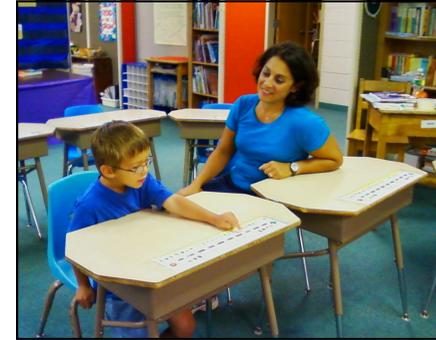


VT Developmental Disabilities Council
103 South Main Street
One North, Suite 117
Waterbury, VT 05671-0206

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VERMONT DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL



2010
ANNUAL REPORT



Greetings from the President

The past year was one of challenge and movement towards change in Vermont. It has been my honor and privilege to become the new president of VTDDC. My heartfelt appreciation goes out to my predecessor, Harriet Hall, for all she did, as well as her support to me during the transition.



During these difficult times of budget cuts and threats to critical services, VTDDC has been a solid presence in the state by providing critical grant funds that directly relate to our state plan and respond to the most critical needs Vermonters identified. VTDDC also increased its presence at the State House. Members testified, and spoke at press conferences and spread awareness by meeting with their own legislators.

The annual Disability Awareness Day grows each year. In 2010 our coalition welcomed 19 representatives and senators to the dinner. Each spoke and enjoyed casual dinner conversations with disability advocates.

Maintaining services and increasing awareness of the needs of individuals with disabilities promises to be a continuing challenge in the upcoming years. Soon VTDDC will begin developing its next state plan and will hear from the people what they want from us. We eagerly look forward to continuing our service to Vermont and the disability community, and having a positive impact that is far reaching and broad in its impact.

Sincerely



Lisa Maynes, President

Agency Representatives

Lucy Abair

Department for Children & Families

Ron Clark

*Agency of Human Services,
Office of Vermont Health Access*

Kathy Hamilton

*Nonprofit Organization,
United Counseling Service ~ Bennington*

Carol Hassler, MD

Department of Health

Renee Kievit-Kylar

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

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Department of Education

Ed Paquin

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Joan Senecal

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Council Members as of 6/30/2010

Self-Advocates, Individuals and Family Members

<i>Donna Bennett</i>	<i>Individual</i>	<i>Brattleboro</i>
<i>Jim Caffry</i>	<i>Family</i>	<i>Waitsfield</i>
<i>Patty Czarnecki</i>	<i>Individual</i>	<i>Ira</i>
<i>Herb Gingrich</i>	<i>Individual</i>	<i>Middlebury</i>
<i>John Hall</i>	<i>Individual</i>	<i>Newport</i>
<i>Wendy Kruger</i>	<i>Family</i>	<i>Morrisville</i>
<i>Jay Lafayette</i>	<i>Individual</i>	<i>Burlington</i>
<i>Mary Alice Leonard-Heath</i>	<i>Family</i>	<i>White River Jct.</i>
<i>Dennis Lindberg</i>	<i>Family</i>	<i>S. Burlington</i>
<i>Lisa Maynes</i>	<i>Family</i>	<i>Colchester</i>
<i>Lance Mead</i>	<i>Family</i>	<i>Brandon</i>
<i>Robert Price</i>	<i>Family</i>	<i>Essex</i>
<i>Jessica Sanville</i>	<i>Individual</i>	<i>East Haven</i>
<i>Tami Trowell</i>	<i>Family</i>	<i>Brattleboro</i>



What is VTDDC?

VTDDC is a state-wide Council that works to increase public awareness about critical issues affecting people with developmental disabilities and their families.

***The Mission of VTDDC is
to help build connections and supports
that bring people with developmental disabilities
and their families
into the heart of Vermont communities.***



60% of its 23 members are self-advocates and family members. VTDDC uses its federal funds for projects at the local, regional and state levels. These projects bring Vermonters with developmental disabilities into the heart of their communities through public education, leadership training, and advocacy aimed at enhancing individual and family-centered supports and services.

We Believe . . .

***In communities where all people have a “voice”
and are heard with respect.
In safe communities where all people have equal value.
In communities that are friendly and support equality and
fulfilling relationships.
With opportunities, people grow and share their dreams and
abilities, and
That the humanity we share is more important
than our different abilities.***

VTDDC's Five-Year State Plan GOALS for 2007-2011

- ◆ People with developmental disabilities and their families have information necessary to advocate to get their needs met.
- ◆ People with developmental disabilities and their families will be actively engaged in activities that bring them into the heart of Vermont's communities.
- ◆ People with developmental disabilities and their families will have open and fair access to a range of supports, services, resources and opportunities based on the needs they identify.
- ◆ Students in high school will have the supports they need for a smooth transition to life in the heart of their communities.
- ◆ People will have increased options for transportation services for work, school, medical, social, recreational, and other personal needs.



“Speak Out for Understanding” stars local high school students speaking about their own experiences living with developmental disabilities. Based on a nationally acclaimed service-learning project, the film promotes awareness and equity. *Grantee: Harwood Union High School*

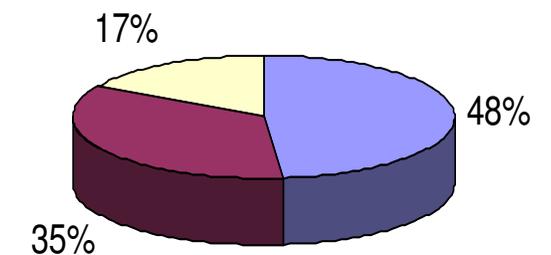
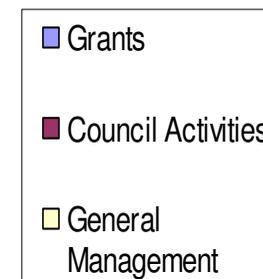


FY 2009 Council Budget

Grantees provided \$67,527 in matching funds [cash and in-kind services].

FY 2009* Income	
Federal Funds	\$ 474,013
Less Expenses	\$ 424,567
Carry-over to FY10	\$ 49,446

FY 2009* Expenditures	
Grants	\$ 204,989
Council Activities	\$ 147,789
General Management	\$ 71,789
TOTAL	\$ 424,567



* October 1, 2008 to September 30, 2009

Media & Publications

“Choosing Words with Dignity” raises awareness of People First language. VTDDC distributed thousands of copies to diverse entities in VT and across the US to public schools, state universities, print media, managers’ trainings, city, and state government.

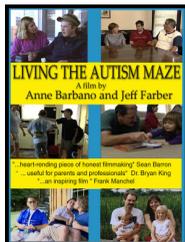
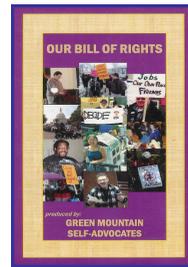


“179 VOICES: Thoughts on Services and Supports for People with Developmental Disabilities” describes what is happening in VT through the words of people with developmental disabilities and their families who responded to VTDDC’s state plan survey.

“Boards of the Future” and the accompanying workbook offer specific language and exercises to train people with developmental disabilities who are interested in and would like to learn more about serving on the board of an organization.

Films Sponsored in Whole or in Part by VTDDC:

“Our Bill of Rights” about the rights and responsibilities of self advocates as citizens of the United States and Vermont. *Green Mountain Self Advocates.*



“Living the Autism Maze” about the experiences of Vermont parents of children with autism facing a maze of conflicting information and competing interventions. *Barbano & Farber*

Sampling of Results from FY 2009 Grant Projects, Activities & Partnerships

People Trained

- ◆ 70 people trained in community supports
- ◆ 267 people trained in quality assurance
- ◆ 197 people trained in inclusive education
- ◆ 40 parents trained about their child’s education rights
- ◆ 260 self advocates trained in leadership and self determination
- ◆ 1,207 people trained in systems advocacy

People Benefiting

- ◆ 49 students received support to reach educational goals
- ◆ 34 students transitioned from school to community and jobs
- ◆ 64 people received supports for community activities
- ◆ 40 people received scholarships for workshops and trainings

People Active in Advocacy

- ◆ 1,357 people actively participated in systems advocacy
- ◆ 6 parents recruited to Medicaid Advisory & Building Bright Futures Boards
- ◆ 288 policymakers were educated about issues
- ◆ Awareness initiatives reached at least 199,363 people

LEADING TO POLICY CHANGES, including:

- ◆ \$959,000 for job supports for 34 youth leaving school
- ◆ \$250,000 in funding to restore Special Health Needs respite
- ◆ Passage of H.435 that increases access to palliative care
- ◆ Passage of S.2 recognizing the need for accommodations for prisoners with functional disabilities
- ◆ Publication of developmental services wait list numbers



Highlights of Projects Funded by VTDDC

Developmental Disability Network Projects help build services and supports and make connections across Vermont.

Families Together Project is developing a state-wide network of individuals with developmental disabilities and families across the lifespan that connects people to each other, provides support, and enables people to strategize and advocate on public policy issues.



In addition to ongoing outreach at conferences and events like Special Olympics Games, staff and peer Parent Group Leaders facilitated 7 regional groups; got the word out about budget concerns and the Walk With Your Class legislative campaign through listserv and Facebook; and recruited parents for state advisory boards.

Grantee: Vermont Family Network



Information, Referral and Assistance Project

is building capacity for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families so they are able to obtain up-to-date, impartial, and unbiased information. Rack cards were widely distributed and people can now access resources and assistance about services and supports through an 800 number and links to 2-1-1.

Grantee: Vermont Family Network



Executive Committee Fund provides small grants for individuals and family members to support their attendance at trainings and conferences, and to organizations for activities that enhance the lives of people with developmental disabilities.

In addition to individual grants, VTDDC helped fund:

- ◆ **Unified Arts**, an inclusive collaborative class paired with an exhibit
- ◆ An inclusive **Music Adventure Program** for youth and adults
- ◆ Community **Social Events** for youth with Asperger's Syndrome
- ◆ **Exploring Asperger's Syndrome** one day conference

Vermonters who received training funds said:

"Getting in touch with her musical and creative side took my daughter out of her shell...and gave her a new voice."

"The Vision Specialist was just one of many "ah-ha" moments I had.. at the conference."



"We learned we have to be [her] biggest advocate . . . we also came away with hope."

"Decreased anxiety in my son will reduce levels of stress within the family."

"We were all there for the same reason--answers."



"The workshop will allow me to provide a valuable service to the community."

"Art was a vehicle for invaluable life skill tools and a way to express emotions for those of us who are non-verbal or who struggle with social interaction."



"Let my typing be a fine house, not something to laugh at, as these are my words."

Youth Passing Through Transition Projects

reach out to Vermont's students in special education to provide helpful information about the transition process from high school, how to get involved, and to have experiences that get them ready for work, further education and community living.



Transition Toolkit Project trained 2 peer mentors and piloted use of the unique personal portfolio "Get the Life You Want" toolbox at 2 high schools to support students to have a strong voice in transition planning for life after high school.

Grantee: Green Mountain Self Advocates



In the Driver's Seat Project trained trainers to run workshops that prepare students to advocate for what they need as they transition to work and community life by gaining greater awareness of their own interests, strengths and needs. Grantee: VT Family Network



Youth Employment Projects support youth who have a functional developmental disability, are out of high school, and are not eligible for developmental service employment support in Vermont.

YES! Youth Employment Specialist Project supports young adults with Autism Spectrum and similar disorders to gain and maintain positive job matches that include employer and student training like the model workshop, *Social Skills On the Job*.

Grantee: VT Dept. of Vocational Rehabilitation



VT Youth Works Project supports youth 18 to 22 through assessment and supports they need for success working alongside community artisans in self-sustaining enterprises. Grantee: Nine East Network



VTDDC'S Self-Advocacy Project helps people with developmental disabilities take control of their lives, make decisions, solve problems and speak for themselves. Grantee: Green Mountain Self Advocates

Some of the Project's Accomplishments:



- ◆ Launched a local high school group in the Capitol region
- ◆ Published a "Think Tank" newsletter edition and also presented a training about the GMSA Policy on Recognizing and Responding to Domestic and Sexual Violence



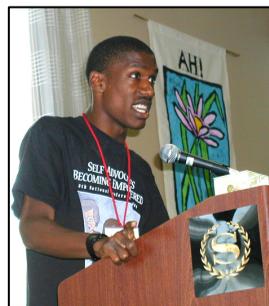
- ◆ Provided 35 technical assistance visits to 14 local groups, including:
 - ◆ How to run group meetings
 - ◆ How to present public awareness programs
 - ◆ How to make information accessible
- ◆ Self-advocate run trainings included:
 - ◆ Series of 6 basic self advocacy workshops 3 times in 2 regions
 - ◆ Workshop on self advocacy for parents of children
 - ◆ Self advocacy segment of state worker training on the Americans with Disabilities Act on Interactive TV
- ◆ Partnered with Planned Parenthood of New England to run two 1 day Sexuality Trainings
- ◆ Public awareness outreach included:
 - ◆ Floats at 3 capitol region holiday parades
 - ◆ Flame Concert at Lyndon State College
 - ◆ Interviews on diverse commercial radio stations and public access TV channels across Vermont, including *Viewpoint*, a public policy program



Advocacy in Action Projects bring individuals, families, and organizations together to plan and participate in advocacy events that educate and inform policymakers and communities about the priorities of people with developmental disabilities and their family members.



“We Can” Project supports people with developmental disabilities so they can educate legislators about the challenges they face, their policy priorities, and the positive contributions they make in their communities, and provides training to strengthen advocacy skills. Activities included technical assistance to support State House testimony and meetings with legislators, participation at Disability Awareness Day, and regional legislator picnic and brunch events.
Grantee: Green Mountain Self Advocates



Advocacy Response Network Project maintains a website and a rapid response e-mail alert system that gets the word out to people with developmental and other disabilities and their families so they can be strong advocates. Through alerts, policy briefs and updates, schedules, and notices people get the information they need to connect directly with the Governor, legislators, and state officials about laws, policies, and practices that impact their lives.
Grantee: Vermont Coalition for Disability Rights



Disability Awareness Campaign held training workshops and hosted the keystone Disability Awareness Day event at the State House. The event connected individuals with disabilities and family members with policymakers to increase understanding of disability issues.
Grantee: Vermont Coalition for Disability Rights



RBI Policy Reform Project worked to bring Vermont laws and practices on restrictive behavioral interventions (RBI) in line with best practices & current research through family education and stakeholder meetings that engaged the education and advocacy community with Vermont’s Department of Education. *Grantee: Vermont Family Network*

Disability Awareness and Media Projects support initiatives that present positive images of people with developmental disabilities and their family members, friends, and community members, on the job, at school and at every other kind of community and social gathering.

Community Transition Film Project features the voices of youth with disabilities from a unique transition program for students who “walked with their class” at graduation, and stayed on until age 22 in special education to learn life skills in the community, educating others about the strengths and challenges they face.
Grantee: Montpelier Public Schools



Bill's Bill Film Project premiered “Bill’s Bill” to increase awareness about the hard work that made Vermont’s special education law a reality and a model for the country. Told through interviews, music and dramatization, its stars are Vermonters with developmental disabilities, finding their voice through art. Also showcased on public access TV. *Grantee: VSA Arts Vermont*



VTDDC members, staff and grantees were also featured in:



- ◆ *The New Frontier*, a disability issues radio program hosted by a family member
- ◆ *Seven Days* weekly, on “Bill’s Bill” premiere
- ◆ *Times Argus*, capitol city daily, on *The Apartment* transition program & premiere
- ◆ Green Mountain Film Festival panel presentation
- ◆ *Champlain Voice* Public Access TV show

