



Knowledge | Support | Empowerment

Sidney Blanchard, President
 c/o Community Access Unlimited
 80 West Grand Street, Elizabeth, New Jersey 07202
 Phone: (908) 354-3040 ~ Fax: (908) 354-2665
 sblanchard@caunj.org

Region IX and New Jersey Chapter
 Combined Newsletter

Spring 2016



Beverly Williams (second from the left), a member of Community Access Unlimited, learned about the various religions that make up the Union County Interfaith Coordinating Council at a "speed dating" event for the agency's members.

Faith Into Action - March 31, 2016

AAIDD MEMBERS PARTICIPATE IN COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

The Union County Interfaith Coordinating Council recently held a "speed dating" event at Suburban Golf Club in Union to allow its member congregations to interact with people with disabilities and at-risk youth who are not currently associated with a religious community, telling them about their faiths and organizations and offering them the opportunity to join.

The first-of-its-kind event – called Faith into Action – allowed members of Community Access Unlimited (CAU) and people from the community who are not currently affiliated with a house of worship to meet with representatives of more than 20 churches, synagogues, mosques and temples to determine if they might be a good fit for them, according to Sid Blanchard, CAU executive director. More than 90 CAU members attended and there were more than 50 "matches," he added.

CAU is a statewide Elizabeth-based nonprofit providing support programs and services to adults with disabilities as well as youth served under the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to enable them to live independently in the community, in areas including housing, vocational skills and life-skills training, education, advocacy and recreation.

The Union County Interfaith Coordinating Council, is an organization comprising more than 40 interfaith congregations and community-based

(Continued on page 2)

IN THIS ISSUE

• Faith Into Action	Cover
• NJ Chapter Board	3
• AAIDD R9 & NJ Chapter Meeting Agenda	3
• Special Interest Groups' Updates	
— Group Dynamics of Human Interactions	4
— Intellectual Disability	4
— Nursing and Supports	4
— Positive Behavior Support	5
— Relationships and Sexuality	5
— Technology Supports	5
— Youth with DDD	5
— Social Integration	6
— Employment Area	6
• Recipient Jane Miller Memorial Leadership Award	7
• Faith Into Action Pictures	8
• New American Movement for People with Disabilities at City Hall	9
• AAIDD Annual Meeting	10
• Keeping up with AAIDD / Social Media	10
• Join/Renew Your Membership with AAIDD	11



“Our mission is to enable our members to live fully integrated lives within the community and for many people an affiliation with a religion and a house of worship is an important part of community. We wanted to create an atmosphere that would facilitate that.”

(Continued from page 1)

nonprofits, including CAU. The council promotes inclusion of all people within the community, without regard to race, religion or disability, and creates a clearing house of faith-based, nonprofit and government community services available to the public, according to Blanchard.

"Some of our members have long been disconnected from any organized religion," Blanchard said. "In fact, in the past some have been bullied and shunned and made to feel unwelcome. Our mission is to enable our members to live fully integrated lives within the community and for many people an affiliation with a religion and a house of worship is an important part of community. We wanted to create an atmosphere that would facilitate that."

Carmine Pernini, pastor of the Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Rahway and coordinator of the Interfaith Council, said houses of worship often are homogeneous communities that may feel less than welcoming to newcomers, especially those who are perceived as different, which runs counter to the natural message of inclusion that should be the foundation of all religious communities.

"There is a difference between saying all are welcome and welcoming people as long as they behave the way we want them to behave," he said. "It's really about welcoming people and adapting ourselves to who they are. When you have a new person enter a religious community everything changes anyway. Each person brings their own personality and experiences and that's a good thing."

Beverly Williams, a CAU member with disabilities, attended the event because she had a bad experience with one religion when she was younger – she said she was asked to leave – and now attends a local Evangelical church but does not feel part of their community.

"I learned a lot," she said. "I learned they all talk about the same God and we all come into the world the same way and we go to the same place. I enjoyed learning about the different religions."

Asia Lee, a youth member of CAU, said she found the event informative and thought-provoking. Lee does not attend any church but now thinks she may start attending a Lutheran church.

"I'm not really a big religious person," she said. "But I'm open minded. I learned a lot about each religion and it helped me make a decision on which religion to choose."



Next meeting of AAIDD Region 9/NJ Chapter is Thursday, May 19, 2016 at 2:30pm at Community Access Unlimited, 80 West grand Street, Elizabeth, New Jersey, (908)354-3040. We look forward to seeing you there

**AAIDD REGION 9 AND NJ CHAPTER
COMBINED MEETING
THURSDAY May 19, 2016**

New Jersey Chapter Board

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

AGENDA

Attendance:

Minutes of Summer, 2015 meeting

Financial Report: Region IX: \$27,662
 NJ Chapter: \$16,768

Activities Report:

- Upcoming National AAIDD Conference: June 2-6, 2016, Atlanta, Georgia
- NJ Advocacy
- Changes in NJ DDD System
- ABCD November Conference preparation
- Reinventing Quality, July 31—August 2, Baltimore, Maryland
- 2016 National APSE Conference, June 21-23, Cincinnati, Ohio

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

GROUP DYNAMICS

Chair: Tony Provenzano

The Dynamics of Human Interaction training has consistently provided a minimum of one training per month. The Dynamics of Human Interaction training was provided on the following dates: 11/23/15, 12/15/15, 1/29/16, 2/9/16, and 3/28/16. During this period 63 have been trained.

At the most recent Group Dynamics Committee meeting additional trainers were identified to serve as backups to Jeremy Lefever and Tony Provenzano. These selected individuals, Joshua Bradley and Julie Sorrel are going through a train the trainer workshop in order to become trainers. New trainers will be trained in the comprehension of Ego States, Life Scripts & Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. The committee also decided to shorten the length of the current training. The Active Listening component was removed because that topic is already discussed in the Basic Counseling Skills training. The posttest has also been to reflect the aforementioned change.

INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY

Chair: Paul LaMaine

The Intellectual Disability training is quite comprehensive and inclusive of Intellectual Disability. There are 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 have developed and completed outlines, including power point presentations, along with hand outs to facilitate development and training of Intellectual Disability. Established are groups that include a basic understanding of intellectual disability, variations in definition under law, classification, and system of supports.

Groups 1, 2 and 3 distribute a multiple choice competency assessment which includes 24 questions and group 4 has a group activity identifying various people who have an intellectual disability. Group 4 also educates the class about Discrimination, People First Language, Self Advocacy and overall System Change. Our design is for 24 questions, so everyone is most capable of understanding AAIDD's formal outline and understanding of Intellectual Disability. Each group has varied class activities/ participation and exercises assigned that really involve a lot of class participation and really helps everyone to have even a greater understanding of Intellectual Disability. The committee and training is a very good way of getting a lot of class participation.

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

Also evaluation of 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 will be discussed in upcoming trainings.

NURSING AND SUPPORTS

Chair: Rosemary Schaefer

The original request for better education in regards to Nutrition/Physical Health & Diabetes was completed and put in effect a few years ago. The nutrition/physical health portion has been located online so that staff can take it whenever their schedules allow. A variety of special diets have also been added online to help the programs understand their members' prescribed needs better. In addition, due to the complexity of the topic and new advances in the area of Diabetes/Insulin, the training was updated and extended to 8 hours.

Counseling for these various topics continues to be a one on one with the nurses so it's more person centered and geared towards how each of them may learn. In each of the meetings the nurses help them understand that each of them is not alone in their endeavor with better food choices and health goals/recommendations from their primary care physicians. The intervention/control system was also 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. This remains in effect. 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 .

POSITIVE BEHAVIOR SUPPORT

Chair: Tracy Honig

The committee has met all their original goals. A self-instruct on the most commonly seen behaviors and how to address them was . This manual was also reviewed and slightly edited in March 2016. One behaviorist is currently able to do the Positive Behavior Supports full training which is now taught monthly, and 1 additional behaviorist is continuing with the train the trainer process. The Positive Behavior Supports refresher courses are currently being offered twice a month, and we are working to train all CAU employees.

Two new trainings are being created by the committee: Overview of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) and a training marketed to local police departments. Once completed, the overview of ABA training will be conducted with employees that currently go out to do in-home supports.

THE RELATIONSHIPS AND SEXUALITY COMMITTEE

Chair: Aisha Arroyo

The Relationships & Sexuality Committee currently has 5 members which consist of 3 behaviorists, 1 QA staff, and 1 AED. The committee continues to train on the curriculum of Relationship & Sexuality roughly conducting two trainings per month. The committee continues to look into grants as well and an LGBTIQ support groups for members. The committee's current action items include updating the new policy and procedure regarding relationships and sexuality that the committee team has completed. We are also in the process of updating the training and citing all resources attached to our curriculum.

The committee has stocked up on supplies to demonstrate demos to all for self empowerment for female and male members. The next committee meeting will be held in May to review curriculum and pending policy. Representatives from the committee will be attending the "Finding Community! SAFELY Navigating and Affirming the Spectrum of Gender and Sexual Orientation Identities for People with ID/ DD on April 13, 2016 at the New Brunswick Law Center. In addition, poster Presentation proposals will be submitted to both the Center for Sex Education Annual Conference in December 2016 and to the AAIDD Annual Conference to be held in June 2016.

TECHNOLOGY SUPPORTS

Chair: William Busch

The AAIDD Technology Committee continues to research new adaptive devices and are currently looking into are clothing that monitors numerous biometrics, such as heart rate, blood pressure, also utilizing an iphone or ipad that monitors your health and automatically links the health monitoring directly to the Doctor. We continue researching "smart homes" that will provide additional monitoring while in the home. Ewelina and Billy presented on the successful CAU's Fit Bit Project at the ABCD conference on November 9th. The Fit Bit Project will begin again this spring as the technology committee seeks willing members to participate. Billy became RESNA Certified as an Assistive Technology Professional which will allow him to conduct evaluations for those seeking to obtain assistive technology to better improve their lives and become more independent in society. Gene has begun his track to become RESNA Certified. He participated in a webinar entitled Technology in Transition, he is scheduled to attend the following conferences; Tech Supports for Cognition and Learning (3-31-16 Dobbs Ferry NY), Assistive Technology & Mobile Devices as Support (4-8-16 Woodbridge NJ), Creating Possibilities: Inspiring Creative Minds (5-25-16 / 5-28-16 South Dakota) Promoting Access to Assistive Technology (7-10-16 / 7-14-16 Virginia) , Fundamentals Course in Assistive Technology (7-10-16 / 7-11-16 Virginia), Coleman Institute Technology Summit (October 2016 Colorado).

Additionally as requested the Committee has purchased AT for members to use at home and at work as well as attended Interdisciplinary meetings where AT is discussed.

YOUTH WITH DDD COMMITTEE

Chair: Rolando Zorrilla

The youth with DDD Committee collaborated with the New Jersey Alliance for Children, Youth, and Families in partnership with the Alliance for the Betterment of Citizens with Disabilities to present "Meeting the Needs of Youth with Different Abilities: Intellectual Disability Services in New Jersey." This symposium was held on March 1, 2016, at the Mercer County

(Continued from page 5)

Community College. Elizabeth Manley, Assistant Commissioner of the Children's system of care discussed the services available through the Department of Children and Families and coordination through Performcare.

The morning panel discussion focused on the meeting the needs of the youth with different abilities and different approaches taken by various providing agencies. The panel members were Sid Blanchard, President, NJAAIDD; Dr. Haque, Legacy Treatment Services; Diana Sims, Self Advocate from CAU; Lauren Troy, ABA Center of Excellence. After the panel discussion there were various breakout sessions that one can attend. One presentation focused on how to get connected to the community. Two workshops focused on discussing challenges and brainstormed on how to better meet the needs of the youth when barriers get in the way.

SOCIAL INTEGRATION

Chair: Maxine DaCosta

The Social Integration Committee continues to meet monthly and discuss new opportunities to build social capital and be more connected to their local community where they live, work, worship, shop, vote, entertain, etc.

Members of the committee attended and participated in the first 'Faith Into Action Reception' held on March 31, 2016, which was held at the Suburban Golf Club, Union, New Jersey. It was facilitated by the Union County Inter-faith Coordinating Council (UCICC). The faith-based organization welcomed over one hundred and seventy Union County citizens and CAU members to come meet and establish new religious relationships and find a place of worship. More than fifty members of the CAU family made a connection with a house of worship and is looking forward to furthering the relationship and or becoming a member of a congregation. The aim of UCICC is always to promote the building of bonds within the interfaith community by fostering the inclusion and welcoming of others regardless of faith, race or disability and to be proactive on social issues.

The committee's annual block party will be held on 9/03/16 in Roselle, New Jersey. The event has been a success for the past four years, where friends and neighbors of the Roselle community are able to socialize with each other and develop lasting friendships.

The committee also continues to plan for an Advocacy Day to be held in the Fall of 2016 at Peterstown Community Center in Elizabeth New Jersey. Additionally, the committee continues to look at events such as health fairs, block parties, summer music concerts and holiday festivities that allows for AAIDD members to meet people in the communities and form lasting social bonds. Our next committee meeting is scheduled for 04/27/16.

EMPLOYMENT AREA COMMITTEE

Chair: Fredia McKinney

The Employment Committee continues to work and make strides towards developing employment opportunities for our members. Over the past few months we have successfully placed 7 members in various part time jobs in the community. We are continuing to build positive rapport with the local DVRS offices in the hopes of expansion to other locations. We recently held a meeting with the local DVRS office on Friday 4/8/16 to discuss different ways to partner with DVRS and continue to expand to other local offices. The committee continues to attend various trainings throughout the state of New Jersey and webinar series that focuses on employment first. We attended the NJAPSE Conference on March 18, 2016. Several staff are also in the process of completing the Customized Employment Training Series through the Boggs Center to become certified Customized Employment Specialist. Committee member, Fredia McKinnie, currently sits on the Workforce Investment Board (WIB) Disabilities Committee and attends its meetings. Recently added to the committee are the Director of Employment, Onekia Grier and the Development Director, Carolee Marano. The 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 business to educate them on the services and supports that are available to their business for hiring persons with disabilities.

MYRTA ROSA RECEIVES THE JANE MILLER MEMORIAL LEADERSHIP AWARD



Myrta Rosa with Gary Rubin at the 11th Annual Spring Into Action Statewide Self-Advocacy Network Luncheon

MARCH 31
2016

FAITH INTO ACTION



NEW AMERICAN MOVEMENT FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AT ELIZABETH CITY HALL



The Meaning of Professional IN AN Era of Change



The AAIDD Annual Meeting is two full days of educational sessions, exhibits, poster presentations, and networking events. There are also optional half-day pre and post conference sessions. Our 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.

Please visit aaidd.org/home

Membership Types

Keeping Up With AAIDD



Like us on Facebook to connect with AAIDD and network with other disability professionals.



Twitter is a great way to stay connected to AAIDD. We regularly post information about upcoming events and publications in addition to keeping you updated on the latest in national disability news.



LinkedIn has the world's largest professional network on the Internet. Joining our group is a great way to connect with professionals in the field with whom you might not come in contact otherwise.



You will find a wide variety of videos on topics ranging from the justice system and intellectual disability to special education best practices to classification and intellectual disability.



Pinterest provides a space for users to organize and share images. We are continually building up our pinboards so you can share our images with others and spread the word about AAIDD news, events, and resources.

International Electronic

Annual dues \$60 (open to those residing outside the US or Canada only)

International Electronic members receive access to electronic versions of *AJIDD*, *IDD*, and *Inclusion*, access to members-only web forums, delivery of electronic newsletters, and entitled to member discounts for meeting registration, book store purchases, and job postings. Members in this category are not eligible to hold office or vote in AAIDD elections.

Basic

Annual dues \$85

Basic members receive access to electronic versions of *IDD* and *Inclusion*, access to members-only web forums, delivery of electronic newsletters, and are entitled to member discounts for meeting registration, book store purchases, and job postings. Members in this category are eligible to hold office and vote in AAIDD elections.

Classic

Annual dues \$135

Classic members receive access to electronic versions of *AJIDD*, *IDD* and *Inclusion*, access to members-only web forums, delivery of electronic newsletters, and are entitled to member discounts for meeting registration, book store purchases, and job postings. Members in this category are eligible to hold office and vote in AAIDD elections.

Standard

Annual dues \$185

Standard members receive delivery of hard copies of *AJIDD* and *IDD*, access to electronic versions of *AJIDD*, *IDD*, and *Inclusion*, access to members-only web forums, delivery of electronic newsletters, one complimentary item from the AAIDD catalog, and are entitled to member discounts for meeting registration, book store purchases, and job postings. Members in this category are eligible to hold office and vote in AAIDD elections.

Premium

Annual dues \$260

Premium members receive delivery of hard copies of *AJIDD* and *IDD*, access to electronic versions of *AJIDD*, *IDD*, and *Inclusion*, access to members-only web forums, delivery of electronic newsletters, two complimentary items from the AAIDD catalog, and are entitled to member discounts for meeting registration, book store purchases, and job postings. Members in this category are eligible to hold office and vote in AAIDD elections.

Corporate

Annual dues \$600

AAIDD offers a mechanism to enable organizations to bundle an unlimited number of their employee's individual membership fees to get discounts on those fees plus added perks for the organization. With *Corporate* membership, one Premium membership is provided to the CEO of the organization and a 20% discount on membership fees is applied (in all membership categories) for an unlimited number of employees. **In addition, Corporate members receive a free listing in the program, discounted exhibit booth fees, and 20% discount on registration fees for employees at AAIDD annual meetings.**



80 West Grand Street
Elizabeth, New Jersey
07202-1447

Return Service Requested

Phone: 908.354.3040
TTY/TTF: 908.354.4629
Fax: 908.354.2665

www.caunj.org

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT No. 225
Elizabeth, NJ



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

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