



ReachOut e-Diversity News

An Electronic Publication of the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council

It is the policy of the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council to use person-first language in items written by staff. Items reprinted or quoted exactly as they originally appear may not reflect this policy.

February 2007 Edition
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Reach Out
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Carolyn S. Knight
Immediate Past Chair

WELCOME

I want to welcome all readers – the constituents of the Ohio DD Council, their families, friends and advocates, as well as readers from the many state and national, public and private agencies and organizations that touch the lives of Ohioans with developmental disabilities – to this first issue of the DD Council’s electronic newsletter, e-Diversity. We welcome your readership, but also invite your participation in the form of your own interviews, articles, suggestions of topics for future issues, your comments, and your insights. [Read more >](#)

OUTREACH

The Importance of Outreach



There are several reasons to reach out to unserved and underserved populations. Dave Zwyer outlines them for you.

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NAVIGATING THE SYSTEM

Navigating County Boards



The rules and regulations that govern each of the 88 County Boards of Mental Retardation and/or Developmental Disabilities in Ohio mandate that each Board of MRDD provides the same services to individuals. Learn how to move through the system beginning with intake...

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DIVERSITY

Cultural Competence: Ensuring Appropriate Service for All



Charleta Tavares shares MACC, a statewide resource for cultural competence standards and training.

[Read more](#)



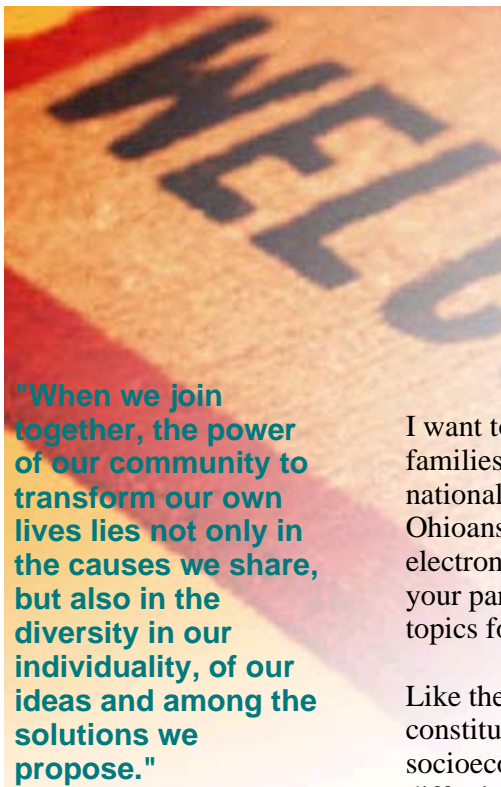


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WELCOME TO READERS

*From the Immediate Past Chair of the DD Council's Outreach Subcommittee
Carolyn S. Knight*

"When we join together, the power of our community to transform our own lives lies not only in the causes we share, but also in the diversity in our individuality, of our ideas and among the solutions we propose."

Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council Outreach Sub-Committee

Carolyn Knight
Immediate Past Chairperson

David Zwyer
Executive Director
Ohio DD Council

Ken Latham
Primary
Outreach Staff Member

Fatica Ayers
Outreach Staff Member

- Michael Schroeder Member
- Mary Butler Member
- Cynthia Walker Member
- Denise Kissel Member
- Carol Shkolnik Member

I want to welcome all readers – the constituents of the Ohio DD Council, their families, friends and advocates, as well as readers from the many state and national, public and private agencies and organizations that touch the lives of Ohioans with developmental disabilities – to this first issue of the DD Council’s electronic newsletter, e-Diversity. We welcome your readership, but also invite your participation in the form of your own interviews, articles, suggestions of topics for future issues, your comments, and your insights.

Like the very meaning of “diverse,” e-Diversity readers and the DD Council’s constituents are “many and different.” We differ in race, religious creed, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, ethnic and national origins, and we differ in our abilities, interests, talents and concerns. When we join together, the power of our community to transform our own lives lies not only in the causes we share, but also in the diversity in our individuality, of our ideas and among the solutions we propose.

In 2002 the DD Council designated one of its staff members to focus and enhance the DD Council’s efforts to reach out to unserved and underserved populations. The DD Council’s Outreach Subcommittee was formed by DD Council members who recognized that many people with disabilities in Ohio are in (at least) double jeopardy because of their disability and their ethnic and minority cultures. The task of the Outreach Subcommittee continues to be the development of a sense of shared responsibility among stakeholders and, through cooperation, collaboration and forums like e Diversity, to sow and harvest specific commitments for outreach initiatives.

The founding members of the DD Council Outreach Subcommittee remain committed to guiding the DD Council and the State of Ohio to full inclusion and cultural competence in the service of all people with developmental disabilities, their families, friends and advocates. We are excited by the opportunities that e-Diversity will present to better know, to fully serve, and to zealously advocate the causes we share.

We look forward to hearing from you.



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SAVE THE DATE



April 3 & 4, 2007
Multiple Perspectives on Access, Inclusion and Disability

Host: The Ohio State University's ADA Coordinator's Office
<http://ada.osu.edu/conferences/2007/program.htm>

May 2 & 3, 2007
A Quality Future for People with Disabilities: Engaged in Adult Life

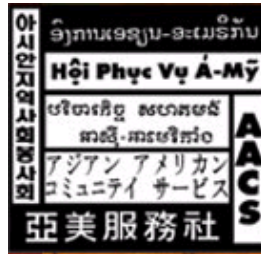
9th Biennial Topical Conference 2007 Statewide Career, Vocational, Transitional and Employment Conference

Call: Tina Bastock, Kent State University, 330-672-0726

May 18 & 19, 2007
Postsecondary Education: Opening Doors to Students with Intellectual Disabilities

Host: Ohio Downs Syndrome Advocacy

Grant Highlight



Applicant:	Asian American Community Services
Program/Project Title:	Asian American Developmental Disability Awareness (AADDA)
Location:	Columbus, Ohio
Contact Person:	Valerie Huang
Amount of Grant:	\$12,500
E-mail:	vhuang@aacsohio.org

According to the *U.S. Census 2000*, the Asian population in *Franklin County, Ohio* has *doubled* from 1990 to 2000, and is now comprised of more than 32,784 Asians. As this population continues to grow and become more diverse, social and health service providers are often *unprepared to serve Asian and Pacific Islander American (APIA)* clients who are comprised of *49 different ethnic groups*, collectively speaking over *100 languages and dialects*.

Because of a lack of culturally and linguistically appropriate services, Asians are unserved in the health care and social service system, and often do not receive appropriate prevention education or health care services. There is also a dearth of research concerning Asian Americans, specifically in the area of developmental disabilities. One of the few studies conducted concerning Asian Americans and developmental disabilities found that Asian parents and children with developmental disabilities are less assertive than non-Asian American parents, and have fewer self advocacy skills. Therefore, their children who are developmentally disabled do not receive the same level of support services as children of non-Asian parents (Asian Community Mental Health Services, 2005).

Asian American Community Services will collaborate with DD Council and Franklin County Board of MRDD to develop and facilitate in service training for AACSOHIO staff, interpreters, community liaisons in order to be knowledgeable about Ohio DD Council advocacy issues, and Franklin County Board of MRDD services.





OUTREACH IMPACT



The Importance of Outreach

Dave Zwyer, Executive Director
Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council

My experience in working with people with disabilities in the field of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities over a period of nearly 30 years has convinced me that **there are several reasons to reach out to unserved and underserved populations**, including:

- Such Outreach is expected of programs designed to serve people with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities in federal law, specifically the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000, Public Law 106-402 that became effective on October 30, 2000.
- Outreach is important for reasons of equity. Despite our best efforts up to now, certain populations are either unaware of services available to them, or they fall through the cracks of the service delivery system. It is simply not fair for some people to have all the services they need – and sometimes more – and others to have nothing. Even worse, it is not fair when some people are treated as if they do not deserve those services.
- Unless we reach out to unserved and underserved populations in an affirmative way (i.e., saying your door is open to everyone is not enough), their numbers will increase, as will the gravity of their situation. Whether we are talking about early intervention or early treatment of a medical or behavioral condition, the axiom of “Pay me now, or pay me later” has real applicability when we are talking about people with disabilities.
- When we reach out to populations who are unserved or underserved, we often find that there are barriers – some of which may be cultural and some of which have other roots – that can be easily overcome. But if we never reach out, we will never find out how easy it is to address the needs of another segment of our population. That is what the DD Act referred to above is all about – inclusion.

The Ohio DD Council defines “unserved and underserved populations,” and the children and adults with disabilities among them, as those

- whose voices are not heard because of the nature of their voice or because no one is willing to listen;



Grant Funds for Artists with Disabilities

Funder: The Ohio Arts Council (OAC)
Program: The Artists with Disabilities Access Program (ADAP) is designed to help artists with disabilities move to a higher level of artistic development.

Requirements: Applicant must:

1. be resident of Ohio
2. have lived in the state continuously for one year
3. have exhibited, performed or published work with the past three years
4. activities must take place within July 1- June 30 fiscal year.

Grant Amount: up to \$500.
Most grants average \$300

Contact:

OAC Accessibility Coordinator
at 614-466-2613 or through
Ohio Relay Service at 1-800-750-0750.
www.oac.state.oh.us.

[Click on “About OAC, then “Accessibility,” then ADAP program link.](#)

Artists who do not have access to a computer or need assistance accessing information can use the ATIC (Artist Technology and Information Center) at the VSA Arts of Ohio offices. Call 614-241-5325.

- whose opinions are discounted simply because of who they are;
- whose numbers are small or dispersed among the general population, or
- whose isolation from the mainstream is not by choice but because of culturally incompetent or otherwise defective public policy.



This product is funded all or in part by the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council. <http://ddc.ohio.gov/>



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Navigating County Boards of MR/DD

Leslie Summers
Supervisor of Service Coordination
Franklin County Board of Mental Retardation
& Developmental Disabilities



The rules and regulations that govern each of the 88 County Boards of Mental Retardation and/or Developmental Disabilities in Ohio mandate that each Board of MRDD provides the same services to individuals. In every county in Ohio, no matter which route a family takes to arrive at the Board of MRDD, **the point of entry into the system is through the Intake Department.**

The primary responsibility of the Intake Department is to determine each individual's eligibility to receive services from the County Board of MRDD. **Service and support administrators** in the Intake Department provide information regarding available services and service alternatives to the applicant.

A **dated prescreen form** is then completed to obtain basic personal information about the individual including name of the referral source, diagnosis, medical history and reason for referral.

A letter explaining the eligibility process is sent to the referral source or to the applicant with a packet of releases of information to be signed and returned to the Intake Department.

Housing Funds Available in Ohio

The U.S. department of Housing and Urban Development awarded \$8,796,564 in grants (1/18/07) to 32 public housing agencies and non-profit organizations across the country for supportive services that help elderly and disabled residents living in public housing.

\$622,487 awarded in OHIO....
Columbiana Metropolitan
Housing Authority \$350,000

Stark Metropolitan
Housing Authority \$272,487

For additional information contact
Joyce A. Hill, Civil Rights Specialist,
Ohio Dept. of Development
614-466-6831 or 800-848-1300

CALL FOR STUDENT POSTERS....

Undergraduate and Graduate Students interested in sharing research, performance, writing or visual art or applied and community service projects for a poster session and reception of

April 3, 2007 at the
Seventh Annual Multiple Perspectives
on Access, Inclusion
& Disability Conference.

Students and teams of students who wish to present a poster display or their project must send information no later than
March 19, 2007.

For more information visit <http://ada.osu.edu/conferences>

Following completion of the COEDI/OEDI, the case is reviewed and evaluated for intensity and need. Formal notification of eligibility/ineligibility is mailed to the individual and informant by the Intake Department. Eligibility determinations are conducted within forty-five days after all information necessary to make the

Upon receipt of the signed release forms, the releases are mailed to the designated agencies requesting psychology reports, medical information including developmental history and etiology, school records and employment history, etc.

When the requested collateral is received, it is reviewed by the Intake Service and Support Administrator to determine if a developmental disability is substantiated.

If the referred individuals are between the ages of 3 and 6, the service and support administrator determines if qualifying delays are evident. For those individuals who are 6 or older, the COEDI/OEDI* is scheduled when the disability is substantiated. Individual COEDI/OEDI assessment tools are administered by individuals certified by ODMRDD. At the time of completion of the COEDI/OEDI, services information and alternatives are shared with the individual/guardian. Copies of the completed tools are retained.

** COEDI (Children's Ohio Eligibility Determination Instrument) and OEDI (Ohio Eligibility Determination Instrument) are assessment tools used to determine if children or adults are eligible for services.*

determination has been received from the referring party or applicant.

If the applicant is determined eligible, the case is assigned to a service and support administrator who meets with the individual to initiate services.

If ineligible, as a result of insufficient substantial functional limitations or delays, or if a DD condition is not substantiated, the applicant is notified of ineligibility in writing and mailed a copy of the Grievance and Due Process rule.

The Intake Department then directs the applicant/guardian to other agencies for services.

For established cases, the Intake Department will place the individual on desired planning lists based upon date of request or when all needed information is complete.

For residential and waiver planning list requests, the individual will be mailed a letter of notification with the date of application the same as date requested.

If the individual's team determines that another service is needed or requested, it is that team's responsibility to notify the Intake Department who will place the individual on the appropriate planning list.





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Cultural Competence: Ensuring Appropriate Services for All

Charleta Tavares



In May of 2003, the Ohio Department of Mental Health along with several visionary leaders throughout the state created the Multiethnic Advocates for Cultural Competence in Behavioral Health Care (MACC). MACC welcomed its new Executive Director, Charleta B. Tavares in April of 2006. Tavares brought with her a wealth of knowledge and experience in the areas of public policy development, advocacy and cultural competence. In May 2006, MACC was incorporated as a 501©3 statewide not-for-profit membership association. A twenty-member board of directors representing consumers/family members, advocates, behavioral/health care professionals and other disciplines governs MACC. Debbie Nixon-Hughes who is the Chief of Mental Health Services for the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction chairs the Board.

MACC has taken the lead statewide to infuse cultural competence as a cornerstone in Ohio's mental health recovery system. The organization has embarked on a bold new journey to assess the state of cultural competence in Ohio, develop partnerships with regional institutions and providers, identify regional needs and promising practices, and expand outreach efforts to create a pool of advocates in the area of cultural competence.

In addition to serving as the Cultural Competence Content Work Group for the Transformation State Incentive Grant (awarded to the Ohio Department of Mental Health), MACC sponsors lectures, conferences and educational sessions on cultural and linguistic competence, houses a Resource Library with materials on cultural competence standards and practices and identifies cultural competence assessment tools, trainers and training curricula to share with individuals and organizations.

A Statewide Advisory/Planning Team has been established another to expand MACC's outreach efforts and support the MACC mission and vision. The membership is geographically, culturally and demographically diverse and is chaired by Kevin Dixon, Vice-President Cultural Competency for the Franklin County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMH) Board.

www.maccinc.net
(614)221-7841.



Parent Interview

Pat Kendrick

What thoughts crossed your mind after you learned of your child's disability?

I was devastated. I thought why her and not me? What had she done to deserve this?

Did you go through a grieving process after the diagnoses?

Yes, I cried, then became angry, then told myself that we would be OK. I repeated this process for weeks.

How did you tell your family about your child's diagnoses?

I explained to them what the doctor's said and then added information I found through research at the library.

What was their reaction?

Mainly shock at first. Then they began to draw on their spiritual experience.

If there are other children in the family, how did you explain the extra time you had to spend with your child with a disability?

There are no other children in the immediate family.

What are the challenges and setbacks that a parent of a child with a disability faces?

Initially the biggest challenge is accepting the fact that they have a disability. After that, the challenge is to let them lead as normal a life as possible. Not to feel as though you have to protect them from everything and everybody. Continuing to do as many of the things that you did prior to the diagnosis as possible and understanding that with a little planning you can do them.

As a parent of a child with a disability, do you consider yourself an expert on your child's care and well being?

Not necessarily an expert but well versed in her care and well being. You learn what works and what doesn't work through your experiences. Continuous learning.

After the first diagnosis, did you feel the need for a second opinion?

Yes, and we obtained one from a leading doctor in that field of medicine.

How much research did you do on your child's disability?

Lots. I contacted the MS Society for information, utilized the library as well as the Internet to get as much information as possible. I wanted to know as much as possible about what was currently taking place as well as what to expect going forward.

Did you, or do you, get any assistance from any community programs, government or otherwise?

No.

If so, how did you learn about these programs?

N/A

What advice would you give to a parent who just learned of their child's disability?

Get a second opinion. Don't be afraid to ask questions. Gather as much information as possible regarding the disability and lastly don't be a part of the problem be a part of the solution. Realize that you are not the only person involved. Try to be sensitive to what the child is going through.

