

## NDACP NEWS

Volume 17

January, 2010

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### Message from the Executive Director

I'm pleased to welcome the Northern Plains Special Ed Unit KIDS program, and Keith Gustafson, Director, as the newest member of NDACP. We are 29 members strong.

We will feature the four Infant Development Programs under Northern Plains in one of the upcoming newsletters.

NDACP, in partnership with the Department of Commerce, Higher Education, and the ND Long Term Care Association, is part of an ARRA grant which has been submitted which will pay for education costs for 50 DSPs to continue their educational work towards an Associates Degree. We hope to hear on this grant in the next few weeks.

The Transition to the Community Task Force is working to increase the number of placements from the Developmental Center, and to reduce placements to the institution. Providers will be able to apply to develop specialized programs to place individuals currently at the Center, which may be combined to develop better settings for individuals who are currently at risk of being institutionalized. Look for the criteria for these specialized programs in the near future.

**Greeting to all NDACP members & supporters.**

### Mission Statement

Through collective and collaborative means, enhance, improve and advocate for positive change in the service delivery system for people with disabilities.

### Statement of Values of NDACP

NDACP supports the viability of all existing members. Diversity of providers enhances quality.

### SB 2423

NDACP Members: Tom Newberger, Sandie Leyland, Eric Monson, Mike Remboldt, Barb Murry

The work group on SB 2423 continues to meet to examine issues related to the 95% occupancy rule and audits. Current discussion centered on the continued need for accountability and the role of private vs. public audits. Timeliness of audits and rate setting will be discussed. The group will also be examining the impact of the 95% occupancy rule, particularly on the Day Supports program. Give any feedback to NDACP members as soon as possible.

### HB 1012

The workgroup looking at the "bucket" funding through our primary funding bill met again 1-22-10 to discuss glitches in the process, and how the funds would be handled at audit. The funding will be handled as a budget offset. Additional information will be available on the webpage. Minutes should be out in the next week.

*Barbara Murry*



**YOU CAN HELP! JOIN NDACP TODAY!**

NDACP is a statewide group whose member organizations provide a wide range of services for people with disabilities – developmental, mental and physical. Our membership is made up of North Dakota organizations that are governed by citizen Boards of Directors to provide services specifically for people with disabilities.

NDACP strives to stimulate public interest and understanding. We share information, expertise, and develop and enhance special programs. We conduct research and studies, promote advocacy, and are a proactive liaison with governmental agencies on behalf of all North Dakota citizens with disabilities.

Our Mission is to enhance, improve and advocate for positive change in the service delivery for people with disabilities. As a person interested in the Mission of NDACP, WE ASK YOU TO BECOME AN INDIVIDUAL MEMBER IN NDACP.

Individual Member benefits include: 1) Listing on the NDACP Website as someone who supports persons with disabilities, and 2) The satisfaction of knowing that YOU are helping in the ongoing struggle to obtain appropriate levels of service to people with disabilities.

**YOU CAN CONTINUE TO HELP OUR EFFORTS! PLEASE CONSIDER RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN THIS DYNAMIC AND GROWING ORGANIZATION FOR THE SAKE OF THE PEOPLE WE SERVE!**



**Individual Membership  
2010**

Please consider membership in this dynamic and growing organization for the sake of the people we serve.

Yes, I want to join the advocacy efforts of NDACP. Enclosed is my check for \$10 payable to NDACP.

I am an employee of an NDACP Member.

No, I do not want to join now, but have enclosed a contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to help the Mission of NDACP.

(Please Print)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ORGANIZATION: \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION SHOULD BE SENT TO:**

Barbara Murry, North Dakota Association of Community Providers,  
PO Box 7037, Bismarck, ND 58507-7037

**Development Homes, Inc.:** Amanda McNaughton, Angie Hurst, Cindy Holweger, Kara Odegaard,

**ETC/VTC:** Mary Nelson, Larry Ormberg, Darla Kaercher-Randle, Carolyn Shook, Paulette Wood

**HIT, Inc.:** Denita Grosz

**Lake Region Corp:** David Olson

**Opportunity Foundation:** Andrea Peterson, Becky Holm-Zelzer, Brad Peterson, Charlie Robinson, Cheryl Shortall, DiAnn Merk, Donna Carrier, Donna Peterson, Glen Clark, Kathy Ekblad, Jolene Brown, Kristen Jones, Leah Wells, Mavis Sala, Sonya Owan, Tony Puckett

**Red River Human Services:** Don Leinen, Jr., Jana Sundbom, JoAnne Hartman, Jolene Brown, Joyce Hashell, Karen Bahr, Kris Johnson, Mary Dahlheimer, Pam Erlandson, Stephanie Wellnitz, Tom Canning, Wendy Kahler

**Rehab Services:** Marla Kulig

**REM-ND, Inc.:** Russell Myers, Jeanne Nybo, Cindy Restad

Please let me know if your name has been missed, in error.

**All memberships run until the end of  
2010.**

Memberships received after 10-1-10 will be applied to 2011.

**EXECUTIVE MEMBERSHIPS 2010**

(\$100.00 Memberships)  
Anne Carlsen Center: Eric Monson  
NDACP: Barbara Murry

# 2010 NDACP OFFICERS

President: Sandi Marshall, Development Homes, Inc., Grand Forks

Vice President: Mike Remboldt, HIT, Inc., Mandan

Secretary-Treasurer: Don Nelson, Alpha Opportunities, Jamestown



**ND DSP AWARDS  
2010**

**Applications available from Agency Directors  
Due January 31, 2010  
Submit to Barb Murry  
PO Box 7037  
Bismarck, ND 58507-7037**

# Doing Other Business



## **COLUMBIA PLACE PROJECT TO SERVE YOUNG ADULTS WITH AUTISM**

Town-home facility to provide specialized housing to promote independence

Development Homes, Inc, a non-profit organization serving people with disabilities, held a ceremonial groundbreaking event to celebrate the beginning of construction of a new town-home facility. The facility, called Columbia Place, will provide low-income housing for young adults with autism spectrum disorders who are transitioning into adult life. The facility will be a six unit town-home complex, with one-bedroom units to serve five individuals, each in their own town-home, and one unit for support staff. One of the units will be fully accessible for individuals with mobility impairments, and the other units will be convertible to full accessibility. Development Homes will provide 24-hour support services in the complex, specifically tailored to the individual needs of the residents.

The project is the result of a local task force which identified a gap in services to young adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders and similar behavioral and intellectual conditions that are transitioning out of the school system and into adult life. Due to the very specialized needs of individuals with these conditions, services in the community are not generally available in settings that allow people to reside in their own apartments. Often the only settings that offer the environmental accommodations and support services needed are group homes or institutional facilities. This project will provide a much needed and affordable option for young adults to learn and develop within a setting that promotes a less restrictive, more normalized, and yet affordable lifestyle.

“We are extremely excited to be able to provide this much needed housing and support within our community.

Development Homes is proud to have obtained a HUD 811 grant for construction and rental assistance, and to work with many stakeholders within the area to arrive at this point,” states Sandi Marshall, CEO of Development Homes and Executive Director of Columbia Place, “this project will not only improve the quality of life for those served, but benefit our community as a whole.”

Columbia Place will be located at 3880 South Columbia Road, Grand Forks and is being funded through a HUD Section 811 grant. Development Homes, Inc. hopes to open Columbia Place to residents in June 2010.



## **Grand Forks Center Promote Independence, and New Opportunities**

Carla Tice, Program Director

The L.I.S.T.E.N. Drop-In Center *promotes opportunities* for people with disabilities and families who are low-income to participate in leisure-recreational activities. These activities are offered in a safe environment that is inclusive, affordable, and accommodating. Drop-In allows *access to recreation* for low to moderate income families, 70% who happen to have a disability.

We have a wide range of activities for those who participate at the L.I.S.T.E.N. Drop-In Center. They vary from inclusive sporting events, to music programs, to self-empowerment, traveling, to general use of computers, performing arts and much more. Cost: minimal. In a survey conducted in July.

Guests at Drop-In reported that they access this community center because of the support, accommodations, comfort level, and affordability. In a quote by one of our “guest’s”, Stacy Olson, when asked what he would do if there was no longer the L.I.S.T.E.N. Center, he said without hesitation, “I would fall apart.”

Six days a week, Drop-In provides a place where people love to go. Not mandated or demanded on their own free will our attendance is still over 13,000 visits, and over 874 guests, plus an additional 552 people involved or supported by Self Advocacy Solutions program. Our Center is open for children, ages 3-18, to attend after school- the number of kids that benefited from the center was over 200 this past year. We welcome all people, all ages, all nationalities, abilities; we do not discriminate, we embrace diversity and honor each and person's unique gifts. Throughout our 40 year history at Drop-In, we pride ourselves in honoring everyone’s gifts and contribution to this world. We not only honor these gifts, but we respect and appreciate them. Approximately 70% of the people we serve have a disability and many of the people we serve are citizens that have economical challenges that prevent them from full participation in their right to leisure-recreation. Our support of the Self-Advocacy movement has assisted putting Self-Advocacy Solutions, N.D., on a local, regional, state, national and international stage. All those affiliated with L.I.S.T.E.N. Drop-In, including our guests, 29 UND volunteers, our neighbors, our allies, the people we serve, who are provided support from this little north-end community center that can shout out, “We love this place.” If you're in Grand Forks, why not stop by for a visit.

# Up Coming Training Opportunities

**Brochure and more information available at  
<http://www.ndacf.org/training.htm>**

**April 14-16 Commensurate Compliance Training with Mark Knuckles & Associates  
Kelly Inn, Bismarck –  
More will be available on the webpage in the near future.**

**May 5 – 7 NDACP Annual Conference  
Bismarck**

**Aug 3-4 NDACP Strategic Planning – Lake Metigoshe**

**Sept 29–Oct 1 Six State Summit  
Big Sky, Montana**

## Congratulations

Kirsten Friedt, RN-C, Health Services Coordinator for ABLE, Incorporated is one of two nurses nationwide chosen by The Developmental Disabilities Nurses Association to serve on a special medication task force. This task force is for the establishment of critical practice guidelines as they relate to medication administration, medication management, self administration of medication, and education for the person with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities as well as direct support personnel. Kirsten was chosen because of her experience in establishing & maintaining medication practice and program standards, developing agency policies, and addressing regulatory issues with government agencies. She is a strong supporter of safe medication administration practices while maintaining the rights of people supported. ABLE, Inc offers supports for people with Developmental Disabilities in Dickinson, Hettinger, and Bowman, North Dakota.

# Did You Know?

## Traumatic Brain Injury Awareness Campaign Launches in North Dakota

Over 9,000 people in North Dakota sustain a traumatic brain injury (TBI) each year and with the help of state appropriated funds from the 2009 North Dakota Legislature, the Head Injury Association of North Dakota (HIAND) is revived. With the mission to advocate for the head injury population of North Dakota; establish support groups for survivors of head injury and their families; network information; bring awareness to the public; and provide local and national leaders for the purpose of bringing quality of life and coping mechanisms to those involved with head injuries, the HIAND is increasing awareness about TBIs throughout the state. In addition to bolstering understanding of TBIs, the HIAND provides information referral, peer counseling and informal support services.

A TBI is an insult to the head or penetrating head injury that disrupts the functioning of the brain. TBIs cause unpredictable consequences by affecting the way people think, act and feel. The effects of TBIs are complex and vary greatly from person to person, with no two brain injuries being the same. Some of the possible consequences include the following:

- **Physical:** paralysis, seizures, headaches, fatigue, sleep disturbances, impaired balance
- **Sensory:** vision, speech, hearing, and coordination problems
- **Cognitive:** impaired reasoning or memory, difficulty making decisions, slowed processing speed, attention difficulties, impaired judgment,
- **Social/personality:** inappropriate social behaviors, anxiety, depression, impulsiveness, restlessness, irritability, sudden changes in mood

The signs and symptoms of TBIs can be subtle and may not appear until days or weeks following the injury. The specific symptoms may also vary depending on which part of the brain has been affected. If headache, confusion, neck pain, blurred vision, instability, fatigue, ringing in the ears, or slowness in thinking, reacting, speaking, or reading occur following an injury, it is advisable to contact a physician immediately.

Like most injuries, prevention is the key to avoiding TBIs. Wearing seat belts, a helmet, being a cautious driver, reducing the risk of falls, and not shaking infants are steps that can help ensure a healthy future without a TBI. Seatbelts are another key in prevention.

For more information on TBI, peer counseling or informal support services, please contact the HIAND.





## ND Association of Community Providers 24<sup>th</sup> Annual NDACP Conference

*Creating Inclusive Communities*

May 5-7, 2010

Ramkota Hotel, Bismarck, ND

# CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS

This statewide conference offers an opportunity to share your ideas, skills, programs, and knowledge with hundreds of people from North Dakota and surrounding states. If you are willing to tell us about your program and/or learning experiences in providing services to persons with disabilities, please complete the abstract form on the other side of this form.

### KEYNOTE AND FEATURED SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

*Finding Your Theme Song* by David Parker, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

*Self Determination* by Michael Wehmeyer, Lawrence, Kansas

*The Rhythmic Arts Project* by Eddie Tudori, Carpinteria, CA

*Providers as the Cornerstone for Community Inclusion* by Keith Jones, Boston, Massachusetts

*Living without Limits: 10 Keys to Unlocking the Champion in You* by Judy Siegle, Fargo, ND

#### Concurrent Session Topic areas may include:

Leadership/Supervision	Self-Determination	Employment
Health/Mental Health	Staff Development	Inclusion
Nutrition/Wellness	Criminal Justice Issues	Ethics
Inclusive Recreation/Leisure	Aging & End of Life Issues	Sexuality
Parenting/Family Issues	Family Supports	Housing
Communication	Alternative Service Models	Medication
Quality Assurance	Collaboration	Social Capital
Legal Issues and Advocacy	Financial/Fund Raising	Transition
Positive Behavioral Supports	Transportation	Accreditation
Supporting Learning	Hospice/Respite Care	Active Treatment
Respect	Other Disability Issues	Quality of Life
Assistive Technology	Marketing/Public Relations	Recruitment/Retention

**Conference Participants include:** Direct Support and other Human Service Professionals, CEOs, Program Directors, Case Managers, Nurses, Social Workers, Counselors, Recreation Program Providers, Teachers, Family Members, Consumers, Advocates, agency and independent Qualified Service Providers (QSPs).



**Remember: The NDACP Address has changed to PO Box 7037,  
Bismarck, ND 58507-7037**

[www.ndacf.org](http://www.ndacf.org)



## 2010 APSE Awards

The North Dakota (ND) APSE Chapter is part of the national APSE organization. APSE's focus is on integrated employment and career advancement opportunities for individuals with disabilities. APSE leads in the advancement of equitable employment for people with disabilities. For this reason ND APSE, once again, would like to honor outstanding efforts to achieve and support integrated community-based employment and careers for people with disabilities with the "Best of the Best Awards." These awards include:

- "Best of the Best" employees with disabilities within each region of the state;
- One "Best of the Best" individual with a disability who is self-employed and has made significant contributions in the community to increase awareness of disability issues, advocacy issues, and employment opportunities; and
- The board will also select one professional to receive the "Pat Knudson Outstanding Professional Achievement" award for his or her commitment to the growth and improvement of community-based employment of people with disabilities.

The presentation of these awards will take place at the annual ND Association of Community Facilities (NDACF) Conference at the Ramkota Hotel in Bismarck, ND, May 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>, 2010. We hope your organization will take part in the conference and assist ND APSE by nominating individuals for each of these awards. Please return the enclosed nomination forms by Tuesday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2010 to:

Attn: Jana Kremer

North Dakota APSE

Minot State University/NDCPD

500 University Ave. W.

Minot, ND 58707

Ph. 1-800-233-1737

**Email:** [jana.kremer@minotstateu.edu](mailto:jana.kremer@minotstateu.edu)

**Fax:** 701-858-3483

If you have any questions about ND APSE, please contact me or any of the following APSE Board members:

Don Brunette 701-293-2947, Tatum Hirschorn 701-663-0379, or Mary Mercer: 1-800-233-1737.

## National News

### DOJ Increases Olmstead Enforcement Efforts

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) has filed amicus briefs in three separate cases involving Olmstead complaints. The “friend of the court” briefs were filed in Connecticut, Virginia and New York by the department’s Civil Rights Division. The filings reflect increased activity on the part of the DOJ in Olmstead issues in concert with the Obama Administration’s “Year of Community Living” initiative.

On November 25th, the department filed a “friend of the court” brief in support of plaintiffs in *Connecticut Protection and Advocacy v. State of Connecticut*, and opposing a pending motion to dismiss the lawsuit in federal court in Connecticut. In this case, plaintiffs filed suit on behalf of approximately 200 individuals with mental illness residing in three nursing facilities in Connecticut, as well as numerous other individuals who are at risk of entry into these facilities, claiming that individuals with mental illness reside in these facilities while equally affordable and more integrated community-based settings exist or could be made available that would better meet the needs of individuals with mental illness.

The Virginia case is *ARC of Virginia v. Timothy Kaine* in Richmond, Virginia, federal district court. That brief opposed Virginia’s motion to dismiss a case that challenges the State’s decision to construct a new facility for persons with intellectual disabilities in Chesapeake, Virginia, rather than serving them in the community in supported housing.

In New York, The DOJ’s brief supports the plaintiff’s proposed remedy to require 6,000 new community-based placements and against the State’s proposal to provide approximately 1,000 new community spaces in the state-run system in *Disability Advocates Inc. v. David A. Paterson, et al.* in federal district court in Brooklyn, where the court has already ruled that placement of persons with mental disabilities in “large adult homes” violates the Supreme Court decision in *Olmstead*. In the New York lawsuit the DOJ has been permitted by the court to intervene in the ongoing case.

**FMI:** The Connecticut brief is available at [http://www.ada.gov/briefs/conn\\_olmsteadbr.pdf](http://www.ada.gov/briefs/conn_olmsteadbr.pdf). The Virginia brief can be found at [http://www.ada.gov/briefs/virginia\\_olmsteadbr.pdf](http://www.ada.gov/briefs/virginia_olmsteadbr.pdf). The New York brief is located at [http://www.ada.gov/briefs/newyork\\_olmsteadbr.pdf](http://www.ada.gov/briefs/newyork_olmsteadbr.pdf).

### Harvard Project Publishes Human Rights Handbook for Self-Advocates

The [Harvard Project on Disability](http://www.hpod.org/) (HPOD) recently published, [We Have Human Rights](http://www.hpod.org/we-have-human-rights/), a human rights handbook for self-advocates with developmental disabilities. The 28-page book provides an easy-to-read explanation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The handbook is also available in other languages. See the right-hand side of the Harvard Project on Disabilities homepage at <http://www.hpod.org/>.