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AMERICAN ASSOCIATION ON INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES NEW JERSEY CHAPTER

APRIL 2012

Newsletter



The AAIDD 136th Annual Meeting, *Research ♦ Practice ♦ Policy*, will provide 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.

Alliance for Full Participation 2011 Summit Report

by Bernadette Griswold

The Alliance for Full Participation 2011 Summit had over 1250 people participate for its 'Real Jobs; It's Everyone's Business' Summit in Washington, DC on November 17-19, 2011. The Summit started off with "Why Employment Matters" which was the basis of the Summit. The conference focused on why it is important for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to have jobs and why they should have the right to work. The conference focused on thinking outside the box in all aspects of finding jobs for people from policy making to connecting with your local community. The Summit also included an AFP Town Hall discussion which allowed us to participate in a challenging and frank conversation about what is needed to make integrated employment a reality for all. The Town Hall discussion talked about subminimum wage, employment first and integrated and group employment, and the barriers that keep us from reaching our goals. The Summit attendance included self advocates, federal policy leaders, employers, state and local policy leaders, service providers, families, and researchers all with one focus to identify and work on challenging issues to ensure that all people have to right to work. The Summit ended on November 19 with one question "Where Do We Go from Here?" During this session we were able to set goals and plan for the future. Although many challenges were identified there was change on the horizon and the commitment for change was strong. A number of people from New Jersey attended. It is our hope that the working leadership group from New Jersey which presented itself at the conference will continue the work from the conference here in New Jersey.

New Jersey AAIDD Meeting

The NJAAIDD will hold its next meeting at 3:30 PM on Thursday, May 17, 2012 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.

AAIDD Leadership Meeting

Orlando Florida, December 4-5, 2011

by Adeyemi Ajijedidun and Sidney Katz.

The AAIDD Leadership Meeting was held in Orlando Florida for 2 days. We jet out of Newark Airport late on the 3rd and landed safely in Florida around 9pm due to delayed flight. The following morning around 8:00 am, we set out from the Hotel to attend the joint meeting of the Assembly of Geographical Region and conference of Professional Interest. To our amazement, we were denied attending the meeting. They said the meeting that we came for has not yet started. We were advised to come back by 3:45pm. This shows that we were not part of the committee for the meeting. Shame! As a Counselor that assisted Mr. Sidney Katz on this trip, I found that very unprofessional. The question is, what is the purpose of the Leadership Meeting, if we as the caregiver and those that we render services to cannot take part in the committee meeting. I understood the frustration of Mr. Katz that day. He expressed that for him being an advocate for many years and a person with disability, he should be given the opportunity to run in the national ballot and to be part of the board at large committee.

We later went for the meeting as planned and to our surprise, we were the only Agency that came and Mr. Katz was the only member that was there. It was awkward and most of the discussion and analysis were based on budgets and funding. How much they have spent and the upcoming projects for the year. Transportation and some of the skills and training acquired. This was conducted by the President-Elect. A bit boring, I will say as there were 10 to 14 people that attended, there wasn't much to contribute. Listen as much as you can and hopefully you don't fall asleep. But I would say, the food was good.

The following day dragged on ultimately likewise the previous day but better though. The meeting started at 8:30am and lasted till 3:00pm as many people were heading back to their destination. By the time the meeting ended, only a handful of people were left. The topic for the day was, Promising Practices and Solutions in Employment. They also discussed Chapters, Regions, upcoming elections, inclusion in the community, events and conference and a visit to Cuba.

We watched few highlights on Cuba and the history behind the country. The mission of this delegation was to research the structure and delivery methods of supports provided for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Cuba. To learn firsthand about the Cuban approach, the delegation met with representatives of Cuba's health, education, and social services systems, including policy makers, academics, clinicians, and educators, and participated in site visits to schools, clinic, and facility- and community-based services. It was mentioned that, people with developmental disabilities were not given the opportunity needed to be independent. They were isolated from the community. The AAIDD program believes that direct interaction between ordinary citizens around the world could promote cultural understanding and world peace. "People of people" Citizen Ambassador Programs organizes and promotes opportunities for bridging cultural and political borders through direct interaction, unparalleled access, and unique experiences. Such programs enhance skills and exchange of culture.

There was also a discussion on positive behavior support training curriculum. This works to reduce challenging behavior exhibited by people with developmental disabilities. These indicate the competency base; trains supervisors and direct support staff to implement positive behavior support strategies.

Mr. Katz was able to contribute immensely and he spoke directly to individual on some burning issues around the world with people with developmental disability. He did a very good job and they all appreciated it. To his final contribution, he clearly stated that, it will be wise and appreciated if more agencies and members like CAU attend the meeting for productivity. We head back to Jersey on a promising note that things will improve and get better.

A Professional and Parent Perspective

by Jo-Anna Hamilton, RN,C, Quality Assurance Nurse
Community Access Unlimited, Elizabeth, NJ

As not only a nurse that works with a challenged population of people with developmental disabilities, I am also a mother of a child with Down syndrome. I have come full circle in my life, as I did not work with this population for most of my nursing career, but I have been closely involved with all aspects of societal prejudices and failings when it comes to people who are developmentally disabled.

My son, Ryan, was born in 1975, the not too distant past when he was labeled "mentally retarded" and a "mongoloid". As a young mother, and a brand new nurse, I was appalled at these terms and made it my life's challenge to change things; not only for Ryan but for all the other beautiful children I was meeting along his life's path. It was a hard road to forge, from finding appropriate health care and doctors that would treat him as just another kid, to school systems that were intent on placing him in classrooms that would be unsuitable for any child. I have made enemies along the way, especially when my opinions about what is best for my child didn't agree with others opinions of what was best for my child! He eventually went through 5 elementary schools before finding the right fit, and is now a high school graduate and a very active and contributing part of his employment team for the past 15 years.

I have now come to be an integral part of an organization that dedicates itself to the development of providing the individuals in our society that may be developmentally or physically challenged with everything that society has to offer. Individuals that want a life like any other member of society. I am proud to provide my nursing expertise to these individuals, and I am especially proud to know most of the members of our organization, not as statistics, but as human beings who have become my friends. It has proved to me that with the appropriate knowledge, the appropriate housing options, the right kind of people and mostly, the attitude of love and understanding, that the world as we know it can be changed. It is the prejudices of the so called "normal" society that hinders any form of progress, not the "can-do" attitude and beliefs of the individual who is developmentally or physically challenged.

New AAIDD Member's Feedback

by Lisa M. Johnson, Quality Assurance Director
Pathways to Independence, Inc., Kearny, NJ

Pathways to Independence, Inc. recently gave me an opportunity to join any organization in the disabilities field, so I chose to join AAIDD. I had first learned of this organization when I attended their conference in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. I later purchased the Positive Behavior Supports training manual and trained our current staff. It was the most effective training I have ever used. I felt that joining AAIDD would be a great benefit to both me and my organization. I was right. In this short time, I have received weekly e-mails and updates about conferences, current research and important news. I have browsed the bookstore and have even voted in the recent AAIDD elections! I am so grateful to have this important resource.

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



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

AAIDD NJ Meeting Minutes

MINUTES **January 19, 2012**

1. **Attendance:** 25 members present
2. **Minutes:** October 20, 2011. Motion to accept: Myrta R. Second Sid K. Passed.
3. **Financial Report:** Treasury Report: \$17,885.
4. **Member at Large opening: Discussion of Mid-Winter Leaders Meeting on 12/4-5, 2011:** Sid Katz Report: Was about 20 people there. Non-Board members were not invited to sit in on Board meeting. Sid Katz was the only person with disability in attendance.
 - a. Received report of Cuba trip by AAIDD members planning to go to Portugal
 - b. Board nominations committee: Sid K. was not vetted to be on ballot. Had training on inclusion/employment by Bill Kiernan.

Yemi Haijededun, DSP:

Sid and Yemi were asked to write an article on the meeting.

5. **Future Events:**
 - ◆ National Disability Policy Seminar, April 23-25, 2012
Washington, DC
 - ◆ AAIDD National Conference June 18-21, 2012
Charlotte, NC – Call for Papers
6. **Special Notes:**
 - ◆ Bill Gaventa, AUCD, 2011 Special Recognition Award
 - ◆ Myrta Rosa named to NJ DD Council
 - ◆ Three Region 9 members recognized for recruiting 3+ new AAIDD members: Joanna Pierson; Sid Blanchard; Bill Gaventa
7. **Training for 2012: In progress and will be established by February 29.**

◆ Nutrition and Physical Health:	◆ Community Integration and Community Connections
◆ Community Nursing and Supports:	◆ AAIDD Definition Manual
◆ Technology and Supports	◆ Sex Education for PWD and Support Staff
◆ Supports Intensity Scale	◆ Group Dynamics in Residential Living Settings
◆ Positive Behavioral Supports using the PBS Curriculum	◆ Employment
◆ Adolescent Youth with Disabilities	◆ Essential Life Planning

Wilmar Larrota was named Chair of the committee

8. **Newsletter:** Request for Articles/Notes by February 15. Newsletter will be published shortly thereafter
9. **Next meeting date:** End April/May

AAIDD Training Committee Meeting Minutes

10. Old Business

- ◆ HMO Committee Report: Rendered by M. Witowsky
- ◆ Who speaks for us? Article Committee.
Sid Katz/Myrta Rosa: Article is due February 15
- ◆ Alliance on Full Participation Article
Bernadette Griswold: Article is due February 15

11. Announcements

- ◆ Paul, Yemi, Sid Katz, Katie – Documentary
- ◆ Paul: Stop the Bullying Campaign in November

12. Adjourn

AAIDD NJ/R9 Training Committee Meeting Minutes *Thursday, March 22, 2012*

- I. Attendees: Sidney Blanchard, William Busch, Sean Holmes, Tracy Honig, Sid Katz, Wilmar Larrota, Kerin Monaco, Doienne Saab (minutes)

Sid Blanchard called to order the regular meeting of the **AAIDD Training Committee Meeting** at **10:30 am** on **March 22nd 2012** in **Library**.

Purpose of Meeting: *To discuss trainings to be implemented*

II. Announcements

- ◆ Major changes in managed care for DDD- will focus on improving NJ Medicaid services; to be effective July 1st
- ◆ *Save the date:* Bob Fischer to be featured for panel discussing on social integration and community connections
- ◆ Next meeting scheduled for Monday, March 26, 2012 at 10:30 am in Boardroom

III. Items Discussed

- ◆ Training Committee to research and identify best practices available for implementation and effectiveness of training
- ◆ Trainings implemented will aim to be cutting edge and set the stage for the next 5-10 years
- ◆ Discussed the trainings goals to be implemented for the following topics: Technology and Support, Intellectual Disability, Support Intensity Scale (SIS), Sexuality and Relationships, Positive Behavior Support, Group Dynamics in Residential Living
 - Training committee to identify trainer and core staff as administrators for each training area
 - Core group to be trained as the trainers for entire staff ; responsible for providing self-instructs, curriculum, and workshops for use
 - Identify attendees for trainings
 - Develop annual survey workshop for trainings to be utilized as standard tool of reference

Next meeting to discuss assignments to training areas

Conferences & Events

Association of Professional Behavior Analysts 2nd Annual Convention

April 12-14, 2012 in Tampa, FL

www.apbahome.net

Disability Policy Seminar - AAIDD co-sponsored

Registration Open -Please Note Your Affiliation with AAIDD When you Register

April 23-25, 2012 in Washington, DC

<http://disabilitypolicyseminar.org>

ANCOR 2012 Annual Conference - AAIDD Exhibiting

May 6-8, 2012 in Washington, DC

<http://www.ancor.org/events/2012/05/2012-ancor-annual-conference-leading-cultures-of-innovation-and-advocacy>

AAIDD 136th Annual Meeting

June 18-21, 2012 in Charlotte, NC

http://aaid.org/content_6546.cfm?navID=75

APSE 2012 National Conference - AAIDD Exhibiting

June 27-29, 2012 in Arlington, VA

<http://www.apse.org/registration/conference.cfm>

NASW Conference: Restoring Hope: The Power of Social Work

June 27-29, 2012, Washington, DC - **AAIDD Exhibiting**

<http://www.socialworkers.org/nasw/conferences/hope2012/default.asp>

2012 IASSID World Congress - AAIDD Symposium

July 9 - July 14, 2012 in Halifax, Nova Scotia

Congress link: <https://iassid.org/conference/index.php/HPC/2012IWC/index>

Awards Link: https://iassid.org/index.php?option=com_content&id=165

17th Annual NAQ Conference

August 7-10, 2012 in Chicago, IL

Call for Papers Now Open

http://www.qddp.org/2012Conference/2012_conference.htm

2012 SABE National Conference: Its all About Fairness

August 30-September 2, 2012, St. Paul, MN - **AAIDD co-sponsored**

<http://sabeconference2012.com/>

NADD 29th Annual Conference & Exhibit Show

October 17-19, 2012 in Denver, CO

Call for Proposals Open

<http://www.thenadd.org/cfp/index.shtml>

The Arc 2012 Convention: Achieving Inclusion: Across the Globe

October 25-28, 2012, Washington, DC - **AAIDD Exhibiting**

<http://www.thearc.org/page.aspx?pid=2824>

12th Annual Coleman Institute Conference on Cognitive Disability and Technology - AAIDD co-sponsored

November 2, 2012 in Westminster, CO

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

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

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Benefits of Membership

(Continued from page 7)

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.

**AAIDD Mental Health Service Special Interest Group now on Facebook:
<http://www.facebook.com/MHSSIG>**

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.



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