

# AAIDD REGION IX

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## Inclusive Communities: Pathways to Realizing the Vision

AAIDD Annual Conference • The Twin Cities, Minnesota • June 6-9, 2011

*June 6-9, 2011 in St. Paul, Minnesota*

*Conference location:*

*The Crowne Plaza Riverfront, St. Paul, Minnesota*

The AAIDD 135th Annual Meeting, *Inclusive Communities: Pathways to Realizing the Vision*, provided 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.

### Region IX AAIDD Meeting

The Region IX AAIDD will hold its next meeting at 2:00 PM on Thursday, October 20, 2011 at the office of Community Access Unlimited, Library, 80 West Grand Street, Elizabeth, NJ. Tel. (908) 354-3040; website [www.caunj.org](http://www.caunj.org).

The Agenda will include developing a training/workshop schedule for the new year. If you wish to join by conference call, please notify us 3 days prior to the meeting.

We look forward to seeing you there.

AAIDD NATIONAL CONFERENCE  
**SAVE THE DATE!**  
JUNE, 2012

### Mission Statement

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

### **AAIDD 135<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Minnesota**

#### ***“A Professional Perspective on Discussions of Inclusion”***

According to Shafik Asante, *inclusion means we are one even though we are not the same. Inclusive communities are open and accessible for all, where each member takes an active role and feels safe and empowered. Contributions are acknowledged and valued, and all people have equal rights.*

For Jessica Petrocco, Director of Residential Services and advisor of Helping Hands Self-Advocacy and Aisha Arroyo, Director of Residential Services at Community Access Unlimited, inclusion is at the cornerstone of their work as Direct Support Professionals. Their ultimate goal is to help our members be completely connected to the community and included in important decisions concerning their futures. The AAIDD 135<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Saint Paul, Minnesota proved to be very enriching to Jessica and Aisha, and gave them a better focus on ways to promote inclusion among people with disabilities. As advisor of Helping Hands, Jessica continues to find ways to help self-advocates increase their participation in community

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events to promote awareness of issues they are faced with on a daily basis. All she learned at the conference will help her continue to advance the work that Helping Hands does throughout the community, and give members of our residential programs more opportunity to connect with other people.

Dan Habib's film, Including Samuel, really opened Jessica and Aisha's eyes on inclusion in society for people with disabilities. The film portrays Habib and his family's journey toward awareness and the promotion of inclusion for their son Samuel who has a disability. He incorporates interviews into the film with some amazing self-advocate public speakers to capture his ideas about community inclusion. Jessica and Aisha think this would be a great film for all self-advocates to view because it will increase their awareness of inclusion within their own communities.

Rachel Simon, an award-winning author and nationally known public speaker also presented about one of her most recent books, The Story of Beautiful Girl, which features two young people with developmental disabilities who are locked away in an institution and have been forgotten about. Deeply in love, they escape and find refuge in a farmhouse of a retired schoolteacher and widow. The couple has a baby girl shortly after. However, when authorities catch up to them, the woman is forced back into the institution, which leaves their lives divided by seemingly insurmountable obstacles.

During Simon's presentation, she quoted her father on the topic of institutions, which really touched Aisha and Jessica's hearts. She said, "When you live in an institution, even when a family member comes to visit you – you know that in the bottom of your heart you are not loved. No child of mine will ever live in an institution". This has made Jessica and Aisha want to work even harder toward our goals of deinstitutionalization and community inclusion. No one should have to be separated from the ones they love.

During the closing Plenary Session, "Creating Inclusive Communities: Pathways to the Vision", Sharon Gomez, FAAIDD, AAIDD President-Elect reminded direct support professionals that their role needs to move from Skills Developer to Community Connector. Organizations need to engage in review of mission and values and recognize that they service a role in connecting people and their communities. People should have opportunities to earn a living, acquire benefits, advance their career, and plan for retirement. We must promote values of acceptance and hospitality for all people.

Jessica points out as she thinks back on what she learned that we need to start bringing the community to people with disabilities rather than trying to bring people with disabilities into the community if we want to truly foster inclusion. We need to become inclusion opportunity developers and spread awareness everywhere we go. Jessica plans to do just that in the work she does with Helping Hands.

Aisha has a similar perspective after attending this presentation and others at the conference. She feels that we have to continue to advocate for our members and promote inclusion everywhere we go. A quote by Margaret Meade, "never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world...indeed, it is the only thing that ever has", sticks out in Aisha's mind following the last presentation she attended. From this, Aisha can see our self-advocates continuing to pursue connections with the community and move up into positions that will promote even more awareness. There is still much work to be done, but with hard work and fostering continued support from the community around us, we can improve opportunity for inclusion every day.

Life is all about connections, and in order to enhance the lives of people with special needs, we need to work together to foster positive connections within our community. Our members and staff continue to do just that, and someday all the hard work will pay off with full community inclusion for all people.

**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION ON INTELLECTUAL AND  
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES  
Region IX**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**June 23, 2011**

1. **Attendance:** 8 members in good standing
2. **Election of officers for 2011/2012**  
Floor Nominations: Jennifer Wagner for Member-at-Large  
Count Ballots: Committee assigned and reported the following were elected (see attached) as certified by Chair: S. McDowell
3. **Financial Report:**
  - a) Region IX Donation of 2000 to National Conference
  - b) Treasury Reports: \$29,891
4. **Discussion of June 6-9, 2011 National Conference**
5. **Training Workshop Topics recommended were:**
  - SIS
  - Applied Behavioral Analysis
  - Employment
  - AAIDD Definition Manual
  - Develop a Committee for further recommendations
6. **Newsletter**
  - Call for Articles/Notes: Two were submitted
7. **Frequency of Meetings**
  - Twice per year
8. **Old Business**
9. **New Business**
  - Contact other states in Region to determine interest
10. **Announcements**
11. **Adjourn**

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### ***Alliance for Full Participation***

**November 17-19, 2011 (Washington, DC)**

Summit 2.0 Real Jobs--It's Everyone's Business is a highly interactive convening of the leaders of the intellectual and developmental disabilities community to address the challenges and barriers facing increasing integrated employment for people with IDD. The Summit will be held at the Gaylord National Harbor, just outside of Washington, DC.

<http://www.allianceforfullparticipation.org/summit-2011-b>

### ***AAIDD Cuba Delegation***

**October 16-21, 2011 (Havana and TBD)**

AAIDD has partnered with Professionals Abroad to offer an exciting opportunity for professionals in the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities to conduct professional research and exchange during a 5-day delegation to Havana, Cuba: October 16-21, 2011! For more details, and to reserve your space as part of this delegation, please visit

[www.professionalsabroad.org](http://www.professionalsabroad.org).

### ***Disability Policy Seminar***

**April 23-26, 2012 (Washington, DC)**

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

### ***AAIDD 136th Annual Meeting***

**June 18-21, 2012 (Charlotte, NC)**

[http://www.aaid.org/content\\_6546.cfm?navID=75](http://www.aaid.org/content_6546.cfm?navID=75)

### ***IASSID World Congress***

**July 9-14, 2012 (Halifax, Nova Scotia)**

The 2012 IASSID World Congress provides an opportunity to celebrate the strength and reach of our network and to share strategies in research, education, and services with one another. Join your colleagues in this conference and help shape the future for those with intellectual disabilities.

IASSID is partnering with [AAIDD](#), the oldest and largest interdisciplinary organization of professionals and citizens concerned about intellectual and developmental disabilities and [AUCD](#), a membership organization that supports and promotes a national network of university-based interdisciplinary programs. As well, the Congress will coincide with the State of the Science sessions held at the connecting Prince George hotel.

The conference provides a special opportunity to share your interests, talents, and perspectives with others in the field. The [Call for Proposals](#) is now posted, and we look forward to receiving your submissions and your subsequent participation in the conference.

<http://www.iassid.org/conference/index.php/HPC/2012IWC/index>

### ***AAIDD Brazil Delegation***

**October 20-28, 2012 (Sao Paulo & Rio de Janeiro)**

## **Benefits of Membership**

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.

### **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.

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### **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 Submits Amicus Curiae Briefs to The Supreme Court**

AAIDD has frequently played a key role in crucial court cases on issues such as: medical decisions affecting newborns; school exclusion; the ADA; the exclusionary zoning of group homes; and the rights of defendants charged in criminal cases.

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

#### **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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Say **"YES!"** to AAIDD. Join/Renew Today! [www.aidd.org](http://www.aidd.org)