

SEPTEMBER 2011

Newsletter



Inclusive Communities: Pathways to Realizing the Vision

AAIDD Annual Conference • The Twin Cities, Minnesota • June 6-9, 2011

June 6-9, 2011 in St. Paul, Minnesota

Conference location: The Crowne Plaza
Riverfront, St. Paul, Minnesota

The AAIDD 135th Annual Meeting, *Inclusive Communities: Pathways to Realizing the Vision*, provided leading practitioners, researchers, teaching faculty, policymakers, funders, and advocates with effective and emerging practices, cutting edge research, and valuable information on important policy initiatives. The conference featured plenary sessions, panel and poster presentations, interactive cafés, task force and special interest group meetings, and networking events. Pre- and post-conference workshops addressed special topics in depth.

New Jersey AAIDD Meeting

The NJAAIDD will hold its next meeting at 3:30 PM on Thursday, October 20, 2011 at the Main Hall of Community Access Institute, 88 West Grand Street, Elizabeth, NJ. Tel. (908) 354-3040; website www.caunj.org.

The Agenda will include developing a training/workshop schedule for the new year as well as receiving nominations from the floor for the new officers for the NJAAIDD.

We look forward to seeing you there.

AAIDD Mission Statement

AAIDD promotes progressive policies, sound research, effective practices, and universal human rights for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

AAIDD 135th Annual Meeting in Minnesota

“From Advocates’ Perspectives”

On June 6th through June 9th, advocates from Helping Hands Self-Advocacy at Community Access Unlimited participated in the AAIDD 135th Annual Meeting in Saint Paul, Minnesota, where they learned about various innovations regarding inclusion, advocating for equal rights, and making connections to increase awareness of issues faced by people with disabilities.

According to Sid Katz, president of Helping Hands Self-Advocacy, “the conference was a great way to connect with other people”. Sid has been a member of AAIDD for twenty years, and is currently working to gain a fellowship with the organization. He is also running for the Board of the AAIDD New Jersey Chapter. He found the workshops regarding self-advocacy and quality of life especially helpful for use in his everyday life as an advocate. Sid was also able to make connections with various leaders, like past AAIDD President Valerie Bradley, who would like have Sid join the Self-Advocacy Panel Board to increase awareness within the self-advocacy movement.

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AAIDD 135th Annual Meeting in Minnesota

“From Advocates’ Perspectives”

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Mark Bloom, 1st Vice President of Helping Hands, who also attended has a similar perspective. Mark truly enjoyed networking with various presenters and found every opportunity to hand out business cards. He spoke to a lot of people regarding the closing of institutions and his work in advocating for the closure of Vineland Developmental Center. One contact that really stands out in Mark’s mind was connecting with Dr. Michael L. Wehmeyer who is the current president of AAIDD. He was so excited to discuss current issues with him. Mark also enjoyed participating in the Story of Self-Advocacy Pageant, noting that he thought it was a great effort to promote advocacy for all people with disabilities. The Pageant portrayed individual policies and pieces of legislation that have helped move self-advocacy to the forefront. Throughout the presentation, it was shown how self-advocacy has been successful, but also how there is still much opposition to the movement. The audience was reminded that oppression never stops, but with continued positive support from people and organizations that help to build self-advocacy up, we will continue to move forward giving people with disabilities more opportunity. Attending the conference helped Mark to feel more confident as he continues to advocate for himself and other members.

Marcella Truppa, Treasurer of Helping Hands, really enjoyed the conference as well. The highlight of the conference for her was also participating in the Story of Self-Advocacy pageant. Marcella believes that jobs, closing institutions, and shredding the R-Word are very important issues and the pageant promoted all of these. She was reminded that “all people have a voice”, and all she learned at the conference will help her continue to have her own voice as she continues her work with Helping Hands.

Michelle Bartolucci, Secretary of the group, was glad she attended the conference. She was happy to see “all people with disabilities come together to do good for the self-advocacy movement”. She met too many people to name, but she knows that those encounters will stick with her as she does her own advocacy work in the community.

Self-advocacy has been praised for helping make some real changes at legislative levels. Helping Hands advocates are very lucky to be able to take part in such an important movement. Their continued efforts shine through on a local and national level everyday as good things are happening. The relationships that they were able to make at this year’s AAIDD Meeting show just how important it is to network in the community and advocate for equal rights. All members of Helping Hands agreed that this was one of the best conferences they had ever attended.



AAIDD NJ Meeting Minutes**Meeting Minutes**
June 23, 2011

1. **Attendance:** 32 attended

2. **Election of officers:**

A committee of three was appointed to collect and count the votes. S. McDowell, Chair; W. Busch, and R. Schaeffer. The following were elected:

Chairperson: Sidney Blanchard
 Vice President: Bernadette Griswold
 Secretary: Sheila McDowell
 Treasurer: Mercedes Witowsky
 Members-at-Large: 1. Sid Katz
 2. Alvin Cox
 3. Kim Daly
 4. Paul LaMaine

3. **Financial Report:**

As of 5/31/11 it was reported that the Chapter has \$17,883.

4. **National Conference, June 6-9, 2011** Attendees from the NJ Chapter discussed their experiences at the conference. They were asked to write articles, as well, to be published in the Newsletter. It was noted that Todd Wilson from Region IX became a Fellow. A call for Newsletter articles will be made in July with a due date of August 2, 2011.

5. **2011-2012 Activities:** The following Workshop topics were proposed

- ◆ SIS
- ◆ Positive Behavior Supports
- ◆ Employment perhaps with APSE
- ◆ Community Integrations/Connections
- ◆ Technology and Supports
- ◆ Communication; Person Centered Approaches; Group Dynamics
- ◆ Nutrition and Physical Activity
- ◆ Advocacy
- ◆ Nursing and Supports
- ◆ Adolescent Youth with Disabilities: Aging Out, Day Programs vs. Self-Direction; and typical Adolescent Behavior vs. Behavioral Issues
- ◆ AAIDD Study Group to discuss articles and apply to everyday supports, bi-monthly

6. **Frequency of Meetings**

It was agreed to meet at least twice in the year, more if required

7. **Key Future Dates**

- ◆ September 12-14, 2011: 2011 TASH Conference, Baltimore, Maryland
- ◆ November 17-18, 2011: Alliance for Full Participation, Washington, DC
- ◆ June 2012: National AAIDD Meeting, Charlotte, North Carolina

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

Take advantage of a host of professional benefits designed specifically for you

AAIDD is the definitive membership organization and the authoritative source of information for those in the intellectual disability profession.

Our membership is over 5,000 professionals strong, in over 55 countries around the world. Joining AAIDD lets you tap into a network of top professionals who can help you find a job, show you the ropes, and deepen your involvement in your profession.

As an AAIDD member, you can take advantage of a host of professional benefits designed specifically for practitioners in the field:

AAIDD Provides Timely Information to Members

Members receive weekly emails on upcoming webinars, conferences, career advancement opportunities, and job postings. Our monthly e-newsletter, [*AAIDD F.Y.I.*](#), keeps professionals and families current on news and information in the developmental disability field.

AAIDD Influences the Future

AAIDD has played a crucial role in helping to set Federal policy and priorities, working closely with many agencies in the US Department of Education and the US Department of Health and Human Services.

AAIDD Links You to Top Professionals

The members of AAIDD continue to be an impressive group. Latest surveys indicate that over 71% have advanced degrees and 81% have over 10 years in the field. Our Student and Early Career Professionals group offers career and networking benefits to new professionals and support personnel to help you get started.

AAIDD Divisions and Special Interest Groups Address Your Interests

The field of intellectual disability is extremely diverse, and few AAIDD members have precisely the same interests, specialties and concerns. With this in mind, AAIDD offers Special Interest Groups and unique Divisions—enabling individuals to tailor their memberships to their own needs and goals.

AAIDD Publishes Books That are the Definitive Works in the Field

Nothing is as valuable to the disability professional as ready access to proven solutions, promising approaches and fresh perspectives. [*AAIDD's online bookstore*](#) focuses on five major areas: Assessment, Management, Reference, Research to Practice, and Training.

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BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

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These essential resources are available to members at a 15% discount.

AAIDD's Annual Meeting Provides Common Visions and Uncommon Innovations

Each year, [AAIDD's Annual Meeting](#) brings together colleagues from around the world. They come to meet, to interact, and to learn about the latest programs, research, policies, technologies and emerging trends in the field of disability.

Within the field, the meeting is unrivaled in scope and size, with over 500 presenters and 60 exhibitors. AAIDD members attend the Annual Meeting at exclusive member discounts.

AAIDD Journals Deliver Cutting Edge Research and Practice in Intellectual and Developmental Disability

AAIDD publishes two well-respected and peer-reviewed journals. Online articles date back to 1997 and are free to members to read and download.

[American Journal on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities](#)— reports current and critical research in the biological behavioral and educational sciences.

[Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities](#)— covers practical solutions, perspectives and research.

About AAIDD

Since 1876, the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) has been providing worldwide leadership in the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities. We're a powerful community of leaders with a strong voice and important [mission](#).

AAIDD, (formerly AAMR -- American Association of Mental Retardation) is the oldest and largest interdisciplinary organization of professionals and citizens concerned about intellectual and developmental disabilities.

We're tireless promoters of progressive policies, sound research, effective practices and universal human rights for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

With membership over 5,000 strong in the United States and in 55 countries worldwide, AAIDD is the leader in advocating quality of life and rights for those with intellectual disabilities. **Our top-tier [member benefits](#) such as professional training, publications and supports** are created by and for professionals who support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

As a member, you'll **get the professional edge and network you need** -- AAIDD members are an impressive group of dedicated professionals, boasting advanced degrees and extensive field experience.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Alliance for Full Participation

November 17-19, 2011 (Washington, DC)

Summit 2.0 Real Jobs--It's Everyone's Business is a highly interactive convening of the leaders of the intellectual and developmental disabilities community to address the challenges and barriers facing increasing integrated employment for people with IDD. The Summit will be held at the Gaylord National Harbor, just outside of Washington, DC.

<http://www.allianceforfullparticipation.org/summit-2011-b>

AAIDD Cuba Delegation

October 16-21, 2011 (Havana and TBD)

AAIDD has partnered with Professionals Abroad to offer an exciting opportunity for professionals in the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities to conduct professional research and exchange during a 5-day delegation to Havana, Cuba: October 16-21, 2011! For more details, and to reserve your space as part of this delegation, please visit

www.professionalsabroad.org.

Disability Policy Seminar

April 23-26, 2012 (Washington, DC)

<http://www.disabilitypolicyseminar.org/>

AAIDD 136th Annual Meeting

June 18-21, 2012 (Charlotte, NC)

http://www.aidd.org/content_6546.cfm?navID=75

IASSID World Congress

July 9-14, 2012 (Halifax, Nova Scotia)

The 2012 IASSID World Congress provides an opportunity to celebrate the strength and reach of our network and to share strategies in research, education, and services with one another. Join your colleagues in this conference and help shape the future for those with intellectual disabilities.

IASSID is partnering with [AAIDD](#), the oldest and largest interdisciplinary organization of professionals and citizens concerned about intellectual and developmental disabilities and [AUCD](#), a membership organization that supports and promotes a national network of university-based interdisciplinary programs. As well, the Congress will coincide with the State of the Science sessions held at the connecting Prince George hotel.

The conference provides a special opportunity to share your interests, talents, and perspectives with others in the field. The [Call for Proposals](#) is now posted, and we look forward to receiving your submissions and your subsequent participation in the conference.

<http://www.iassid.org/conference/index.php/HPC/2012IWC/index>

AAIDD Brazil Delegation

October 20-28, 2012 (Sao Paulo & Rio de Janeiro)



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Formerly known as American Association on
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It's a powerful community, and that power is growing.



Say **"YES!"** to AAIDD. Join/Renew Today! www.aidd.org