



IDAHO COUNCIL ON  
DEVELOPMENTAL  
DISABILITIES

# VISIONS & VALUES

Volume 20, Issue 3

Fall 2008

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## A System At Risk

For the last several years, Idaho and other states across the country have moved away from providing services to people with disabilities in institutions and other segregated settings and toward serving people in their homes and communities. This has been helped by changes in federal programs like Medicaid that make it possible to provide funding for community services. But the investment in community-based services has been inadequate to meet people's needs. While we seem to be able to find the dollars to build institutions and provide services in those settings, there does not ap-

pear to be the same level of commitment to invest in non-institutional alternatives.

There are a range of services and supports that people need to live in homes in their communities. These services range from developmental therapy to supported employment to supported living. These services help people develop and maintain day-to-day living and social skills, provide support and assistance with tasks to maintain independence, and assist people with learning skills to help them get and keep jobs. People with significant disabilities are living meaningful

*(continued on page 5)*

## COUNCIL MEMBERS:

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## Leader to Watch: Chase Doty

"I could sing before I could talk much" is how Chase Doty describes his love for singing country songs. When Chase was very young, he listened to music and began first to hum and then sing along with the songs he heard playing on the radio. He learned to play guitar and now he knows well over a 100 songs and gets paid for singing them. Yes, Chase Doty is a professional performer and plays at the Kozy Korner in Deary, at picnics, barbecues, conferences and other gatherings throughout Idaho. He once sang at a conference in Washington DC.

Chase's mom and dad have



supported his strong attraction to music by building a studio in a shop on their Deary ranch near Moscow. When he's not working, Chase spends hours in the studio singing songs, watching music videos and just hanging out when he wants time to himself.

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## COUNCIL PROJECTS



### YLF 2008 A Success

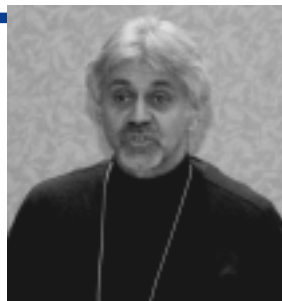


17 students with disabilities from around Idaho completed Idaho Youth Leadership Forum - a week long leadership and career development program in June at Boise State University. Youth participated in presentations and group discussions about leadership, advocacy, employment, preparing for college and independent living. Highlights of the week included a meeting with Governor Otter, breakfast with a panel of policymakers, a tour of the legislature, presentation by Richard Pimentel, and an afternoon shadowing job mentors working in their career of interest. YLF 2009 is scheduled for July 13-17. Applications will be available in December on the Council website or by contacting Tracy Warren at [twarren@icdd.idaho.gov](mailto:twarren@icdd.idaho.gov).



### Idaho APSE Update

Two famous and influential members of this country's integrated employment movement spoke recently at the Idaho Partnerships Conference in Boise. Dale DiLeo, author of *Raymond's Room* and 6 other books and Celane McWhorter, former CEO of APSE, The Employment Network, provided inspirational messages at the two-day conference. Mr. DiLeo's three employment presentations focused on natural supports, marketing and transition. At an evening APSE promotional gathering, Celane McWhorter shared her perspective about the history and evolution of integrated employment from the 1970's to present. Dale DiLeo served multiple terms as a member of the APSE Board of Directors.



Dale DiLeo

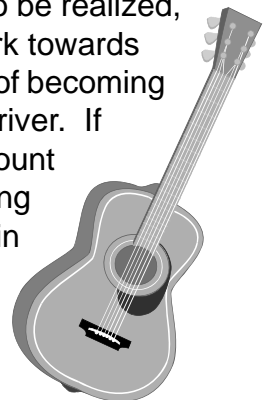
Idaho APSE actively recruited new members during the conference to help the chapter meet the requirements for full chapter status and sign up people for the newsletter. Two employment service providers are committed to joining APSE, bringing Idaho to the 20 member requirement for full chapter status.

### Chase Doty *(cont'd from pg. 1)*

On the ranch Chase tends to the animals, cuts firewood, and mows the lawn. He is the owner of a lawn care business, *CWD Lawn Care* and has mowing contracts in Deary, Kendrick and Moscow. When his dad was hired as a school bus driver for the Deary School District, Chase was hired as a bus monitor to make sure students are safe and they don't misbehave.

Chase and his parents are featured in a video promoting the Department of Health and Welfare's "My Voice - My Choice" home and community based services waiver. The Doty family, with Chase as its star, is one of three families sharing their positive experiences with the self-directed waiver option. In the video, Chase sings songs, talks about his business, and tells what being able to direct his services means to him.

As with almost every country singer, Chase has his sights set on performing in Nashville, Tennessee. He dreams about having his own bus tour and performing around the country. Just in case it takes a while for those dreams to be realized, Chase may work towards another dream of becoming a commercial driver. If that happens, count on Chase keeping a guitar tucked in behind the driver's seat.



## COUNCIL PROJECTS

### Idaho Partners Leadership Conference

The Council sponsored the 2nd Idaho Partners Leadership Conference training this past June 26-28, 2008 in Boise. Fifty-nine Idaho Partner graduates received community organizing from Fifth Freedom of Indiana <http://fifthfreedom.org/>.

During the training, Partner graduates:

- ◆ Learned that community organizing meant "groups of people coming together on a local level to develop strategies and support each other's work."

- ◆ Decided to build a statewide community organizing coalition and name it "Community Now"

- ◆ Created a mission statement together that states: "Community Now! is a network of Idaho people and families who are working together to build communities that promote equality, respect, and inclusion for everyone. We accomplish our mission by working together to remove every barrier that prevents us from living, playing, and working in our communities."

- ◆ Created a value statement together that states: "The members of Community Now! are united advocates who value accepting personal responsibility to achieve freedom from exclusion and social separation, and for the purpose of promoting equal opportunity, access, and respect for all people."



*Dolores Totorica*

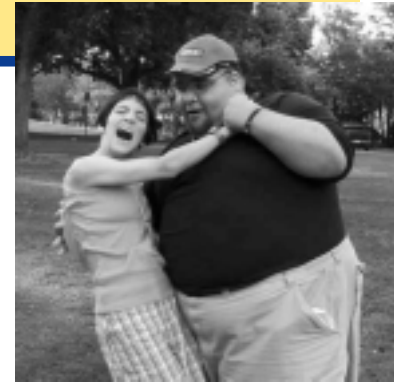
- ◆ Created local community organizing teams which include Coeur d'Alene, Moscow, Nampa, Boise, Mountain Home, Pocatello, and Idaho Falls.

- ◆ Developed action plans to complete in their local communities to improve access for people with disabilities.

- ◆ Met with representatives from organizations working on issues that impact people with disabilities and their families.

The Council is proud of what Idaho Partner graduates individually and collectively have made happen. However, the greatest accomplishment of the 2008 Partners Leadership Conference had to have been Idaho graduates realizing the value of spending time together learning, laughing, and working to make life a little better for all Idahoans.

"Every time I get together with other Partner graduates it changes my thinking, my heart, and challenges me to continue to pursue positive change in my community." Bonnie J. Connell, Mountain Home.



*Kristyn Herbert and Dave Dekker*



*Bonnie Connell*

### Inclusion Study Completed

The Center on Disability and Human Development has provided a final report to the Council on the Inclusion Study begun in 2007. The study was conducted to identify barriers to inclusion and to determine how Idaho is doing at including students with disabilities in regular classroom environments. Common barriers/issues identified include the need for more classroom support, more time to work with students and adapt materials, and funding for resource/support needs. Teachers said they would like more education to know how to work with students with disabilities and parents

had similar responses, saying that teachers need training in how to provide accommodations and instruction that fits individual student needs.

Teachers and administrators both made comments about students with disabilities needing more individual support because of statewide testing and said that disruptive behavior in the classroom is a barrier to including some students. Additional information, outcomes, and initial recommendations from the study will be posted soon on the Council website at [www.icdd.idaho.gov](http://www.icdd.idaho.gov).

The Council will work with partners to develop a plan of action to address the barriers identified in the study.

## STATE NEWS

### Idaho On the Move

Transportation has always been difficult in Idaho but over the past year, two exciting and complementary initiatives have begun to help people develop and access transportation resources at the local level.

The Division of Public Transportation is implementing IMAP, Idaho Mobility Action Plan. This initiative divides Idaho into 17 different mobility management areas. Anyone interested in helping to find transportation solutions is encouraged to get involved in local networks in each of these areas. The Local Mobility Management Networks will identify the transportation gaps in their areas and develop and submit plans to fill those gaps. The network plans will be combined into District plans for each of the 6 Transportation Districts around the state and then those combined into a statewide mobility plan. The difference in this new way of doing business is that transportation dollars will be awarded to local areas based on their needs and

coordinated plans to address them. For more information about how to get involved in this process, contact John Krause at 1-208-334-8292 or [john.krause@itd.idaho.gov](mailto:john.krause@itd.idaho.gov).

At the same time, the Idaho State Independent Living Council, with support from the DD Council and others, is implementing an AmeriCorps project to support grass roots organizing in 12 areas around Idaho to increase transportation for people with disabilities. Twelve AmeriCorps members have been recruited and are stationed at the offices of the centers for independent living and at the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired. Each of these members is recruiting volunteers to help identify barriers and craft plans to overcome those barriers. The new IMAP model could be one funding source for these plans. If you would like to be part of this Transportation Network project, contact coordinator Kim Steinberg at [Steinbergk@earthlink.net](mailto:Steinbergk@earthlink.net) or at 1-208-334-3800.



### Students Vote for the First Time



Twenty students in the Boise Schools, Student Transition Education Program (STEP) rode city buses to their polling places on Election Day and voted for the very first time. After casting their ballots, students "high fived" and described their experiences as "awesome". They were justifiably proud of themselves because many of them initially believed that they did not have the right to vote because of their disabilities. Others mistakenly believed they were not allowed to vote because they had a guardian.

The students learned about voting and their voting rights through "Determined to Vote" training sponsored by the Council and Co-Ad through a contract with the Office of the Secretary of State. Once aware that they were eligible to vote,

the students rode a wave of excitement and enthusiasm all the way to the polls. They researched positions of Barack Obama and John McCain and presented their findings to an audience of invited guests. As result of their research, students decided for whom they would vote but they were required to keep it a secret so as not to influence each other. Asked if they would vote in future elections, many students responded "absolutely".



## STATE NEWS

### System At Risk *(continued from page 1)*

lives in communities when provided with the right supports. And all of these are less expensive than having a person live in an institution.

The workforce that supplies these community-based services is often not well paid, experiences high turnover, enjoys few employment benefits, and is sometimes not well trained. People who work in this field can go to the local burger place and make as much money with much less stress and responsibility. And because of the low pay and high turnover, people with disabilities - who depend upon these workers - have a hard time getting and keeping dependable, quality help.

To address the quality of direct care staff, Idaho is currently engaged in two public-private partnerships to make training available. The Partnerships in Human Services Conference is held every fall in Boise and is attended by 500-600 individuals. The conference is hosted by Community Partnerships of Idaho, a service provider organization, but is also co-sponsored by over 15 other private companies and public agencies, including the Council on Developmental Disabilities. The conference provides direct care staff the opportunity to learn from an array of excellent workshops by nationally recognized experts.

The other initiative is a pilot project by the Bureau of Developmental Disabilities within the Department

of Health and Welfare. This project is providing access to training for 525 employees of private providers and the Idaho State School and Hospital through the College of Direct Support, a comprehensive, web-based curriculum. The pilot is particularly useful for providers in rural areas who may not have access to many training opportunities. It is in its third and perhaps final year.

Training, however, is only half of the equation. Employee pay and benefits is the other half. Based on data provided by the Idaho Association of Developmental Disabilities Agencies, reimbursement rates over the past 20 years have not kept pace with inflation and other costs of doing business. In order to recruit and retain quality staff, both training and adequate pay must be provided.

To address help this issue, disability organizations and providers are working together to advocate for increasing the funding for these services. During the 2009 legislative session, a request will be made to add \$3.5 million in general funds to be matched with federal funds for Fiscal Year 2010. This will help to ensure that Idaho is able to maintain an adequate workforce to support people with developmental and other disabilities to live in their homes and be as independent as possible. The current economic environment will make this a challenge but without these services, people will have no choice but to resort to more expensive and intrusive institutional care.

## DO YOU BELIEVE IN PEOPLE? We Want You Person-Centered Planning Specialists to Be Trained

We are currently recruiting people who believe in the capabilities of individuals with developmental disabilities to direct their own lives with the support they choose. Any person interested in applying to become a Person-Centered Planning Specialist should believe in the person-centered planning philosophy, be a skilled problem solver and creative thinker, be able to identify and connect people to community resources, and have the ability to facilitate discussions about important issues with the individual and their circle of support.

Every PCP Specialist candidate must have: experience working with individuals with develop-

mental disabilities, knowledge of local, regional, and state resources, skills to meet with and create plans and implementation strategies for the individual, and the ability to work productively with support brokers, service coordinators, educators and others. Trained PCP Specialists will earn a monthly stipend to work with adults and transition-age youth with disabilities to conduct person-centered planning. Training for PCP Specialists has been developed and is scheduled for spring 2009. If you are interested in applying, contact Tracy Warren at the Council office.

## NATIONAL NEWS

### Idaho Self-Advocates Go To Indianapolis

The National Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE) Conference was held in Indianapolis, Indiana this past September. Seven members of the Idaho Self-Advocate Leadership Network (SALN) attended. Representatives included: John Russell, President from Moscow; Becky Woodhead, Secretary from Caldwell; Jeremy Watson, Board member from Boise; Erick Yeary, Board Member from Idaho Falls; Dan Somsen, Pocatello Chapter President; Shelly Nelson, from Firth; and Monique Hamblin, from Pocatello.

The members of SALN went to many sessions to learn from self-advocates in other states. They met hundreds of people from different state self-advocacy organizations around the country. The representatives from Idaho learned how self-advocates around the country are working to get the "R" word removed from the English language; closing institutions so individuals with disabilities can live in the community; registering people with disabilities to vote; promoting equal employment and equal pay for people with disabilities; and working on affordable and accessible housing for all.

SALN is Idaho's state self-advocacy organization and is working to create local self-advocacy chapters in Idaho. They are proud of the success



*Representing Idaho at the SABE conference in Indianapolis: back row L to R: Shelly Nelson, Monique Hamblin, Dan Somsen, Jeremy Watson (kneeling), John Russell; front row L to R: Erick Yeary, Becky Woodhead.*

of their first chapter which is located in Pocatello. The Pocatello chapter of the Idaho Self-Advocate Leadership Network meets at 5 pm at 640 Pershing Street at L.I.F.E., Inc. on the first and third Thursdays of each month. For more information about joining the Pocatello chapter, please call James Steed at 232-2747 or Monique Hamblin at 760-7004.

### NACDD Names New CEO

In September, the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities named Mike Brogioli as its new Chief Executive Officer. Mike brings to NACDD an impressive background in the developmental disabilities field coupled with hands-on experience in federal public policy and organizational coalition building. Prior to joining NACDD, Mike served as the Interim Executive

Director of the Obsessive Compulsive Foundation. During previous assignments he was Vice President of Policy and Government Relations for Special Olympics International and Executive Director of the Autism Coalition for Research and Education. Early in his career Mike was a legislative assistant to Sen. Tom Daschle of South Dakota.

Mike attended the Executive Directors' retreat in Montana in September and the Annual Fall Conference in Milwaukee in early October, so Council members and staff from across the nation have had the chance to meet him. We are all looking forward to new horizons and great accomplishments under Mike's stewardship of NACDD.



## EDITORIAL



*Rick Betzer,  
Council Chair*

### After the Election Our Duty Continues

Well, here we are - finally with some relief after being bombarded for two years with political advertising. What a relief! I know there were many issues of great concern to the people of this great nation.

Some very important to people with disabilities. But, honestly, don't we all feel relieved when the election is over? Sure, there is some disappointment when our candidate doesn't win, some elation when our candidate does win. But the election process needs some work to make it more palatable to the citizen, more 'user friendly' to the public.

When candidates have to spend the huge amounts of money we saw this year for the right to represent us, I must ask if we are still a nation of governing by the people. We are living in a time where money talks and the less you have the less you're heard.

That being said, as is the case every four years here in the United States, we have spoken. We have elected a new President, Vice President, and several new members of the House and Senate. We did so in hopes of change from the policies of the present administration. I encourage everyone to remain vigilant. Stay involved with the workings of our country as much as possible. For those of us without unlimited resources, our strength, our chance to be heard, our 'money' that ensures we are heard, is our united voice.

We must come together on issues that are important to us. Things that will make our situation better. Improve the lives of people with disabilities, their families, the support system necessary to allow us to live a lifestyle of our choosing with whatever accommodations are necessary to achieve our goal.

We should not have to beg. We should not have to have services or access to important accommodations denied or delayed until they are no longer appropriate for use. I believe we should take this opportunity to realize that yes, we the people, can still have our say. We can make our legislators listen. We can encourage support from all areas of society in assuring mutual growth and success. We must not slip too deeply into the relief that we feel with the completion of an election, the success of the change so many have worked so hard for.

It's not over. Not a final success. It probably never will be. We must all continue to hold those we elected accountable. The ballot is our tool. It's our way of firing those who do not follow through on their promises or ignore us and our ideals. We have two years to watch and give many of our legislators their evaluation by way of the vote. Watch, make your voice, your opinion known, and be ready!

Please enjoy the success if your candidate won; accept my condolence if your candidate did not win. Whatever you do, don't give up! Even small steps are success.

### Council Welcomes New Members

In July, Governor Otter appointed three new Council members and reappointed five current members to new terms. Appointed to serve as parent members are **Joni Sullivan** from Dalton Gardens and **Chris Lynch** of Boise. **Beth Cunningham**, Employment Services Manager for Community Partnerships of Idaho was appointed as a non-governmental organization member.

**James Steed** from Pocatello and **Kristyn Herbert** of Boise were reappointed as self-advocate members. Co-Ad Director **Jim Baugh** of Boise was reappointed as a member from the state protection and advocacy organization. **Bill Elvey** will again represent the Idaho Department of Education and **Lisa Robbe** of Bonners Ferry will continue as a private services agency representative. The Council is now at full strength with 23 members.



# Yes I Can!

The Council is pleased to announce the publication of the first in a series of new books by **Rebecca Evans and Beth Cunningham**. Entitled **Yes I Can!**, this book features Idaho Council member and self advo-

cate, **Kristyn Herbert**. The book is written for pre-schoolers to help them understand about the natural experience of disability. The text of the book is in Kristyn's own words and the pictures are originals painted by Rebecca. With support from the Council, the book is being provided to libraries across the state. Copies are available for purchase by contacting Rebecca Evans at [rebecca@inner-element.com](mailto:rebecca@inner-element.com)

## WHAT'S HAPPENING WINTER/SPRING 2008-09



### DECEMBER 08

- 3 Person-Centered Planning Institute
- 4-5 SALN Board Meeting - Pocatello
- 25 MERRY CHRISTMAS

### JANUARY 09

- 12 Legislative Session Begins
- 12 State Independent Living Council Meeting
- 13-16 We Are Family Conference
- 16 Interagency Council on Secondary Transition
- 19 Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 28-30 DD Council Meeting

### FEBRUARY

- 4 Consortium for Idahoans with Disabilities
- 16 President's Day

### MARCH

- 2-3 Tools for Life Conference - Coeur d'Alene
- 4 Consortium for Idahoans with Disabilities
- 13 Interagency Council on Secondary Transition
- 20 Youth Leadership Forum Applications Due

### APRIL

- 1 Consortium for Idahoans with Disabilities
- 22-24 DD Council Meeting

For updates on issues and more information about Council projects visit our website at: [www.icdd.idaho.gov](http://www.icdd.idaho.gov)

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Costs associated with this publication are available from Dept. of Health & Welfare, DD Council in accordance with §60-202, Idaho Code: 21800C08 92264 5,200 @.30 11/08

PRRST STR  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
BOISE, IDAHO  
PERMIT NO. 37

Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities  
802 W. Bannock, Suite 308  
Boise, Idaho 83702

