

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, and 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 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.

Major accomplishments and efficiencies

The nationally recognized Partners in Policymaking program completed its fourth year. It facilitates leadership training to adult self-advocates, parents and family members to participate with local, state and national decision makers in policy development. Eighteen parents and self-advocates completed the course.

The Council has continued to support the statewide development of more local People First chapters by providing Board training and technical support. Additionally, the Council assisted in organizing and supporting the annual People First conference in Laramie, Wyoming. A total of 80 self-advocates participated.

Through the Access 2 Ability project, which enhances the opportunity for young people with developmental disabilities to obtain employment consistent with their interest and abilities, sixteen young adults were placed in employment of their choice. To help make systems change in employment, 84 people with and without developmental disabilities were involved in National

General information

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Agency contact

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Year established

1976

Statutory references

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

Authorized Personnel

5 Full-time Staff

Organizational Structure

Attorney General's Office is the Designated State Agency that "shall, on behalf of the State, provide support to the Council."

Clients served

People with developmental disabilities, their families, and the general public are served.

Budget information

State funds	\$161,779
Federal funds	\$458,614
Total	\$620,393

Agency to which council reports

Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Developmental Disabilities

Number of members

23 (Appointed by the Governor)

Meeting Frequency

Quarterly

Mentor Day, where young adults with disabilities were paired with an employer Mentor in a career field of their choice to observe, learn and build a relationship with one another to possibly result in an employment opportunity.

To help meet some of the transportation needs in the rural parts of Wyoming, the Council supports a Transportation Voucher Program. It allows people who have disabilities and a barrier to transportation an opportunity to use Senior Center buses, neighbors, or friends to transport them for medical, social, recreational, or employment reasons by paying the driver with a voucher. Eighty-three people were served by the Voucher program last year.

The Council continues to co-sponsor and coordinate the annual MEGA Conference on disabilities. The event offers inspirational speakers who talk about best practices, current medical or legislative issues, and informs attendees about how to become more involved in systems change so they can improve the quality of life for people with developmental disabilities and their families. Approximately 400 people; professionals, providers, self-advocates and family members attended the three day conference in October.

To increase awareness and understanding of disabilities by decision makers, the Council's Advocacy Network sponsored Advocacy Day in January during the legislative session and invited members of the Advocacy Network and other Wyoming residents to learn about current legislative issues and meet with the legislators for lunch. Eighteen legislators were present and spoke to the 62 participants about current bills and took questions from the audience regarding the proposed bills. Attendees took a tour of the Capitol and watched the legislature in action.

The Council provided 46 scholarships to self-advocates and family members to attend trainings that support the Council's mission of educating people on individualized supports and other forms of assistance that promote self-determination, independence, productivity, and integration and inclusion in one's community.

To provide people with developmental disabilities, family members, service providers, case managers, and the general public with access to information about available services in their locality, the Councils supports Pathways Plus. It is an electronic service directory available on the internet and through a CD-ROM and is updated quarterly. It had 50,376 hits during this fiscal year.