

"FIELD NOTES"

A monthly e-newsletter for the DD Council Network

APRIL 2017 – Issue 31

DD NETWORK NEWS

March was an unbelievable month in the DD Network!

I want to thank all of you who took time to support DD Awareness Month. Our campaign this year was very successful but we want to hear from you - please be sure to complete the 2017 DD Awareness Month [Campaign Survey](#) and let us know your thoughts! I also want to acknowledge all those who attended the Disability Policy Seminar, or worked from within your state or territory to educate policymakers about the importance of Medicaid and good health care for people with developmental disabilities.

Together, we made a difference. Collectively we rejoiced when the President announced he was pulling the American Health Care Act when it failed to garner enough votes for passage on the House floor. But we all know that the fight is not over. We have much work still to be done over the coming weeks and months to help policymakers at all levels understand what Medicaid means for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. In the policy update included here in Field Notes, NACDD Public Policy Director Cindy Smith shares some ideas for how you can help during the Congressional recess that will take place from April 7 until April 24. This is the time to meet with your members of Congress, staff, governors and state legislators at home to share your stories.

Meanwhile, NACDD continues to collaborate with the DD network partners and others in support of self-advocacy. The new Self-Advocacy Resource and Technical Assistance Center (SARTAC) has been established through an AIDD grant to Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE). Recently, NACDD, NDRN and AUCD all met with the leadership of SARTAC and AIDD to learn all about the plans for this new resource center. Over time, it promises to grow to be an outstanding website and initiative that will support more self-advocates taking a role in the community and gaining access to the workplace through fellowship opportunities. Check out their [Facebook page](#) and like it to learn more.

NACDD continues to address supports for self-advocacy in many ways and encourage all self-advocates to become more involved at all levels of NACDD work. We have self-advocates serving on our Board of Directors, serving on our

key committees, presenting and running sessions at our Annual Conference and much more. If you know good folks who want to get involved in a meaningful way, let me know.

Happy spring everyone!

Donna

POLICY NEWS & INFORMATION

Update from the Hill

Members of Congress are back in their districts for a two-week recess which started on Friday, April 7th. Before they left, the Senate confirmed the nomination of Neil Gorsuch for the U.S. Supreme Court. This means that they will have to finalize appropriations when they return to DC after the recess.

The current Continuing Resolution (CR) is set to expire on April 28th and Congress will need to pass a new CR or final bill before that date to keep the government open. Despite not having completed the funding process for FY17, the appropriations process for FY18 has begun.

In the House of Representatives, the deadline for Members of Congress to submit their priorities is April 8th. NACDD has been working with Rep. Langevin (D-RI), Co-chair of the House Bipartisan Disabilities Caucus, and our colleagues at NDRN and AUCD to show broad support for the DD Act programs. Thank you to everyone for reaching out to offices and providing NACDD with information to educate offices about the important work of the Councils and making our request for increased funding to 76 million!

As Congress heads into the recess, it is critical that persons with disabilities and their families continue to educate and inform members about the critical importance of the quality, comprehensive, nondiscriminatory and affordable health care, such as provided for by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA), and the importance of the Medicaid program. The Medicaid program must not be used to pay for the repeal of the ACA! While the American Health Care Act, introduced in the House of Representatives was not voted on in late March, it is still being worked on in Congress, and healthcare and Medicaid will likely be part of a continuing discussion after the recess. Please take time during the recess to continue to ensure every member of Congress learns about the importance of these programs to persons with developmental disabilities and

their families. Coming soon! The NACDD website is developing a page for Medicaid information and resources for your convenience. Stay tuned for the link.

ITACC WEBSITE ~ UPDATES & INFORMATION

Other News Page

Cultural and Linguistic Competence: Definitions, Frameworks, and Implications for Developmental Disabilities Councils

Webinar #1 PowerPoint (Tawara Goode) [3/14/17](#)

(Slides are copyright protected and shared with permission from the Georgetown University National Center for Cultural Competence, Georgetown University Center for Child & Human Development)

Webinar #1 Recording (Tawara Goode/DICLC) [3/14/17](#)

Webinar #1 PowerPoint (DICLC, OH & NY) [3/14/17](#)

RESOURCES & INFORMATION

The American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) AAPD is pleased to announce the release of its [NEW Career Center](#) - a tool for job-seekers with disabilities to search for employment opportunities as well as a place for employers to post jobs and connect with potential employees with disabilities.

2016 Year-in-Review

The momentum of the last three quarters extended employment gains into 2017 for Americans with disabilities, as reported in this special year-in-review edition of the Trends in Disability Employment-National Update (nTIDE). Visit the nTide website and scroll down to [Special Report](#).

DICLC

Resources & Opportunities to support DICLC in all aspects of DD Council Work

The resources below are from the [Family Voices newsletter](#) – Washington Update

["The Kind of Leadership We Need: Embracing Our Diversity as Leaders in Systems Transformation"](#)

Wednesday, April 12, 3:30 – 5:00 pm ET Sponsored by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

[Engaging Diverse Families in Leadership for Systems Change](#)

Thursday, April 20, 3:00 – 4:30 pm ET Sponsored by the National Center on Family Professional Partnerships. Registration information coming soon.

[Minority Health Month](#)

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Minority Health (OMH) has launched the annual observance of National Minority Health Month. The theme this year, Bridging Health Equity Across Communities, emphasizes the collaborative, community-level work being done across the nation to help achieve health equity.

UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

NACDD 2017 Annual Conference

A Quality Life: Count Me In! July 11-14

Registration is now open for NACDD's 2017 Annual Conference – A Quality Life: Count Me In! in Salt Lake City, Utah.

To register, please visit [EVENTBRITE](#). Visit the [NACDD WEBSITE](#) to learn more about the conference, view the tentative agenda and book your hotel.

We hope to see you there!

Please contact Jessica Misilo at jmisilo@nacdd.org with any questions.

ITACC Technical Assistance Institute (TAI) July 11-12, more information to come!

HCBS Settings Rule

The NACDD Member Services Committee will be hosting a webinar on April 20, 2017 at 3:00pm ET on the status of the HCBS Settings Rule. Alison Barkoff, Director of Advocacy of the Center for Public Representation, will present an update for the Councils on Developmental Disabilities about the HCBS Settings Rule and share the latest information on the status of state implementation the HCBS Settings rules and recent guidance from CMS related to the Rules.

There will also be a facilitated discussion about strategies DD Councils are using to impact statewide transition plans and how other federal policies, including potential Medicaid reforms, could impact implementation.

To join the HCBS webinar, visit [WEBINAR LINK](#)

Conference call number: 800-832-0736

Room number: 4880400

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