Reports from
AAIDD members from New Jersey/Region 9

Presenters and attendees of the October, 2014 SABE Conference
Adeyemi Ajijedidum, Adelaide Daskam, Gary Rubin, Mark Bloom and Marcella Truppa

The Self Advocacy conference was held in Oklahoma City, OK at the Renaissance Hotel and it was a success. In attendance was Myrta Rosa, Gary Rubin, Marcella Truppa, Mark Bloom and Adelaide Daskam and the staff that attended with them were Yemi Ajijedidun and Nichelle Hinton. On Thursday afternoon, we registered and attended the opening ceremony which also was a flag ceremony by Aaron Bishop who is the Commissioner of the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disability. He gave opening remarks on how far SABE has come and its achievements.

On Friday, there was a welcome address by Bryon Murray, SABE President and a presentation by Kris Steele, Legislative Advocate for People with Disabilities. The keynote speakers, the Pearce Brothers (Snow Boarders champions), gave a presentation called “Love Your Brain” which explained the challenges his family faced during his traumatic brain injury at the Snow Boarding World Championship. During the presentation, he enlightened us about

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the disability that his brother has and the how he was most influential in his healing process. He mentioned the relentless efforts, support and love his family has shown him and how much his brother taught him about how to live with a disability. Later that day, the Regional meetings were held in various rooms, where we discussed the criteria needed to be nominated and who could vote for a Regional representative. New Jersey was under Region 7 and since Gary Rubin was the only candidate for that region, he won! So Gary Rubin is the new Region 7 representative and his speech was very moving and inspirational.

The Sibling Leadership Network was there to create a film about sharing ideas and ways to support people with disabilities. Myrta and Adelaide participated in telling their story and hopefully it will be an inspiration to other people since it will be posted on their website. All members and staff attended various sessions in which we were highly encouraged and gained a lot of information. The sessions included, Sex and Relationships, LGBTQ, Using your Talents to Train Other Community Members, Serving Ourselves by Serving Others, Energizing Your Group and the 2014 SABE Elections. The conference was also divided after lunch for two hours for various sessions that included, Assistive Technology for People with Disabilities, Breaking Down Employment Barriers, How to Get the Best Out of Project Vote, Get Respect, The Dating Game and The Beatles. Later that day, the SABE National nominees gave speeches and the Regional officers were announced and took pictures.

On Saturday, there was a voting session for SABE National Officers for four hours while other activities were in progress. Gary Guller, who
was the first person with disabilities to climb Mount Everest, gave an awesome presentation called Together, Anything is Possible! He also narrated his incredible journey that gave him power to succeed in life. After the presentation, we went to more sessions which included, Taking the “Self” Out of Self Advocacy, The Human Rights Committee, The Fight for Fair Wages and Full Employment for People with Disabilities, Connecting with Leaders to Make Positive Changes and Civil Rights with Poetry. Later that night, the new SABE National officers were announced and given awards during dinner and then they had a dance. Sunday morning, we had breakfast and closing meeting then we headed back to New Jersey.

Overall, the conference was a huge success and the members were able to reconnect with friends, learn more about how to advocate for themselves and they had a little fun as well.

Fair Share Housing Act vs Council on Affordable Housing (COAH)

By Adeyemi Ajijedidum and Annie Simms

On January 6th 2015 there was another court case at the Supreme Court over a litigant right. The case argued against Gov. Chris Christie’s Administration in failing to meet November 17, 2014 deadline for choosing a new rule under fair share housing Act. In February 2014, the Supreme Court had originally ordered the Christie Administration to grant the rules in which he failed to do and that is why the case was back in court. But the fair Housing Act now wants the court to directly implement the rules rather than through...
Council on Affordable Housing (COAH). It was noted that after the February court case in 2014, Gov. Chris administration has never made any move or had meetings in order to set a new Housing rule that complies with the doctrine.

The purpose of the new fair share housing states that every municipality allow for its share of homes affordable to low and moderate-income people. Many people with disabilities are low income. Another extension in October 2014 was granted by the court after the Fair Housing Act did not receive any response from the Administration and if there was nothing done by then, the Court will entertain application for a motion to forcefully grant the right which is called litigation.

The Fair share Housing act has asked the court to make a decision to finally end the delay and set up an orderly process through the courts, rather than COAH, to allow each municipality’s responsibilities. This will also allow housing advocates, non-profit and for-profit developers and municipalities have the opportunity to participate in the all proceeding on housing. The motion also ask that the Court designate judges to determine the fair share of homes for each municipality for working families, lower-income seniors and people with disabilities to participate in the hearing.
Attendance: 25 in attendance

Minutes of July 17, 2014 meeting

Financial Report: Region IX: $29,533
NJ Chapter: $19,201

Activities Report:

- October 3, 2014 NJ Disability Pride Parade
- SABE Conference, October 9-12, 2014 Oklahoma City date?
- NJ Supreme Court Fair Share Housing Hearing
- ABCD Nov 5, 2014 Conference

Call for Material for Region 9 and NJ Chapter Newsletter

AAIDD Committee Reports/Activities submitted:

- Group Dynamics
- Intellectual Disabilities:
- Nursing and Supports: HRST System in Action
- Positive Behavior Supports
- Relationships and Sexuality Committee
- Technology Supports: Chair
- Youth with DDD Committee: Chairs - Adolescent Network Newsletter
- Social Integration: Chairs - Religion Newsletter
- Support Intensity Scale: Chairs (move to compare NJ DDRT Rates Current to Tier Rates Future, correlation analysis)
- Employment Committee: Chairs
- APSE 2015 National Conference
- AAIDD National Conference June 1-4, 2015 Louisville, KY Participants
NJ Disability Pride Parade, October, 2014

“Injustice anywhere is a threat to Justice everywhere.”

Martin Luther King, Jr.
AAIDD Annual Meeting

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.

Making a Difference

Through Research, Practice, and Policy

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

PROGRAM

SPONSOR & EXHIBITOR

HOTEL & TRAVEL

REGISTRATION

SPECIAL EVENTS

CEUS
Leadership Roster

AAIDD Installs its 2014-2015 Board of Directors

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

Secretary-Treasurer: Patti N. Martin, MEd
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: 
Maryland: 
New Jersey:  Sidney W. Blanchard
Pennsylvania: 
West Virginia: 

Region IX Board

Chairperson:  Sidney W. Blanchard
Chair Elect:  Bernadette Griswold
Vice President:  Alvin Cox
Secretary:  Sheila McDowell
Treasurer:  Mercedes Witowsky
Immediate Past Chair: 
Member-at-Large:  Open
Assembly Representative:  Open

New Jersey Chapter Board

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

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

Say "YES!" to AAIDD. Join/Renew Today!
www.aaidd.org
Join or Renew your membership online at www.aaiidd.org

Mail to: AAIDD
P.O. Box 79134
Baltimore, Maryland 21279-0134
Fax: 202-387-2193
Questions? Contact Jason Epstein at jepstein@aaiidd.org or 202-387-1968, ext 201.

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

First Name: 
Last Name: 
Address: 
City: 
State/Province: 
Zip Code: 
Country: 

Phone: 
E-mail: 
Date of Birth: 
Expiration Date: 
Student at: 
(Required for student dues discount)

Annual Dues

Membership Categories:

☐ $50 International Electronic (NOT US/Canada) 
☐ $75 Basic 
☐ $125 Classic

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

☐ $175 Standard 
☐ $250 Premium 
☐ $595 Corporate

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 
☐ Creative Arts Therapies 
☐ Communication Disorders 
☐ Community Services 
☐ Direct Support Professionals 
☐ Education 
☐ Families 

☐ Gerontology 
☐ Genetics 
☐ Health & Wellness 
☐ Humanism 
☐ International 
☐ Legal Process & Advocacy 
☐ Mental Health Services 

☐ Multicultural Concerns 
☐ Psychology 
☐ Religion & Spirituality ($30) 
☐ Research 
☐ Social Work 
☐ Sexual/Social Concerns 
☐ 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 ____________________________
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Say “Yes” to AAIDD. Join/Renew Today! www.aaidd.org

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