



# Idaho Person-Centered Planning Project

## CMS PERSON-CENTERED PLANNING IMPLEMENTATION GRANT

Real Choice Systems Change Grants for 2007 - CFDA 93.779

**ABSTRACT:** As Idaho moves toward a more consumer-directed service system for people with developmental and other disabilities, person-centered planning is becoming more important and valuable. Many people are interested in person-centered planning, but it doesn't happen in depth very often. Different models have been used and the process is not effectively included in Idaho systems. In talking with stakeholders we learned there is not enough time to do real person-centered planning. There isn't enough technical assistance from trained facilitators who also understand the importance of the informal networks around people with disabilities. Meeting these needs would make a real difference in the long-term successful inclusion of people with disabilities in their communities.

**PROJECT GOALS:** The goals of this project are to provide access to person-centered planning for adults with developmental disabilities and families of children with developmental disabilities (particularly those transitioning to adulthood) that 1) allows them to have maximum flexibility and control of their services and supports, 2) recognizes the importance of natural supports to successfully include people with developmental disabilities in Idaho's communities, 3) assesses the support needs of informal caregivers and natural supports and seeks to address those needs through a combination of community-based information, technical assistance, and consultation, and 4) embeds this model in state regulations and policies.

**TARGET POPULATION:** Individuals living with intellectual disabilities and developmental disabilities and youth with disabilities transitioning to adult status (and their families) statewide.

**ADDITIONAL COMPONENTS:** Self Direction and Comprehensive Community-Based Resource Directory (web-based)

**STRATEGIES/IMPACT:** This grant will build on the success of and lessons learned from the development and implementation of the self-directed service model for adults with developmental disabilities and more recent efforts to create family-directed services for children with developmental disabilities who are Medicaid-eligible. It will provide access to planning experts and methods that focus on accessing community resources, sustaining natural supports, ensuring that participant direction is honored, and gathering data for quality assurance.

We plan to achieve our person-centered planning goals through the following grant activities:

- 1) identify a **person-centered planning model** that is a best fit for Idaho and has a strong focus on natural supports;
- 2) recruit a group of individuals from across the state to participate in comprehensive training to become **Person-Centered Planning Specialists**;
- 3) trained specialists will be **located across the state** to facilitate person-centered planning with individuals and their circles of support as they develop their plans;
- 4) develop an assessment tool to measure the support needs of the **informal support caregivers**;
- 5) create a web-based clearinghouse of information and resources that will address the needs of consumers and their informal caregivers - **IdahoHelp**;
- 6) make the information, technical assistance and consultation services available in existing local/regional centers (**Family Support 360** and **Independent Living Centers**) to help people know how to use the web-based resources;
- 7) work with individuals with developmental disabilities using waiver services through both the self-directed and traditional options for the pilot of the model during the grant period;
- 8) develop a evaluations for individuals and the system to **measure the quality** of both the planning and interventions; and
- 9) formalize this process in **state rules and policies**.

## **PRODUCTS DEVELOPED UNDER THE GRANT:**

- Person-Centered Planning Training: 5-week Online Course, 3-day Intensive Face-to-Face Training
- Informal Support Caregiver Assessment
- IdahoHelp Website - Comprehensive Web-based Community Resource Directory: [www.idahohelp.info](http://www.idahohelp.info)
- Policy changes that support on-going person-centered planning services and training.

## **PCP GRANT STAKEHOLDER GROUP:**

Marilyn Sword, Tracy Warren – DD Council

Julie Fodor, Julie Magelky, Matt Wappett, Meg Gäg – Center on Disability and Human Development, University of Idaho

Roger Howard, LINC and Dean Nielson, LIFE – Independent Living Centers

Stephanie Perry, David Simnitt – Medicaid

Chad Cardwell, Darcy Nesor – Family and Community Services, IDHW

Jacque Hyatt – Department of Education, Special Education

Bruce Christopherson – Vocational Rehabilitation

Kelly Hardy – Community Support and Outreach Team, ISSH

## **TRAINED PERSON-CENTERED PLANNING SPECIALISTS:**

### **Region 1:**

Corinne Johnson, Coeur d'Alene

Jill Smith, Coeur d'Alene

Jill Young, Hayden

### **Region 2:**

Melanie Scott, Deary

### **Region 3:**

Tom Snyder, Caldwell

### **Region 4:**

Trina Balanoff, Boise

Bonnie Connell, Mountain Home

Jo Lynn Garrison, McCall

Judy Secrist, Boise

Dawn Suave, Boise

### **Region 5:**

Reina Yaritza Carral, Twin Falls

### **Region 6:**

Amber Betzer, Shelley

Shelly Nelson, Firth (also Reg. 7)