



# 2011 ANNUAL REPORT



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Partners in Policymaking, Class of 2011

## What Are Developmental Disabilities?

Developmental Disabilities are physical or mental impairments that occur by the age of 22 and alter or substantially inhibit a person's capacity to engage in daily activities of life and may include self-care, communication, learning, mobility or being able to work or live independently. A Developmental Disability may include Autism Spectrum, Down's Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, Spina Bifida, Sickle Cell Anemia and a wide-range of other conditions. Based upon the best data and research available, it's estimated that approximately 100,000 Arizonans of all ages have a developmental disability.

## What Does the Council Do?

The Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council (ADDPC) is charged by *The Developmental Disabilities and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (Act)* to identify issues affecting persons with developmental disabilities and their families while at the same time supporting strategies that address their needs. Approaches include collaboration and funding for projects that develop frameworks for expanded supports.

To guide the Council in its activities in 2011, the Five Year State Plan, 2007–11 was used. The plan identified 7 Areas of Emphasis, including employment, education, housing, health care, transportation, quality assurance and community supports.

## The Mission and Values of the ADDPC

The Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council seeks to develop and support capacity building and systemic change that increases inclusion and involvement of persons with developmental disabilities in their communities through the promotion of self-determination, independence and dignity in all aspects of life.

The ADDPC envisions one community working together to achieve full inclusion and participation of persons with developmental disabilities.

The ADDPC has constructed several core values and beliefs which guide all activities, some of which include:

- We are passionate about the meaningful inclusion of persons with developmental disabilities in all aspects of community life.
- We value diversity in all forms and believe that individuals with developmental disabilities should have access to opportunities that they select and should be treated with respect and dignity.
- We believe that our work should be guided by the results we want to see.
- We believe that we are accountable to persons with developmental disabilities, their families, others who support them, and those who support our work.



*"I believe that being able to speak-out for ourselves is what we want in our lives, by being able to communicate to legislators or other groups to let them know how they can help when something isn't right."*

**Monica Cooper**  
Council Member and Self Advocate

## Funded Programs

### Quality Assurance — Advocacy

In 2011, the ADDPC undertook the funding of several projects related to advocacy, including the following:

**Project Vote** — Working with the Arizona Center for Disability Law (ACDL), the ADDPC turned its advocacy efforts toward educating young adults with developmental disabilities about the electoral process and their rights as potential voters. An educational curriculum was developed and implemented in rural and northern Arizona schools districts, targeting high school students eligible to vote with the goals of completed voter registration and actual voting taking place in the 2012 Arizona

Presidential Primary. Coinciding with the class-room training was a new voter education video which is posted on various websites and distributed without cost in a DVD format to interested consumers, professionals and organizations.

### **Legal Options Manual & Training**

— The ADDPC initiated a project with ACDL to update, distribute and provide training on a revised Legal Options Manual. The free publication is designed to assist parents, consumers and other professionals in navigating the multiple questions that arise when persons with developmental disabilities reach age 18, needing additional supports. Such options include designated representative status, durable power of attorney, conservatorship and guardianship. In advocating for the least restrictive alternative for



*“Partners in Policymaking has given me new perspectives on view my life and new ways to communicate my desires, while being understanding of my parent’s concerns. My goal is to continue to search for a creative and artistic career that brings others with disabilities hope and assistance in reaching their own goals.”*

#### **Brooke Brown**

Self Advocate,  
Graduate of Partners in Policy Making

individuals requiring these types of support, community training at no cost was provided in multiple communities in both English and Spanish.

### **Partners in Policy-Making**

— Incorporating advocacy activities into 2011 projects was an important goal for the ADDPC. Pilot Parents (PP) of Southern Arizona successfully responded to a grant application posted by the Council, using a nationally recognized curriculum, “Partners in Policy-Making” as a free, 6-month leadership training program to a class of 14 participants from the rural areas of Pima, Coconino, Yavapai and Graham Counties. Consisting of parents advocating on behalf of children with developmental disabilities and young adults with developmental disabilities, participants were introduced

to a variety of topics including inclusion and quality education, community supports, person-centered planning, state and federal policy, planning for transitions, legislative process, and assistive technology, all taught by experts in their respective fields.

### **Connecting the Dots**

**Project** — In 2010 the ADDPC became aware that while many organizations were committed to support activities benefiting persons with developmental disabilities, they were unprepared to respond to funding opportunities offered by the Council through the grant process. In an attempt to strengthen these organizations as they advocate with persons with developmental disabilities, the ADDPC partnered with Pima Prevention Partnership

to provide a series of three grant writing workshops held from April through June 2011 in various locations across the state. Invitations were widely distributed to the free event to encourage attendance. The workshops focused on the basic fundamentals of grant writing, with an emphasis on the requirements established by the Council and other critical aspects needed to submit a successful grant application.

### **Best Buddies Ambassadors**

**Project** — In recognition that self-advocacy is best represented through effective communication, the ADDPC partnered with Best Buddies to implement the Ambassadors Project. Supported by speech coaches and other volunteers, 36 high school students (Ambassadors) with intellectual disabilities

learned effective methods of verbal communication. Program participants were not only trained in how to develop and present speeches in a public setting, they also developed skills in more specialized forms of communication. Teaching points included networking, speech editing, using social media, becoming aware of non-verbal communication techniques, and using visual aids and “hooks” as a way to effectively capture and maintain audience attention. As a result of participating in the project, several students stepped up as leaders in both their schools and communities. One Ambassador was named Volunteer of the Year by the City of Chandler, Arizona, while another was elected to the student senate in his high school.



*“It’s important to find a career that fulfills you – It’s important to everyone.”*

**Madeline Corzine**  
Council Member and Self Advocate

## Employment

**Project SEARCH Maricopa** — Persons with developmental disabilities represent the largest segment of the unemployed in Arizona. To mitigate the challenges of preparing for and finding employment following high school, the ADDPC supported a new project in Maricopa County, the most urban and populated county in the state. Partnering with the Sonoran University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (SUCEDD) at the University of Arizona, the Council initiated Project SEARCH Maricopa, an innovative and nationally recognized model for employment. The model focuses on bringing interns into large organizations that provide

a variety of job experiences within multiple departments, while offering classroom support to develop and enhance necessary job skills. Several of the outcomes expected from this project are to assist participants identify career choices, develop work skills and ultimately obtain competitive employment.





*"I really like being in my own apartment. I do anything I want to and like to cook, have friends over and run my own schedule. The privacy is important!"*

**David Copins**  
Council Member and Self Advocate

## Housing

In Arizona, many persons with developmental disabilities live with family members or concerned others, while a smaller portion reside in institutional settings, group homes or other types of congregate housing. As demographics continue to change in the state, the ADDPC began looking at how it could assist in creating new housing opportunities. Two projects were supported in 2011:

**Native American Housing Program** — In rural Arizona, particularly on the northernmost tribal lands, affordable, accessible and functional housing is in limited supply. This fact is magnified for persons with developmental

disabilities seeking housing accommodations to fulfill their needs. In 2010, the ADDPC began working with the Native American Disability Law Center to collaborate with the Navajo Nation in assessing housing needs, identifying resources and developing mechanisms to provide greater access to the Navajo Housing Authority and their application processes. Later in 2011, the project was revised to also include work with the Hopi Tribe to accomplish many of the activities initiated with the Navajo Nation.

**Arizona Community Living Now** — In 2011 the ADDPC continued its work with the SUCEDD project begun in late 2010 to educate persons with developmental disabilities on



varied housing options. The emphasis of the first part of the project was on training with topics such as community services and supports, transitions, consumer controlled housing, shared living, special needs planning and financial education and planning. The SUCEDD developed a handbook for reference and a website to be available as an electronic portal for housing information.

## Studies

In 2011, the ADDPC initiated several comprehensive studies that will ultimately enhance our understanding of the topics and ways to support persons with developmental disabilities and their families in Arizona.

## Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)

Restraints and seclusion allowed in Arizona public and charter schools is a practice that when implemented can lead to adverse consequences. While many schools don't use restraints or seclusion in controlling challenging behaviors occurring among persons with developmental disabilities in the classroom, those that do may benefit from adopting alternative practices. Based on recommendations made by a legislative task force appointed in 2009, PBIS is one such practice that is an evidence based option and proven to be effective across the country. To determine the extent of

PBIS in schools in Arizona, the ADDPC commissioned a study of a selected sample of schools and personnel to evaluate implementation practices, attitudes and barriers/opportunities for increasing usage. The concluding report completed in 2011, lays out the principle issues to be addressed if PBIS is to be expanded throughout all Arizona schools.

## Oral Health Care

In 2010, several optional services offered by the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS), the Arizona version of Medicaid, were eliminated. Oral health care was substantially impacted by this change, eliminating preventative, routine and emergency dental

services for persons with developmental disabilities age 18 and older. As a follow-up to an earlier study conducted by the Council in 2006, the ADDPC commissioned an extensive study on the outcomes of eliminated dental care. The study involved surveys, individual interviews and focus groups with a wide range of participants including consumers, parents and family members, dental professionals and policy makers. The findings, while supporting the assumption that oral health care had been adversely affected by AHCCCS reductions, also laid out strategies for developing alternatives that when implemented will lead to increased capacity.

## Arizona Tribal Relationships

In 2011, the ADDPC was invited to work with the Hopi Tribe and Navajo Nation in projects related to education and creating increased awareness on issues surrounding developmental disabilities. The ADDPC was involved in the 1st Annual Disabilities Conference held in the Navajo Nation at Tuba City, Arizona. Following that event, the Council provided indirect assistance in the Hopi Special Needs Activities Day, held in September in Kykotsmovi, Arizona, an event that drew over 1000 attendees. The Council was also invited to participate in the Hopi Disabilities Advocacy Group, meeting monthly to

address unmet needs within the tribe.

In the fall of 2011, the Council participated in the Navajo Nation Disabilities Conference in Window Rock, Arizona.

# 2012–16 Five Year State Plan

In August 2011, the ADDPC submitted its new Five Year State Plan to the Administration on Developmental Disabilities detailing strategies for implementing activities beginning October 1, 2011. The Plan was developed following an extended process used to gather data on unmet needs while eliciting comments, suggestions and ideas from consumers and other stakeholders. Three new Goals have been established for the period and include the following:

- 1.** Build a self-advocacy alliance comprised of diverse advocacy organizations, 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 others who support them by linking them to information that promotes informed decision-making about choices and quality of life.

## Developmental Disabilities Network

The Developmental Disabilities Network (DDN) is established under the authority of the Act, which defines two organizations besides State Councils as providers of supports to persons with developmental disabilities. These additional organizations are listed as University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) and Protection and Advocacy organizations. The entities working together as the DDN include:

- Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council
- Institute for Human Development, UCEDD, Northern Arizona University
- Sonoran UCEDD, University of Arizona
- Arizona Center for Disability Law, Protection and Advocacy
- Native American Disability Law Center, Protection and Advocacy (not a DDN member)

## Annual Newsletter

Members of the DDN contributed information to an annual newsletter widely distributed in Arizona in printed and electronic format. The newsletter highlights individual activities carried out by each member organization, along

with emphasis on project, where the DDN worked collaboratively.

## Border Conference

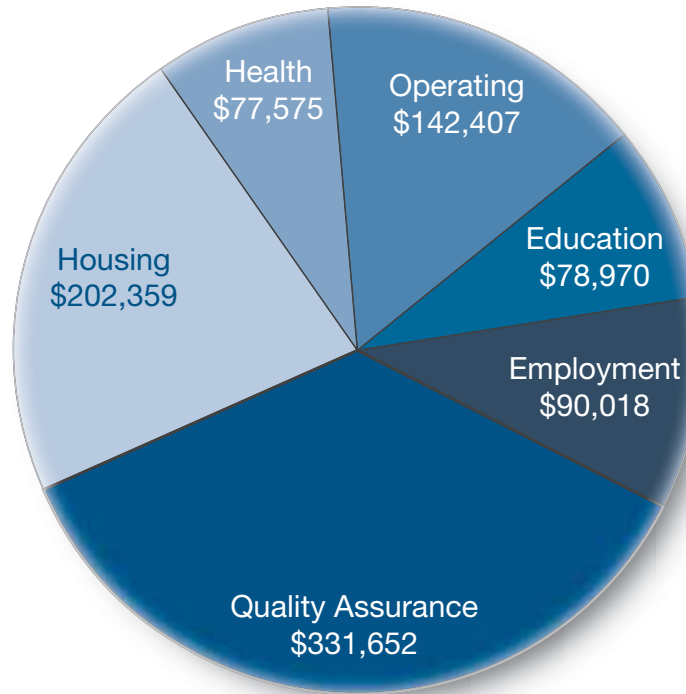
Held March 4, 2011 in Nogales, Arizona, this event provided education and networking opportunities for 150 persons with developmental disabilities, family members, professionals and stakeholders, which reside along the southern border of Arizona and Mexico. The day-long conference offered sessions provided by experts in their related field. Workshop topics included positive behavior management, aging and wellness, managing personal boundaries and relationships, and person-centered planning and transition.



## Budget

In 2011 the Council was awarded \$1,480,235 and had expenditures of \$922,981. This more than doubled what was spent in 2010, with programs that extended into the Health, Housing, Education, Employment, and Quality Assurance Areas of Emphasis.

The Council anticipates to allocate the remaining funds of \$557,254 to support the 2012–2016 State Plan goals.



2011 Expenditures

# Council Members

## **Will Humble**

*Chairperson, Representative  
Arizona Department of Health  
Services*

## **Karla Phillips**

*Vice-Chairperson, Parent/Family  
Advocate*

## **Lisa Ashton**

*Parent/Family Advocate*

## **John Black**

*Representative AHCCCS/ALTCS*

## **Susie Cannata**

*Parent/Family Advocate*

## **Dr. Richard Carroll**

*Representative Northern Arizona  
University/UCEDD*

## **Leslie Cohen**

*Representative University of  
Arizona/UCEDD*

## **Monica Cooper**

*Consumer/Self-Advocate*

## **David Copins**

*Consumer/Self-Advocate*

## **Madeline Corzine**

*Consumer/Self-Advocate*

## **Dave Cutty**

*Representative Non-Government/  
Non-Profit Agency*

## **Greg Devorce**

*Consumer/Self-Advocate*

## **John Eckhardt**

*Parent/Family Advocate*

## **Joyce Millard Hoie**

*Representative Family Advocacy  
Organization*

## **Barbara Brent**

*Representative Department of  
Economic Security/DDD*

## **Marv Lamer**

*Representative Arizona Department  
of Education*

## **Tim Martin**

*Representative Non-Government/  
Non-Profit Agency*

## **Matt McMahon**

*Parent/Family Advocate*

## **Ed Myers**

*Representative, Protection &  
Advocacy, Arizona Center for  
Disability Law*

## **Charles Ryan**

*Parent/Family Advocate*

## **Elmer Saufkie**

*Consumer/Self-Advocate*

## **Rosemarie Strout**

*Parent/Family Advocate*

## **Rhonda Webb**

*Consumer/Self-Advocate*

## STAFF

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**Larry Clausen**

*Executive Director*

**Marcella Crane**

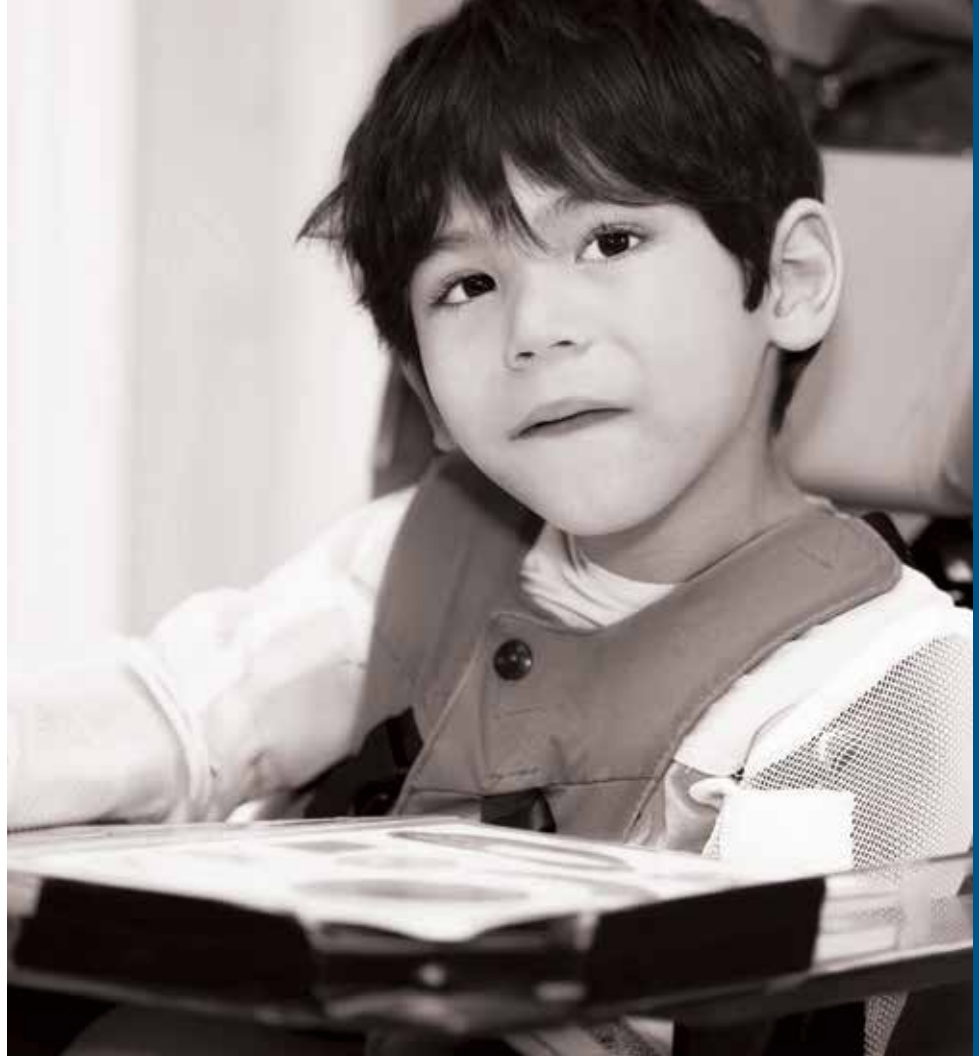
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**Lani St. Cyr**

*Fiscal Manager*

**Shelly Adams**

*Executive Secretary*







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