



**IDAHO COUNCIL ON
DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES**

VISIONS & VALUES

Volume 18, Issue 2 Spring/Summer 2006

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Legislative Session	1
Leader: Jen Magelky	1
Determined to Vote	2
New Looks for Council	2
SALN Teams Finish	3
Medicaid Buy-In	4
My Voice, My Choice	4
Kirk Grogan	5
Opening Doors	5
Transportation Forum	5
SABE Conference	6
Chair's Editorial	7
Director's Editorial	7
New Council Members	8
What's Happening	8

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Theresa Wilding, Chair, Terreton
Rick Betzer, Vice Chair, Shelley
Kristyn Herbert, Cons. Rep., Boise
Corey Barnard, Rexburg
Jim Baugh, Boise
Mary Bostick, Boise
Tanya Brindle, Boise
Dona Butler, Nampa
Donna Denney, Midvale
Debbie DePaola, Lava Hot Springs
Paige Fincher, Boise
Julie Fodor, Moscow
Tygh Hales, Boise
Bob Jackson, Eagle
Corrine Johnson, Coeur d'Alene
Mary Johnson, Grangeville
Kim Kane, Boise
Liz Ricciardi, Coeur d'Alene
Mike Smith, Moscow
James Steed, Pocatello

JAMES E. RISCH, GOVERNOR

Marilyn B. Sword,
Executive Director

A LEGISLATIVE SESSION TO REMEMBER

After more than a decade, disability advocates saw their hard work pay off this legislative session. People with disabilities who want to work have not been able to do so because it would mean losing their Medicaid. Now, starting in January, 2007, they can pay a premium based on income and keep their medical coverage (see article on page 4).

This was one piece of a huge Medicaid reform initiative that will go into effect beginning July 1. The "Medicaid Simplification Act" (HB 776) restructures the Idaho Medicaid program into three plans: one for low income children and working age adults, another for people with disabilities and special needs, and a third for elders. Each plan will include a basic set of benefits plus coverage for additional services specific to

people eligible for that plan. Not all the changes will happen at once. The plan for low income children and working age adults will be the first to see changes. The plan for people with disabilities includes the principles of self determination and Medicaid Buy-In as well as making home and community based services on the same level as institutional services. In the past, Idaho has had to seek a "waiver" to provide home based services as an alternative to institutional care. Several other bills and resolutions were passed that build on the framework of HB 776.

Parity (equality) in insurance coverage for certain mental illnesses was also approved by the legislature. House Bill 615 limits the cover-

(continued on page 6)



Leaders to Watch - Jen Magelky

"I want to be a leader for things I care about", says Jen Magelky of Moscow. Jen, a

member of the Region 2 Idaho Self Advocate Leadership Network (SALN) has proven herself a leader practically all her life. She received constant encouragement and support from her parents who always told her she could do whatever she wanted.

That encouragement must have worked because, Jen not only gradu-

ated from high school but she also graduated from college. Jen earned a bachelor's degree in journalism from Washington State University in 2004. She recognizes that not every person with a disability gets the same amount of support she got from her parents and that is why Jen wants to help people with disabilities.

"I would like to be a director of an agency that helps people with disabilities", said Jen. But before she does that she hopes to earn a master's degree in public administration and

(continued on page 3)

COUNCIL PROJECTS



Many people who are elderly or people with disabilities want to vote, but may not participate in the voting process because they do not want to ask for help from a poll worker or a stranger. Everyone has the right to vote privately and independently.

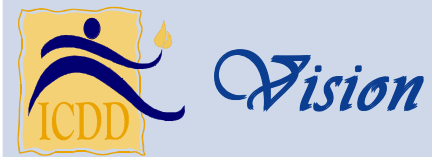
Funding provided through the Office of the Idaho Secretary of State from a federal grant from Health and Human Services as part of the Help America Vote Act is supporting a shared project between the Idaho DD Council, Comprehensive Advocacy, Inc., and the Idaho League of Women Voters. The goal of the project is to increase the participation of people who are elderly and people



Angie Flores, Determined to Vote Team Member uses new ballot marking device

with disabilities in the voting process.

In March, six teams from all parts of Idaho came to Boise for a two-day training. Each team learned about voter rights, registering to vote, how to vote, accessible voting options, and how to use the new ballot marking device. Since that training, the teams have taught these same topics to over 280 people who are elderly or people with disabilities. Please call the Council if you are interested in having a team come to your area.



“All Idahoans participate as equal members of society, empowered to reach their full potential as responsible and contributing citizens of their communities.”

A New Look

The Idaho DD Council is sporting a new look. Staff member Tracy Warren designed a new logo and it is rapidly being put on all our publications. Thank you, Tracy!

The Council also has a new face online. Through a contract with Lida Saskova, of Buffalo Girl Productions, with support from Pam Stanley and other Council staff, the Council's web site has been redesigned.

Check it out at:

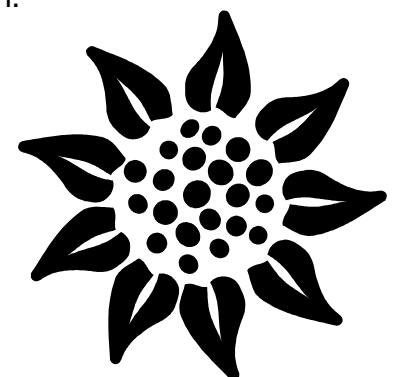
<http://www.icdd.idaho.gov>.

Voting Tips!

- ☑ There are no special tests for people with disabilities to be able to vote or register to vote.
- ☑ You have the right to vote if you have a guardian.
- ☑ You can vote if you live in a group home or institution.
- ☑ If you cannot read or need help voting, you can have someone help you vote.
- ☑ You can bring a friend, family member, or someone else you trust to help you vote.
- ☑ You can ask the poll worker to help if you did not bring anyone with you.
- ☑ If you are a person with a cognitive impairment and understand what it means to vote, the Americans with Disabilities Act guarantees you the right to vote.

Email Extension Change:

Please note that our email address is also changing. After June 30, all email should be sent to the @icdd.idaho.gov extension.



COUNCIL PROJECTS

Jen Magelky

(continued from page 1)

specialize in policy studies. "I want to use my writing skills to help people get information and I have always been interested in government".

Jen helped people with disabilities and people who are elderly by training them about their voting rights and informing them about Idaho's new accessible voting machines. As a member of the "Determined to Vote" Team for Region 2, Jen and John Russell, her Region 2 teammate, trained people about voting in the May primary elections. The two will continue to provide voter training until the November general election.

One of the rewarding experiences about Jen's role as a voting trainer occurred when she helped a mother register her son to vote. The mother believed her son was not eligible to vote because she served as his guardian. Jen assured the mother that her son could register and he could vote. Her son registered and voted for the first time in the May primary elections.

When you talk with Jen you quickly realize that she is very proud of what she has accomplished. You also get the feeling that she is a person who one day will accomplish great things for people with disabilities. Blessed with a smile that lights up any room, Jen Magelky has already proven herself to be a leader, but give her time and as the old saying goes, "you ain't seen nothing yet".



Idaho Self Advocate Team Members completing training on June 29.

Self Advocate Leadership Network - Final Teams Trained

Eight self advocates have just completed 7 months of training that included learning about what it means to be a self-advocate, the state and national self-advocacy movement, what it means to be a leader, and how to give a presentation.

Over the past three years the Council has been working to develop a self-advocacy team in each of the 7 Health and Welfare Regions. As of June 29th our newest members will join the other members of the Idaho Self-Advocate Leadership Network to teach high school students and adults with developmental disabilities what they have learned.

A new member said this about the self-advocacy training, "I learned the skills to help others be self-advocates and hopefully impact the future of Idahoans with disabilities in a positive way. I

also enjoyed learning from my fellow classmates. They had a lot of life experiences to share and to learn from."

Congratulations to our new Idaho Self-Advocate leadership Network Members!

Region 4:
(Boise-Mtn. Home-McCall)

Tom Ball, Kuna
Sue Rhodenbaugh, Boise
Jeremy Watson, Boise

Region 3:
(Nampa-Caldwell-Payette)

Liz Page, Nampa
Becky Woodhead, Caldwell

Region 1:
(Bonners Ferry to St. Maries)

Jeannie Davidson, Athol
Kirk Grogan, Spirit Lake

Region 2:
(Moscow to Riggins)

Jen Magelky, Moscow

STATE NEWS

Medicaid for Workers with Disabilities

After 10 years of trying to bring "Medicaid Buy-In" to Idaho, the 2006 Idaho Legislature passed, and former Governor Kempthorne signed into law, House Bill 664. Starting in January, 2007, workers with disabilities will soon be able to keep their Medicaid benefits when their earnings go above the top income level. "Medicaid for Workers with Disabilities" is the new name for "Medicaid Buy-In."

The law will allow people between ages 16 and 65, who are employed, to keep Medicaid by paying a small premium when their income gets too high. The size of the premium depends on the amount of income that a person earns. Ten dollars will be the smallest premium. If a person's income increases, the premium will increase on a percentage basis.

My Voice, My Choice: Medicaid Self-Directed Services Option

The 1915C waiver amendment that gives Idaho permission to begin a self-directed services option was finally approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). David Rogers, former Idaho Medicaid Administrator, worked very hard in negotiating with CMS to get a plan approved that will give participants the most flexibility and choice in their service and provider options.

October 2006 the option will be available in three areas: Pocatello, Boise and Moscow. Individuals who are eligible for the developmental disabilities waiver can choose this option if they want to.

Temporary rules for the self-directed option can be viewed at this website: <http://adm.idaho.gov/adminrules/bulletin/bul/06apr.pdf> The temporary rules will be in effect July 1, 2006 and as people begin to use the option and let us know how it is working for them, the legislature will be able to change the rules if needed.

Several workgroups continue to meet to put the final pieces in place before My Voice My Choice can begin. The project is being coordinated by Medicaid staff Jean Christensen with Ike Gayfield as the project director. Besides a core team working



Bobby Ball and Kelly Buckland join Governor Kempthorne for signing of House Bill 664.

People with disabilities will no longer need to fear losing their Medicaid benefits by going to work or by increasing the number of hours they work. By paying a premium to keep their Medicaid coverage, workers with disabilities will be able to receive more pay and enjoy a better quality of life while remaining healthy. More specific information about "Medicaid for Workers with Disabilities" will be made available through the Self Reliance Program in the Idaho Department of Health & Welfare.

on implementation, other groups are working on: individual budgeting, support broker training, fiscal management services, and quality assurance, public awareness materials, and training for various audiences including participants, family members, providers, and DHW staff.

The web page for the My Voice, My Choice program is on the Dept. of Health and Welfare website. Click on "self-direction" in the column on the right side of the page. This webpage is being worked on and will be updated with easy to understand information about how the new system works.

The web-based portion of the training for support brokers is now available on the Department of Health and Welfare website. Other parts of the training and support broker manual are still being worked on. Support brokers will be recruited soon.

The federal Independence Plus Grant that has paid for much of our design, development and implementation activities for the last three years is in its final months. CMS consultants have been providing technical assistance to help Idaho with the final parts needed to get the self-directed system ready to go.

STATE NEWS



Statewide Transportation Forum

On April 11, over 100 people from across Idaho gathered at the DoubleTree Riverside in Boise to learn and share information to work together to build local and regional public transportation services. The Statewide Public Transportation Forum was hosted by the Interagency Workgroup (IWG) on Public Transportation Systems, an advisory group to the Division of Public Transportation. The IWG is established in Idaho law for the purpose of getting state agencies and organizations to work together on public transportation issues. The forum was designed to bring together individuals representing those groups at the local level and help them collaborate. The audience heard about what is going on in other states and some of the best practices that are being encouraged by the federal government. The next step will be for participants, including Council members and other people with disabilities, from each region to continue talks and develop plans for increasing or improving public transportation services in their regions. For more information, contact Marilyn Sword at the Council office.

Kirk Grogan - Special Olympian

Kirk Grogan is excited about the Special Olympics World Winter Games coming to Boise in 2009. In fact, Kirk hopes to participate in snowshoeing, his winter specialty sport. Kirk competes every year in the Idaho winter games in the 50 meter and 100 meter dash and the 4 x 100 meter relay. His times must be really good when he competes in 2008 to be able to be in the 2009 world games

Boise was chosen by the International Special Olympics Board of Directors to host the 2009 World Winter games. According to one of the members of the board, Boise was chosen over three other locations because of its great sports venues, its community support and the compassion that the community has for Special Olympic athletes.

Kirk was part of the presenta-

tion to the international board earlier this year by acting as emcee for the presentation. He had the opportunity to meet and introduce some very important people, including former Governor and Mrs. Kempthorne.

Kirk believes that the 2009 games will help people in Idaho to know more about the things that people with developmental disabilities can do. He hopes to meet and talk with athletes from other states and from countries all over the world. In the meantime Kirk Grogan is setting a goal to compete in another world event, the 2007 Special Olympics World Summer Games in China. Good luck, Kirk!

Kirk Grogan lives in Spirit Lake, Idaho and is a member of the Region 1 Idaho Self-Advocate Leadership Network (SALN).



Opening Doors Completes its First Home Loan

Opening Doors, Inc. recently helped a family to buy their first home in rural Canyon County. With financial help from Opening Doors the family was able to get a home loan and be the first people that this non-profit organization has helped to own their own home.

Supported by the Council, Opening Doors, continues the work begun by Community Partnerships of Idaho (CPI) as a Home Of Your Own (HOYO)

organization. When CPI could no longer meet qualifications as a HOYO organization because of its for-profit status, Opening Doors was created.

Serving rural areas in southwestern Idaho, Opening Doors helps with down payments, closing costs and housing rehabilitation for people with developmental and other disabilities. For more information, contact Executive Director, Jackie Hansen at (208) 371-6849.

NATIONAL NEWS

8th National Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered Conference

"It was great being with so many self-advocates from around our country who are working on a lot of the same things we are working on in Idaho. It was empowering to me to be a part of something so big," Becky Woodhead, member of the Idaho Self-Advocate Leadership Network. The conference hosted over 1000 self-advocates from around the country, May 26-29 in Atlanta, Georgia. Idaho was represented by 9 self-advocates.

Idaho self-advocates presented two workshops at the conference. Jen Magelky and James Steed presented "Voter Rights." Many self-advocates at this workshop did not realize they

had the right to vote, or that they could ask for help at the polls to understand or read a ballot.

Larry Fries and Thomas McKnight presented "Assertiveness Skills." Self-advocates in the audience talked about times in their lives when they were assertive and how great it felt to stand up for themselves. Self-advocates talked about how sometimes it is hard to speak up and can be really scary. Larry ended the presentation by stating "being assertive is something that doesn't come

easy for me. I work on it all the time. I know it can be scary and hard, but when it is worth it you have to speak up. No one should expect to change overnight."

Congratulations to Theresa Wilding, our Council Chair, who was elected to the Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered Board as their new Treasurer!



Self-advocates from Idaho at the SABLE conference in Atlanta.

Legislative Session *(continued from page 1)*

age to state employees and their families and is for a three year period. This will provide an opportunity to collect data about cost and utilization so the legislature can decide whether to continue or expand this benefit. Advocates, who have been working on this issue for 17 years, applaud this as a small but important step forward.

Other legislation of interest that passed this session included:

- ◆ Establishment of standards for sign language interpreters in K-12 schools
- ◆ Authority for the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation to draft rules to oversee providers of employment services
- ◆ Protection of anonymity of a person living in a certified family home who files a complaint against the home provider.

Appropriations bills were also approved that give an additional \$800,000 to the Infant Toddler

Program and provide \$100,000 for match for the Assistive Technology program. The Medicaid appropriation bill included "intent language" that requires the Medicaid program to work with the Council and others to explore family-directed services for children similar to self-directed services for adults and report back to the legislature in 2007.

There were a few bills that did not pass that the Council will continue to work on. Among these is mandatory insurance coverage for children with cleft lip/palate, waiver of sovereign immunity for the state in employment discrimination, electronic versions of text books, and clinical social workers in the schools to help with substance abuse and mental health problems.

A complete report of the legislation monitored by the Council this session is available on the Council website or by contacting the Council at 1-800-544-2433.

EDITORIALS



*Theresa Wilding,
Chairperson*

A Council Success Story

"Everybody can be great. Because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve.

You don't have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve. You don't have to know about Plato and Aristotle to serve. You don't have to know Einstein's theory of relativity to serve. You don't have to know the second theory of thermodynamics in physics to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love." -Martin Luther King, Jr.

During my life I have been

expected and encouraged to serve in whatever capacity I could. Having a disability was no excuse to just sit back and expect everyone to serve me!

I have volunteered my time and talents for everything from Junior Miss programs to Relay for Life for the American Cancer Society. Through serving we gain respect for those around us. Sure, we might be helping someone else, but mostly it seems that we are helping ourselves. We make new friends, learn new skills, and enjoy participation in our community, state, and country!

During the past three years I have had the tremendous experience to serve as the Chairperson

of the Council. My life has changed and I am definitely a better person after having this service opportunity. I have traveled extensively, made many friends, been expected to develop skills that have taken me outside of my comfort zone, and have grown to respect and love those who have similar and different ideals and goals to serve others with and without disabilities.

Now I am preparing to move forward to other challenges and experiences and I sincerely hope that they will be as beneficial as the time I have spent as the Chair of this Council. I consider myself a Council "Success Story".



*Marilyn Sword,
Executive Director*

Advocacy and Relationships

Recently, I had the opportunity to attend a professional development workshop on Building and

Maintaining Professional Relationships. The content was very good but even more important was the reflection that it caused. Each day since that workshop, I have considered the application of what I learned to disability advocacy.

Advocacy is hard work. Obviously it means sticking up for something. Championing a cause or a project. Advancing policies that improve the situation for the people you represent.

Claiming value for your constituency or organization or perspective.

But effective advocacy also requires you to look at the big picture. To see perspectives other than your own. To walk in the shoes of others. To understand that others may address problems differently than you but ultimately share the same or a similar goal as you do. This "other view" allows you to look for solutions that not only help you achieve your goals but also help the other person achieve his. This "creating value" does not mean giving in or abandoning your principles.

The Council has many customers - policymakers, agency representatives, service providers,

our federal funding authority - but it is to people with developmental disabilities and their families that we owe our loyalty. It is their interest we must work daily to represent and maintain. Do they speak with one voice, one opinion? Clearly not. And some speak much more loudly than others. But what they do have in common is the desire to be heard, to be listened to, to be respected and valued.

It is the job of the Council to provide information, to ask for their opinion, to listen, to respond to those voices and to help steer policy changes in a way that reflects what we have heard.

New Council Members Appointed

The Council is pleased to welcome our new council members appointed by former Governor Dirk Kempthorne. New members are Corey Barnard from Rexburg, and Corinne Johnson from Coeur d'Alene. The Council also acknowledges with appreciation the service and dedication of Roger Shanahan and David Rogers for serving on the Council. Congratulations to everyone!

Council Leaders Recognized

At their annual meeting in May, Idaho Parents Unlimited (IPUL) recognized the contributions made to disability advocacy by Council Chair Theresa Wilding and Council Vice-Chair Rick Betzer and his wife, Tina. Theresa received the award for Outstanding Individual and Rick and Tina were recognized as Outstanding Parents. The Council congratulates all three recipients for this honor!



After getting a lot of pressure from self-advocates around the nation, including our own Idaho SALN members, the American Association for the Mentally Retarded has changed its name! The new name is:

American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

WHAT'S HAPPENING

JULY

- 20-21 State Independent Living Council meeting
- 26 Asperger's Conference - Tony Attwood, Boise
- 26-28 Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities Quarterly Meeting

AUGUST

- 11 Idaho Interagency Council on Secondary Transition Meeting
- 26 Treasure Valley Resource Fair at Adventure Island Playground, Meridian

SEPTEMBER

- 1-3 Special Olympics State Summer Games, Boise
- 14 Idaho Infant Toddler Council meeting
- 16 Accessible Playground Community Build Day - Tautphaus Park, Idaho Falls
- 22 CDHD Consumer Advisory Board meeting

OCTOBER

- 2-3 Governor's Conference on Housing
- 5-6 CEC Conference, Sun Valley
- 13 IIC on Secondary Transition Meeting
- 19-20 Idaho Partnerships Conference on Human Services

To contact the DD Council: Phone: (208) 334-2178, Fax: (208) 334-3417, Email: icdd@icdd.idaho.gov
Costs associated with this publication are available from Dept. of Health & Welfare, DD Council in accordance with §60-202, Idaho Code: 21800C03 92162 5,000 @.28 6/06

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

