

How Do We Know

by Brent A. Askvig, Ph.D., NDCPD Executive Director

It seems that at some point in our lives, and often in our work careers, we ask ourselves, “How do we know we are doing the right things?” As professionals, volunteers and families in the human services field, we probably ask ourselves this question quite a bit. The real question is, How do you answer that? Here is my attempt at an answer.

I have had the fortune over the past 23 years of working with a remarkable staff and unbelievable parents, siblings and individuals with disabilities. Our staff design and implement some outstanding programs. At any one time in NDCPD, staff are working on 25 to 30 differently funded programs, grants or contracts. A quick look around shows me that our folks are clearly doing the right things. I’d like to share a few examples with you.

Kari Schmidt and her staff have just received multiple year funding to address health disparity issues in the disability field. Just recently these staff conducted a three-day healthy living curriculum for individuals with developmental disabilities who live in rural North Dakota. These individuals were taught healthy life choices, strategies for better eating, and good practices for exercise and prevention. We expect that their life choices will ensure better health and potentially longer lives.

Linda Madsen, principal investigator of the Senior Medicare Patrol program, (SMP) and her staff have conducted training and outreach events in all 53 counties in our state! SMP staff teach seniors, individuals with developmental disabilities and their families to detect and protect themselves from fraud, abuse, and errors that cost money, threaten services, and possibly cost lives.

An important feature of this project is that SMP staff involves dozens of volunteers and partners across the state to enable this to happen.

NDCPD operates many tele-health, technology mediated events that impact people from across the state to around the country.

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How Do We Know continued...

by Brent A. Askvig, Ph.D., NDCPD Executive Director

Steve Peterson leads this Connections section of the center. Over the past year, NDCPD technology has supported remote, online captioning for students who are deaf/hard of hearing in New York City schools. North Dakota students and staff have been connected for speech and counseling services as well as online meetings. These events have allowed those with disabilities to access services they would not otherwise have had.

Nearly every child born in North Dakota receives a hearing screening before leaving the hospital, due in large part to the efforts of the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) project. Neil Scharpe and the EHDI staff provide support and technical assistance so that all birthing hospitals in the state conduct the early screening (as early as 1 or 2 days after birth!), and then monitor for referrals to further hearing testing and family services when necessary. This EHDI service impacts over 9,000 children and families each year!

The Minot Infant Development Program, (MIDP) under the leadership of Dianne Bossert, provides home-based assessment, planning, consultation and home visiting services to over 125 children and families each year. The MIDP staff travel thousands of miles in all kinds of weather to help young children ages birth to 3 and their families work towards good developmental outcomes. These children and families get some of the best services, advice and support of any state in the country.

So, how do we know we are doing the right things? By these and countless other similar actions of all NDCPD staff. These staff work, volunteer, counsel, connect, partner with, and serve their communities. They engage in ongoing training and professional development to stay on top of their profession. And they clearly do the right thing for the citizens of North Dakota!

Needs Assessment for Health Care Access and Emergency Preparedness

by Emily Rodacker

The Disability Health II project is conducting a needs assessment of people with disabilities to determine barriers experienced for accessing health care and emergency preparedness status among people with disabilities. The survey is completely anonymous. Data collected will be used in the development of training and informational materials for health care providers and clinic administrators to improve access to health care for people with disabilities. You can take the survey online by visiting <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/DNYCNVR>. If you would like to request a hard copy of the survey, contact korie.huettl@minotstateu.edu or call 1.800.233.1737.



Scam affiliated with the CMS rollout of the redesigned MSN

by *Linda Madsen, Project Director*

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has begun the process of rolling out the paper versions of the redesigned Medicare Summary Notices (MSNs). As often happens when there are changes to government programs, scam artists are finding ways to capitalize.

Medicare beneficiaries in North Dakota will be amongst the first to receive the redesigned MSNs. Consequently, scammers have been calling senior consumers asking to visit them at home with new details about their Medicare benefits in an attempt to obtain personal information to commit financial fraud.

Another scam involves a phone call from someone trying to get information in order to provide a new Medicare card. The caller informs the consumer that they need to order a new card and then asks to “verify” the senior’s personal information and asks for the senior’s bank account number. The caller typically provides a toll-free number for any future inquiries, but the number is simply linked to an answering service. It’s important for consumers to know that Medicare will never ask for financial/banking or personal information over the phone.

Watch out for the caller who says they want to bring you details about a new Medicare Summary Notice or deliver a new Medicare card to you. Remember representatives with the Medicare program will never call you to verify personal information. If you receive a call about a replacement Medicare card, hang up immediately. If you or a family member receives a similar call and turns banking information over to the caller, you should immediately contact your bank and inform them of the situation. The bank may choose to close the account and issue you a new account number.

ND SMP reminds seniors, “It’s shrewd to be rude — hang up the phone and don’t open your door to a stranger.” To report Medicare scams, call the ND Senior Medicare Patrol at 800-233-1737. If you have given out your bank information to a suspected scammer, you should first call your bank and local law enforcement.



For additional copies of the Collaborator contact Linda Madsen at 1-800-233-1737. Please feel free to copy and distribute articles or excerpts from The Collaborator, provided the following acknowledgement is used: Used with permission from the North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities, a center of excellence at Minot State University, Minot, North Dakota, USA.

COLLABORATOR
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500 University Ave. W. Minot, ND
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Upcoming Trainings

Supporting Sexual Assault Survivors with Disabilities – statewide training for sexual assault advocates

Comfort Inn, Bismarck

June 11, 2013

8:00-5:00 pm

Sponsored by ND Council on Abused Women's Services/Coalition Against Sexual Assault in ND; North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities; and ND Protection and Advocacy Project.

North Dakota Association of Community Providers' Annual Conference

Ramada Plaza Suites, Fargo May 8-10, 2013

Registration Fee: \$250.00

At this three day conference, participants will have the opportunity to attend plenary sessions, concurrent sessions, poster presentations, and displays on a variety of topics.

To register contact:

Vickie Brabandt:

vickie.brabandt@minotstateu.edu

701.858.3047 or toll free 1.800.233.1737

The North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities is a member of the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD). AUCD is a national network of interdisciplinary centers advancing policy and practice through research, education and services for and with individuals with developmental and other disabilities, their families, and communities.



Money Follows the Person Housing Program

by Vicki Troftgruben, State Housing Facilitator

The North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities (NDCPD) has received another two year contract from the North Dakota Department of Human Services for the Money Follows the Person (MFP) Housing program. The contract period runs from January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2014.

The staff consists of a State Housing Facilitator located in Minot, ND and four Consumer Housing Resource Specialists (CHRS); located in Minot, Grand Forks, Fargo and Bismarck/Mandan. The CHRSs work with consumers, their family members and care givers, and human service agency personnel to find safe, decent, affordable, and accessible housing options for consumers wishing to transition from a nursing home or an intermediate care facility into the community. The MFP Housing staff works closely with the MFP Transition Coordinators located within the eight human service regions. The MFP Transition Coordinators guide consumers through the transition process including finding Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) when needed.

The MFP Housing staff has developed a state wide housing database consisting of rental properties from subsidized and low income to market rate rents. The housing database is an inventory of rental properties around the state showing accessibility features; number of bedrooms and bathrooms; type of rental unit; shows if the rental agency requires a criminal background check, credit rating check or has an application fee for the unit and more. The database is free of charge to both consumers and property managers and can be found on the following link, www.ndcpd.org/projects/mfp/listings/. This database may be searched by city or county, by rental affordability or by accessibility. To talk with a member of the MFP Housing staff please call 1-800-233-1737.



Avoiding the Bumps in the Road: A Roadmap to Navigating Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)

By Hilory Liccini, Project Director

Navigating the complex and winding road of ASD is difficult for everyone. Parents and professionals need help to identify the signposts along the way.

The Support Autism in North Dakota (SAND) implementation grant has assisted the state task force to implement many of its key goals. An Autism Spectrum Disorders Resource booklet was originally developed by the Department of Health's Children's Special Health Services as a way for parents and providers to access ASD information and resources in North Dakota (ND). One activity SAND has completed was to update this resource booklet and disseminate close to 2,000 copies state wide, as well as promote access to a digital copy. Updated information and resources were included, as well as a new section for military families. This resource was further enhanced with the development of an interactive, online roadmap that guides people through the services and resources available in ND. By following the map, users will be directed to an appropriate destination with specific contact information.

The roadmap was intentionally designed so that families and professionals at any point in their journey can access pertinent resources. Topics on the roadmap include: 1) When to worry; 2) Getting a diagnosis and why; 3) Accurate information about your child; 4) Child support; 5) Parent support; 6) Financial help; and 7) Advocating for services not available now. Examples of resources include websites, therapy and service providers, support group contacts, health-care coverage options, and libraries with specific ASD resources. The roadmap is color-coded so that users can match the color for the topic area to the color-coded tab in the resource booklet. This allows for quick and easy access to information.

Initial feedback from users of both the roadmap and resource booklet has been overwhelming. This roadmap has resulted in increased knowledge of available resources and provides tools for more decisive decision-making.

To view the interactive digital copy, please visit www.ndcpd.org/sand or you may request a hard copy by contacting Hilory Liccini at Hilory.Liccini@minotstateu.edu or toll free 1-800-233-1737 ext. 3008.

Roadmap: Who Can Help?

For a more complete list of resources, please refer to the "Autism Spectrum Disorders Resource Booklet" issued by the North Dakota Department of Health Children's Special Health Services.



For an interactive version visit www.ndcpd.org/sand or call 1.800.233.1737 for more information.

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NDCPD's Interdisciplinary Internship

by Jolynn Webster, Interdisciplinary Pre-service Training Coordinator

Four MSU students, Jessika Hall, Hannah Harvey, Nicole Malawski and Amanda Strang were selected to participate in NDCPD's interdisciplinary internship program during the 2013 spring semester. Each student completed MSU's "Disability in Society" course during the fall semester and was chosen for the internship based on an application and interview with a selection committee. Jolynn Webster, NDCPD research associate stated, "The internship allows students to gain real-life experiences and to participate in service-learning activities to support individuals with disabilities and their families."



Jessika Hall



Hannah Harvey



Nicole Malawski



Amanda Strang

NDCPD's "Ram Good Job" Award

NDCPD's "Ram Good Job" Award is given to staff members to recognize them for going above and beyond. This award is given by the preceding month's award recipient and honors the staff member's work to enhance the lives of people with disabilities and further NDCPD's mission. Recipients over the past months include:



March 2013
Tom Alexander
Project Director, Medicaid
Infrastructure Grant



April 2013
Mary Mercer,
Assistant Director for
Program Management





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The Collaborator

The Collaborator is the quarterly newsletter for the North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities (NDCPD). NDCPD is a University of Excellence on Developmental Disabilities in Education, Research, and Services at Minot State University. It is part of a network of similar programs at universities throughout the United States.

Our mission...

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

Vision Statement...

We believe that people with disabilities have the same rights as all citizens. We believe that people with disabilities who receive publicly funded services have the right to expect that those services appropriately promote their independence, productivity, integration and inclusion. Furthermore, we believe that the public expects that these services will be provided in an effective manner.

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