

# Governor's Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities

## Mission and philosophy

The Governor's Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities seeks and advocates for activities which promote self sufficiency, community involvement and educational opportunities for people with disabilities, their families, and the Wyoming Community.

The council's purpose is to assure that individuals with developmental disabilities and their families participate in the design of and have access to needed community services, individualized supports and other forms of assistance that promote self-determination, independence, productivity, integration, and inclusion in all facets of community life, through culturally competent programs authorized under Public Law 106-402, known as the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights act of 2000.

The council accomplishes its mandates through several different avenues. Staff members carry out some activities while others are accomplished by partnering with other established agencies and organizations to address areas of mutual concern. Additionally, the council identifies gaps in service delivery and provides sub-grants to agencies and organizations to develop and implement projects that address innovative ways to fill the gaps.

## Results of outcomes

To facilitate young adults with developmental disabilities becoming more effective leaders in their communities, two sessions of the Youth Leadership Forum were held at Laramie County Community College. A total of 29 young adults ages 16 to 24 completed the forum.

To facilitate adult self-advocates, parents and family members to participate with local, state and national decision makers in policy development, the nationally recognized Partners in Policy Making program was initiated during this time period; 10 self-advocates, nine parents and one provider completed the course.

The council has continued to support the development of local People First chapters by providing board training and technical support. Additionally, the council assisted in organizing and supporting the annual People First conference. A total of 60 self-advocates participated.

In an effort to increase the knowledge base of case managers, self-advocates and family members, 27 people received training in wills and trusts, guardianship issues, housing discrimination and equal access to justice.

### **General information**

Brenda Oswald, executive director

### **Agency contact**

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### **Other locations**

None

### **Year established**

1976

### **Statutory references**

Executive Order 1987-13 Wyo. Stat. § 9-1-217 Wyo. Stat § 9-1-603(vii)

### **Organizational structure**

Attorney General's Office is designated state agency that "shall, on behalf of the State, provide support to the council."

### **Number of authorized personnel**

Four full-time, one contract

### **Clients served**

People with developmental disabilities, parents and families of people with developmental disabilities, and general public.

### **Budget information**

General fund	\$ 103,343
Federal	\$ 446,374
Other	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 549,717</b>

To enhance the opportunity for people with developmental disabilities to obtain employment consistent with their interests and abilities, eight people were placed in full time employment through the Access ABILITY project.

To increase awareness and understanding of disabilities, eight organizations received mini-grants to conduct disability awareness activities during the month of March. Additionally, a total of 102 business and community leaders in two communities participated in the Awareness to Action project funded by the council.

The council continues to co-sponsor and coordinate the annual MEGA Conference on disabilities. Approximately 350 people including professionals, providers, self-advocates and family members attended.

## Strategic plan changes

None

### Agency to Which your Group Reports

Department of Health and Human Services,  
Administration on Developmental Disabilities

### Number of members

23

### Meeting frequency

Quarterly

## Governor's Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities organization chart

