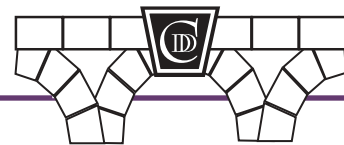


BRIDGES

to the community

Winter 2001
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PEGGY BENNETT RECEIVES JACK B. HEFNER AWARD



The North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities presented the 2001 Jack B. Hefner Award to **Peggy Bennett** of Charlotte at its quarterly meeting August 16 in recognition for her significant contributions to enhance the lives of people with developmental disabilities.

The Jack B. Hefner award commemorates the service of Jack Hefner, a Council member from 1982 until his death in 1994. Each year, the DD Council presents the prestigious Jack B. Hefner Award to an individual who exemplifies the characteristics of compassion for and commitment to people with developmental disabilities. Peggy was not only an active member of the DD Council but is also the mother of an adult son with Tourette Syndrome

Peggy served as a member of the DD Council for six years and as a member and chair of the Council's Disability Systems Change Committee. The Disability Systems Change Committee promotes changes to increase freedom and dignity for people with disabilities, with an emphasis on people receiving services and supports at home and in the community, rather than in institutional settings.

"Peggy's role in advancing the self-determination initiative helped mobilize a grassroots movement to assure that self-determination becomes a reality for people with developmental disabilities in North Carolina," said Council Executive Director **Holly Riddle**.

Creativity, Community and the Human Spirit

The North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities awarded four grants this year to promote inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in the arts. The grants were awarded to Spotlights Youth Drama Organization, the Raleigh Ensemble Players, the Vance County Arts Council and Community Integration Training, Inc. (CITI).

The Spotlights Youth Drama Organization's project includes buying a mobile lift that can be used for its street and stage performances to facilitate accessibility and inclusion of audience and cast members. It is also working with schools and other organizations to encourage the participation of people with disabilities in the dramatic arts.

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EASLEY APPOINTS MEMBERS

TO THE DD COUNCIL

Governor **Mike Easley** appointed 15 members to the North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities this fall, naming **Mark Ezzell** the new chair.

Four of the people named to the Council are reappointments: **Jean Hollowell** of Goldsboro, office manager for Bicycle Post and former budget and administrative officer for Wachovia; **Doris Jones** of Greensboro, retired teacher; **W. Kenneth Wease** of Cary, owner of W.

interpreter support services consultant for the North Carolina Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing; **Jean M. Wolff-Rossi** of Louisburg, assistant manager and bookkeeper at COPE Hospitality Management, Inc.; and **Nina M. Yeager** of Raleigh, director of the Division of Medical Assistance.

Easley appointed Mark Ezzell of Raleigh to serve as the chair of the Council. Ezzell is the federal legislative analyst for the Governor's Crime Commission. There, he serves as liaison with the North Carolina Washington office, state agencies, the General Assembly and local agencies on policy and grant matters. (Under the federal DD Act, Mr. Ezzell's position with the Crime Commission does not constitute a conflict of interest, as the Crime Commission receives no federal funds under the DD Act.) He is also the founder and coordinator of ACCESSvote, a statewide, nonprofit organization working to increase civic participation of people with disabilities.



Kenneth Wease, CPA; and **Joy E. Weeber** of Raleigh, field researcher for the first national study to identify the disability identity process.

The new members are **Sadie B. Barbour** of Clinton, a tribal enrollment officer for Coharie Intra-Tribal Council, Inc.; **Travis C. Evans** of Princeton, who is employed with Johnston County Industries; **Carol E. Hubbard** of Mars Hill, founder of ACCESS Independent Living; **Monica L. Jackson** of Charlotte, information and referral coordinator for Programs for Accessible Living; **Keisha M. Lee** of Williamston; **Allen H. Perry** of Cary, executive director of the Governor's Advocacy Council for Persons with Disabilities; **Robert J. Rickelman** of Charlotte, chairman of the Reading and Elementary Education Department at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte; **Lawrence E. Shockey** of Four Oaks,

Each of the 34 members of the Council is appointed by the governor. The Council has an executive committee and three committees focusing on areas of emphasis: community capacity building, advocacy and leadership, and disability systems change. The Executive Committee consists of a chair, two vice chairs and a secretary/treasurer.

At the last DD Council meeting, the Council elected Jean Hollowell secretary/treasurer, **Lara Parker** for a second term as vice chair and **John Russ** to his first term as vice chair. Mark Ezzell appointed Joy Weeber chair of the Systems Change Committee, W. Kenneth Wease chair of the Advocacy and Leadership Committee and Doris Jones chair of the Community Capacity Building Committee.

DD COUNCIL MEMBERS

Sadie Brewington Barbour, Clinton
Susan Boyd, Apex
Carmen Hooker Buell, Dept. of Health
and Human Services
Robert C. Carpenter, N.C. Senate
Beverly Miller Earle, N.C. House of
Representatives
Tavis Evans, Princeton
Mark Ezzell, Raleigh
Karen Gottovi, Division of Aging
Lowell Harris, Dept. of Public Instruction
Nellie Carolyn Herring, Tabor City
Jean Hollowell, Goldsboro
Carol Elaine Hubbard, Nonprofit
Monica Jackson, Charlotte
Doris Jones, Greensboro
Joseph Lalley, Jr., Asheville
Matty Lazo-Chadderton, Cary
Keisha Lee, Williamston
Greg Olley, CDL, UNC-CH
Lara Parker, Chapel Hill
Allen Perry, GACPD
Bob Philbeck, Division of Vocational
Rehabilitation
Patricia Porter, Division of MH/DD/SAS
Robert Joseph Rickelman, Charlotte
John Russ, Wilmington
Lawrence Shockey, Four Oaks
Jeanne Spangler, Rocky Mount
Nikki Thompson, Raleigh
W. Kenneth Wease, Cary
Joy Weeber, Raleigh
Jerry Wiley, Division of Public Health
Jean Wolff-Rossi, Louisburg
Jamie Yahnaker, Greenville
Nina Yeager, Division of Medical Assistance

MORRIS STEPS DOWN AS CHAIR



After serving more than five years as chair of the North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities, Bill Morris stepped down from his position this past summer, allowing him to devote more time to the Disability Community Economic Development Center of which he is president.

When appointed chair of the Council by Governor Jim Hunt in March of 1996, Bill's goals were to see the DD Council expand its involvement in the larger disability community—not limiting itself to just people with developmental disabilities and their families—and involve more grassroots/nonprofessional organizations with DD Council grants. Two projects that Bill points to as examples of successes in these areas are the DBTAC project and the "That All May Worship" grant.

"The easy thing is to award grants to professional organizations who have the ability to write strong proposals and reports. However, some of these nonprofessional, grassroots organizations, such as the communities of faith in "That All May Worship," often have the ability to do the most good in the community," according to Bill. "The challenge has been, and continues to be, for the DD Council to not do what is necessarily the easiest thing but to stay focused on what it is trying to accomplish in the disability community in North Carolina.

"I think there are very few organizations in North Carolina that have the potential to do the good that the DD Council has," said Bill. "I enjoyed my involvement with the DD Council and feel honored to have served as chair. I send the Council my best wishes as it moves forward."

Bill is now president of the Disability Community Economic Development Center, based in Raleigh (919-846-3632). While he's been working for the Center in his spare time for a while, he is now devoting his energies full time there. "I still feel the most important issue facing people with disabilities is economic," said Bill. This nonprofit organization promotes entrepreneurship among people with disabilities across the state.



GRANTS PROMOTE EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities is funding two projects that address employment concerns for people with developmental disabilities. The grants, awarded to the Center for Self-Determination and The Arc of North Carolina, will be used to help people with developmental disabilities start and maintain their own businesses.

The Center for Self-Determination's project, Changing the Rules, helps people with severe developmental disabilities participate in microenterprises, enabling them to incorporate their own businesses. Currently, about 25 people in the Salisbury area are participating in this project.

Through Project E³—Economic Equality Through Employment—The Arc of North Carolina is

creating a virtual incubator to support the development of business plans for people with a wide range of developmental disabilities. Through this incubator, people with developmental disabilities will make valuable business contacts in the community which could provide seed money and/or advice for their enterprise. Project E³ is being implemented in New Hanover, Pender and Brunswick counties.

According to **Melissa Swartz** of the DD Council, "Both of these projects want to influence the existing system to make it more flexible and creative in its approach to supporting employment and entrepreneurship opportunities for people with developmental disabilities."

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Grants that promote inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in the arts

The Raleigh Ensemble Players are also developing their theatre to be inclusive in a number of ways including involving more actors with disabilities, making the stage accessible to participants and providing signing and audio descriptions for audience members. They also hired a disability coordinator to be a liaison to the disability community.

Making all arts experiences inclusive to everyone is the goal of the Vance County Arts Council. With its grant, the Arts Council is organizing gallery exhibits featuring works by people with developmental disabilities

in a variety of mediums. The Arts Council hired someone with a disability to work as a gallery host and hired a part-time, permanent theatre technician for the Henderson Rec Players.

The focus of the CITI grant is the development of a community arts resource center. Through its project, CITI is helping develop mutually supportive relationships between artists with and without disabilities. Other project efforts help artists with disabilities learn how to market their work and create small businesses. Educational materials provided by CITI include a web site and newsletters.

How to Access CAP-MR/DD

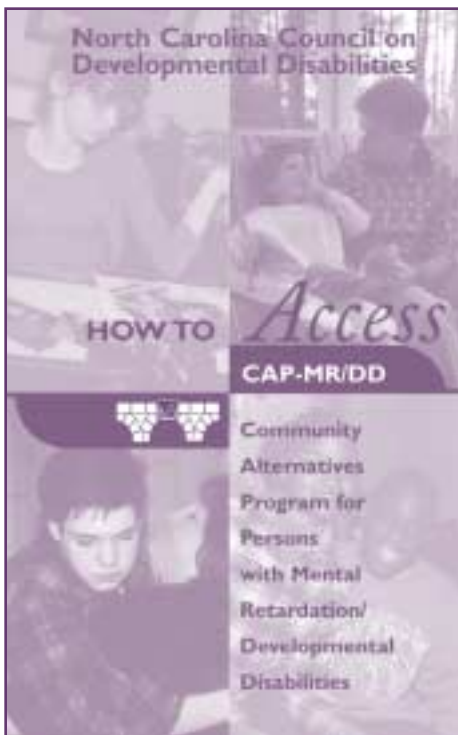
The North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities is pleased to announce the release of *How to Access CAP-MR/DD*, a guide to North Carolina's Community Alternatives Program for Persons with Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities. This guide represents a breakthrough in communications about North Carolina's Medicaid-waiver program (CAP-MR/DD) to the people who need it most—potential participants. Finally...a guide to CAP-MR/DD that puts government jargon into **everyday terms!**

How to Access CAP-MR/DD provides step-by-step instructions on how to apply for CAP-MR/DD funds as well as general information about accessing developmental disabilities services through the state's Single Portal process. The guide explains the roles and

responsibilities of case managers and service providers. It also includes tips for communicating needs and desires and for developing effective relationships with case managers. Others who have already navigated the system share their experiences and recommendations.

"This guide provides critical information to people with developmental disabilities and their families, enabling them to become more effective self-advocates and promoting self-determination in our service-delivery system," said Assistant Director **Larry Swabe**.

The DD Council is offering this guide free of charge to people with developmental disabilities and their families as well as to area mental health/developmental disabilities/substance abuse services programs, advocacy organizations and other interested professionals. It is currently available in regular print and on the Council's web site, www.nc-ddc.org. It will soon be available in large print, Braille and Spanish. To request a free copy of *How to Access CAP-MR/DD*, contact the DD Council toll free at (800) 357-6916 or in the Raleigh area at 850-2895.



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Chair's Message

Get Involved!

I am honored that Governor Easley has asked me to serve as chair of the N.C. Council on Developmental Disabilities. The DD Council is known across North Carolina for its strong, innovative work to improve the lives of people with disabilities, and each of you has played a key role in establishing that reputation.

Some of the most important issues facing the disability community in the past 20 years are being decided right now: Olmstead implementation, reorganization of the state's service structure, the rights of schoolchildren with disabilities and the right to legal remedies for discrimination. In order for these decisions to be made fairly, accurately and effectively, people with disabilities and members of their families **MUST** be front and center in these decision-making processes. And the DD Council can help make it happen.

How can the DD Council make this difference? First, we can act as the eyes and ears of people with disabilities and family members by bringing their concerns to the Council table. Second, we can educate community members about ways in

which they can effectively advocate for themselves. Third, we can continue and expand efforts to fund programs that enrich the personal, financial, cultural and spiritual lives of individuals who have disabilities or who care for people with disabilities. Fourth, we can educate decision makers that people with disabilities represent approximately 20% of the state's total population, and that the will and needs of that population can neither be ignored or co-opted by others who claim to speak for us. Finally, we can continue to address the critical needs of parents and other family members in caring for and providing life options to their loved one with a disability.

To successfully accomplish these goals, we must all be involved, proactive and committed to change. We don't have a person to waste.

Please feel free to contact me at any time should you have questions, concerns or ideas about the work of the DD Council. I look forward to working with each and every one of you.

Mark Ezzell



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The Council is an independent agency sited in the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). DHHS does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.

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Mark Ezzell, Chairman
Holly Riddle, J.D., M.Ed., Executive Director

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