community work options for people with disabilities. ND MIG staff work with partners and policy makers on systems change issues to improve employment. These issues include transportation, health care, housing, benefits planning and personal care assistance services for people with disabilities. In 2004 ND MIG worked for the ND Workers with Disabilities Medical Coverage law. This legislation allows access to affordable healthcare for working individuals with disabilities.

NDCPD's Autism Initiative

In 2008, NDCPD received Congressionally Directed Funding through the US Department of Health and Human Services, Maternal Child Health Bureau for the Great Plains Autism Spectrum Disorders Treatment Program (GPAST). With crucial support from ND Senator Byron Dorgan, Senator Kent Conrad and Congressman Earl Pomeroy, GPAST staff worked on telehealth technologies for connecting children with ASD and expert professionals, established an interdisciplinary assessment team that screened over 100 children and identified four new children with ASD, and developed new infrastructure systems for addressing future ASD issues in North Dakota.

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