



Knowledge | Support | Empowerment

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Region IX and New Jersey Chapter

Combined Newsletter

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Spring 2014



AAIDD Advocates at the 2014 Disability Policy Seminar Washington, D.C.

On Monday, April 7th, 2014, a special interest group in AAIDD, the New American Movement for People with Disabilities attended the 2014 Disability Policy Seminar in Washington D.C. which ran through April 9, 2014. The Seminar consisted of a variety of different key note speakers, legislators, organizations, leaders, and self-advocates as well as workshops centered on the following topics: Hill Visits, the Able Act, Affordable Care Act, History of

Congress, Autism and Developmental Disability Legislation, Employment, Medicaid, Stopping Restraints and Seclusion, and a self-advocacy based workshop which allowed our members, Annie Sims and Myrta Rosa to share their own personal stories.

Among one of the many keynote speakers was Claudia Gordon, the Public Engagement Advisor for the Disability Community in the Office of

Public Engagement at the White House, who recently stepped down as the second-ever White House liaison on disability issues. She spoke to the audience about self-advocacy and the discrimination she faced at an early age, which she in turn utilized to motivate her to become a lawyer. Her success story empowered the entire audience, especially the self-advocates and the NAMPWD team. Cathy Enfield, the Vice-President of SABLE, was also another phenomenal key note speaker at the seminar. She first began her speech and explained that her disability affects her speech, so after a few sentences she began to use her iPad to finish her speech. Through the device she used to assist her, she was able to communicate more

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Stephen Lieberman with the New American Movement for People with Disabilities

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effectively, and she explained that devices such as the iPad provide members of the disability community with more opportunities.

Throughout the conference, the NAMPWD networked with various organizations, family members, and self-advocates. Annie Sims, field coordinator and self-advocate for the NAMPWD states, "Going to the meetings, I learned how to tell my life story and that this could empower other people with disabilities to advocate for themselves. I learned how I could help others change their whole life around and teach them to not be

scared to speak up for themselves and others. I believe they will learn a lot from me and other self-advocates if they start coming to our group meetings and hear our other self-advocates' stories."

The team networked with the Arc from all over the nation, UCEDD, Nationwide Council members on Developmental Disabilities, the Boggs Center, AUCD, Temple University, Covenant House, Community Quest, and L'Arche just to name a few. Many organizations were eager to hear about the New American Movement for People with Disabilities, and other organizations have even suggested starting a NAMPWD chapter within

their own state. Self-advocate Myrta Rosa states, "After my trip, my goal is to go to the AAIDD conference in Florida with the New American Movement for People with Disabilities, and start working on projects in the office. I also want to start a Hispanic Committee with Doris Fernandez for people with disabilities. The Hispanic community needs to be just as educated as everyone else about people with disabilities." The NAMPWD team is excited to use the tools, skills, and information they took from this conference to make change in the state of New Jersey and nationwide, and will continue its efforts to strengthen its movement and prepare for next year's Disability Policy Seminar.

New Jersey Chapter and Region IX AAIDD combined Meeting

The Region IX and NJ Chapter AAIDD will hold its next meeting at 3:00 PM on Thursday, July 17, 2014, at Community Access Unlimited, Library, 80 West Grand Street, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

The Agenda will include discussing and developing a training/workshop schedule for the new year.

We look forward to seeing you there.

**AAIDD Region IX and NJ Chapter
Combined Meeting
3:00 PM, Thursday, April 24, 2014**

1. **Attendance:** sign-in sheet
2. **Minutes of August 15, 2013:** Approved
3. **Financial Report:**

Region IX

NJ Chapter

Total Liabilities & FB	\$31,489	Total Liabilities & FB	\$18,884
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4. **Activities 2014:**

Workshops that AAIDD Members and NAMPWD will be presenting at National Conferences:

- NASW: Sexuality Relationships
- ANCOR: Google Glass - Technology Supports
- CLFE: Proposal - Sexuality
- AAIDD: NAMPWD Poster / Sexuality Relationship Poster

5. **Reports from Various Committees attached**

(Group Dynamics; Intellectual Disability; Nursing and Supports; Positive Behavior Support; Relationships and Sexuality Committee; Technology Supports; Support Intensity Scale; Youth and DD Committee; Social Integration; Employment)

6. **Region IX & NJ Chapter Newsletters**

- Call for material

7. **New Business**

ABCD has asked the AAIDD State and Region IX to sponsor a Regional Conference for the Fall, 2014 for \$5,000 and loan \$10,000 to help underwrite the start up of the conference. Motion to Participate: Tracy Honig. Second by Rolando Zorrilla. Vote: Yes: 8 No: _____. Passed.

Other New Business:

Vote on Region IX and NJ Chapter Leadership:

Motion to Reconfirm prior officers: Aisha Arroyo. Second By: Anil Singh. Vote: Yes: 8 No: _____. Passed.

8. **Next Meeting:**

Region IX & NJ Chapter: Thursday, July 17, 2014; 3:00pm - 4:00pm at Community Access Unlimited, 80 West Grand Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07202; (908) 354-3040. For directions, please visit www.caunj.org

9. **Adjourn**

AAIDD Training Committee Reports: 04/21/14

Group Dynamics

Our committee formed the training known as Group Dynamics / Conflict Resolution. We presented this all day training on 10/24/13, 11/8/13, 12/13/13, 1/9/14, and 3/3/14. Further scheduling of this training is set for 4/21/14, 5/8/14 & 6/30/14.

Recently, the committee changed the name of this training to the Dynamics of Human Interaction. During initial training sessions feedback was provided by graduates of the course. Several graduates stated that the title "Group Dynamics" created the expectation that this training was all about working with groups and did not expect the complexity of the training. The committee took the feedback and renamed to training.

The committee is now working on creating a Sensitivity training. Our plan involves inviting a cast of actors from Summit High School to present the play: The Boys Next Door. This cast received high accolades when they first performed the play for the public. The focus of this play is the struggle and plight of developmentally disabled adults living in a group home in the community.

The Summit High School Players have agreed to present this play at CAU on 5/29/14. Still in the working stage, is a plan to tie this presentation to a Staff Appreciation Night that involves group discussion of the main points of the play. Our ultimate goal is to reproduce this play with a cast of CAU players so that a Sensitivity training could take place on an ongoing basis.

Intellectual Disability

Intellectual Disability training took place on September 26 and September 27, 2 day training. There were more than 30 trainees, who involved AED's, Directors, Nurses, Behaviorists and AD's of Community. Many of our leadership staff and administrators were trained.

The training was quite comprehensive and inclusive of Intellectual Disability, 4 groups consisting of Group 1: Definitions of Intellectual Disability, Group 2: Diagnosis and Classification of Intellectual Disability, Adaptive Functioning, Professional Judgment and Implication for Practice, Group 3: Systems of Supports and Group 4: Experiences with Discrimination, People First Language and Self-Advocacy

All groups developed and completed outlines to facilitate development and training of all the levels of training involved. We established as groups a basic understanding of intellectual disability, variations in definition under law, classification, and system of supports.

Groups 1, 2 and 3 completed and distributed a multiple choice competency assessment which included 31 questions and group 4 had group activity identifying various people who have an intellectual disability. Group 4 also educated the class about Discrimination, People First Language, Self Advocacy and overall System Change. We have changed some of the questions to better identify the various groups and discussions that took place and were asked throughout the class. Our design is for 24 questions, so everyone is more capable of understanding more of the validity and content of the training. Each group had varied class activities/participation and exercises assigned that really involved a lot of class participation and really helped everyone to have even a greater understanding of Intellectual Disability. Our committee was very good in getting a lot of class participation and the class even wanted/expected more because there was so much material.

Overall, this is a 2 day 6 hour workshop aimed at developing a comprehensive framework for understanding intellectual disabilities, understanding of the methodology for classification, experts on systems of support. We now have an abbreviated training for 6 hours targeting support staff, to create awareness: Definition of

Intellectual Disability, highlighting experiences with discrimination, increased system of support and encourage system change. Further dates of future trainings will be decided in upcoming training committee meeting in May 2014.

The committee's goal is to increase awareness in the community and have trainings for personnel at hospitals, schools, emergency personnel, families, etc.

We are also evaluating how the current changes in the way supports are provided as a whole will be affected by the new fee for service model and how individuals will be assessed, and how waiver eligibility will overall be influencing the ways we support today. This training will be offered in the summertime of 2014.

Nursing and Supports

The original request for better education concerning Nutrition/Physical Health & Diabetes has been completed. A training was put together and has been done by the nurses, for staff and members, for over a year now. We are constantly looking over the evaluations in order to see if there are items that could use improvement and would benefit our staff/members or if new advances in the topics have occurred. This training is being done at least twice a month if not more as HR sees the need growing. The intervention/control system was created, approved and rolled out to the nurses so that they may keep watch over important items such as members A1C's, weight, labs, diet compliance etc. They will also assist the programs with following the steps in the system such as an IDT may be required to document the situations at hand.

Regularly scheduled reporting and fidelity checks were the final portion that this committee had to tackle and thru the HRST system we feel that we will have a better handle on the medical complexity at each site. The system was funded by a grant, approved for roll out and CAU' members have been uploaded into the system. HRST rolled out their online training to the QA team/nurses first and then went onto the supervisory staff/sc's at the programs. New staff that are coming aboard are being trained also. Once the staff have completed the online training they will receive an email so that they can start inputting the members' information in the new database and getting health scores for each member/program. At that point any member that scores a 5 or 6 will be double checked by a nurse to confirm the answers in the system/their complexity. This system takes the medical page of case elements & the ability to care for our members to a whole other level. We are excited to see what statistics will be available on each program in the near future.

Positive Behavior Support

All of the Positive Behavior Support committee's goals have been met. The committee has created a self-instruct that includes the most common behaviors that staff see in the program. The self instruct has been posted on Community Access Unlimited's intranet and is a required training for all new staff. One behaviorist is currently able to conduct the Positive Behavioral Supports 2-day training, and 2 additional behaviorists have begun the train the trainer process with the Boggs Center. The Positive Behavior Supports refresher course is now complete.

The Relationships and Sexuality Committee

The Relationships & Sexuality Committee currently has 4 members which consist of 1 behaviorist, 1 QA staff, 1 AED, and 1 Program staff. The committee is looking to recruit new staff to be a part of the team. At the end of last year, December 11 – 13th, 2013, Alicia Ann and Aisha Arroyo represented CAU Relationship and Sexuality Committee at the CFLE Sex Education Conference, where they presented their poster. The Committee will be submitting an additional proposal due April 30, 2014, for this year's CFLE Conference in 2014. In addition, the Committee is in the process of looking for a venue for the Annual CAU Sex Ed Conference to be held in the fall of 2014. The committee's current action items include a new policy and procedure regarding relationships and sexuality that the committee team has completed. We are also in the

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(AAIDD Training Committee Reports cont. from page 5)

process of updating the training and citing all resources attached to our curriculum.

The Committee will be in attendance at the Annual AAIDD Conference in June 2014, to display their poster themed, "Breaking the Silence: Relationship & Sexuality in People with Developmental Disabilities. In addition, Sarah Eibach and Alicia Ann will be completing a 2 hour workshop at the NASW NJ conference on May 6, 2014, in front of approximately 50 people. The committee has stocked up on supplies to demonstrate demos to all for self empowerment for female and male members. The committee has also been looking into grants as well and an LGBTIQ support groups for members. The committee continues to collect the various conflict examples and resolutions that staff counselors come up with in the training to utilize for an article to submit to AAIDD. Lastly, the committee will submit their Quarterly report in May 2014, with the qualitative and quantitative data collected.

Technology Supports

The AAIDD Technology Committee acquired a pair of Google Glass in January and have been working with a member with cerebral palsy to increase her independence utilizing the glass. Staff and member meet regularly to develop and maintain the skills with the glass. Some topics have been photography, taking videos, applications for cooking, and also email/video messaging all hands free. The technology committee will also be presenting with Google at the ANCOR Annual Conference in Miami on May 4-6th. Additionally the committee is dedicated to researching wearable technology that will assist in monitoring health issues. Some adaptive devices we are looking into are clothing that monitors numerous biometrics, a wearable EEG and EKG headset, as well as watches and glasses. We also are researching "smart homes" that will provide additional monitoring while in the home. We have contacts with Simply Home as well as Imagine in Colorado who are leaders in the development of smart homes. The next Technology Committee is scheduled on May 27, 2014.

Support Intensity Scale

In November of 2012, Bernadette Griswold, Sheila McDowell, and Billy Busch completed the Supports Intensity Scale Interviewer Training. Currently this committee conducts a Support Intensity Scale Assessment on any individual admitted to our Emergency Capacity Programs; also called ECS. The committee is tracking and analyzing the data from these assessments. We continue to assess each individual as they come through the program. Simultaneously, the committee has developed a training for all Community Access Staff on what the Support Intensity Scale is, the rationale and history of the SIS assessment. This training will be scheduled to be conducted at a recent Team Focus Meeting.

Youth with DDD Committee

The Youth with DDD Committee successfully collaborated with NJ Alliance for Children, Youth, and Families (NJACYF) in creating New Jersey's first annual "Meeting the Needs of Youth with Different Abilities: The Future of Intellectual Disability Services in New Jersey" symposium. This symposium was held on March 6, 2014, at The Mercer County Community College. The goal of this symposium was to find out the state's plan and how community providers can take a more active role in the transitioning process. Key themes that were discussed throughout the day's talks were the lack of awareness, services, and transportation. Other topics discussed were financial issues, waiting lists, and system efficiency. The overall goals of the symposium were met because agency providers were able to network and collaborate with other provider agencies and even start a dialogue with key state administrative staff.

To keep the momentum going the Youth with DDD Committee, along with NJACYF, will be hosting a lunch and learn series with experts in the Intellectual Disability / Developmental Disability field. The first

(AAIDD Training Committee Reports cont. from page 6)

event will be held on April 29, 2014. Dr. Haque will be the first presenter. Dr. Haque is a Board Certified Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist and he specializes in Autism Spectrum Disorders, PDD, ADHD, Bipolar, and Anxiety Disorders. He is raising a son with Autism and he understands the pain of others.

Social Integration

The committee discussed and planned opportunities for the members to socialize more within their communities by participating in the community event such as Street Fairs, Block parties, community Thanksgiving dinners, Self Advocacy Day, etc.

The goal of creating an advocacy day and workshops has been finalized. The first annual self-advocacy day is scheduled for April 26, 2014. We are expecting about 70 or more people to be in attendance. We have identified a keynote speaker, as well as various workshops and networking opportunities. Our expectations for this event is to help individuals learn the skills needed to advocate for themselves and also create motivation to want to advocate for themselves.

Self Advocacy Day Planning meetings held on 2/6, 3/3, 4/14—the goal is to have an advocacy day in order to teach members and staff about and promote social integration and community inclusion, share specific information about inclusion, find the ways to overcome realistic barriers to social inclusion, importance of finding faith based connections in the community.

Self Advocacy Day workshop will be held at 88 West Grand Street, Elizabeth cafeteria and/or Board room. Invitations have been sent and confirmation of the keynote speakers and workshops have been completed.

Employment Committee

The Employment Committee has been working diligently to gain connections and active employment in the community for our members. Committee member Fredia McKinnie currently sits on the Workforce Investment Board (WIB) Disabilities Committee. This committee allows for members of the WIB to discuss ways in which to increase employment amongst people with disabilities. The committee is currently working to create a working resource guide that can be provided to local businesses to educate them on the services and supports that are available to their business for hiring persons with disabilities.

To date we have successfully placed members to work at CVS pharmacy, Dollar Tree and NJ All People Equal. We have also begun to build a working relationship with YMCA which has given members the opportunity to volunteer in different ways with the ability to become paid employees. We are scheduled to attend a meeting with the local DVRS office in order to continue to build a working relationship with DVRS. To date we have received and accepted 2 DVRS referrals and are currently assisting these individuals with finding employment in the community. Our Self-Directed Day Program has expanded from 8 members to 9 with a 10th member soon to come. Our newest member began the program and within a week had an opportunity to volunteer at the YMCA as mentioned above with the possibility of being hired as a paid staff. The committee will be working in the upcoming months to assist with placing 15 members in job placements in the community and developing more community employer contacts

CONFERENCES & EVENTS



SAVE THE DATE

138th AAIDD Annual Meeting
June 23-26, 2014 | Orlando, FL

The AAIDD Annual Meeting, provides researchers, clinicians, practitioners, educators, policymakers, local, state and federal agencies, and advocates with cutting edge research, effective practices, and valuable information on important policy initiatives. **Registration now open!**

[25th Annual ASPE National Conference](#)

July 1-3, 2014 in Long Beach, CA

[Reinventing Quality 2014](#) - AAIDD co-sponsored

August 3-5, 2014 in Baltimore, MD—**Registration Now Open!**

[Arc 2014 National Convention](#) - AAIDD exhibiting

September 30-October 2, 2014 in New Orleans, LA

[14th Annual Coleman Institute National Conference](#) - AAIDD co-sponsored

October 9, 2014 in Broomfield, CO

[AADMD 12th Annual Education Conference](#)

[including the 2014 Princeton Meeting of the NTG on ID and Dementia Practices](#)

June 16-18, 2014

In conjunction with

[The Special Olympics 2014 USA Games](#)

Hyatt Regency Princeton, 102 Carnegie Center, Princeton, NJ, 08540

Leadership Roster

AAIDD Announces its 2014-2015 Board of Directors

April 4, 2014, Washington, DC

The American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) is extremely pleased to announce its 2014–2015 Board of Directors, effective July 1, 2014. The Board of AAIDD is elected by its membership in annual elections.

The members of the 2014–2015 AAIDD Board of Directors are:

President: Amy Hewitt, PhD, FAAIDD

Director, Research and Training Center on Community Living, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis

President-Elect: Susan B. Palmer, PhD, FAAIDD

Research Professor, Beach Center on Disability, Kansas University Center on Developmental Disabilities, Lawrence, Kansas

Vice President: William C. Gaventa, Jr., MDiv, FAAIDD

Coordinator, Summer Institute on Theology and Disability and Adjunct Professor, Center for Disability Studies, University of Texas

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Executive Director, Montgomery 31 Board, Montgomery, Alabama

Past President: James Thompson, PhD, FAAIDD

Professor, Department of Special Education, Illinois State University, Normal, Illinois

At-Large Members:

David T. Helm, PhD, FAAIDD

Director of LEND, Institute for Community Inclusion/UCEDD, Boston Children's Hospital and University of Massachusetts Boston

Loui Lord Nelson, PhD, FAAIDD

Universal Design for Learning Specialist, University of Kansas, Lawrence, and Education Consultant, Indianapolis, Indiana

Susan L. Parish, PhD, MSW, FAAIDD

Nancy Lurie Marks Professor of Disability Policy and Director, Lurie Institute for Disability Policy, Brandeis University, Waltham, Massachusetts

Elizabeth A. Perkins, PhD, RNMH, FAAIDD

Associate Director and Research Assistant Professor, Florida Center for Inclusive Communities UCEDD, University of South Florida

Region IX Chapter

Bermuda:	Ellen E. Douglas
Maryland:	Jennifer Wagner
New Jersey:	Sidney W. Blanchard
Pennsylvania:	Michael L. Powanda
West Virginia:	Gabriel A. Nardi

Region IX Board

Chairperson:	Sidney W. Blanchard
Chair Elect:	Bernadette Griswold
Vice President:	Alvin Cox
Secretary:	Sheila McDowell
Treasurer:	Mercedes Witowsky
Immediate Past Chair:	Paul F. Spangler
Member-at-Large:	Open Jennifer Wagner
Assembly Representative:	Todd S. Wilson

New Jersey Chapter Board

Chairperson:	Sidney W. Blanchard
Vice President:	Bernadette Griswold
Secretary:	Sheila McDowell
Treasurer:	Mercedes Witowsky
Member-at-Large:	Alvin Cox Paul LaMaine Open Open

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



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

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.

Mission Statement

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

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.



James R. Thompson, PhD
President



Margaret Nygren, EdD
Executive Director
and CEO



Dues Invoice

Join or Renew your membership online at www.aidd.org

Mail to: AAIDD
 P.O. Box 79134
 Baltimore, Maryland 21279-0134
 Fax: 202-387-2193

Questions? Contact Jason Epstein at jepstein@aidd.org or 202-387-1968, ext 201.

Mr. Ms. Dr. Rev. Sr. (Please indicate)

First Name:

Phone:

Last Name:

E-mail:

Address:

Date of Birth:

City:

Expiration Date:

State/Province:

Student at:

Zip Code:

(Required for student dues discount)

Country:

Annual Dues

Membership Categories:

\$50 International Electronic (NOT US/Canada)

\$175 Standard

\$75 Basic

\$250 Premium

\$125 Classic

\$595 Corporate

Students enjoy a 20% discount on any of the above categories.

Annual Dues \$ _____

Professional Interest Groups:

Membership in each Division, Special Interest Group, Action Network, or other group is \$10 each, except for Religion & Spirituality, which receives an additional journal. Place an "X" before any Group you want to join and total the fees.

Administration

Gerontology

Multicultural Concerns

Creative Arts Therapies

Genetics

Psychology

Communication Disorders

Health & Wellness

Religion & Spirituality (**\$30**)

Community Services

Humanism

Research

Direct Support Professionals

International

Social Work

Education

Legal Process & Advocacy

Sexual/Social Concerns

Families

Mental Health Services

Student & Early Career Professionals (**no fee**)

Technology

Total Cost of Special Interest Group \$ _____
Contribution to the Student Scholarship Fund \$ _____
Donation to AAIDD \$ _____
TOTAL Payment \$ _____

Payment Information:

Check enclosed payable to AAIDD in US dollars.

Account Number

Visa MasterCard American Express Discover Diners Club

Expiration Date _____

Name on Account _____

Signature _____

Return this invoice with payment and matching billing address via fax or mail. Renew online at www.aidd.org



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



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