



Message from the Executive Director



Greetings to all NDACF members. As many of you know, I began my position as Executive Director of NDACF April 1, 2008. I was pleased to serve as your President the two and 1/2 years prior to assuming this position and am enthused to be working for you in my new capacity. I will be advocating for the needs of people with developmental disabilities and working to improve salaries for people working in our industry. Don't hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance to you as Executive Director.

I hope you found the NDACF Conference informative and refreshing. Our Conference had many excellent keynotes from nationally known experts. This year's conference had attendance of approximately 390 people, with attendees from North Dakota, Minnesota and Canada.

Next year, we hope to again have a track co-sponsored by ND APSE, a new track for DD Case Management, and continue our focus on social capital.

Legislative Awards

Recipients of the legislative awards for 2007 were as follows:

- Senator Judy Lee – Chair of the Human Services Committee
- Senator Tom Fischer - Chair of Senate Appropriations
- Representative Ole Aarsvold - House Appropriations

These outstanding legislators supported equity and inflationary increases for staff in DD providers, as well as increased program dollars for people with developmental disabilities. They championed our cause throughout the legislative session. They served on our Legislative Partnership Committee which develops priorities for the legislative session and strategies to effectively present the needs of the industry. We will miss Representative Aarsvold who is retiring.

NDACF members have been hard at work in many areas. We will conduct a strategic planning session early in June to identify our priorities for the next year.

Government Affairs Committee: Chair – Jon Larson, Enable.

The Government Affairs Committee will gear up for increased activity as the fall political campaigns and the 2009 legislative session approaches. NDACF will be working to get the message out regarding consumer needs, the low wages, employee high turnover and difficulty hiring, using a variety of media messages.

There have been a series of meeting with staff of the Department of Human Services to work on fiscal disincentives to serving people with high needs in ISLA (Individualized Supported Living Arrangements). A number of positive changes have been agreed upon by this task force. Some will require an Optional Adjustment Request (OAR) as a part of the 2009 budget request. One recommended change will require changes in administrative code. The Department will

will begin the promulgation process for the rule change in the near future.

Education Committee: Chair --Brenda Niess, REM.

The Education Committee is working on upcoming training in the area of strategies for the Baby Boomers, X-Generation, and Millennial generations working together effectively. We are also exploring the possibility of offering another session of leadership training for mid-management staff.

Legislative Partnership Committee: Chair: Tim Huseth, HAV-IT.

The Committee, made up of representatives of NDACF, the Arc, P&A, the Disability Consortium, and family members has met once and will meet again this summer to continue work on the priorities for the next legislative session. We are in the process of gathering data on staff turnover and wage comparisons.

Transition to the Community Task Force: Chair – Alex Schweitzer, Superintendent, State Developmental Center.

The Task Force has continued to meet throughout the past year. Recommendations are that the population at the Developmental Center be reduced to 97 by the end of the 2009 biennium and to 67 the following biennium. There will be an October Training summit on successful downsizing strategies in other states, sponsored by the State Council on Developmental Disabilities. This will include developing increased infrastructure in the community. To this end, the state has issued a request for proposal to develop a crisis intervention unit in Western ND. It is hoped this unit will be operational by Fall. The CARES unit at the Developmental Center will continue to provide crisis services to eastern ND and provider coordination to both units.

Barbara Murry

NDACF PUBLIC POLICY PLATFORM 2009 – 2011 BIENNIUM Draft

- 1) **WAGES, Fringe Benefits, and Equity Increases** -- A wage study is being completed at this time. The equity increase will be determined when the wage study is completed.
- 2) **INFLATION ADJUSTMENT** -- We are requesting an inflationary increase of at least 5% for each year of the 2009-2011 Biennium.
- 3) **BENEFITS** -- Benefit costs continue to increase for Community Providers. Specifically, health insurance costs have increased by double digit percentages each year and our employees have had to pick up much of the additional costs. Our benefits include mandatory costs for FICA, Medical FICA, workers compensation and unemployment. We are studying the percentage needed in benefits.
- 4) **ISLA** -- ISLA placements can be a less costly, less restrictive service option for some people with high level support needs. We are working the with the Department of Human Services to develop an Optional Adjustment Request to change the administrative allocation process to remove the disincentive for the ISLA Program, to cover increased costs in transportation, staff training, supervision, and to allow increased transition of individuals into ISLA from the institution and from the school system.
- 5) **CRITICAL NEED STAFFING INCREASES** -- As people we support age or other changes occur in their lives, often times increased needs arise. Staffing increases have not been available from the Department to adequately address those needs. Additional funding is required for complex behavioral and medical care.

YOU CAN HELP! JOIN NDACF TODAY!

NDACF 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.

NDACF 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 NDACF, WE ASK YOU TO BECOME AN INDIVIDUAL MEMBER IN NDACF.

Individual Member benefits include: 1) Listing on the NDACF 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
2008**

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 NDACF and I am an employee of an NDACF Member. Enclosed is my check for \$10 payable to NDACF.

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

(Please Print)
NAME: _____

ORGANIZATION: _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION SHOULD BE SENT TO:
Barbara Murry, North Dakota Association of Community Facilities,
PO Box 7037, Bismarck, ND 58507-7037

**VALUE _____
OUR MOST VULNERABLE
NDACF**

North Dakota Association of Community Facilities



Catholic Charities ND: Donna Bysewski***, Sue Dokken, Mavis Jundt, Suzanne McKinnon Netzer, Emma Roodra*, Mary Solberg

Community Living Services: Jim Berglie***

Development Homes, Inc.: Bradley Crotty, Mary Dittmer**, Cindy Holweger, Carol Jones, Nancy Ulrich Crotty

ETC/VTC: Victoria Bauman, Julie Boedighiemer*, Jodi Freitag, Richelle McGregor, Larry Ornberg*, Terry Paulson***, Darla Kaercher-Randle, Carolyn Shook*, Lori Were*, Paulette Wood*

Fraser, Ltd.: Miranda Buland, Junelle Christianson*, Merri Christlieb, Virginia Dwyer*, Mary Gulsvig*, Rikki Iverson*, Sandra Leyland***, Sheryl McFarland, Linda McMillin, Mark Paulson*, Renita Quam*, Nikki Rude, Kelsey Stoos*, Mary Tangen*, Judith Van Engelenhoven*

Friendship: Jenny Johnson, Lori Ramsey*

HAV-IT: Loretta Baumbach, Margaret Hager, Tammy Hornbacher, Tim Huseuth***, Sherri Lien, Sarah Mertz, Val Olson, Rose Weninger

HIT, Inc.: Laura Kourajian

Lake Region Corporation: Deb Ardahl, Brenda Beranek*, Paula Bertsch*, Gloria Bracken*, Marilyn Briningen*, Linda Brusven, Charlotte Burt, Alicia Dalzell*, Ellen Davidson***, Elaine Haugen*, Teresa Hoselton, Kari Kopp*, Debra Lien, Deb Johnson, Stacy MacDonald, Riki Mielke, Susan Otto, Peggy Peters*, Donna Streifel, Kim Trana*, Vicki Vinnard, Tom Watt

Opportunity Foundation: Kathy Ekblad*, Kristen Jones*, DiAnn Merk*, Sonya Owan*, Charlie Robinson***, Cheryl Shortell*, Donna Sieg*, Leah Wells

Pride, Inc.: Carol Gass, Jani Seifert*, Darcy Severson*, Lori Sitter*

Red River Human Services: Karen Bahr*, Denae Burkhardt, Tom Canning, MJ Dahlheimer, Pam Erlandson*, Deb Gehring, Kris Johnson, Donald Leinen Jr., Laurel Neurauder, Tom Newberger***, MaryAnn Remme*, Susan Schwartzbauer, Bonnie Sem, Ruth Soderstrom*, Jana Sundbom*, Charlotte Viou, Melissa Wollin

REM-ND, Inc.: Bonnie Aabrekke*, Doug Asleson, Brenda Bednarz*, Deb Carlson*, Fran Carroll, Joyce Carter*, Debora Rae Clark*, Beth Czaplowski*, Elizabeth (Betty) Faul*, Janet Hansen, Jason Hathaway, Charity Haugland, Travis Horpestad, Cynthia Kirschenmann, Lucy Klym, Melane Knutson*, Larry Kraft*, Trish Koop*, Sara Meidinger, Chnthia Mogard*, Skip Narum*, Brenda Niess***, Jeanne Nybo, Leslie Parrish, Jessica Remeika, Darcy Sabourin*, Linda Schwols*, Cathy Stevenson, Kari Titus, Sharon Walter

A special **THANK YOU** to all renewing members – and a warm **WELCOME** to all new members!

*Renewing Members **Executive Members ***Renewing Ex Members
Let's see if we can increase the number of memberships for 2008!!

EXECUTIVE MEMBERSHIPS 2008
(\$100.00 Memberships)

Catholic Charities ND: Donna Byzewski

CLS: Jim Berglie

Development Homes: Mary Dittmer

Lake Region Corporation: Ellen Davidson

Fraser, LTD.: Sandra Leyland

Hav-It: Tim Huseuth

Lake Region Corp: Ellen Davidson

REM-ND, Inc.: Brenda Niess

ETC/VTC: Terry Paulson

Opportunity Foundation: Charlie Robinson

Red River Human Services: Tom Newberger

NDACF 2008 Conference



Senator Tim Mathern addresses the audience regarding his past support of DD and asks for their support. "I will continue to fight for your important industry and will back up my words with actions to increase pay." Senator Mathern has worked tirelessly to further services and wages in our industry.



Governor John Hoeven describes his plan to support the DD industry with better wages. Hoven's support for the \$.60 per hour increase in the last session was critical in securing that increase during the legislative session.



Pictured are some of the cast members of "Grease", a production of the Grand Forks LISTEN Center who performed at the NDACF Conference. 95% of the cast members have developmental disabilities. It was their idea to explore the performing arts.

"There has been a real personal growth for those involved," said Carla Tice, Program Director, at LISTEN. "In some ways you just expect to teach people what they need to do to perform in the production. Surprisingly, you also are witness to the growth in self confidence, excitement, pride, and the sheer joy in the faces of the participants. In reality though, it is the audience who is touched by the effort and energy of the production. There was a standing ovation, for it was truly an experience of the heart."

Community Connections

Reprinted from HIT's newsletter, with permission.

This is a story about a family.

About discovering you have a family.

About learning your family history.

This is a story about Elaine Henke and the providence that reconnected her with family.



Elaine meets Aunt Shirley

Elaine's name was fortuitously drawn to be celebrated in HIT's quarterly celebrations, where four teams "celebrate" the accomplishments of four individuals in HIT services. That simple act set a course that would change many lives. Elaine is mostly non-verbal, with only a few intelligible words in her vocabulary. Elaine does not often interact with others. She is not an easy person to get to know.

She was also facing some serious health issues at the time her name was drawn, and had been placed in hospice care. Her celebration team, made up of five members of HIT's staff, wasn't even sure she would live long enough to take in a typical celebration like a nice dinner or a party. (Elaine has since recovered and was taken off hospice care.)

Her celebration team settled on telling Elaine's story by putting together a scrapbook about her.

Elaine, 58, who was born two months premature, was admitted to the State Developmental Center in Grafton when she was 15 months old, and lived there for the next 37 years. After admitting Elaine to the center, her parents had no further contact with her, a common practice that was sometimes encouraged by medical professionals at the time.

Elaine's parents moved to the Minneapolis area, later divorced, and both eventually remarried. Her father moved to South Dakota, where he died in 1991.

Elaine came into HIT's services in 1988 following the court-ordered deinstitutionalization of the Developmental Center. She moved into the Terra Vallee group home and attends HIT's day program.

With this minimal history and a couple of pictures from the Developmental Center, the team began the process of finding more of Elaine's story.

An internet search for her mother, using her maiden name Bettenhausen, turned up an obituary. She had died in February 2006.

The obituary was posted on a Bettenhausen family website. Through this website, the team began finding other information and pictures of her mother and other family members.

They discovered Elaine has an older sister and a niece. Efforts to contact them were unsuccessful.

Elaine has aunts and uncles -- many of them, as it turns out. Her grandfather, Oliver Bettenhausen Sr., had 17 children, one of whom was Elaine's mother.

Two of her uncles still live in the Wishek area, where the Bettenhausen family homesteaded. A call to one of them directed us to a sister, Elaine's aunt, Shirley Kaseman.

The call to Shirley on Sept. 13 was life changing. She not only welcomed information about her niece, but while she was on the phone, she picked up Elaine's birth announcement from her desk at her retirement cabin along the Missouri River near Linton.

"A few weeks earlier, I was having coffee with my sister Muriel," she recalled later. "She had been going through scrapbooks. She had pulled out things and had a little stack of birth announcements of my nieces and nephews."

"I picked one up and I opened it up," she continued. "It said Elaine Helen Henke."

"My heart just jumped in my breast because it was already on my mind," she said. "I said, 'I want this one, I'll keep this one.' So I took Elaine's birth announcement home with me and it was lying on my desk."

"I had it in my mind before I leave (to go south) for the winter, I have to find Elaine. I have to see Elaine."

She didn't know where to start until that afternoon phone call.

The following week, Shirley made arrangements to visit Elaine, and on Sept. 21 met her niece, whom she last saw as an infant in a crib.

Since then, Elaine's family history has continued to evolve, to grow, to provide her with roots.

She has curly hair, something she likely got, along with her blue eyes, from her handsome father, who was a sailor in the U.S. Navy.

She is stubborn, a trait she probably inherited from the German heritage on her mother's side of the family.

She has met her Aunt Muriel, who joined Shirley for Elaine's birthday party at Terra Vallee in October.

Shirley doesn't know why Elaine's parents placed Elaine in the State Developmental Center, but she believes they were simply unable to care for a child with such severe disabilities and they were probably told Elaine wouldn't live very long.

"I know in my heart Corrine had no choice," Shirley said. "She would be amazed Elaine lived to be an adult."

The Bettenhausen family is large but they are uncommonly close and very loving, Shirley noted.

The 17 children of Oliver Sr. have a family reunion every five years, and most of them have been in attendance. The next reunion, scheduled for 2010, won't include three siblings, including Elaine's mother, who have died since the 2005 reunion.

Within the past year, a family history dating back to the 1500s was completed, Shirley said. Elaine's name is listed as part of that family, and though most of Corrine's siblings knew about Elaine, they didn't know Elaine.

"She was only a name," Shirley said.

No longer.

Elaine Helen Henke has family.

Laura Kourajian
V.P. Community Services
HIT, Inc.



Elaine's Birthday with Aunts Shirley and Muriel

2008-2009 NDACF OFFICERS

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

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

Secretary-Treasurer: Don Nelson, Alpha Opportunities, Jamestown

Doing Other Business

Next newsletter, we will be featuring a section on service provision outside developmental disabilities offered by NDACF Providers.

If you have an idea from your agency for the section please contact Barb Murry at barbndacf@btinet.net

Legislative Partnership Members

Barbara Murry, NDACF
Becky Severt, Parent
Bruce Murry, Protection & Advocacy Project
Chris Seaver, Consumer
Connie Schorsch, Arc of Dickinson
Senator Dick Dever
Dianne Sheppard, Upper Valley Arc
Don Nelson, Alpha Opportunities
Donna Byzewski, Catholic Charities
Jake Reuter, Money Follows the Person Grant, Dept of Human Services
Jim Moench, ND Disability Advocacy Consortium
JoAnne Hoesel, Director, Disability Services Division, Dept of Human Services
Jon Larson, Enable
Senator Judy Lee
Mike Martens, Direct Support Professional
Paul Kolstoe, Developmental Center, Dept of Human Services
Robbin Hendrickson, Administrator, Disability Services Division, Dept of Human Services
Sandie Leyland, Fraser, LTD
Sybil Wezelman, Parent
Tim Huseth, HAV-IT
Senator Tom Fischer
Tom Newberger, Red River Human Services Foundation
Tom Wallner, State Council on Developmental Disabilities

**Best wishes to Tom Wallner, on his upcoming retirement from the
State Council on Developmental Disabilities.**