

July 2008

Newsletter

Open Letter to NJAAIDD

*from a New Leadership Generation
NJAAIDD Professional*

Dear NJAAIDD:

Please let me first thank you for allowing me the opportunity to attend the Annual AAIDD Conference in Washington, DC last week. You were probably not aware but I attended college in Virginia and welcome the chance to spend time in DC as I am very familiar with the area. The people that I was fortunate enough to interact with at this conference as well as the networking opportunities were amazing. To be in the audience for speeches by leaders in this field was a tremendous opportunity.

The theme for this year's conference was "The New Professional: Leadership in Science, Practice, Policy, and Advocacy." What I think always surprises me when I attend a conference is that no matter how specific a topic seems to my social service agency, it is probably affecting everyone in the field and that certainly was the case at this conference. Although not every speaker had the enthusiasm I had hoped for, the topics being addressed were all so appropriate. One of the earliest speakers of the conference discussed some of the findings of the Human Genome Project emphasizing that the data from all of the years of research that went into the project need to be shared with everyone to ensure that everyone can benefit from the findings.

One of the breakout sessions that I attended was on how poor the current healthcare system is in this country. During this session it was discussed that doctors need more training and awareness about how to treat and work with people with disabilities. While attending the "Living Well in the Community" theme session Dr. Martin discussed that some goals of his

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From the Desk of the Chapter President

One of the issues confronting support services in New Jersey involves the safe and affordable housing crisis. I will address, in future newsletters, the issue. However, to start, the National AAIDD and the National ARC entered into a mutual agreement on a number of key issues in the field. Both organizations developed national policy positions which can be found in the National AAIDD website. One policy is on housing. We will reprint it below.



AAIDD/ARC Position Statement on Housing POLICY STATEMENT

All people with mental retardation and related developmental disabilities have a right to live in communities of their choosing and be fully included with people who do not have disabilities. Children belong with their families. Adults should control where and with whom they live, with increasing opportunities to rent or buy their own homes.

ISSUE

Public policy has not kept pace with changes in what people want and need in housing. Historically, families that had a child with a disability either had to do without supports at home or place the child in an institution to get help. Institutions enforce an unnatural, isolated, and regimented lifestyle that is not appropriate

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Open Letter to NJAAIDD

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practice are to provide safe, effective, timely, patient centered, efficient, equitable care to all patients. His system is unique in that it utilizes a network that allows patients to dictate their own care. I was also fortunate to learn about health care opportunities available through Special Olympics and additional associations and organizations that may be interested in linking up with local organizations to improve healthcare locally and nationally.

“...many of the speakers and presenters spoke about how they are getting to be that age when they start thinking about retirement and who is going to be there to continue the work that they started.”

The elders at the conference talked about how the push used to be to close institutions and get people into group homes. Well today there are still 38,000 people in institutions which is better than it was but still needs work. Now the push of the next generation is to get people out of group homes because they just don't work and get them into community settings with smaller numbers of people living in the same place—more natural placements.

The most informative theme session that I attended while at the conference was on the formation and training of the next generation of leaders. As I mentioned earlier, many of the speakers and presenters spoke about how they are getting to be that age when they start thinking about retirement and who is going to be there to continue the work that they started. This particular theme session talked about what those of us from the next generation can do and how those from the original leaders group can show us and teach us what to do to continue this movement for people with disabilities.

In closing, thank you again for this opportunity.

Sincerely,
Kim Daly

**Congratulations to National AAIDD Fellows
from New Jersey!**

**Inducted this May, 2008 at the
National AAIDD Conference in Washington DC!
Daniel J. Baker, PhD
Sidney Blanchard, MA**

From the Desk of the Chapter President

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or necessary. They also consume a disproportionate share of limited public resources.

As people left institutions and their family homes, they were frequently placed into group homes, often larger than family-sized, owned by provider agencies or other entities. They still lacked control of where and with whom they lived. It is now clear that with carefully tailored and individualized supports and services all people can grow and develop in housing they control, be it a house, an apartment, or a condominium, no matter how significant their disabilities.

However, people with disabilities who receive SSI cannot afford housing because they are among the poorest in the nation. They are, in fact, the low-income group with the highest level of unmet need for housing assistance. To add to the problem, Medicaid, the principal source of funding for services and supports, does not allow for its funds to be used for housing-related costs. In addition, a serious lack of accessible and affordable housing throughout the nation limits our constituents' ability to find a home.

POSITION

Our constituents should be empowered to live in accessible and affordable housing similar to that of people without disabilities. Necessary individualized supports and adaptations should be of their choosing and under their control or the control of their substitute decision-maker.

Community over Institutional Placement

- Large congregate facilities are unnecessary and inappropriate for our constituents, regardless of type or severity of disability.
- People must receive individualized supports, including housing, as they leave institutions, as well as their family homes. Public funds must be shifted from institutions to the community to accommodate these moves.
- The health and safety of people must be safeguarded wherever they live, including when a facility is closing, and whenever a person is transitioning from one living environment to another.

Children

- All children need a home with a family that provides an atmosphere of love, security, and safety.
- Many families need individualized accommodations to enable them to provide a home for the child with a disability.

Adults

- People with disabilities should no longer be "placed" or made to fit into a program or facility. Rather, flexible supports and services must follow the person to the location he

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From the Desk of the Chapter President

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or she chooses, including their family home.

People with disabilities must be empowered with the opportunity to control their housing by renting or buying their own homes, whether a house, apartment, or condo. Thus public policies must ensure that they receive their fair share of all local, state, and national housing resources.

- Individuals with disabilities should live together only when they freely choose to do so.
- Adults with disabilities should be encouraged and supported to live lives outside the family homes whenever feasible.
- People should have as much privacy as possible within their homes.

NJAAIDD Minutes For June 12, 2008

◆ **Attendance: 10 Members in good standing**

◆ **Treasurer's Report:**

Revenue: \$752
Expense: \$737
Net Assets: \$18,272

◆ **Workshops:**

- The **Disability Policy Panel** is planned for October 9, 2008, 3:00 PM—5:00 PM to be held at the Institute in Elizabeth, NJ
- The **Housing Workshop/Roundtable** was successfully held on May 20, 2008. There is a Roundtable follow up meeting to be held on June 24, 2008 at 6:00 PM at the Elizabeth Institute for those who wish to discuss specific issues.. Bob Laux will lead the discussions
- The **Positive Behavior Supports Intensity Scale Workshop** will be held in the Fall. Negotiations with the National AAIDD office on the particulars are proceeding. Announcements will be sent out as soon as we have them.

◆ **NJAAIDD Activities**

- The NJAAIDD with the Institute and the Self-Advocacy Affiliate Chapter are sponsoring in conjunction with the NJ Community Residential Providers Association activities to obtain personal stories from families and people with disabilities as to how the Waiting List Dilemma is affecting their lives.

"Our constituents should be empowered to live in accessible and affordable housing similar to that of people without disabilities."

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NJAAIDD Meeting Minutes cont.

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- The Self Advocacy Affiliate Chapter—Next Step for People with Disabilities for Social and Economic Justice presented a Poster Board Session at the National AAIDD Conference in Washington, DC.
- Congratulations to the two professionals from New Jersey who were inducted at the National AAIDD Conference in Washington, DC as AAIDD Fellows:
Daniel J. Baker, PhD
Sidney Blanchard, MA
- Building capacity of medical related professional best practices.

Region IX Update Report:

Alvin Cox announced that the Region will be announcing a new slate of officers. In addition a 2009 Regional Conference is being planned.

Future Meetings:

- NJ AAIDD: August 14, 2008, 3:00 PM—4:30 PM, Community Access Board Room
- Mid-Winter Leadership Meeting: December 5—7, 2008, Washington, DC
- 2009 National AAIDD Conference, May, 2009, New Orleans

Noteworthy



- The next meeting of the New Jersey Chapter of AAIDD will be held on August 14, 2008, 3:00 PM—4:30 PM at the Community Access Unlimited Board Room, 80 West Grand Street, Elizabeth, NJ. Go to www.caunj.org for directions.
- The National AAIDD Conference will be held May 2009, New Orleans. Keep checking www.aidd.org for details.

Join/Renew your Membership

AAIDD (formerly AAMR) can give you that edge that makes all the difference.

The **American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disability** is *the* professional association run by and for professionals who support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. That's why AAIDD gives you the very best information and member benefits.

AAIDD is more than web sites, periodicals, and papers. AAIDD is YOU. Join AAIDD's network of top professionals who can help you find a job, show you the ropes, and become your colleagues in renewing your profession.

AAIDD is Publishing More of the Information You Need

As always, AAIDD continues to publish some of the most useful and informative works in the field, and provides them to members at special discounts.

The classic work *Mental Retardation: Definition, Classification & System of Supports*--along with the Classification Workbook and Classification Forms--continues to be our top seller.

The Innovations series is also popular, with over 13,000 sold. Demand is hot for two new titles, the *Supports Intensity Scale* and *Positive Behavior Support Curriculum*--and they are not yet published.

AAIDD Brings You the Best and Brightest in the Field at the Annual Convention.

AAIDD's Periodicals Are Among the Most Respected in the Field.

The American Journal on ***Mental Retardation (AJMR)*** is a scholarly research journal. ***intellectual & Developmental Disabilities (IDD)*** is a practitioners journal of research, reviews and opinions. ***AAIDD F.Y.I*** is the Association's electronic newsletter. *AJMR* and *IDD* abstracts are available in English, French, and Spanish.

AAIDD is Creating New Ways to Learn

AAIDD is Connecting Its Members with New Technologies

AAIDD Is Growing and Expanding Its Members' Influence

The larger the membership rolls of AAIDD, the more powerful voice we'll all have in affecting public policy, in improving the quality of supports for persons with mental retardation and in advancing the progress of vital research in the field.

By expanding our size, reach and financial strength, AAIDD will increase its power to serve its membership, to enhance the profession and to improve the lives of all persons with mental retardation.

AAIDD is Linking Top Professionals

It's a powerful community--and that power is growing.

Say "YES!" to AAIDD. Join with your colleagues. Join AAIDD Today.

aaidd Membership Application

Send this application and your payment information to AAIDD, 444 N Capitol St, NW, #846, Washington, DC 20001-1512 or fax to (202) 387-2193 or join online at www.aaidd.org

Please print/type Mr. Ms. Dr. Rev. Sr.

Name _____ Nickname _____

Office Home Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip+4 _____
 (____) _____ (____) _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

E-mail _____

Title _____ Employer _____ Highest Degree _____

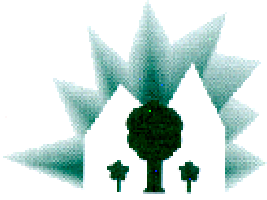
AAIDD MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES & DUES (SELECT ONE)

<p>_____ Active Member-For disability professionals who wish to stay current on the latest developments in the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities. Includes our highly ranked journals <i>Intellectual Disability</i> and <i>the American Journal on Mental Retardation</i>; FYI-the Association's monthly electronic newsletter, and access to <i>Washington Watch</i>. Includes member discounts at conferences; discounts on books and other publications; and reduced rates for posting classified advertisements on AAIDD's Career Center, our online career service where resumes are posted for free. Active Member Dues \$160</p>	<p>_____ Active Sustaining Member-For current and future leaders in our field who wish to support research, policy, advocacy, and service the Mission of the Association. Active Sustaining Member Dues \$260</p>
<p>Active Young Professional/Direct Support Professional Member-For college graduates who are new to the disability field and for individuals who are on the "frontlines" of service delivery and have incomes less than \$25,000 per year. Includes general Active Member benefits of, and on line access to either <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Intellectual Disability</i>, OR <input type="checkbox"/> <i>The American Journal on Mental Retardation</i>. Active Young Professional/Direct Support Professional Member Dues \$75</p>	<p>_____ Active Family Member/Self-Advocate Member-For individuals with disabilities and family members who have incomes less than \$25, 000 per year. Includes general Active Member benefits of, and on line access to either <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Intellectual Disability</i>, OR <input type="checkbox"/> <i>The American Journal on Mental Retardation</i>. Active Family Member/Self-Advocate Member Dues \$75</p>
<p>Active Student Member-Reduced-price membership for full time students preparing for a disability related career. Requires confirmation of student standing from faculty advisor. Active member benefits. College/University _____ Graduation Date _____ Active Student Member Dues \$50</p>	<p>_____ Active Electronic Member-For electronically savvy disability professionals who wish to access their information by electronic means only. Active E-Member Dues \$160</p>

*Join the Conference of Professional Interests each division and special interest group is only \$10 each.
 By joining these professional groups you can tailor your membership to benefit your needs.*

Administration	Communication Disorders	Community Services	Creative Arts Therapies
Direct Support Professionals	Education	Families	Genetics
Gerontology	Health & Wellness	Humanism	Legal Processes & Advocacy
Mental Health Services	Psychology	Religion & Spirituality	Sexual/Social Concerns
Social Work	Technology		

AAIDD 2008 Membership Dues (from one category above)		\$ _____
1. Conference _____	\$10 each	\$ _____
2. Conference _____	\$10 each	\$ _____
3. Conference _____	\$10 each	\$ _____
4. Conference _____	\$10 each	\$ _____
Total Dues Enclosed		\$ _____
Credit Card Information: <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard		<input type="checkbox"/> Check enclosed payable to AAIDD
Account Number _____		Expiration Date _____
Name on Account _____		Signature _____



COMMUNITY ACCESS
UNLIMITED

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Return Service Requested

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www.caunj.org



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It's a powerful community, and that power is growing.



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