

Message from the Director and Chairperson

Greetings!

As we emerge from a year of isolation, 2020 quickly forced the world to rethink nearly everything and find new ways to live, produce, cope, and even thrive. The Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities (ICDD) was no different. Staff and project partners alike shifted to work from home and virtual meetings.

The newness was hard yet in time we adapted. People with developmental disabilities sometimes struggled to understand new restrictions. Yet it was eye opening to see how well many learned to use technology to entertain, learn, and connect. ICDD projects reached far more people through virtual meetings and forged new alliances and relationships across Illinois that meeting in person would never have fostered.

ICDD partnered with The Arc of Illinois to offer funds to entities statewide to address the social isolation of people with developmental disabilities with applications reviewed and funding going out by June 2020.

Here are 2020 highlights from ICDD as we stayed connected yet still resolved to work on issues together from a 6 foot or more distance!

Kim Mercer-Schleider

ICDD Director

William Bogdan

ICDD Council Chairman

Chicago Office

100 W. Randolph St., Suite 10-600
Chicago IL 60601
Voice: 312-814-7141

Springfield Office

830 S. Spring St.
Springfield IL 62704
Voice: 217-782-9696

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SOCIALLY DISTANT YET CONNECTED AND RESOLVED

ILLINOIS COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES | 2020 ANNUAL REPORT



ICDD's MISSION

We help lead change in Illinois so all people with developmental disabilities (DD) exercise their right to equal opportunity and freedom.

VALUE PEOPLE | INVEST IN SUCCESS

A Sampling of ICDD's Impact in 2020

ICDD invested \$418,230 with the Arc of Illinois to fund projects to: 1) respond to emerging needs, 2) reduce anxiety and isolation, 3) build and maintain community capacity to support people with DD during the COVID 19 pandemic, and 4) inform efforts for future disaster preparedness.

- 51 projects across Illinois awarded up to \$10,000 each
- 2,935 individuals with DD and 1,516 families benefitted
- 14 projects provided activity supplies
- 8 projects engaged people with DD in virtual programming
- 25 projects purchased technology for individuals

Lessons Learned

Projects told us that if they needed to do this again, they would provide the same materials or activities but would want to expand the supports they provided. Technology is here to stay!

Projects providing activity kits saw smiles and a minimum of behavior problems. Bethesda Lutheran Communities saw anxiety decreased through increased participation in virtual and in-house activities.

Virtual programming projects found participants learned to interact through Zoom and these models are expected to continue past the pandemic. Helping Hand noted an unanticipated accomplishment of increased engagement of parents in their child's therapy. Master Mix Academy found social interaction and music decreased anxiety as participants joined in creating music together. Blue Tower Solutions found an enthusiastic audience for WOW! meetings as individuals shared socially, learned together, and had fun.

Technology projects proved that tech is not just a "nice to have" item but a vital tool useful in the daily lives of individuals. The need for training of individuals, families, and staff to get up and running was obvious, but once connected, they engaged virtually more than ever thought. The ability to connect was addressed through data plans in many rural areas. Ada S. McKinley saw the alleviation of anxiety when individuals were able to see family members virtually. Tech made daily schedules more exciting and new doors were opened as individuals surfed the internet and explored interests and new hobbies. John Wood Community College began a device loan program for its students with developmental disabilities. The University of Illinois Early Intervention Clearinghouse established a tech loan program for families to engage in Early Intervention telehealth services for their young child. The high demand and quick success led to other funding adding to the available loaner tech pool.



PEOPLE TRAINED

- Early learning staff trained in behavior techniques = **599**
- Medical students trained to provide healthcare to people w/DD = **398 at 6** Illinois universities
- Self-Advocates trained by the IL Self Advocacy Alliance = **301** individuals from **36** member groups
- Council staff represented people with DD on committees and workgroups = **10**
- 4 Southern Illinois transition projects brought best practice educational support to **105** students
- People educated on financial wellness = **385**
- Partners in Policymaking graduates in the first ever virtual class = **20**
- Teacher training faculty from programs across Illinois learned to apply Early Childhood Competency resources to their curricula = **24**



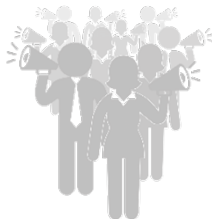
EMPLOYMENT IMPACT

- The Divisions of Developmental Disabilities and Rehabilitation Services have an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) to seamlessly support people in employment. ICDD assisted with the development of the IGA
- Envision Unlimited, an IL employment provider, permanently ended its sheltered employment and assisted **36** individuals in obtaining competitive employment as a result of funding provided by ICDD



INCREASED ADVOCACY

- Individuals and family members who participated in activities offered by ICDD to more effectively advocate for themselves and others = **4,993**
- Participants who reported increasing their advocacy = **44%**
- Participants who were better able to say what they want and is important to them = **74%**



SYSTEMS CHANGE

- Policies, procedures, laws or regulations impacted by ICDD work = **26**
- Promising or best practices in place through ICDD work = **469**
- People trained (not individuals or family) = **3,000**



The Council

Bill Bogdan, Diana Braun, Stephanie Brown, Adam Cooper, Ana Cruz, JJ Hanley, Abbey Heins, Nathan Joerndt, Jose Ovalle, Teresa Parks, Zoubida Pasha, John Porter, Barb Pritchard, Carole Rosen, Vincent Smith, Jeff Stauter, Julie Stover, Tavarus Wesley

State Agency Representatives:

- Equip for Equality
- Department of Disability and Human Development, University of Illinois at Chicago
- Department on Aging
- Department of Children and Family Services
- Department of Healthcare and Family Services
- Department of Human Services – Community Health and Prevention
- Department of Human Services – Division of Developmental Disabilities
- Department of Human Services – Division of Rehabilitation Services
- Illinois State Board of Education
- Governor's Office of Management and Budget

Council Staff:

- ✓ Kim Mercer-Schleider
- ✓ Janinna Hendricks
- ✓ Mariel Hamer-Sinclair
- ✓ Margie Harkness
- ✓ Dennis Deany
- ✓ Theresa Casson
- ✓ Marcia Reavis

Annual Report Expenditures

The Council's Financial Breakdown

FFY 2020	
Goal 1: Individual & Family Advocacy	
Objectives:	
- State Self-Advocacy Agency	\$1,556,902.65
- Increased Knowledge & Self Advocacy	
- Access to Information	
- Personalized Support Systems in SO IL	
Goal 2: Systems Change	
Objectives:	
- State Systems	\$1,116,449.53
- Community Resources	
- Identified Issues	
- DD Network Collaboration	
Administrative:	\$565,839.18
Grand total:	\$3,239,191.36