

DC Developmental Disabilities Council: FY10 Program Performance Report Summary

Comprehensive Review and Analysis Update

Department on Disability Services

The Department on Disability Services (DDS) consists of two administrations: 1) Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) and 2) Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA). Here is the Fiscal Year 2010 (FY10) summary:

- RSA served 426 people with developmental disabilities (DD) and 271 people with intellectual disabilities (ID) with supported employment and vocational rehabilitation services;
- DDA supported 2078 people with ID to live independently as possible within the community utilizing Individualized Service Plans (ISP) - a person-centered approach reflecting the person's personal goals while providing specified supports and services needed to assist the person. The Home and Community Based Waiver (HCBW) program funds the services described in each ISP;
- Most utilized services: a) residential services (1230); b) day habilitation (1099) c) nutritional services (979);
- Greatest unmet needs among people with DD: dental care, sign language services, therapy & accessible housing;
- DDA served 397 people in Intermediate Care Facilities (ICF/IDs) and 1436 people received services in the DDA HCBW program;
- DDA established interagency initiatives with the Department of Health Care Finance, Department of Human Services, Child & Family Services Administration, Health Services for Children with Special Needs, DCPS and DC Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency improve and broaden the services provided to people with ID;
- Developmental Disabilities Reform Act (DDRA) proposed. DDRA modernizes the District's 1978 law on supports and services for residents with both ID and DD; provides a more comprehensive set of services with strong emphasis on community living, family supports, and services across the lifespan. A public hearing was held on December 13, 2010, and;
- Areas for improvement. The Hispanic and Asian populations are underserved including language barriers and cultural differences.

The following agencies/organizations provided services within the DC disability community:

1. At DC Public Schools (DCPS):
 - a. FY10, 9755 children were receiving special education services, while 1515 students had an intellectual disability (ID) diagnosis;
 - b. Early Stages implemented - an innovative diagnostic center for children between ages 3 and 5 designed to identify developmental delays/disabilities and provide the appropriate services to address the needs;
 - c. Most utilized services were specialized instruction, speech/language pathology, and behavioral supports, and;

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- d. DCPS collaborated with RSA to develop improved processes and procedures to ensure smooth transitioning from DCPS to RSA for eligible students.
2. State Medicaid agency, Dept of Health Care Finance (DHCF) provided payment for services to people with DD and oversees the administration of the DD HCBW:
 - a. Worked with Dept of Health (DOH) to set policy; regulating and licensing compliance; and conduct quality assurance with ICFs/ID;
 - b. Funds most commonly for residential habilitation, day treatment services and prescription drugs, and;
 - c. Money Follows the Person demonstration improved/enhanced community services and supports for 1400 individuals with ID and DD on the IDD Waiver.
3. DOH collaborated with the Office of the State Superintendent of Education, and Dept of Mental Health to:
 - a. Identify pre-school and school age children for developmental disabilities and delays;
 - b. Conduct metabolic and hearing screens for newborns;
 - c. Regulate 79 licensed ICF/IDs with bed count of 461, which DDS monitors and maintains bed-occupancy data, and;
 - d. License 30 community residential facilities for 96 people with DD which DDS monitors and maintains.
4. Dept of Parks and Recreation's Therapeutic Recreation Center provided day programs to 25 people with DD:
 - a. Most participants were dually diagnosed and resided in ICF/IDs;
 - b. Gym and pool programs were most utilized, and;
 - c. Overall, recreational therapy program under-utilized; needs to become a waiver option and additional spaces are available.
5. DC Aging and Disability Resource Center provided job placement, development, training, counseling, guidance and retention and served as a RSA provider.
6. Protection and advocacy agency, University Legal Services provided individual advocacy and legal presentation to 77 individuals:
 - a. Investigated abuse and neglect complaints;
 - b. Represented individuals in need of most integrated setting supports from DDS and DHCF;
 - c. Provided outreach and education to policymakers, people with disabilities, family members and other stakeholders, and;
 - d. Advocated for appropriate transition of young adults with DD from child-serving to adult-serving agencies.

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Council's Outcomes and Accomplishments

Employment - Employment outcomes for people with disabilities remain a significant priority for the DD Council. As the fiscal year was coming to a close, the DD Council Staff were planning and coordinating the 2010 Disability Mentoring Days for the month of October (Disability Employment Awareness Month). 50 college and high school students participated and over 20 District Government agencies, 1 Federal agency (Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation), and 1 corporate company (TD Bank) served as mentor sites for the students. The anticipated outcome is to have the students participate in the agencies' summer youth employment programs during the upcoming 2011 summer season. *Notable outcomes and achievements:*

- DD Council Staff met with 15 high school and college students with disabilities participating in the Inclusion Research Institute's Summer Leadership Institute and trained them on their employment rights according to Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- DD Council Staff were active planners and participants in two disability and community based events with emphasis on employment outcomes throughout FY10: Alliance for Full Participation Team (ongoing with emphasis on developing an "Employment First" Policy) and Mayor's Annual Disability Awareness Conference (October).

Education and Early Intervention - As mentioned in the Comprehensive Review section, there is greater collaboration between the DC Public Schools and the Rehabilitation Services Administration to develop improved processes and procedures to ensure smooth transitioning from DCPS to RSA for eligible students. However, this relationship still needs to establish even further. With regards to the DD Council, the members and staff support and advocate for more academic based components within students' individualized education plans with particular emphasis in basic reading and math. These skills are absolutely critical to increasing the employability value of people with disabilities. Finally, the DD Council will fund the Self-Determination and Advocacy Program during FY11. The Self-Determination and Advocacy Program request for proposal was drafted at the close of FY10 and is currently under review within the DC Office of Contracting & Procurement for solicitation to the public. The Self-Determination and Advocacy Program is designed for youths and young adults ages 14 through 30 to effectively communicate their needs and asserting their presence constantly evaluating their progress and adjusting their performance to meet their goals, and developing creative and effective approaches to problem-solving which also involve acquiring the skills to successfully navigate their own IEP meetings. The anticipated start date of the Self-Determination and Advocacy Program is Winter/Spring 2011. *Notable outcomes and achievements:*

- In August, DD Council staff provided training on how to incorporate service learning components into Individualized Education Plans at Serve DC's 2010 Service Learning Conference. 15 attendees (13 Teachers & Special Education Coordinators and 2 parents) were in attendance. 2 products were produced: Service Learning PowerPoint and Resource Guide
- In September, the DD Council staff and members assisted in the planning and participated in the 2nd Annual Moving Forward Together Secondary Transition Community Forum. The goal of the forum was to create an opportunity for information sharing, community-building, and problem-solving about the transition of DC youth with disabilities into the next phase of their lives. Over 90 parents, students with disabilities, teachers, administrators, and community organizers were in attendance.
- DD Council Staff served on the Emergency Transition Parent Lead Steering Committee and participated in DC Partners in Transition Meetings throughout FY10.

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Health - A conference, *Providing Quality Healthcare for Individuals with Intellectual & Other Developmental Disabilities*, was held and the attendees really enjoyed it because the sessions were interactive and they learned some strategies that could be used to get the services they wanted and needed. They loved the session dealing with preparing meals on a budget (Samples were shared). The presenters gave great examples. The self advocates began to understand the correlation between nutrition and fitness. They stated they will be asking for fitness activities because fitness does have a favorable impact on their well being. Respite services and accessible medical equipment for individuals with mobility limitations during evaluations are concerns within the disability community. Depending on the areas of emphasis identified in the DC DD Council's new five year plan (2012-2016), the Council may become more involved with the educational awareness process of these two areas. *Notable outcomes and achievements:*

- In October 2009, one DD Council member advocated on Capitol Hill to promote inclusion of long-term services and supports as a vital part of comprehensive health care reform.
- In April 2010, the DD Council co-sponsored and conducted the Providing Quality Healthcare for Individuals with Intellectual and other Developmental Disabilities Conference. Approximately, 60 community members were in attendance and the DD Council invested \$1,170 in the overall development of the community based event.
- In September 2010, the DD Council staff participated in the DC Lifespan Caregivers and Respite Coalition meeting sponsored by the Office of Aging/Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC). The ADRC received a demonstration grant to identify and establish respite services program for senior citizens, individuals with disabilities, and family members in the District.

Recreation - Though no outcomes were produced in the area of recreation opportunities for people with developmental disabilities, the DD Council will fund the Community Service and Recreation Opportunities Program during FY11. The Community Service and Recreation Opportunities Program request for proposal was drafted at the close of FY10 and is currently under review within the DC Office of Contracting & Procurement for solicitation to the public. While multiple factors impact an individual's satisfaction with life, community service and recreational opportunities are major contributors to feelings of health, wellness and high quality of life for individuals with developmental disabilities; hence the development of this program. The anticipated start date of the Community Service and Recreation Opportunities Program is Winter/Spring 2011.

Quality Assurance - The ADA and Assistive Technology trainings were quite helpful as it provided info that would help the case managers to better serve individuals with disabilities. It helped to dispel the myth that assistive technology is expensive; thus, they see that it does not have to be and that it should be offered as an option. Another eye opener was the myths associated with reasonable accommodations. The explanations and examples provided clarity and some stated they feel more comfortable advocating for their consumers. The sessions increased their knowledge regarding the employer's responsibility as well as theirs. Now that they are aware of what should be done, they stated they feel more comfortable moving forward in trying to remove barriers prohibiting their success in finding employment for their consumers. Employment continues to be one of the top two concerns for most individuals with disabilities. A conference was held during October, Disability Awareness Month, and the theme was "Employment for All". The individuals came ready with expectations to find out what they needed to do to get a job. They were all ears as they are ready to earn their own money and purchase what they want. *Notable outcomes and achievements:*

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- People benefiting from quality assurance efforts of the Council: 711
- Dollars leveraged for quality assurance: \$2000
- People trained in quality assurance: 295
- People active in systems advocacy about quality assurance: a) people with developmental disabilities – 3; Family members – 9; Others- 9
- People trained in leadership, self-advocacy, and self-determination: 170
- People attained membership on public and private bodies and other leadership coalitions: 15
- Number of entities participating in partnerships or coalitions as a result of Council efforts: 9
- Numbers of plans including specific language provided by DD Council staff regarding "special needs" planning. Total: 2 - DC Department of Health and Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency's District of Columbia Metropolitan Medical Response System Base Plan and RCPGP Project 4: Mass Care (Mid-Atlantic) Regional Plan. Number of people involved/impacted: 25
- Number of Quality Assurance and Assistance Opportunities by Members and Staff – Total: 7. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance Site Visits; Hamilton Relay Outreach with Deaf Community; Consumer Leadership Forum (local mental health organization) regarding members' rights under the ADA; Employment inquiry regarding accommodations for employees with dyslexia; Requesting number of accessible parking spaces needed for a lot of 42 spaces; and DC Council ADA Housing inquiry

Cross Cutting - Public awareness continues to be a powerful vehicle for sharing the contributions by individuals with developmental disabilities. The DDC will be exploring opportunities for increasing public awareness of individuals with developmental disabilities and the contributions they make. March is officially recognized as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. A collaborative event was held to recognize and celebrate the successes of individuals with developmental disabilities in the District. This year the theme was Celebrate Respect, the new "R" word through education, language, families, community and legislation. We celebrated the future that people with developmental disabilities are creating for themselves. We asked everyone to make RESPECT the new "R" word.

Additionally, the DD Council Staff participated in three Cross Cutting activities in August and September: 1) DC Family Support Training Project (Provided by TASH and funded by the Administration on Developmental Disabilities); 2) Joint Utility Discount Day, and; 3) Real Economic Impact Tour sponsored by the National Disability Institute.

The DD Council Executive Director was one of two lead facilitators for the DC Family Support Training Project in August where 25 parents and individuals with disabilities were in attendance. The Joint Utility Discount Day was a District-wide community event and approximately 100 individuals inquired about and/or received information regarding the DD Council. The Real Economic Impact Tour is a public-private collaboration designed to provide DC Metropolitan residents with disabilities insight, tools, and resources to improve their lives through financial education, training and counseling. Featured collaborators include Internal Revenue Service, National Disability Institute, DC Department on Disability Services, Social Security Administration, Baltimore City Government & other DC, Maryland and Virginia community organizations. Finally, the DD Council staff moderates an electronic distribution list consisting of over 400 DC community members with disabilities, community organizers, District government

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employees, and DC Council members and staff. The DD Council utilizes this list to announce upcoming events and educate issues related to Council priorities and initiatives. *Notable outcomes and achievements:*

- Public policymakers educated about issues related to Council Initiatives: 2
- Copies of products distributed to policymakers about issues related to Council Initiatives: 2
- Members of the general public estimated to have been reached by Council public education, awareness and media initiatives: 647

Council's Progress in Achieving Goals in 5 Year Plan

Partners in Policymaking

Goal: Partially Met

This goal was partially met due to: 1) Appointments of all new Council members and establishing a new functional Council in April 2010; and 2) Executive Director was not appointed until August 2010. Partners in Policymaking is an endeavor the Council will pursue. A request for proposal has been written and is currently under review within the DC Office of Contracting & Procurement for solicitation to the public. The anticipated start date of the Partners in Policymaking program is Winter/Spring 2011.

Self Determination & Advocacy Program for Youth

Goal: Partially Met

This goal was partially met due to: 1) Appointments of all new Council members and establishing a new functional Council in April 2010; and 2) Executive Director was not appointed until August 2010. The Self Determination & Advocacy Program for Youth is an endeavor the Council will pursue. A request for proposal has been written and is currently under review within the DC Office of Contracting & Procurement for solicitation to the public. The anticipated start date of the Self Determination & Advocacy Program is Winter/Spring 2011.

Emergency Preparedness

Goal: Met

Emergency preparedness is an on-going activity. This year's focus was getting the individuals involved in the mock scenarios. A committee has been established that is working hand in hand with the DC Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency team to ensure the needs of individuals are included in the overall planning for the District of Columbia. The activities allowed us to test the capacity and evaluate readiness. The DD Council led the discussions for the critical issues section (food, shelter and medical requirements).

Consumer Satisfaction

Goal: Partially Met

Multiple community forums were held to solicit community involvement and support in the development of revised legislation for service delivery and family supports for persons with developmental disabilities. The revision is complete and a public hearing was scheduled before the City Council for January 11, 2010. The DD Reform Act encompasses some of the concerns that were voiced in the Ask Me! Survey conducted by the DD Council. The goal also is to expand services to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families versus just serving individuals with intellectual disabilities. The hearing did not take place until December 13, 2010. With a new City Council administration coming in January 3, 2011, there will be no further action until after that time.

Community Service and Recreation Opportunities Program

Goal: Partially Met

This goal was partially met due to: 1) Appointments of all new Council members and establishing a new functional Council in April 2010; and 2) Executive Director was not appointed until August 2010. The Community Service and Recreation Opportunities Program is an endeavor the Council will pursue. A request for proposal has been written and is currently under review within the DC Office of Contracting & Procurement for solicitation to the public. The anticipated start date of the Community Service and Recreation Opportunities Program is Winter/Spring 2011.