

{this feeling is wonderful}



Oklahoma Developmental Disabilities Council
annual report
October 1, 2008, through September 30, 2009

{The mission of the Oklahoma Developmental Disabilities Council is to promote quality services and programs that enable persons with developmental disabilities to fully realize their maximum potential through increased independence and productivity, as well as through integration and inclusion in the community.}

To request this document in an alternate format, call (405) 521-4984 or toll-free (800) 836-4470. A copy is also available on the Internet at www.okddc.ok.gov.

the year in review

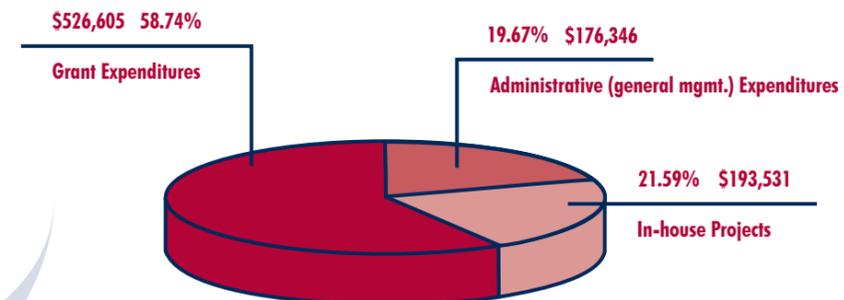
For the members and staff of the Oklahoma Developmental Disabilities Council, 2009 was a year of change and realization. In addition to welcoming seven new Council members and saying goodbye to several long-time members, the Council completed a staffing reorganization and hired two new staff.

In working with Oklahoma State University on a longitudinal study of Council project efficacy, we were able to document the extent to which Council funding has affected systemic change and long-term capacity-building.

Bolstered by this study, the Council funded new efforts to increase the use of person-centered planning tools, and support siblings of children and youth with developmental disabilities to become advocates. We continued our advocacy training work with Oklahoma Partners in Policymaking and Oklahoma Youth Leadership Forum, graduating from these programs dozens of future advocacy leaders. We have also completed planning processes for our online learning and resource directory, DIG – Disability Information Gateway. While implementation will take some time, we are very excited to move into the next phase of this exciting project!

Sadly, 2009 was also a time of serious reflection and planning as state revenues began to drop and the recession truly hit Oklahoma. The state's fiscal year began with budget cuts. By the end of 2009, the Legislature was asking for 10 percent budget cuts monthly. While economic stimulus funding made up for the shortfall in 2009, revenue shortfalls are predicted for the foreseeable future and the state's budget shortfalls are predicted to be among the worst in the nation.

In the coming year the Council and its staff will continue to spend our funding wisely. We'll tighten our belt when asked, but be assured that we will continue to build strong communities and supports for Oklahomans with developmental disabilities and their families.



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state services

Data from the Department of Human Services 2009 Annual Report and Web page shows the following.

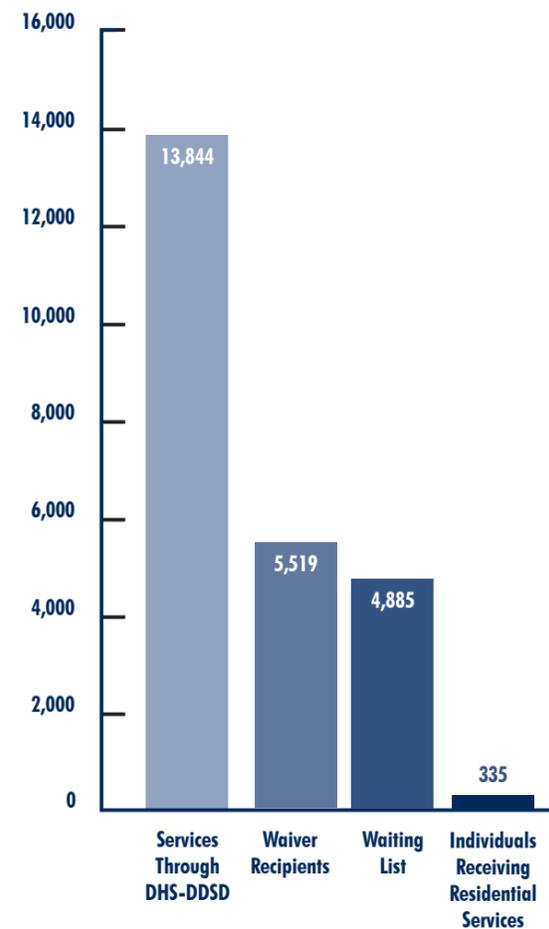
13,844 individuals with disabilities received various services and supports through the Department of Human Services-Developmental Disabilities Services Division.

DDSD serves an additional 5,519 individuals who are enrolled in one of three waivers and receiving services in community settings, while 335 individuals are receiving residential services.

DHS reports 60 percent of adults receiving services through DHS-DDSD were employed in competitive supported employment, the highest percentage in the nation.

While the number of requests for services continues to climb, many families receive the family subsidy or other supportive services to help them care for their family member.

Services Through DHS-DDSD	13,844
Companion Services	(204)
Daily Living Supports	(1,590)
Assisted Living, Child Welfare, Foster Care, Incarcerated, Independent Living, Mental Health Facility, Children/Youth Services	(83)
Group Homes	(878)
ICF/MR Placement	(894)
Nursing Facility Level of Care	(685)
Own Home/Residence	(724)
Parent Home	(6,586)
Relative Home	(368)
Specialized Foster Care	(223)
Not Specified by Type	(1,417)
Out of State	(192)
Waiver Recipients	5,519
Home and Community Based	(3,526)
In-Home Support, Children	(519)
In-Home Support, Adult	(1,474)
Waiting List	4,885
Individuals Receiving Residential Services	335
Northern Oklahoma Resource Center	(132)
Southern Oklahoma Resource Center	(149)
Greer Center, no longer a state facility	(54)



{i exceed expectations}



projects

Statewide Sibshop Initiative

The statewide Sibshop initiative is a partnership of the Council, the Oklahoma Family Network, the Oklahoma Family Leadership Council, the Center for Learning and Leadership and the Child Study Center of the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center.

Sibshops provide opportunities for brothers and sisters of children with special health and developmental needs to obtain peer support and education within a recreational context.

The statewide Sibshop initiative assists in establishing and supporting the concept in areas throughout Oklahoma.

Person Centered Planning

A collaborative partnership between the Council and the Center for Learning and Leadership develops, coordinates and supports a statewide Learning Community of professionals, parents and self-advocates promoting person-centered thinking and planning processes.

Based on the work of Michael Smull, Mary Lou Bourne and Helen Sanderson, the members of the Learning Community train parents, self-advocates and professionals on person-centered thinking and person-centered planning processes to assure that no matter an individual's or family's situation, they understand the philosophy of self-determination and person-centeredness.

Oklahoma Court Appointed Advocates for Vulnerable Adults

Oklahoma is blazing a new trail in providing needed assistance for vulnerable adults who become involved in the state's judicial system. Through the Oklahoma Court Appointed Advocates for Vulnerable Adults program, a pool of well-trained volunteers assist state judges by serving as guardians ad-litem representing vulnerable adults.

OCAAVA provides volunteer advocates with more than 50 hours of core training in such areas as court system operations, end-of-life issues, and rights of persons at risk of court interventions or guardianship orders due to medical, mental or developmental disabilities.

Transition Success

Transition Success is a self-directed assessment, awareness and self-determination curriculum known as Me! The program is designed to assist high school students prepare for success in their adult life. Each student completing the program will have an individualized transition manual to help them attain educational and/or employment success.

OSU Longitudinal Study

The Council began funding model demonstration projects more than 30 years ago. Oklahoma State University is conducting an in-depth case study of a select group of former Council-funded projects, as a follow-up to a full longitudinal study of all previously funded Council projects.

This targeted secondary evaluation seeks to gain a data-rich understanding of the impact Council funding has had on the quality of life for beneficiaries served by these funded projects.

MSW Stipend Program

The Council provides \$2500 stipends to Masters of Social Work candidates who elect to take their practicum experience with a state agency or non-profit organization serving persons with developmental disabilities. This program has been well-received by both the recipients and the agencies and organizations that host the practica. The recent longitudinal study of Council-funded projects provided a more rigorous study of the outcomes of these stipends.

Results showed Masters of Social Work stipend recipients increased their knowledge of services and supports available for persons with disabilities, and increased their general understanding of the issues and concerns faced by Oklahomans with developmental disabilities. Additionally, we were able to determine several changes in these agencies' policies and procedures as a result of the practica experiences.

Adopt-A-Stop

Through a contract with the University of Oklahoma, the Council is working to design and promote the placement of fully accessible bus stops in areas of Oklahoma with transit services. As part of the project, the OU School of Architecture is creating a portfolio of accessible designs. It is hoped local businesses and municipalities will adopt these designs in their planning efforts.

Dreamnight at the OKC Zoo

Dreamnight is an event held each year on the first Friday evening in June. The Oklahoma City Zoo and Botanical Gardens is the only Oklahoma zoo participating in the event.

The Oklahoma Developmental Disabilities Council continues to offer its assistance for this event. In addition to providing access to families of children with disabilities, the Council funded disability awareness training for zoo employees that is now part of new employee orientation.

Additionally, the zoo wrote and published a Dreamnight at the Zoo manual, working with zoos from across the country to compile important information. This has been disseminated to all Councils on Developmental Disabilities and has been presented at national conferences of zoo professionals.

Direct Support Professionals

The Direct Support Professionals project is designed to enhance the quality and stability of the work force serving individuals with developmental disabilities and to create meaningful career paths that lead to best practices in the field.

It supports these goals through development of college coursework aligned with nationally recognized standards of competence and professional affiliation for individuals and groups. Additional levels of certification are projected to build a foundation for career advancement.

OSU Sensory Garden

The garden allows persons with all types of disabilities the opportunity to experience nature. The garden is designed with raised planting beds and includes plant material to stimulate the five senses: smell, touch, taste, sight and sound.

Gardening tips and suggestions for people with disabilities will be available to those interested in planning their own home gardens. A covered pavilion will serve not only as an outside classroom but as a place of rest and contemplation while enjoying Oklahoma State University Horticulture Gardens.





{i experience life}

in-house programs

Information and Assistance

The Council offers information and assistance to those requesting this service either online, by phone or by walk-in to the Council offices.

During the past year Council staff handled 750 requests for information. These requests translated into 930 referrals to appropriate services or providers.

Justin A. McCurry Library and Resource Center

The Justin A. McCurry Library and Resource Center continued to expand during 2009 to include new books and resource materials to better help the community learn and develop. There are currently more than 2500 titles available covering such topics as grant writing, non-profit development and management, and special education issues. In addition, information is available on a variety of specific disabilities.

Consumer Involvement Fund

The Oklahoma Developmental Disabilities Council annually sets aside funds in the Consumer Involvement Fund to assist self-advocates, family members and professionals in the field of developmental disabilities to participate in conferences and short-term educational programs. The Council provides this support as a method of building community capacity in Oklahoma.

"With the assistance of the Council, we are in a better place as parents and I am an advocate to other parents who have children with disabilities."

"What a great opportunity! Without this fund I would not have been able to attend this conference."

Disabilities Information Gateway

DIG (Disabilities Information Gateway) is the forthcoming interactive Oklahoma information and learning Web portal for people with disabilities, their families and caregivers.

The site will include video and written explanations of programs, terms and service concepts, such as guardianship, positive behavioral intervention supports and emergency preparedness for people with disabilities, as well as links for further investigation on these topics and many more.

Youth Leadership Forum

The Oklahoma Youth Leadership Forum completed its sixth session during the summer of 2009. The YLF provides leadership training for high school students with disabilities. Delegates from across Oklahoma are selected and come together for the week-long event on a college campus.

Delegates have the opportunity to meet and work with well-known national and state speakers, and Oklahoma legislators. During the week they explore career options, create individual leadership plans and identify the resources necessary to achieve their plans. Social and recreational activities are included, teaching the delegates the importance of a well rounded life.

What our Graduates Say

"YLF gave me my voice." Graduate, class of 2008

"There's nothing like knowing I can make someone's life better." Graduate, class of 2009

"Being chosen for the forum is one of the biggest successes in my life. I learned that no one can be judged by the way he or she looks." Graduate, class of 2009

Partners in Policymaking

Partners in Policymaking is designed for adults with disabilities, parents of children with disabilities and other advocates. This year, 18 individuals were provided comprehensive training in self-determination, advocacy, systems change, community living, supported employment, inclusive education and the legislative process.

Partners in Policymaking events this year included Legislative Day at the Capitol; those in attendance included several legislators as well as the Lieutenant Governor.

collaboration and conference support

State Conference on Aging

The Council provided financial and staff support to the 2009 State Conference on Aging, the largest statewide event targeting older Oklahomans. As the population ages, more individuals with developmental disabilities will need to access not only the DD network, but the aging network as well. The Department of Human Services' Aging Services Division has been proactive by including conference tracks containing information and resources of interest to these individuals and their family members, as well as to professionals in the field of aging services.

Oklahoma People First

The Council provided financial support for the annual Oklahoma People First Conference held in September 2009. As a result of the conference, Oklahoma People First is pursuing organizational change to further strengthen the self-advocacy movement in Oklahoma.

2009 Governor's Conference on Developmental Disabilities

The Oklahoma Developmental Disabilities Council is the primary financial sponsor of the annual Governor's Conference on Developmental Disabilities. This conference is one of the largest and longest running educational conferences in the nation focused on issues surrounding advocacy, care and best practices in the field of developmental disabilities. In its 23rd year, the 2009 conference attracted more than 700 attendees from across the state of Oklahoma and featured more than 40 different general workshop sessions.

Keynote speakers included nationally renowned advocates Derek Dufresne and Mark Nasjleti, presenting on the subjects of self-direction and self-advocacy. Participants were encouraged to understand the true meaning of self-direction and self-advocacy while assuring the health, safety and community inclusion of people with developmental disabilities. Workshop sessions covered a wide range of topics and featured local experts in the field.

Part of the Council's sponsorship of the conference includes registration scholarships for persons with disabilities who would not otherwise be able to attend. Stipends are also made available to parents and family members of persons with disabilities to encourage their participation. Attendees of the conference include self-advocates, family members, state developmental disabilities professionals, community providers, health and allied health professionals, child care providers and educators.

Joining Forces

The Family-Professional Partnerships Conference is held to provide leadership skills and opportunities to promote family-professional partnerships throughout Oklahoma.

Council support in the planning of this conference allowed more than 100 family members, professionals, paraprofessionals, students, legislators and self-advocates to come together and share new ideas. The overarching goal of the conference was to increase family-professional partnerships; increase family participation in the development, implementation and evaluation of programs; increase leadership and partnership skills of families; and identify opportunities for family leadership.

GrandFamilies Conference 2009

Oklahoma consistently ranks near the top nationally in the number of grandparents and other family members raising grandchildren, or the children of other family members. Among that population, it is estimated that 31 percent of these children have a disability.

For several years, the Oklahoma Developmental Disabilities Council has assisted with sponsorship of the GrandFamilies Conference. This conference provides valuable information and resources to assist these families in accessing services, supports and information necessary to care for these children.

Autism Symposium

The annual Autism Symposium offers a unique opportunity for children with autism, as well as their families, teachers and service providers, to come together and learn in a week-long summer session.

Parents, teachers and service providers (such as allied health professionals) come together to work as partners while being provided an educational foundation in autism spectrum disorders, allowing everyone to start on the same page. Families are teamed with providers to share information about their children, while teachers are given the opportunity to practice interviewing families, using different tools to collect information.

Throughout the week, the siblings of the children with ASD participate in a program specially designed to support siblings of children with disabilities and encourage their advocacy.

{ i have a mission }



community connections

During the last fiscal year, the Oklahoma Developmental Disabilities Council has worked closely with many state organizations providing services and supports to individuals and families of people with disabilities. These connections and partnership assets help in the implementation of the Council's State Plan.

Oklahoma Areawide Services Information System

OASIS is a statewide information, referral and assistance program for Oklahomans with disabilities and special health care needs. Anyone needing help can call the toll-free number at 800-426-2747 for assistance. OASIS also provides educational opportunities for families at regional conferences throughout the year and also houses the Respite Voucher program.

Oklahoma Family Network

The Oklahoma Family Network is a statewide non-profit mentorship and resource referral network. OFN works to empower families who are raising children with special health care needs or disability and promotes leadership development and partnerships among OFN families and the professionals who serve them.

Oklahoma Transition Council

The Oklahoma Transition Council consists of representatives from several state agencies, institutions of higher education, parents, teachers, district special education directors and transition coordinators, and staff from career and technology centers. This council meets regularly to design relevant, appropriate and meaningful professional development for personnel charged with the responsibility of assisting students with disabilities in meeting postsecondary goals.

Family Perspectives Committee

The Family Perspectives Committee, a sub-committee the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth, is

comprised of family members of diverse interests and backgrounds. Their common purpose is to improve the lives of children and youth with disabilities throughout their lifespan.

The members of the Family Perspectives Committee have ongoing and far-reaching contact with many organizations and groups statewide. This facilitates a statewide informational network that provides families (and professionals) with a voice on systemic issues affecting children and youth with disabilities in Oklahoma.

Oklahoma Autism Network

The Oklahoma Autism Network provides training for professionals and caregivers, technical assistance, information about resources, and additional supports specific to autism. OAN is part of the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center and is funded by the Oklahoma Department of Human Services' Developmental Disabilities Services Division and the Oklahoma State Department of Education, Special Education Services.

United We Ride

The Oklahoma United We Ride Council assists human services providers and agencies in their work with stakeholders as well as public and private transit organizations to simplify access, reduce duplication of federal rules and regulations, and increase cost efficiencies. Use of existing resources at the community and state level improves transportation service options for persons who are low-income, aging and have disabilities.

Aging and Disabilities Resource Center

The Department of Human Services' Aging Services Division was awarded a grant from the Administration on Aging to establish an Aging and Disabilities Resource Center. The Oklahoma ADRC will enable older adults, persons with disabilities, family members, caregivers and professionals to receive comprehensive information and assistance in gaining the necessary long-term care supports and services to improve self-sufficiency and quality of life regardless of income.

The Oklahoma Developmental Disabilities Council holds a seat on the ADRC Transition Board and is pleased to represent people with disabilities in the creation of this exciting new endeavor.

Children's Oral Health Coalition

The mission of the Children's Oral Health Coalition is to increase availability and quality of dental care and health for all children with and without a disability in Oklahoma.

COHC serves as an interagency, interdisciplinary group consisting of family members, providers, state agency policy makers and other stakeholders to develop strategies addressing the shortfall of dental services for children and youth, and to engage in the promotion of and implementation of these strategies to improve oral health outcomes.

In 2009, the Council funded production of the "Oral Health Care for Children with Special Health Care Needs." The guide was created and disseminated to family members, caregivers and dental providers across the state. The guide is also available on the Web site of our partnering agency, the Oklahoma Association of Community Action Agencies.

Department of Health Emergency Preparedness

As a result of the collaboration between the Council and the Oklahoma State Department of Health, their Pandemic and Emergency Preparedness initiatives have adopted People First language in their literature and presentations. OSDH is also diligently working to bring persons with disabilities, emergency management planning teams and shelter operators together in order to be better prepared in the event of an emergency.



Membership

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Chair

Janet Borden, *Broken Arrow*
Vice-Chair

Michelle Butts, *Oklahoma City*
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Brett Cunningham, *Edmond*
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Trevin Lawson, *Goodwell*
Mark McCarver, *Tulsa*
Donny McColloch, *Duncan*
Catherine Patron, *Clinton*
Brandi Reynolds, *Edmond*
Chuck Roberts, *Norman*
Terry Trego, *Woodward*
Sylvia Watson-Baker, *Idabel*
Janice Williams, *Mustang*

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Designee: **Teresa Ryan**

Jane Garner, *Department of Human Services,*
Aging Services Division

Teri Egner, *Department of Rehabilitation Services*

Misty Kimbrough, *Oklahoma State Department*
of Education
Designee: **Tina Spence**

James Nicholson, *Department of Human Services,*
Developmental Disabilities Services Division
Designee: **Sheree Powell**

Quinton Underwood, *Oklahoma Disability Law Center*
Designee: **Mike Sykes**

Valerie Williams, *Center for Learning and Leadership*
Designee: **Vyonda Martin**

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{i am one of many champions}

OKLAHOMA DEVELOPMENTAL



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