

Accessibility Expectations

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

The topic of accessibility has come up often in our Center in the past several months. Hotel meeting and sleeping rooms have not been accessible. Requests for automatic door openers have been made. Public transportation vehicles are not always accessible. And the list goes on.

One perspective on this is that the issue of accessibility is becoming more and more a part of our typical days, and thus is a greater part of our daily discussions. A different perspective might be that we are talking about it so much because we still have a long ways to go toward accessibility.

Our staff is always aware of and constantly striving towards greater and complete access for all persons regardless of age, disability, or capability. It is fair to say that we, and I'd dare say many of our colleagues, also continue to struggle in this regard. But struggle we must, and onward we move. Recently I gained a broader perspective on my expectations of accessibility.

This summer I had a chance to travel overseas and had numerous chances to observe accessibility in Europe. Old buildings from the Medieval era, cobblestone streets on hillsides, and narrow alleys and entryways of inner city neighborhoods made accessibility for some difficult. It was rare that I saw people with mobility supports in these areas. I did observe some makeshift accommodations (e.g., a small rope on a door handle, a small wooden ramp for a door threshold). It is important to note here that many countries do not have laws or regulations mandating accessibility. Thus, our (my) U.S. expectations on accessibility were not always met.

That is not to say that all places had poor accessibility. When I visited more modernized buildings and most public buildings, fuller accessibility was present and much more akin to what one might expect in the U.S.

(Continued on page 2)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Accessibility Expectations.....	1
Talk, Walk & Roll	2
Perceptions Curriculum Ready for Review	3
Disability Health Project II.....	4
Recently Funded Projects	4
Upcoming Trainings.....	5
Don't fall Victim .. Affordable Care Act Scam	6
Access Scholarship.....	7

Accessibility Expectations: *Continued*

Most of the inter-country trains had excellent accessibility, with nearly every train car having a large, accessible toilet on board. The train stations had great features for accessibility including lined concrete trails in the floors that could lead a person with a visual impairment around the area. Announcements were available in the local language and in English. There were usually visual schedules of arrivals and departures, audio announcements of the same, and in some cases these were even color coded for organizational purposes. It was clear there were some things that we could import in the U.S.

As we traveled, I discussed my observations with my travel partners. One thing that became apparent in our discussions was the idea of individuality of accommodations for accessibility. It is clear that what works for one person may in fact be a hindrance to another. And it was clear that overseas, what works for one country and one location does not work for another. Thus the idea of global accessibility standards or expectations has some challenges.

So my overseas travel, while a vacation and not work-related, did inform and shape my perceptions on accessibility. It is clear that by virtue of our positions and our work, we all have a duty to ask for accommodations, and a duty to see it through to meet the needs of individuals with and for whom we work. However, I believe that what we see in one locale may not always apply to another. We need to expect and ask for accessibility, but we also need to expect that it may differ.

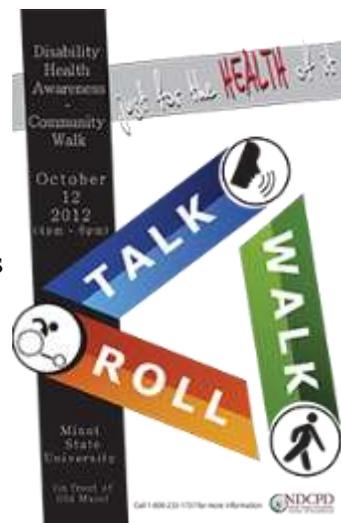
When people or programs are not aware of requirements and resources on accessibility, they can find help at the following sites:

- US Department of Justice, ADA Home Page - <http://www.ada.gov/>
- Fair Housing Accessibility First - <http://www.fairhousingfirst.org/>
- National Center on Accessible Instructional Materials - <http://aim.cast.org/>
- Information Technology Technical Assistance and Training Center - <http://www.ittatc.org/>
- ADA National Network - <http://adata.org/>

Talk, Walk & Roll

NDCPD is hosting the first annual **Talk, Walk & Roll** disability health awareness walk. The event will be held on Friday, October 12th from 4 pm to 6 pm on the campus of Minot State University. People of all abilities are welcome to participate. Participants will meet in front of Old Main on University Ave.

October is designated as National Disability Awareness month. **Talk, Walk & Roll** provides a great opportunity to talk with people as you walk around the beautiful MSU campus and roll through the evening with friends, just for the health of it. Local organizations and businesses will be stationed along the route and will provide information and resources on disabilities. "This event is intended to promote inclusive communities and raise health awareness for people with disabilities in a fun and unique way," said Emily Rodacker, NDCPD project coordinator. Participants can also visit MSU's new Wellness Center and other improvements happening on the campus.



Perceptions Curriculum Ready for Review

by Emily Rodacker, NDCPD Project Coordinator

The ultimate goal of the Perceptions Project is to improve public perceptions of individuals with developmental disabilities in the school, workplace, and community environments. The Perceptions Project is developing sustainable curriculum to benefit individuals with and without disabilities for years to come titled Workplace Education and Youth Education. This curriculum are ready for review online at www.ndcpd.org/perceptions.



In addition, the Perceptions Project is looking for workplaces and schools to test this curriculum for improving the public's perceptions of people with disabilities during Phase 2 of the project. Testing is necessary to ensure a valuable, effective product that is well received by end-users. As a test site, you will try out the curriculum in your environment (workplace or school). A standardized evaluation will be used to provide feedback to Perceptions Project staff to make enhancements to the curriculum.

WHO CAN BECOME A TEST SITE?

- **Workplace Education Curriculum:** Any place of business in ND interested in gaining more knowledge about employing people with disabilities or working with customers with disabilities should participate.
- **Youth Education Curriculum:** Any child care facility or school in ND serving children and youth grades PreK-12 are welcome to participate as a test site.

WHO WILL TEACH THE CURRICULUM?

- **Workplace Education Curriculum:** The curriculum is designed to be delivered by a facilitator. It is suggested the Human Resource Director or other supervisors/managers facilitate delivery of the curriculum to demonstrate the business' commitment to disability awareness and etiquette.
- **Youth Education Curriculum:** Ideas for facilitators of the Youth Education Curriculum include the classroom teacher, the guidance counselor, or physical education teacher. Testing will help identify the most effective method(s).

WHAT KIND OF SUPPORT WILL I RECEIVE?

Perceptions Project staff will provide technical assistance needed to deliver the curriculum. You will receive support from Perceptions Project staff from beginning to end. Support provided may include face-to-face meetings, e-mail, or teleconferencing.

HOW DO I SIGN UP?

Contact Steve Peterson, Project Director, at steve.peterson@minotstateu.edu or call 1-800-233-1737.

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
October 2012 Quarterly
NDCPD @ MSU
500 University Ave. W.,
Minot, ND
1-99

Disability Health Project II

by *Kari Schmidt, Project Director*

The ND Center for Persons with Disabilities (NDCPD) at Minot State University recently received a three-year federal grant from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (NCBDDD), Division of Human Development and Disability (DHDD), and Disability Policy, Interventions and Programs Team (DPIP). The award will assist NDCPD to improve the health of people with disabilities through state-based public health programs.

"NDCPD was awarded \$300,000 for the first year of the grant project and is slated to receive a similar funding level for the second and third years of the project," said Kari Schmidt, Project Director. The purpose of the grant is to promote health, prevent chronic disease, and increase the quality of life among people with disabilities. We will work to increase capacity and action in health promotion, access to health care, and emergency preparedness activities for people with disabilities.

Project staff will build upon a previous five year, CDC funded disability-health grant that ended in June. The previous grant enabled project staff to build relationships within the state with various disability and health entities and raise awareness of health disparities between people with and without disabilities. The new grant will continue some of the same work, such as providing technical assistance on disability issues and conducting health promotion activities. Additional areas will be included, such as emergency preparedness and health care access, such as mammography for women with disabilities.

Eighteen states were awarded the three-year grant to develop and strengthen health-related disability programs. The award period began on July 1, 2012.

For more information contact Kari Schmidt at 701.858.3048 or kari.schmidt@minotstateu.edu.



Recently Funded NDCPD Projects

Project Title	Contact	Budget
Supporting Autism in North Dakota (SAND) Year 2 Continuation	Lori Garnes	\$297,671
CSTP Accreditation Project, Year 2 Continuation	Mary Mercer	\$41,556
ND Employment First Initiative	Tom Alexander	\$62,238
Perception Project, Year 2 Continuation	Steve Peterson	\$53,886
ND Senior Medicare Patrol Expansion Grant	Linda Madsen	\$50,000

Upcoming Trainings

Doing the Right Thing when Nobody is Looking: *An Encounter with the Code of Ethics*

Registration Fee: \$45

November 7, 2012: Grand Forks, ND 9:00am-12:00noon Ramada
Block of Rooms for November 6th

- Ramada Grand Forks, 1205 N. 43rd St, (701) 775-3951; deadline to book 10-27-12, state rate of \$69.30

November 8, 2012: Bismarck, ND 1:00pm-4:00pm Comfort Inn
Block of Rooms for November 7th:

- Comfort Inn (701-223-1911); \$69 single \$79 double
- Comfort Suites (701-223-4009) \$69 single \$79 double

Designing Behavior Support Programs for Individuals who Challenge the System

by Cathy Pratt, Ph.D.
Registration Fee: \$75

January 9, 2013: HIT, Inc., 2640 Sunset Drive, Mandan, ND
Block of Rooms for January 8th

- Comfort Inn (701-223-1911); \$69 single \$79 double
- Comfort Suites (701-223-4009) \$69 single \$79 double

Upcoming Great Plains Interdisciplinary Autism Diagnostic Clinic (GPIC) November 6, 2012, NDCPD @ Minot State University, Minot, ND

The Great Plains Interdisciplinary Autism Diagnostic Clinic is funded through ND Department of Health Children's Special Health Services Division. We will be holding our next GPIC clinic in Minot on November 6th, 2012. We welcome professional, educational or parent referrals to be a part of this clinic. GPIC clinics use an interdisciplinary, arena style approach for the assessment. We are able to assess two children per clinic. For more information please contact Connie Irey, Project Director/Family Support Specialist, at 701-858-3286 or 1-800-233-1737 ext. 3286.

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.



Don't Fall Victim to the Utility Scam or the Affordable Care Act Scam

by Linda Madsen, Project Director

Scam artists are claiming that due to high energy costs associated with the higher than average temperatures, households are eligible for an energy credit being offered by President Obama. In an attempt to obtain personal information, the scammers persuade victims that a special federal government assistance program – sometimes described as a bailout authorized by the current administration – is available to pay their utility bills.

The goal of the scam is to gain enough personal information to initiate identity theft. The scam artist often already knows the name of the utility company and may pose as a representative of that company, providing a bank routing number for the customer to use in paying their utilities online. Some victims of the scam have provided their Social Security numbers, making them victims of identity theft.

Most people would never provide personal information to strangers over the phone. However, the name association the scam artists use by identifying themselves with a local utility company, along with the offer of a reduction in their utility bills, has been enough for many people to release personal identifying information and fall victim to this scam.

The second scam involves the recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling on the Affordable Care Act. Scammers, claiming to be with the government, call stating they need to verify some information under the Act, and request personal information such as Social Security numbers, Medicare numbers, credit card information, and checking account or bank routing numbers so they can issue a new Medicare card.

Medicare is NOT issuing new Medicare cards. Medicare will NOT call you and ask for your bank account information. Medicare will NOT ask you for your Medicare or Social Security numbers.

The Better Business Bureau warns consumers to remain on the lookout for scams related to the health care ruling. Scams related to the federal health insurance law started immediately after Congress passed the legislation in 2010 and will once again become more prevalent the closer it gets to the annual Medicare enrollment period, which begins in October.

Remember, the government and legitimate organizations such as utility companies would never ask for personal information over the phone. They have the information they need. If you receive a call from someone requesting personal information such as Social Security or bank account numbers, or any other information while claiming to be with the government, hang up immediately.

If you have mistakenly given out your Medicare number, please contact the ND Senior Medicare Patrol at 1-800-233-1737 or 858-3580. ND SMP is a free service which provides one-on-one assistance to Medicare beneficiaries with concerns regarding Medicare fraud and scams.



Sadie Sorley Receives the NDCPD Access Scholarship

by Linda Madsen, *Dissemination Coordinator*



NDCPD has awarded the ACCESS Scholarship to MSU Student, Ms. Sadie Sorley. This scholarship is available to assist students with disabilities at Minot State University finance their college experience.

Sadie is from Wolf Point, Montana. She is a senior at MSU and she is majoring in School Psychology, with a minor in Addiction Studies and a concentration in Special Education. Sadie is a member of the Minot State Chi Alpha campus ministry. Her career goals are to work with children with special needs.

The scholarship endowment is managed by the MSU Foundation. In turn, the NDCPD Consumer Advisory Council Scholarship Committee screens applications and awards the interest of the endowment as scholarships.

NDCPD's "Ram Good Job" Award

NDCPD's "Ram Good Job" Award is given to a 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:



July 2012

Steve Peterson

Online Disability Services Coordinator



August 2012

Kevin Kvale

Financial Specialist



September 2012

Chad Fenner

Computer Support Specialist





Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Minot, ND 58701
Permit No. 13

NORTH DAKOTA
CENTER FOR
PERSONS WITH
DISABILITIES

Executive Director:
Brent A. Askvig, Ph.D.

Editor: Linda Madsen

Layout & Design:
Suzanne Blessum

For additional information
Voice/TDD: (701) 858-3580

Toll Free: (800) 233-1737

Email:
ndcpd@minotstateu.edu

Website: www.ndcpd.org

Available in alternative
format upon request.

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.

Preparation of this newsletter was supported by a grant (#90DD0604-02) to the North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities by the Administration on Developmental Disabilities. The opinions expressed here are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or opinions of the Administration on Developmental Disabilities.

