Dr. Bryce Fifield served as the Executive Director overseeing the overall operations and functions of the Center.

Dr. Joseph Ferrara was the Associate Director for Federal Development. His role was to manage federal grant writing efforts with the NDCPD staff members.

Dr. Brent Askvig was the Associate Director for State Development. His focus was state grants and contracts and establishing and promoting state collaborations.

Ms. Susie Mack was NDCPD’s Office Manager. She managed the operational aspects of the Center including personnel and office operations.

Ms. Marcia Johnson was NDCPD’s Finance Manager.

This team met regularly to discuss the future of NDCPD, as well as the day-to-day operations.

In April of 2003, NDCPD had their 4th federal site visit. The site reviewers came from other UCEDDs and included Dr. Hill Walker (Oregon UCEDD) and Dr. Sarah Rule (Utah UCEDD). The site visitors noted that “NDCPD fulfills the expectations of a UCEDD in an exemplary fashion.”

After Dr. Ferrara’s departure, the role of coordinating both federal and state grant writing was managed by Dr. Askvig. Grant development diversified from technology to other technical assistance and community education grants.

The NDCPD Core Coordinators’ role was to assure UCEDD core functions were achieved. During this time span, various faculty members managed these roles:

PreService Training Coordinator: Ms. JoLynn Webster, 2002 - 2006
Research Coordinators: Dr. Bryce Fifield, 2002 - 2004
Dr. Brent Askvig, 2004 - 2006
Community Support Coordinators: Dr. Brent Askvig, 2003 - 2004
Mr. Steve Peterson, 2004 - 2006
Community Training Coordinator: Ms. Mary Mercer, 2002 - 2006
Dissemination Coordinators: Ms. Sue Garness, 2002 - 2005
Ms. Kari Schmidt, 2005 - 2006

The Consumer Advisory Committee continued to be integral to NDCPD. In addition, a Multicultural Coordinator was added to focus on diversity topics and assure all populations and races were included in NDCPD’s work.

In 2004, Joe Ferrara moved from NDCPD to MSU’s Special Education department. Joe’s legacy was whiteboard drawing, brainstorming and asking, “Are you with me?”

In 2000, a national change was implemented in the UAP network. University Affiliated Programs (UAP) were renamed to University Centers of Excellence on Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD)

In 2003, efforts towards fundraising were initiated by NDCPD leadership to support their mission and vision. Donations were deposited into one of two MSU foundation accounts: Endowment and Access. Interest income from these accounts were used in a variety of ways that assisted the Center. From this, the ACCESS Scholarship was created. Scholarships were awarded to MSU students with significant disabilities. The first scholarship was given to Sherry Brook-Sanderson in 2005 for $150. Later the scholarship was renamed the Bryce M. Fifield Access Scholarship.

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In 2001 - 2005
185 Funded Grants & Contracts
$19,679,226

Mission Statement: To provide leadership and innovation that advances the state-of-the-art and to empower people with disabilities to challenge expectations, achieve personal goals and be included in all aspects of community life. Adopted by NDCPD Consumer Advisory Council, 2001.

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