

**CT COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
ANNUAL REPORT 2009**

ADMIT EVERYONE

**To promote the FULL INCLUSION of people with
disabilities.**

**The Council on Developmental Disabilities is a Governor
appointed body of people with disabilities, family members
and professionals who work together to promote the full inclusion
of people with disabilities in community life.**

Connecticut Council on Developmental Disabilities
(860) 418-6160 (voice)
(860) 418-6172 (TTY)
460 Capitol Avenue (860) 418-6003 (FAX)
Hartford, CT 06106-1308 1-800-653-1134 (CT only)
www.ct.gov/ctcdd

Table of Contents

Page 3	Chair's Letter
Page 6	Definition of Developmental Disabilities
Page 7	Mission
Page 9	What the Council Does
Page 10	Aging-In-Place
Page 11	Assistive Robotics
Page 12	Aversives, Restraints and Seclusions in CT Schools
Page 12	A Success Story
Page 14	Day Of Respect
Page 14	Emergency Preparedness
Page 15	Employment-Connect-Ability
Page 15	Housing-State Plan Comments
Page 16	Independent Living And Support
Page 16	Medical Safeguards
Page 17	Parent Leadership Training
Page 17	Powerfest For The Future Generations
Page 18	Adult And Youth Advocacy
Page 18	Public Image And Policy
Page 19	Social Roles Valorization
Page 20	Transportation-United We Ride
Page 20	Meet Two New Council Members
Page 23	40th Anniversary Celebration
Page 24	How the DD Dollars Were Spent
Page 26	Council Members

Chair's Letter

The Connecticut Council on Developmental Disabilities had a very busy and productive 2009. Along with the rest of the country, Connecticut faced many economic challenges this year, however, the Council met those challenges with enthusiasm and continued its efforts to promote and support strategies for inclusion of people with disabilities in their communities, schools and workplaces. Council members have been very diligent to influence change in many areas, and I thank them for their hard work and for making inclusion a priority. As we reflect on an impressive list of accomplishments for 2009, we head into 2010 passionate to do even more.

Included in those accomplishments are countless hours preparing and testifying on 2 bills during the 2009 session of the CT General Assembly. The voice of the Council was also heard through letters to the editor that were published during the year encouraging inclusion in communities, expressing disappointment on the treatment of persons with disabilities in court rulings, and supporting court decisions that upheld the rights of people with disabilities who were victims of crimes.

We are very proud that the Council has been and continues to be the leader with regard to opposition in the use of aversives, restraints and seclusion (ARS) in schools, and favors a systems change to support positive behavioral interventions. We trained 400 parents on using the special education system to achieve positive behavioral supports, and created the "IEP Guide", "Special Education Made Easy" guide, and the "Special Education Toolkits" as tools to assist in navigating the special education system.

The Council demonstrated its advocacy for youth with disabilities as it supported the "Powerfest 2009: Future Generations" youth conference. Youth with developmental and other disabilities were instrumental in the planning of the event that one hundred and fifty-two (152) high school and college age youth with developmental and other disabilities attended.

And as the population in Connecticut and across the country ages, the Council eagerly participated in meetings on state housing plans. As part of the development of the state's next 5 year consolidated plan for housing and community development and state long-range housing plan we provided input on visitable smarthomes that incorporates universal design for independent living that is not limited to building communities solely for active adults age 55 and older.

Employment of people with disabilities in Connecticut continued to be a critical area for the Council. We participated in selecting 5 local pilot projects, in which people with developmental disabilities were focused on for Connect-Ability, CT's 5-year \$25 million employment systems change initiative with efforts targeted at removing barrier to employment.

The Council participated on various committees related to the state's Money Follows the Person (MFP) and sent its "Aging In Place" Local Lens television show DVD, produced by CT Public Broadcasting, Inc., to 100 policymakers and advocates, showing how people with disabilities in CT can live in their homes with appropriate supports. We continued to look at the future possibilities for assistive technology, and were fortunate to be able to work with Trinity College for a third year to demonstrate the use of service robots. Created by a Council task force, the contest evolved to a "Robo Waiter" competition aimed at fostering the development and popularization of assistive robots. It raises social awareness of engineering education, and promotes the full inclusion of people with disabilities of all ages in community life. We have had the privilege of many talented and enthusiastic members of the Council who have vision and who bring attention to the need for change and improvement in Connecticut, advocating for those with disabilities.

We are enthusiastic about what we will accomplish in the coming year and to plan for the goals and focus for the next five years. Each Council member along with the Staff who support the Council have made a difference for many individuals and families in Connecticut, and their work in 2009 is greatly appreciated.

With gratitude and best regards,

Anita C. Tremarche
Interim Chair

Definition of Developmental Disabilities

Public Law 106–402

106th Congress

Oct. 30, 2000

Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000

Title I, Section 102, 114 STAT. 1683 - 1684

(8) DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY.—(A) IN GENERAL—The term “developmental disability”

means a severe, chronic disability of an individual that—

(i) is attributable to a mental or physical impairment or combination of mental and physical impairments;

(ii) is manifested before the individual attains age 22;

(iii) is likely to continue indefinitely;

(iv) results in substantial functional limitations in 3 or more of the following areas of major life activity:

(I) Self-care.

(II) Receptive and expressive language.

(III) Learning.

(IV) Mobility.

(V) Self-direction.

(VI) Capacity for independent living.

(VII) Economic self-sufficiency; and

(v) reflects the individual’s need for a combination and sequence of special, interdisciplinary, or generic services, individualized supports, or other forms of assistance that are of lifelong or extended duration and are individually planned and coordinated.

(B) INFANTS AND YOUNG CHILDREN.—An individual from birth to age 9, inclusive, who has a substantial developmental delay or specific congenital or acquired condition, may be considered to have a developmental disability without meeting 3 or more of the criteria described in clauses (i) through (v) of subparagraph (A) if the individual, without services and supports, has a high probability of meeting those criteria later in life.

MISSION

To promote the full inclusion of all people with disabilities in community life.

About The Council

The Connecticut Council on Developmental Disabilities (herein after “The Council”) is a governor-appointed body of people with developmental disabilities, family members and professionals who work together to promote the full inclusion of all people with disabilities in community life. The Council has 29 members – 60 percent of whom are either people with disabilities or parents of children with disabilities.

The Council’s focus is on people with disabilities that originate and manifest before the age of 22 and who are likely to require lifetime support. The Developmental Disabilities Act allows the Council to reach people regardless of their disability label.

The Council is a federal program that is entirely federally funded, based on a funding formula. It operates within state government as a state agency, however, the Council is not in state statutes and does not receive any state funds.

The Council’s role is advocacy, capacity building and systems change. The Council is not a service provider and is prohibited from lobbying.

The Council has three staff members and an office located near the state Capitol in Hartford. Approximately 70 percent of the Council’s funds are used for initiatives to promote independence, productivity, integration and inclusion in the community.

The Council has the following committees:

Advocacy, Public Information and Education - address the Councils’ responsibility to educate the general public by using the media and other resources to address issues concerning people with developmental disabilities and publish an annual report on Council activities.

Legislation, Policy and Planning - review, develop and disseminate statements on the Council's position and involvement in local, state and federal legislative and administrative policy initiatives that impact on persons with developmental disabilities and their families and provide advice to the full Council on these matters.

Membership and Support - recruit, interview and present to the Governor, at least annually, a listing of viable nominees for membership on the Council.

Executive - oversee and provide governance over the affairs of the Council between regular meetings of the Council.

What the Council Does

- Training
- Outreach
- Leadership Development and Learning Forums
- Technical Assistance to Policymakers and Legislative Committees
- Supporting and Educating Communities and Community Development
- Interagency Collaboration, Coordination and Convening Stakeholders
- Coordination with Related Councils, Committees, Programs and Partnerships with Government
- Barrier Elimination, Systems Design and Redesign
- Coalition Development and Citizen Participation
- Informing Policymakers and the Media
- Demonstrations of New Approaches to Services and Supports and Model Programs
- Influencing Public Opinion
- Nonpartisan Analysis and Research
- Supporting Advocacy
- Influencing Administrative Policy

INITIATIVES

AGING-IN-PLACE

In November 2008 the Council on Developmental Disabilities, with its sister agencies the Office of Protection and Advocacy and the University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, UCONN Health Center, co-sponsored a Symposium on Aging-In-Place in the community. Participants learned that people with developmental disabilities have the same desire as anyone else as they get older: Everyone wants to age in their own home and be surrounded by family and friends. A Council task force explored the services and supports that need to be changed in order to enable people with developmental disabilities to remain in the community as they get older.

Following a conference in Boston on Aging-In-Place in the Community attended by Council leadership, the Council held an Aging-In-Place Symposium on April 6, 2009. One hundred providers from agencies and people with developmental disabilities attended to learn about how to create an inclusive aging-in-place community that is modeled after the Beacon Hill Village Aging-In-Place community in Boston. The Beacon Hill Village aging-in-place community is a membership organization founded in 2001 that now consists of 40 “villages.” A “village” consists of people who already live in a geographic area and organize themselves to arrange for services and supports to be delivered in their homes.

The Council also sent its “Aging In Place” Local Lens television show DVD, produced by CT Public Broadcasting, Inc., to 100 policymakers and advocates. The DVD showed how people with disabilities in CT can live in their homes with appropriate supports.

The Council is using funds in 2010 to support a regional, pilot demonstration, based on the Beacon Hill Village Aging-In-Place community, that is inclusive of people with developmental disabilities.

ASSISTIVE ROBOTICS

In the not too distant future, assistive robots will help support people with developmental disabilities with activities of daily living. For a third year, the Council supported “Robo Waiter,” an assistive robotics competition, as part of Trinity College’s Fire Fighting Home Robot Contest, to stimulate interest on the part of engineering students and engineers in developing service robots to assist people with disabilities.

The Council worked with the Trinity College Engineering Department to develop a “Robo-Waiter” competition in which robots were required to take food from a refrigerator and bring the food to a person with a disability sitting at a table. The robots had to negotiate a maze that simulated a kitchen and dining room with a sink, table and chair, as well as dolls that simulated people, and deliver the food without spilling.

Ten (10) competitors from high schools, colleges and private engineers from the United States and around the world entered the “2009 Robo-Waiter Competition.” The winners were from Grand Valley State College, Michigan, an independent engineer from Florida and teams from Israel and Trinity College.

The “Robo Waiter” competition included a symposium with Professor John Spetzler, Lehigh University on automated transport and retrieval systems (ATRS) for drivers who use wheelchairs.

Professor David Ahlgren, Trinity College Department of Engineering, and Professor Igor Verner, Israel Institute of Technology, presented on the “Robo Waiter” competition at the National Association of Councils of Developmental Disabilities national conference in New Mexico in October 2009.

AVERSIVES, RESTRAINTS AND SECLUSIONS IN CT SCHOOLS

The Council has been the leader in opposing the use of aversives, restraints and seclusion (ARS) in public schools and in promoting the use of positive behavioral interventions and supports (PBIS).

In six (6) workshops held around the state, the Council trained over 400 parents and professionals on how to use the Council's IEP Guide, Special Education Made Easy, and Education Toolkit to achieve positive behavioral interventions and supports. These workshops were held in collaboration with the Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs unit of the Department of Public Health. After working with 45 parents whose children were subject to ARS, a privately operated Connecticut Chapter of Mothers From Hell (MFH2CT) was launched.

The Council participated on the State Education Advisory Council to Special Education, the Council and recommended changes in special education policies to the State Board of Education, including the distribution to schools and parents information about reporting requirements under Connecticut's restraints and seclusion law. Additionally, the Council raised awareness regarding out-of-state placement of students and adults in facilities that use aversives, restraints, and seclusion rooms and schools that had charges of abuse or neglect against their facilities. The Council raised particular concern about a Massachusetts facility approved by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to use "electric shock treatment" as part of behavioral intervention. The Council also served on the Board of Directors of TASH, (The Association for the Severely Handicapped) New England chapter and participates in the national Alliance to Prevent Restraint, Aversive Intervention and Seclusion (APRAIS) representing the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities.

A SUCCESS STORY

When my wife and I started the educational process for our son Justin, who at the time was three years old and has autism, we were in for a rude awakening. Melinda and I sat at a Planning and Placement Team (PPT) thinking, "How did we get here and what are we supposed to do?" The Special Education Director explained that Melinda and I were part of the "Team", but it did not feel like that at all. However, never in our wildest dreams did we ever imagine that sending Justin to public school would mean

he would come home with bruises. We assumed that he would be safe and protected by school personnel. At that point we knew we were way over our heads with the whole PPT process and needed help, but who do you turn to? It's not like the district gives you a list of names of advocates or attorneys that you can call for advice.

Luckily through word of mouth in our town of Putnam we were referred to the CT Council on Developmental Disabilities. A staff was assigned who listened to our concerns in regards to Justin's bruises. She looked through all of his school records, explained our rights to file a formal complaint with the State Department of Education (SDE) and supported us through the entire process. For the first time, Melinda and I felt like we were not alone. After networking with other families that have stories similar to ours, we knew we were not alone. But it's comforting to know that the Council is available to ask the questions, request documentation and evaluations and prepare parents to advocate effectively for their children.

We had been confronted by the school's attorney who, when we addressed our concerns over Justin's safety and the bruises on him, stated that there were no laws concerning restraint and seclusion and the school could do whatever it wanted. Who were we to argue with an attorney? They had not provided us with a copy of the laws that were in fact in place at the time, as required. Fortunately the Council staff was able to educate us and the attorney about the existing laws.

The school definitely took advantage of our lack of knowledge of the special education system and our faith that the school would do the right thing for our child. If it wasn't for the Council's professional assistance our son and others would continue to be restrained without our knowledge of our rights and those of our children with disabilities. We would not know about the Restraint & Seclusion in Schools law in Connecticut that passed in 2007, or that we could file a formal complaint with the State Department of Education and/or the Office of Protection & Advocacy.

Chris and Melinda Jodoin, Putnam

DAY OF RESPECT

The Council, in collaboration with the Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities, University of Connecticut Center of Excellence and the Autism Spectrum Differences Institute of New England sponsored a “Day of Respect” workshop at the Hartford Seminary. Sixty-five (65) faith community leaders and people with disabilities gathered to learn how to make their faith communities welcoming to people with disabilities. At the Council’s request, the Governor declared March 16, 2009 “A Day of Respect” and called upon faith communities to respect the dignity of people with disabilities as well as their families, the challenges they face, the meaningful and powerful contributions that they make. The Governor also called upon these communities to use their leadership in shaping public and community attitudes and values.

Bill Gaventa, Director of Community and Congregation at the Elizabeth M. Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities in New Jersey, spoke about the importance of making one’s faith community architecturally and attitudinally accessible. Rev. Gaventa was followed by a panel of faith leaders, including Mahmoud M. Ayoub, Professor, Hartford Seminary; Rabbi Stephen Fuchs, Congregation Beth Israel, West Hartford; Rev. Gary Miller, Asylum Hill Congregational Church, Hartford; and Rev. Audrey Scanlan, Co-Founder and Director, Rhythms of Grace in Plainville and Torrington. Finally, a panel of people with disabilities shared stories about their faith communities.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

The Council, in collaboration with the Capitol Region Emergency Planning Committee, delivered 15 presentations to 300 fire responders, emergency personnel and Community Emergency Rescue Teams in Greater Hartford on how to assist people with disabilities during emergency situations. While some emergencies are life and death situations requiring bodily evacuation of people, the training emphasized the importance of communication between responders and people with disabilities, the importance of assistive technologies such as power wheelchairs and communication devices, bringing personal assistant(s) to emergency shelters and inclusion in accessible shelters with friends and neighbors instead of being sent to a hospital or a skilled nursing facility.

The team participated in the town of Middletown's shelter-in-place drill and provided feedback to the town on ways to improve the inclusion of people with disabilities in its shelters. Two (2) trainings were at Bradley International Airport on how the airport might handle terrorist attacks or other disasters. The team also shared their positive and negative stories about their traveling experiences and made recommendations for improving travel for people with disabilities.

EMPLOYMENT - CONNECT-ABILITY

Connect-Ability is Connecticut's 5 year; \$25 million employment systems change initiative. The Council participated on Connect-Ability's Steering, Hiring and Transportation Committees. Connect-Ability is managed by the CT Department of Social Services (Connecticut's Medicaid agency) and funded by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Connect-Ability does not provide services to match individuals to specific jobs; rather, its efforts are targeted to remove barriers to employment. The Council's role has been to assure that people with the most severe and multiple disabilities, including intellectual disabilities, challenging behavior and severe speech impediments, are not forgotten. The Council participated in selecting five (5) local pilot projects in which people with developmental disabilities were supported.

The Council will use funds in 2010 to provide internships in business and industry for youths with developmental disabilities.

HOUSING – STATE PLAN COMMENTS

The Council attended and commented at public meetings on state housing plans. As part of the development of the state's next 5 year consolidated plan for housing and community development and state long-range housing plan, the Council attended a meeting sponsored by the CT Department of Economic and Community Development with public and private housing (and related) agencies. The Council provided input on visitable smarthomes that incorporate universal design for the Housing Needs Assessment and

Market Analysis and Institutional Structure plan. The Council also commented on the State Long-Range Housing Plan on universal design in new or renovated housing and the use of "people first" language in the state plan.

The Council will seek to use funds in 2010 with Independence Unlimited, Hartford, and a center for independent living, to promote the development of visitable smarthomes that incorporate universal design.

INDEPENDENT LIVING AND SUPPORT

The Council participated on the state's Money Follows the Person (MFP) Rebalancing Demonstration Program Steering, Hospital Discharge and Workforce committees to assure that people with developmental disabilities were included among those who want to move out of institutions. This led to a Council task force to explore how to enhance the MFP system to reach people with developmental disabilities. The Council task force negotiated a regionally-based demonstration of service brokers and peer mentors with CT Community Care, Inc., which was on contract with the State of Connecticut to implement MFP. The demonstration will provide data to achieve future incorporation of service brokers and peer mentors in the state's Personal Care Assistance Home and Community Based Services waiver.

MEDICAL SAFEGAURDS

At the invitation of Dr. David Chaletsky, the Council spoke before 100 medical personnel in Schwartz Rounds at Hartford Hospital on the positive and negative experiences people with disabilities have had in hospital settings. The discussion covered the heightened vulnerability of people with developmental disabilities in hospital settings and the importance of the hospital personnel taking the time to listen and be respectful to people with disabilities.

The Council also presented at a Northeast United States and Canadian Maritime Provinces regional forum on Health Care Reform and People with Disabilities.

The Council served as a "friend" of the Connecticut General Assembly's Long Term Care Advisory Planning Council. Council comments were incorporated in the state's long-term care plan. The Council served on the Department of Public Health's Sexual Violence Prevention Planning Committee Steering Committee and influenced the state's Sexual Violence Prevention Plan and promotional material against sexual assault to include information about people with disabilities. The Council submitted a letter to

the editor of the Bridgeport Post expressing its concern over a state appeals court decision to overturn the conviction of a man accused of sexually molesting a woman who is nonverbal and uses a wheelchair and a communication device. The Council offered to work with the State's Attorney to appeal the decision and to amend the state definition of "physically helpless".

The Council will use funds in 2010 to pilot a regional demonstration of a medical safeguards program for people with developmental disabilities.

PARENT LEADERSHIP TRAINING

The Council, in collaboration with the CT Down Syndrome Congress and the University of Connecticut Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, sponsored a Parent Leadership and Advocacy Training Program. Seventeen (17) parents participated in 6 training sessions over 6 weeks. Two (2) parents from the training became Council members.

The Council will use funds in 2010 to support more grassroots, intensive parent training.

POWERFEST FOR THE FUTURE GENERATIONS

"Powerfest 2009: Future Generations," a conference for young adults with disabilities, was held on Saturday, October 3, 2009, on the campus of the University of Bridgeport and adjacent Seaside Park, a City of Bridgeport facility on Long Island Sound. Powerfest was a day of teaching 152 high school and college age citizens with developmental and other disabilities about advocacy and transitioning tools. In addition, participants had time to network with one another and to have fun! Participants represented 46 public and private schools and some agencies. Participants were from 48 Connecticut towns, and three (3) states – Massachusetts, New Jersey and New York.

With funding from the Council, youth with developmental and other disabilities began planning "Powerfest" in the fall of 2008. Eighteen (18) youth with developmental disabilities were on the planning committee that promoted "Powerfest" on WEBE 108FM radio. The event's keynote address was delivered by motivational speakers Keith Jones and Jeff Yalden.

Additionally, the event featured musicians, a wrestling celebrity, workshop presenters and 33 exhibitors and vendors.

The Disability Resource Network received funds from the Council, the Department of Public Health (DPH), and the State Independent Living Center to plan and implement “Powerfest”. DPH and the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services (BRS) also directly funded other aspects of event. VSA (Very Special Arts) provided some matching funds. Connecticut Kids As self-Advocates (CT KASA) funded CT KASA representation participation. The University of Bridgeport donated the use of the facility, audio visual equipment, and tables and chairs.

ADULT AND YOUTH ADVOCACY

The Council funded the Disability Resource Network to support youth to become active locally, statewide and nationally as Youth ADAPT. The emphasis was on participation on boards, commissions and councils, leadership training and creating an accessible playground. Twenty-five (25) students became members of Connecticut Youth ADAPT. Six (6) members of CT Youth ADAPT were involved in planning “Powerfest”, the statewide conference planned by youth for youth. Two (2) members of CT Youth ADAPT became CT Council members and attended the national conference of the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities in New Mexico.

The Council funded People 1st of CT to plan and hold a Retreat on strategic planning. Fifteen (15) People 1st officers, board members and leaders from active chapters worked with a facilitator to create a written 2 year plan with a timeline and a focus on implementation.

The Council will use funds in 2010 to support additional youth advocacy programs.

PUBLIC IMAGE AND POLICY

The Council testified on multiple bills during the 2009 session of the Connecticut General Assembly. Additionally, the Council provided technical assistance on bills raised by the legislature’s Program Review and Investigations Committee clarifying that the Committee’s bills on the assessment of the needs of aging individuals with developmental disabilities

was limited to people with intellectual disabilities served by the Department of Developmental Services and did not address all people with developmental disabilities. The Council testified against legislation that would have hindered the ability for people with disabilities to choose their own conservator. The bill did not become law.

Letters to the editor were published supporting an Appellate Court ruling in favor of a new trial for a man with intellectual disabilities wrongly accused and imprisoned for the murder of his wife's grandmother, commending an article about a high school pitcher with disabilities, and expressing shock and disappointment with an appeals court decision overturning the conviction of a man accused of sexually molesting a woman who is nonverbal and uses a wheelchair and a communication device.

The Council's blog and web hosted the Council's annual report and continued to inform the public about issues concerning people with developmental disabilities and their families.

SOCIAL ROLES VALORIZATION

The Council hosted three (3) Social Role Valorization (SRV) trainings to instruct eighty-nine (89) Money Follows the Person (MFP) provider agencies and others on the theory and principles behind the importance of enhancing the roles of people with disabilities by upgrading their competencies and social image in the eyes of others. SRV trainings are based on Dr. Wolf Wolfensberger's (Professor, Syracuse University, and Director, Training Institute for Human Service Planning, Leadership and Change Agency, Syracuse) findings about the ways society views people with disabilities.

The workshops focused on exploring the wounding experiences with which many people with physical and intellectual impairments live as a result of being devalued by society, universal aspects of social devaluation, the importance of personal identification with the people receiving services, a helpful framework for brainstorming and problem-solving based on a strategy of positive compensation for vulnerability, and the tensions between supporting personal autonomy for disenfranchised people and living with others in the community. The concepts of personal expression, choice, and rights were explored from the perspective of social devaluation and Social Role Valorization.

Workshop attendees came away with tools to assist people with disabilities to achieve their goals of being included in the community.

TRANSPORTATION – UNITED WE RIDE

At the invitation of the Governor’s Office, the Council participated in planning meetings regarding the implementation of the Connecticut Department of Transportation’s (ConnDOT) on-again-off-again federal United We Ride initiative.

The Council presented at a public hearing of the Connecticut Public Transportation Commission, providing recommendations to ConnDOT on its 2010 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program. Comments included the need to regard people with disabilities as “public transit users” rather than “a human service problem,” use of 5,310 vehicles to feed the public transportation system rather than dole out the vehicles to public and private human service agencies, and obtaining accessible taxis. A rear-entry accessible taxi was acquired for use in the city of New Haven.

The Council will use funds in 2010 for a regional social integration transportation pilot demonstration to enable people with disabilities to attend meetings and events of their choice that are open to the public, such as concerts, ballgames, and meetings of civic associations and local government.

MEET TWO NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS

Maryann Lombardi, Wilton, was eager in September 2009 when her term began with the CT Council on Developmental Disabilities. During her time on the Council, she hopes to fulfill her goal of promoting inclusiveness for people with developmental disabilities and to encourage greater access within local communities. Inspired by her son who has Autism and Developmental Apraxia, she wants him to have the opportunity to live, work and to socialize in the community together with his family and friends.

Ms. Lombardi became passionate about limiting the practice of Seclusion and Restraint in public schools when the son of a friend, also a student with Autism, was injured by way of this practice in 2005. She soon discovered that while Connecticut has a law to protect children in private schools and institutions there was no law to protect students in public schools from

suffering from this practice. Together with a small group of parents, Ms. Lombardi lobbied state agencies to do something about changing this situation. In December 2006 she testified together with other parents at a public hearing hosted by the Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities and the Council on Developmental Disabilities and attended by Senator Edward Meyer of CT's Select Committee on Children. Senator Meyer then wrote the bill which became law (Public Act 07-73) requiring schools to notify and to inform the parents within 24 hours after they restrain their children, as well as only secluding or restraining those students who were a danger to themselves or others. She was excited and surprised when not only was this bill signed into law by Gov. Jodi Rell in July 2007, but in January 2009 Ms. Lombardi was invited by Senator Chris Dodd to speak with several other parents at a press conference held at the Senate conference room at the Capitol building in Washington. Congressional hearings were held and legislation was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives (H.R. 4247), and Senator Dodd wrote the bill for the Senate (S. 2860) that will protect children in public school nationally from the practice of seclusion and restraint. Ms. Lombardi enjoys working together with parents and professionals to create positive change for people with developmental disabilities.

David King, Bridgeport, is a recent self-advocate on the CT Council on Developmental Disabilities. Mr. King reminds Council members about the importance of empowering youth with skills on how to be self-advocates

Before Mr. King was appointed to the Council, he travelled to Washington D.C., with Youth ADAPT to a rally. He learned what it means to stand up for your rights and be a self advocate. In addition, he learned how to speak up on problems. When Mr. King returned from his trip, he was on the planning committee for "Powerfest", a conference for young adults with disabilities.

Mr. King attends Housatonic Community College and works at Harbor Yard Arena, and home of the Bluefish minor league baseball team, where he is responsible for the Very Important Person Suites and their security.

Presently, Mr. King is doing an internship with the Disability Resource Network where he helps to mentor students with intellectual and physical disabilities. In addition, he teaches daily living skills to students in the areas of accessing public transportation, living independently and managing one's personal care assistants.

SAVE THE DATE!

The Connecticut Council on Developmental Disabilities invites you to our

40th Anniversary Celebration

Wednesday, March 2, 2011

Time To Be Determined

Crowne Plaza, Cromwell, CT

Celebrating the 40th Anniversary of
The Connecticut Council on Developmental Disabilities and our work to
promote the full inclusion of all people with disabilities in community life.

Honoring leaders who have advanced equal opportunity for people with
developmental disabilities:

Senator Lowell P. Weicker

John A. Doyle

Chief of Staff, Senate Subcommittee on the Handicapped

Eliot J. Dober

First Executive Director, CT Office of Protection and Advocacy

Thomas H. Powell, Ed.D.

First Director, University Affiliated Program, UCONN

HOW THE DD DOLLARS WERE SPENT

The CT Council on Developmental Disabilities operates entirely with federal developmental disabilities funds, which are distributed among the states under a formula based on population, per capita income, unemployment rate, and Social Security disability statistics. In 2009, the CT Council received an allotment of \$720,427. The CT Council carried over \$60,765 of 2008 funds for use during 2009. Additionally, the Council generated \$375 in conference registrations. The Council also served as the pass-through of \$20,000 from other agencies for “Powerfest”. The Council's total 2009 budget was \$801,567. The Council leveraged \$183,339 in matching funds.

2009 Initiatives

Meaningful Employment

Council and Staff Initiated Activities	\$38,588
--	----------

Inclusive Education

Council and Staff Initiated Activities	\$38,588
MFH2CT Website	\$1,592
APRAIS/TASH Participation	\$416
Powerfest	
Disability Resource Network	\$15,000
Council’s Youth Planning Meetings	\$1,425
Funds from other agencies	\$20,000

Total \$81,436

Inclusive Housing

Council and Staff Initiated Activities	\$38,588
--	----------

Health

Council and Staff Initiated Activities	\$38,588
Council Meeting on Medical Safeguards	\$237

Total \$38,825

Transportation

Council and Staff Initiated Activities \$38,588

Self-Advocacy

Council and Staff Initiated Activities \$38,588

Disability Resource Network - CT Youth in ADAPT \$4,050

People 1st of Connecticut
\$2,250

Annual Report and Webmaster \$2,189

Total \$47,077

Inclusive Communities

Council and Staff Initiated Activities \$38,588

Connecticut Community Care, Inc. \$115,044

Social Role Valorization Training
SRV Implementation Project \$18,630

Council SRV Support \$6,445

Aging In Place In The Community \$2,830

A Day Of Respect \$2,646

Trinity College – “Robo Waiter“ \$11,700

Total \$215,883

Grand Total **\$478,985**

Council Members

October 1, 2008 to September 30, 2009

Officers

Cathy Adamczyk, Chair

(Retired September 30, 2009)

Armand Legault, Vice Chair

Persons with Developmental Disabilities

Joyce Baker, Wethersfield

Stephen Belske, Bloomfield

Frank Reed, Danbury

Leo Germain, Manchester

Jamie Graham, Bloomfield

(Resigned June 15, 2009)

Armand Legault, Newington

Jennifer Lortie, Griswold

David King, Bridgeport

Bill Knight, Torrington

Zuleika Martinez, Bridgeport

Thomas McCann, Manchester

Peter Morrissette, East Hartford

Sarah Rafala, Windsor

Parents

Cathy Adamczyk, Ansonia

(Retired September 30, 2009)

Jousette Caro, Hartford

(Retired September 30, 2009)

Patricia Carrin, Canton

(Retired September 30, 2009)

Sheila Crocker, Bloomfield

(Retired September 30, 2009)

Mary Eberle, Bloomfield

(Retired September 30, 2009)

John Flanders, Cromwell

(Resigned September 30, 2009)

Robyn Hescock, Cheshire
(Resigned November 30, 2009)
Paul Kachevsky, Danbury
(Resigned September 30, 2009)
Hayley Kelley, Winsted
Maryann Lombardi, Wilton
Sabra Mayo, Hartford
Dwayne Paul, Milford
Al Piehl, Avon
Leslie Prior, Tolland
Nancy Taylor, Canton
Anita Tremarche, Manchester

State Agencies

Patricia Anderson, Department of Education
(Resigned September 30, 2009)
Gabriela Freyre-Calish, University Center for Excellence in Developmental
Disabilities,
Lawrence Carlson, Department of Social Services
Lisa Davis, Department of Public Health
(Resigned July 30, 2009)
Kathryn duPree, Department of Developmental Services
Mark Keenan, Department of Public Health
Perri Mudica, Department of Education
Patricia Tyler, Office of Protection and Advocacy

Private Agencies

Frederick Frank, Career Resources, Bridgeport
Monica Smyth, Abilis, Greenwich

Staff To The Council

Edward T. Preneta, Director
Angela Klonoski, Disability Policy Specialist
Mary-Ann Langton, Disability Policy Specialist

Webmaster

Matthew Smith, Litchfield County Computer, Woodbury