



DD Network Collaborations

First Annual African American Conference on Disabilities a Huge Success

*Renaldo Fowler, Senior Staff Advocate
Arizona Center for Disability Law*

The Arizona Center for Disability Law (ACDL), in collaboration with the Arizona Bridge to Independent Living (ABIL), sponsored the first African American Conference on Disabilities to address the unique cultural needs of African Americans with disabilities. Major funding for the conference was provided by the Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council. The



conference was held on February 28, 2012 at the Disability Empowerment Center (DEC) in Phoenix and was attended by more than 150 participants, including a variety of governmental and private sector vendors. Conference workshops covered topics such as employment, culture, finances, advocacy, special education, ADA Amendments Act changes, mental health, wellness, work incentives, legal guardianship options, and restoring rights. Conference participants had the opportunity to meet with representatives from the various agencies in the Disability Empowerment Center (DEC). In addition to ABIL and ACDL, the DEC has ten other agencies that assist people with disabilities including Arizona Autism United, Arizona Brain Injury Association, Arizona Spinal Cord Injury Association, Joni and Friends, Multiple Sclerosis Society of Arizona, National Alliance on Mental Illness, Raising Special Kids, Statewide Independent Living Council, Symbius Medical, and Valley Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.



*From left to right: David Carey, State Senator
Leah Landrum Taylor, and Renaldo Fowler*

Some comments from conference participants:

“I have attended many trainings and this training was the most interesting and informative training that I have ever attended. I received information that assisted me with being able to contact my legislators, understand the legal system treatment for people with serious mental illness, credit, budgeting, etc.”

“I am a special educator; therefore, I have used the handouts to consult with parents and to refresh my own knowledge in regard to special education services/matters.”

“I enjoyed the conference and all of the information was relatable to my job and my life.”

“Helpful – explaining the culture to non-African Americans in the room so we can serve people better. Please do that again next time too.”

“The fact that we actually had a conference for African Americans with disabilities was very positive and motivating.”

Additional sponsors and supporters of the conference included the Arizona Statewide Independent Living Center, Northern Arizona University Institute for Human Development and its Arizona Technology Access Program, Arizona Spinal Cord Injury Association, and University of Arizona Sonoran UCEDD.

A brief video highlighting the 2012 African American Conference on Disability is available at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TdB1avmfmzc&feature=channel&list=UL>.

Planning has begun for next year’s African American Conference on Disabilities. ACDL and ABIL look forward to seeing you there.

If you have any suggestions for workshops for next year’s conference or you would like to be a presenter, please contact David Carey at ABIL at dcarey@abil.com or Renaldo Fowler at ACDL at rfowler@azdisabilitylaw.org.

Supporting People in Empowerment, Advocacy, and Knowledge (SPEAK) Team

*Institute for Human Development, Arizona University Center on Disabilities
Northern Arizona University*

The Supporting People in Empowerment, Advocacy, and Knowledge (SPEAK) Team, a project of the Southwest Institute for Families and Children, visited the Institute for Human Development – Arizona University Center on Disabilities (IHD-AzUCD) in Flagstaff, AZ for the first in a series of self-advocacy organization trainings in Arizona. The SPEAK Team, is funded by an Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council grant to implement a “...strategy that will sustain community partnerships to strengthen the effectiveness of self-advocacy organizations.” The SPEAK team and the IHD-AzUCD’s Disability Experience Project collaborated for a one day training on how to best prepare selected self-advocacy organizations to adapt the Disability Experience discussion for their own groups and communities. After an animated and intense training, both SPEAK and IHD-AzUCD anticipate the opportunity to provide dynamic, practical training to be utilized by self-advocacy groups in developing and sustaining community partnerships.



From left to right: Juliana Huereña, George Garcia, and Teresa Moore

Project Vote

Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council



In anticipation of the 2012 elections, ADDPC partnered with the Arizona Center for Disability Law and other DD Network members in completing Project Vote, an educational program geared toward young adults in high school either approaching or achieving voting age. Training was provided at several rural high schools with the intent of motivating young persons with developmental disabilities to register and vote in the November election. As a supplement to the training a voting video was produced, featuring Secretary of State Ken Bennett: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l6K55GtgTc8&feature=youtu.be>

Project SEARCH Arizona – New Site Development!

Laura Schweers
Sonoran UCEDD
University of Arizona

Now in its 3rd program year, Project SEARCH at the UA Medical Center South Campus is a business-led collaboration that trains high school students and young adults with disabilities for competitive employment through a series of on-site internship rotations and classroom instruction.



Emily King, Project SEARCH Young Adult program intern, in pharmacy.

The upcoming 2012/2013 program year marks the success of Project SEARCH Arizona expansion efforts, a primary goal of the Project SEARCH Arizona initiative since its inception. Planning partners expanded the model not only to an additional community in Arizona (Tempe) but also to new industries (university and medical technology) – increasing participant capacity as well as providing opportunities for hands-on training and career exploration on a wider scale.

- The **UA Health Network** will now serve as host business on two of its campuses – the High School Transition program will remain at South Campus (formerly *UPH Hospital*) with a cohort of 14 interns; the Young Adult program will be housed at the University Campus (formerly *University Medical Center*) with 10 incoming interns for 2012-2013.



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
MEDICAL CENTER

- **University of Arizona** will pilot a High School Transition program in 2012/2013. The initial 6 interns will have the opportunity to select among rotations in four operations within Student Affairs: Campus Recreation, Bookstores, the Disability Resource Center, and Student Unions.
- Through funding provided by the Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council, Project SEARCH has expanded to Maricopa County. Maricopa planning partners identified and successfully recruited the **Medtronic Tempe Campus** as the first program site in the greater Phoenix area. The facility supports multiple business units including the oldest and largest Medtronic medical technology, Cardiac Rhythm Disease Management, which produces implantable pacemakers and other cardiac devices. In 2010, Medtronic partnered with Project SEARCH to roll-out a program in Minneapolis – St. Paul with rotations offered in its 5 Twin Cities' campuses including world headquarters. This, in addition to Medtronic's commitment to community involvement, suggested a natural partnership. Rotation areas will include intern placement in the manufacturing room, administration, IT, packaging, and the device test lab.



The Sonoran UCEDD and all Project SEARCH AZ partners are excited to welcome interns to the new program sites.

Project SEARCH AZ Partners (Pima):

AZ DES Division of Developmental Disabilities
AZ DES Rehabilitation Services Administration
Linkages Arizona
Pima County Joint Technical Education District
SAGE, Easter Seals Blake Foundation
Sonoran UCEDD
Student Affairs at the University of Arizona
TUSD Community Transition Programs
The University of Arizona Health Network
University of Arizona

Project SEARCH AZ Partners (Maricopa):

AZ DES Division of Developmental Disabilities
AZ DES Rehabilitation Services Administration
AZ Developmental Disabilities Planning Council
Deer Valley Unified School District
Linkages Arizona
Medtronic Tempe Campus
Safeway
Sonoran UCEDD
Southwest Autism Research & Resource Center
The Arc of Arizona
The Centers for Habilitation
(list is not exhaustive)

For more information, contact Laura Schweers (schweers@u.arizona.edu or 520.626.0677)

Network Partner Updates

Assistive Technology: The Future is Now

*Institute for Human Development, Arizona University Center on Disabilities
Northern Arizona University*



AzTAP's 14th Assistive Technology Summer Institute - Assistive Technology: The Future is Now, July 11 - 12, 2012 at the Glendale Civic Center in Glendale, AZ, will emphasize the integration of assistive technology into key aspects of daily life. The conference theme "The Future is Now" is underscored by our presenters who as established experts are part of the leading edge of assistive technology. Participants will understand the importance and value of assistive technology as it is today and as it will be tomorrow. Be a part of Arizona's only statewide AT conference offering the latest information on assistive technology products, applications and practices for education, employment, recreation and independent living.

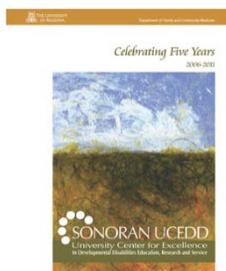
Continental breakfasts and lunches are included in the registration fee. Whether you are an AT beginner or expert, there will be new and useful information for you. The Glendale Civic Center offers integration of technology and is surrounded by lush gardens to provide a stimulating learning environment.

Continuing education certificates and verification for up to 10 contact hours will be provided. For more conference information please visit the conference website at <http://www.cvent.com/d/dcq9yr>

If you have any questions please contact Martha Lewis at 602 728-9534 or via email martha.Lewis@nau.edu.

Sonoran UCEDD Celebrating the Years 2006 - 2011

*Leslie Cohen, Director
Sonoran UCEDD
University of Arizona*



The Sonoran UCEDD is one of the youngest centers in the UCEDD network. Since receiving its first grant and UCEDD designation in late 2006, the Sonoran UCEDD made a positive impact on our community and state through its core function activities:

- Education and Training
- Research and Analysis
- Model Program Development and Technical Assistance
- Information Sharing

Each of these core functions supports Sonoran UCEDD's vision of a community that benefits from the full participation of all its members, with recognition of the strengths brought by diversity in abilities, culture, age, interests and life experience.

We are pleased to share with the community our five year report, ***Celebrating the Years 2006 – 2011***, which describes many of our accomplishments. We are also pleased to let you know that this year – 2012 marks the start of our second five year grant, so we are looking forward to many more exciting initiatives in the years to come.

We are grateful to the many university and community leaders, businesses and organizations that work with us to achieve the full inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in every aspect of our community life.

Our five year report can be found on the Sonoran UCEDD website, please go to the following link: [Celebrating the Years 2006 - 2011](#). To request a hardcopy or an alternative format, please contact us at 520.626.2207.

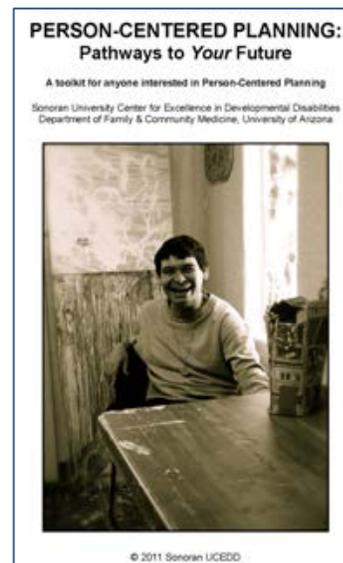
Launch of New Person-Centered Planning Toolkit & Website

Sonoran UCEDD
University of Arizona

In 2007, the Sonoran UCEDD partnered with the AZ Department of Economic Security, Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) to coordinate and carry out a Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Real Systems Change Person-Centered Planning (PCP) Grant. This grant was specifically geared towards young adults with developmental disabilities, ages 16 through 22, who were making their transition into adulthood. Some of the young adults involved in the grant were also dually-diagnosed as having a behavioral health condition. The goals of the grant included:

- To create a Southern Arizona Person-Centered Planning Model program – piloted in Southern AZ Counties (Pima, Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, Santa Cruz, and Pinal)
- To develop Person-Centered Plans built on strengths, dreams and choices of young adults – 52 plans were completed
- To increase young adult knowledge about all the options available to them as they transition into adulthood (i.e. living arrangements, work, life, social networks and other services)
- To build on strengths of informal supports (parents, family members), formal supports (support coordinators, educators, etc.) and community networks to help young adults in their transition into adulthood

The grant ended on September 29, 2011, and as a result of the tools created and lessons learned, we developed a community tools curriculum, *Person-Centered Planning: Pathways to Your Future*, as well as an information and resource website, *A Person-Centered Arizona*.



The community tools curriculum, *Person-Centered Planning: Pathways to Your Future – A toolkit for anyone interested in Person-Centered Planning*, was developed to create a sustainable community program that will allow other individuals, organizations and agencies to explore Person-Centered Planning and adapt the tools to fit the needs and circumstance of the person(s) for whom they are planning. It was reviewed and vetted by community and service provider organization stakeholders. The toolkit includes an exploration of the PCP principles of person-centered thinking, transitions, resources, what to expect during the planning process, and tips on choosing the right facilitator, as well as information on the roles and responsibilities of facilitators, the focus person and their families. It also includes example plans and tools created by the UCEDD, such as the Family Caregiver Assessment Tool and consumer preference tool, *My Interests, Hopes, and Dreams: An Exploration Tool and Guide to My Personal Preferences*. It has been shared with DDD support coordinators, Behavioral Health case managers in addition to community and service provider organizations. It is also available online at the Arizona Person-Centered Planning Website in both English and Spanish for free. [English PDF Download](#) and [en formato PDF en español](#)

A Person-Centered Arizona
an information and resource site for person-centered thinking, planning and practices

www.person-centeredaz.org

A statewide Person-Centered Planning website, *A Person-Centered Arizona*, has been developed with the UA Family and Community Medicine Informatics Group. The site is interactive and provides up-to-date state and national resources, information on current and archived trainings, and a way to connect families with facilitators to have plans completed. The website will continue to grow and be maintained for accuracy and the latest information.

Comments and suggestions about the website, in addition to resource and training submissions, to include are welcomed! Please contact us at ucedd@email.arizona.edu.

The Disability Experience: Carrie Raabe

John McDermott, Project Coordinator

Institute for Human Development, Arizona University Center on Disabilities
Northern Arizona University



Ms. Carrie Raabe was familiar with the presentation circuit prior to her employment at the Institute for Human Development in March of 2005. While presenting to Northern Arizona University classrooms about her life and role as a self-advocate, she was offered an office assistant position with IHD. When asked if the decision was easy to make regarding working at IHD she stated, “not right away, but when things clicked, it made sense”. Carrie enjoys working at IHD and remarked in the following way about what it means to her, “I like helping others”.

Nowadays, between stints at the shredder and deliveries campus wide, Carrie is an integral part of the **Disability Experience** project. Teamed with others in the department, Carrie travels the state of Arizona presenting on issues related to understanding the experiences of people with disabilities. Facilitating dialogue with participants in a Disability Experience presentation is one of Carrie’s favorite things to do. She feels that the audience “is really not sure what you are going to talk about...but, by the end of it they actually live their lives better”. In her unassuming way, Carrie stated the following about the Disability Experience, “when people see others like me shine through their disability, the audience gives more acknowledgements (to the disability community)”.

The goal of the **Disability Experience** project is to engage the community (e.g., school groups, business and government organizations, non-profits) in conversation on how the general public can truly welcome and include people of all abilities into the life of the community. The project has also developed a web-based module that is currently available to university faculty for infusion into any course.

In closing the interview, Carrie reminded people of three things to take with them, “You can do it, get through this day, and have a positive mental attitude”.

Please contact Lynne Corbin (Lynne.Corbin@nau.edu) or Kathy Mahosky (Katherine.Mahosky@nau.edu) for more information on the Disability Experience project.

Status of IHD’s Training Programs

Institute for Human Development, Arizona University Center on Disabilities
Northern Arizona University

The Institute for Human Development – Arizona University Center on Disabilities (IHD-AzUCD) administers four academic programs within Northern Arizona University. These programs approved by the University Curriculum/Program Committees include: a) Graduate Interdisciplinary Certificate Disability Policy and Practice (12 credits), b) Graduate Interdisciplinary Certificate Assistive Technology (15 credits), c) Graduate Interdisciplinary Certificate Positive Behavior Supports (15 credits), and lastly the Undergraduate Interdisciplinary Disability Studies Minor (18 credits). The following is the latest count of students currently enrolled in these programs as of Fall 2011:

Disability Policy and Practice – 13
Assistive Technology – 41
Positive Behavior Supports – 138
Disability Minor – 15

For more information about these programs, visit <http://nau.edu/SBS/IHD/Programs/Student-Programs>

Governor Jan Brewer Signs Voting Rights and Limited Guardianship Bill;

*HMA Public Relations
Arizona Center for Disability Law*

On Tuesday, April 10, Governor Jan Brewer signed a bill which reforms voting rights and guardianship laws in Arizona. House Bill 2377, sponsored by Representative Eddie Farnsworth (R-Gilbert) now permits the Courts to determine, by clear and convincing evidence, that a person can retain sufficient understanding to exercise their right to vote.

“Previously, under a limited guardianship, persons were completely barred from selecting their political leaders, even when they followed the news and knew who they wanted to vote for,” said Art Gode, board member of the Arizona Center for Disability Law (ACDL). “My son, Clint, is a perfect example, which is why I wanted ACDL to lead the fight to change this law.”

In written testimony to members of the House and Senate, Peri Jude Radevic, executive director of ACDL, said the bill is now consistent with House Bill 2181 that was passed in 2003 which promoted the establishment of limited guardianships.

“At that time, the legislature recognized that there is a range of capacity. In addition, medical advances, along with improvements in assistive technology, now allow many individuals with disabilities to live a nearly independent life,” said Radevic.

“We have always believed that individuals with disabilities, who are under a full or limited guardianship, have the same right to vote in our city, state and federal elections.”

The bill was a collaborative effort between ACDL, The ARC of Arizona and the Office of the Arizona Secretary of State. The bill becomes law on the “general effective date” which is 90 days after the end of the current state legislative session. The legislature is still in session.

Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Visually Impaired Arizonans Now Have Additional Access to Movie Theaters

Arizona Center for Disability Law

Access to movie theatres has long been a challenge for individuals with hearing or visual disabilities. Theatre operators have limited or no equipment available for patrons needing assistive technology. But that is about to change for the nearly a half million Arizona residents who are deaf or hard of hearing and approximately 200,000 residents who are legally blind or have low vision.

As far back as 2006, a class of individuals with sensory disabilities, with assistance from the Arizona Center for Disability Law, filed suit against Harkins Theatres. The lawsuit sought installation of closed captioning and video description technology at Harkins’ Arizona movie theatres. With this installation, a customer who is sensory disabled and needs closed captioning or video descriptions can enjoy movies by accessing the closed captioning or video description technology, as long as the movie has been captioned or described by the film studio that produced it. Major movie studios distribute many wide-release movies with captions and/or descriptions but theatres must install equipment for patrons to access the captions or descriptions.



The case, which settled in late 2011, requires Harkins to install closed captioning and video-description technology at virtually all of its theatre screens by the end of 2012. In addition to the technology installation, Harkins will also be expanding its employee training program to include instruction about assisting customers with the new technology, provide information about captioned and described movies playing at the theatres and the placement of the equipment, continue to ensure its website is accessible to individuals who are visually impaired and encourage patrons to give feedback about the new equipment. Harkins has also committed to actively working with disability organizations to conduct outreach, promotion and marketing that will increase awareness and use of the technology.

What's New with the Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council?

Larry Clausen, Executive Director

Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council

New State Plan

The Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council (ADDPC) has embarked on carrying out activities to fulfill the new Goals established within the 2012-16 Five Year State Plan. These Goals include:

1. Build a self-advocacy coalition comprised of diverse advocacy organizations that is led by persons with developmental disabilities.
2. In partnership with individuals with developmental disabilities, their families, others who support them, and employers, advocate and expand capacity for community integrated employment.
3. Empower persons with developmental disabilities, their families, and persons who support them by linking them to information that promotes informed decision making about their choices and their quality of life.



Developments related to the new plan can be found on the ADDPC website at <http://www.azgovernor.gov/DDPC/>.

State Employment Leadership Network

The Arizona Department of Economic Security, Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) has recently increased its activities in developing effective and strategic approaches to increase opportunities for competitive employment. Through ADDPC funding of membership dues, DD has become a member of the State Employment Leadership Network (<http://www.seln.org/homepage>) comprised of state agencies (<http://www.nasdds.org/index.shtml>) providing services to persons with developmental disabilities. Based on a "best practices" model, membership in the Network allows DDD to participate in assessment of Arizona employment needs and then collaborate with other state agencies that have successfully implemented approaches to address similar employment issues.

Dental Needs Evaluated



In February 2012, the ADDPC released a new report addressing the oral health care needs of adults with developmental disabilities in Arizona. The report assessed the impact of recent cuts to AHCCCS and other services as affect the oral health and subsequent health issues realized by consumers. The report also established a number of recommendations that will be addressed by the ADDPC in 2012.

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/DDPC/documents/Reports/OralHealthcareElect2012.pdf>

Visit our website at www.azgovernor.gov/DDPC



Each DD Network Newsletter will highlight a staff member from one of the partnering agencies to recognize their hard work and dedication in exemplifying the mission of the Network to work collectively and collaboratively to foster the independence, advocacy and community integration of individuals with developmental disabilities.

This edition spotlights NAU Institute for Human Development Associate Director, Tom Uno.



Tom Uno

Tom has been working in the field of developmental disabilities for over 30 years. He has had the privilege of working in all three programs that are part of the Developmental Disabilities Act of 2000. Tom did his graduate work at Peabody College at Vanderbilt University and received his Ed.S. degree in the late 70's. While attending graduate school, he worked with the state Attorney General's Office working on a lawsuit related to the treatment of juvenile offenders who also had disabilities. He assisted the attorneys' on the case with managing and coordinating the expert witnesses that worked with the state on the lawsuit.

After graduating, he worked with the Kentucky Protection and Advocacy Office located in Frankfurt, Kentucky. His primary responsibility was serving as an institutional advocate for the residents in large state ICF-MR facilities. After working there several years, he moved back to Hawaii where he took a position with the State Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities. He eventually worked as the Executive Director for about 2 years. From the DD Council he took a position with the State Developmental Disabilities Division as a planner in the Department of Health. He worked there until the Director asked him to work on a special assignment with the VP of Academic Affairs at the University of Hawaii to develop and submit an application for at that time to become a "University Affiliated Program". Working with consultants and the University, a proposal was submitted and was awarded in 1989. Once the state was awarded the grant, he took the first position at the UAP and began the process of hiring a director for the program. Tom continued to work at the university as the Administrator for 8 years until he took his current position as the Associate Director with the Northern Arizona University, Arizona University Center on Disabilities. Tom continues to work on program development within the University Center of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities and enjoys working with families and consumers, and with public and private service agencies in the field of disabilities throughout the state.

DDNN

The **DDNN** is the newsletter of the [Arizona Developmental Disabilities Network](http://www.arizona.gov/developmental-disabilities-network) and developed by the DD Network Outreach Committee. Our purpose is to keep the community and our partners updated on Network agencies' projects, activities and collaborations as well as to provide a portal for local disability-related news. We hope you find **DDNN** useful and informative.

To request any issue in an alternative format, please send an email to ucedd@email.arizona.edu with **DDNN** and **your name** in the subject line or call (520) 626-2207.

To submit comments or news items, please email the Editor, Jacy Farkas, at ucedd@email.arizona.edu.

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Jacy Bell, Data & Program Coordinator, *Sonoran UCEDD*