

2007

ANNUAL REPORT

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES



REAL CAREERS



REAL LEARNING



REAL SUPPORTS



REAL INFLUENCE



REAL HOMES



VALUES

1. We value people with developmental disabilities with their own gifts and talents, and as independent contributors to a collaborative community.
2. We value available, accessible, flexible and responsive services, which enhance people's participation in the community.
3. We value a diverse Council with informed, motivated and active members who disseminate accurate information.
4. We value a knowledgeable, diverse and well-supported staff, which share open and honest communication with Council members.
5. We value educated and supported families who make significant contributions to caring for and assisting people with developmental disabilities in preparing for their futures.
6. We value public policy founded on sound research, accurate information and best practices in alignment with the principles of the Developmental Disabilities Act.
7. We value public advocacy that is founded on the development of relationships with stakeholders and the legislative community.
8. We value communities, which are designed to be inclusive, allowing for full participation by all people, physically, economically, organizationally and environmentally. We value communities that educate, respect, promote and protect the rights of people, thus offering a wealth of opportunities, and have the capacity to find solutions.

We see a state in which all persons are included in all facets of community life, have choices while exercising control over their lives and are encouraged to achieve their maximum potential.

VISION

The Governor's Council on

Developmental Disabilities for Georgia promotes activities and creates opportunities which enable people with developmental disabilities to exercise their right to live, learn, work and play in the place and manner of their choice.

STRATEGIC VISION

The mission of the Governor's Council on

Developmental Disabilities is "to collaborate with Georgia citizens, public and private advocacy organizations and policy-makers to positively influence public policies that enhance the quality of life for people with developmental disabilities and their families. GCDD provides collaboration through information and advocacy activities, program implementation and funding and public policy analysis and research.

MISSION

GCDD Begins Implementing Five-Year Plan

During Fiscal Year 2007, the members and staff of the Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities began implementing a new five-year plan which included several new programs, underwent a federal audit of the organization and began the process of becoming a more independent organization.

During the successful Disability Day at the Capitol, over 1,800 people joined on a "Beautiful Georgia Morning" to hear from former University of Georgia and Atlanta Falcon quarterback D.J. Shockley and various legislators. The crowd also heard from National Disability Institute Director Michael Morris, who spoke about the need for people with disabilities to join with others to make sure that people who live in poverty are able to access financial assets that will assist in breaking the poverty cycle. Taking the lead from this message, GCDD joined with Credit-Able (now known as the Center for Financial Independence and Innovation) to form the Asset Alliance of Georgia to address the barriers that currently inhibit Georgians with disabilities, their families and caregivers from accessing and maintaining financial assets.

Eight people were part of the inaugural class of the Organizing Institute, whose purpose is to spur "people who are affected by a situation to take action together." Organizing allows individuals to come together and win real improvement in people's lives, make people aware of their own power and alter the relations of power. By working with Project South, participants in the Organizing Institute learned the skills necessary to become community organizers and worked to empower others. As this project evolves, GCDD hopes that people with disabilities and their families will begin to see a change in the balance of power, resulting in improved lives for all people.

GCDD, together with the Georgia Advocacy Office, Institute on Human Development and Disability and the Marcus Institute were visited by the United States Administration on Developmental Disabilities (ADD); the federal agency which funds all or parts these agencies. The Monitoring Technical Assistance Review took place in July and each agency presented the programs they support and discussed challenges that they face. A team from across the United States that included staff from ADD, people with developmental disabilities, family members and directors of similar programs spent a week in Georgia. The outcome was that Georgia was recognized for its network collaboration and the excellence each agency provides to citizens with developmental disabilities in Georgia.

Finally, this has been a year of transition as GCDD emerges from being administratively attached to the Department of Human Resources. In the future, GCDD will receive limited support from DHR. This has meant internal changes as the staff assumed increased roles in contract development and oversight of projects.

This has been a year of reflection and a year to look ahead as we undertake new initiatives. While the organization is evolving, its members and staff are constantly learning and growing, and we continue to work toward a future that looks increasingly positive for GCDD and Georgia's citizens with developmental disabilities.



ERIC JACOBSON executive director



TOM SEEGMUELLER chairperson

GCDD Fights for Real Opportunities

The Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities has built its five-year plan around five main areas:

REAL CAREERS: Help people with developmental disabilities go to work by replicating best practices, building relationships with businesses and advancing policies and practices that value people with disabilities in the workforce.

REAL HOMES: Fight for resources to help Georgians with disabilities acquire accessible and affordable housing, especially those who live in institutions. Promote policies that recognize housing is linked to income.

REAL LEARNING: Improve access to effective transition planning for high school students; self-determination training; alternative diploma routes; professional collaboration; and positive parental support.

REAL INFLUENCE: Increase awareness of GCDD activities and promote initiatives supporting its goal and mission. Support coalitions and advocates in promoting public policies that allow integrated life in the community.

REAL SUPPORTS: Continue efforts to increase funding for quality, home and community-based services. Ensure families have support to keep their children home instead of going to institutions.





GCDD continually looks for projects and policies to support that will help it *improve the lives of people* with developmental disabilities in Georgia in these five areas, and in 2007 found a program that affects all five of these areas: *the Asset Alliance of Georgia*.

“This is THE project we’ve been searching for that ties all our ‘real’ areas together. People with disabilities predominantly live in a state of poverty. If we *address poverty from different points*, we can really increase opportunities for people with disabilities to be members of their communities,” GCDD Executive Director Eric Jacobson said.

Developed in conjunction with the National Disability Institute and Center for Financial Independence and Innovation (formerly Credit-Able), the Asset Alliance of Georgia has *three goals*:

- Develop an agenda focusing on three key public policy areas: income preservation, asset accumulation and financial education.
- Build the capacity of organizations that are currently helping low income workers advance their economic status to become more inclusive of individuals with disabilities.
- Provide continuing education for individuals with disabilities around issues related to savings and asset development, while educating financial institutions and Individual Development Account (IDA) providers about the most effective strategies to reach and serve people with disabilities.

“*There’s an incredible excitement and energy surrounding this project.* Bringing in new players and folks we haven’t worked with in the past is very exciting to us,” Jacobson said.

**“If we address poverty from different points,
we can really increase opportunities for
people with disabilities to be members of their communities.”**



LEGISLATIVE SUCCESSES

- 1,500 Mental Retardation Waiver Program slots funded
- Federal Money Follows the Person grant awarded to move 650 individuals with developmental disabilities into the community
- Medicaid Buy-In program passed to prevent the loss of health coverage upon employment
- House Bill 24 passed, which will give people greater control over their medical treatment

DISABILITY ADVOCATES FILL CAPITOL STREETS

More than 1,800 disability advocates swarmed the Georgia Capitol February 22, 2007 for the 9th annual Disability Day. Atlanta Falcons Quarterback D.J. Shockley told participants, "A lot can be done with good family support and through support of the Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities as it continues to *push for positive change* that allows people with disabilities to participate fully as contributing members of society."

Advocates asked legislators for employment opportunities and the ability to live where they choose.

During the event, Kate Gainer, GCDD's advocacy director, was named the Natalie Tumlin Self-Advocate of the Year.

People Who Made a Difference in 2007

LEGISLATIVE LEADERS OF THE YEAR: Sen. Renee Unterman (R-Loganville) supported funding for Unlock the Waiting List!

Rep. Tim Bearden (R-Carrollton) helped pass a bill to allow service animal trainers the same access to public spaces as people with disabilities to ensure animals are properly trained.

OUTSTANDING MEDIA PROFESSIONALISM: Alyssa Abkowitz, *Creative Loafing*, responsibly reported on the effect losing the Katie Beckett Waiver would have on families.

The *Waycross Journal Herald* covered GCDD's public briefing and participated in its media roundtable despite the fact a brush fire was raging at the same time.

Georgia Trend magazine included stories on grassroots disability advocacy and breaking down barriers people with disabilities face in the work place.

ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR: Paulette Acevedo engaged fellow GSU students to work on the Unlock the Waiting List! campaign with legislators at the Capitol.

CARL ANTHONY CUNNINGHAM AWARD: Bruce Lindemann, chair of the GCDD Finance Committee, helped people better understand GCDD's financial data; helped the staff develop financial policies; and, supported the staff and council during the recent audit.

Partners Club Helps Smooth Transition

Hall County Schools is helping high school students with and without disabilities connect with each other in its innovative Partners Clubs.

"The club *helps transition students* by decreasing their fear of friendship and increasing the network for a person with a disability," explained Hall County Program Coordinator Colleen Lambert.

"*Partners Club is about inclusion in school that carries over into the community,*" added Program Coordinator Cindy Saylor.

Alternative Media Offered to Students

Students with physical, sensory and learning print-related disabilities now have *access to alternative formats* through the Alternative Media Access Center (AMAC), an initiative of the University System of Georgia.

AMAC provides academic media in *multiple accessible formats* to meet the needs of students and facilitates the implementation of Universal Design for Learning.

Graduates of Georgia's three leading advocacy training programs: Partners in Policymaking, Georgia Voices That Count and the Organizing Institute, all supported by GCDD, are making positive changes across the state with the knowledge they've gained.

Training graduates have worked hard to ensure people with disabilities are more fully included in their communities through mentoring, sharing information, advocating for better transportation, organizing community involvement activities and much more.

Advocacy Training
PAYS OFF



Discovery Day Draws 100+

More than 100 business leaders and people with disabilities attended the *seventh annual* Making a Difference Discovery Day in September.

Participants learned how hiring people with disabilities through *Project Search* helped Emory Crawford Long Hospital improve its bottom line and discovered how they could *tap into this valuable workforce*.

GCDD is working to help expand Project Search beyond the metro Atlanta area and hopes to have similar programs in place beginning in 2008.

Georgia Receives Federal MFP Funding

Six hundred Georgians with developmental disabilities will now be able to leave institutions and move into the community of their choice. After extensive advocacy efforts by GCDD and the disability community, the state of Georgia applied for and *received federal "Money Follows the Person" grant funding* that allows Medicaid dollars to pay for services in the community, as well as *support for short-term expenses* as people transition between institutions and community settings.





DSP Training Key to Community Living

As Georgia begins to move people from institutions to the community, one of the biggest concerns is lack of support services, especially in rural areas. To help create a better, skilled workforce, GCDD supports a ***Direct Support Professional certification course*** that is offered across the state at the following schools: Central Georgia Tech (offers two classes), Griffin Tech, East Central Tech, Athens Tech, Lanier Tech and Savannah Tech. To date, 180 students have successfully completed the program.

Medicaid Buy-In Removes Work Barriers

Georgians with disabilities ***can now go to work*** without fear of losing their health coverage, thanks to the advocacy efforts of the disability community. ***Georgia created a Medicaid Buy-In program*** that will allow workers with disabilities to ***maintain their coverage*** by buying into the system, similar to regular health insurance.

Previously, employees with disabilities would lose Medicaid benefits if they made over a certain salary. Many private insurers will not cover some of the extraordinary medical needs of people with disabilities, so in the past, employees risked not receiving the support they needed to continue working and ***maintain their independence***.

More Children Leave Institutions

GCDD continues to be actively involved in ***helping children with disabilities move out of institutions*** and into real homes with real families through its work on the ***Children's Freedom Initiative***. GCDD advocates for funding for this project and ***serves on the Oversight Committee***. In addition, with its work with the Unlock the Waiting List! campaign, GCDD monitors where money to fund this initiative is coming from to ensure it isn't being taken from other programs that serve adults with disabilities.

Parents Help Others Navigate Services

Navigator teams of parents who have experience in accessing services for their children with disabilities are being put in place across the state to help other parents who may not know all the services available to their children.

Teams identify community resources, contribute information to the Parent to Parent Roadmap to Services database, reach out to families who are unserved, link families with formal and informal supports, make sure needs of families are known in the community, disseminate information on services and more.

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

GCDD PROJECTS

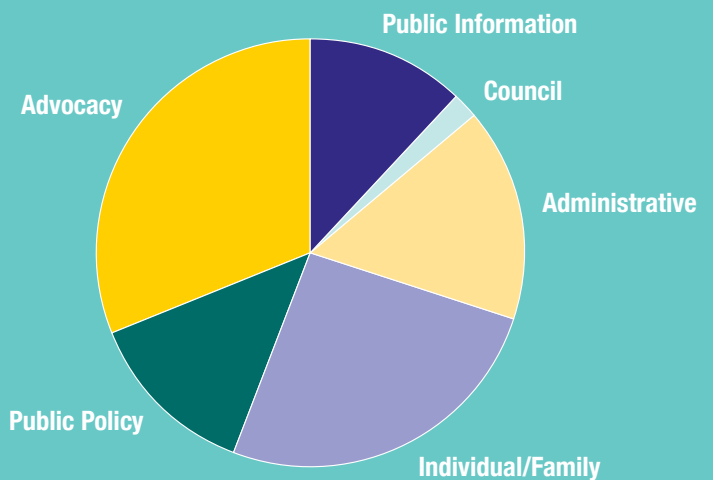
GCDD works with others to improve the quality of life for Georgians with disabilities. GCDD funded or supported the following projects last year, leveraging state, federal and local dollars.

- Partnership Funds
- Scholarships for Training Events
- Family Support:
 - Parent Leadership Coalition and Navigator Teams
 - Childcare Advisory Committee
 - Children's Freedom Initiative
- Making a Difference Magazine*
- Partners in Policymaking
- Workforce Development
- Director Support Alliance
- Early Childhood Systems Change Grant
- Self-Determination
- Unlock the Waiting Lists! Campaign
- Aging and Disability Coalition
- Individual and Family Technical Assistance and Outreach
- Georgia Voices that Count
- Innovative Proposals
- EasyLiving Home
- Housing Partner Coalition
- Transition Steering Committee
- Jobs for All: Customized Employment Grant from USDOL
- Making A Difference Discovery Day Tour
- Foster Care Taskforce
- Project Search
- State Interagency Coordinating Council for Babies Can't Wait
- Partnerships for Success

DD GRANT FY 2007 BUDGET - EXPENDITURES

PERIOD COVERED OCTOBER 1, 2006 - SEPTEMBER 30, 2007

EXPENDITURES	EXPENDED
ADMINISTRATION	
Council	\$ 74,654
Administrative	\$ 481,651
<u>Total Administration</u>	<u>\$ 556,305</u>
PRIORITY	
Individual/Family	\$ 432,447
Public Policy	\$ 429,749
Advocacy	\$ 829,251
Public Information	\$ 418,004
<u>Total Priority</u>	<u>\$ 2,109,451</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 2,665,756
TOTAL FUNDS BUDGET	\$ 2,665,756



BREAKDOWN OF BUDGET



2007 COUNCIL MEMBERS

STANDING, LEFT TO RIGHT:
 Bruce Lindeman, Dan Crimmins,
 Marlene Bryar, Tom Seegmueller,
 Tom Connelly, Jim Risher, Jill Alexander,
 Denny Spear, Carl Flair, Nick Harris,
 Madelaine Ponder, Scott Crain, Don Watt

SEATED, LEFT TO RIGHT:
 Kathleen Kinsella, Susan Sherman, Jaime
 Cahill, Riley Buckmaster, David Glass,
 Kim Chester, Zo Stoneman, Julie Lee

NOT PICTURED:
 Renee Feldman, Julia Bowen, Ruby
 Moore, Meg Nichols, Glen Friedman

Committee Assignments

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Bruce Lindemann, Chairperson
 Scott Crain
 Dan Crimmons
 Carl Flair
 Jim Risher

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Tameeka Hunter, Chairperson
 Renee Feldman
 Michelle Aulhouse
 Lenora Maynard
 Ruby Moore
 Steve Hall
 Denny Spear
 Bruce Lindemann
 Nick Harris
 Scott Crain
 David Glass

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Tom Seegmueller, Chairperson
 Denny Spear
 Bruce Lindemann
 Tameeka Hunter
 Julia Bowen
 Steve Hall
 Nick Harris

Real Area Committees

REAL CAREERS

Susan Sherman
 Lenora Maynard
 Tameeka Hunter

REAL HOMES

Don Watt
 Vallorie Butler
 Jim Risher

REAL LEARNING

Scott Crain
 Marlene Bryar
 Julie Lee

REAL INFLUENCE

Bruce Lindemann
 Michelle Aulhouse
 Meg Nichols
 Tom Seegmueller
 Tom Connelly

REAL SUPPORTS

Julia Bowen
 Lee Tian
 Denny Spears
 Brian Dowds
 Steve Hall
 Ruby Moore

**GOVERNOR'S
 COUNCIL ON
 DEVELOPMENTAL
 DISABILITIES**

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STANDING, LEFT TO RIGHT:

Dee Spearman, Dottie Adams, Eric Foss,
 Eric Jacobson, Lisa Montford, John Dallas

SEATED, LEFT TO RIGHT:

Valerie Meadows Suber, Pat Nobbie,
 Kate Gainer, Dreda Mackey, Kim Person

STAFF