



2016 Annual Report

Survey Results...

As you know, we sent out a request to all of you - our members to complete a brief survey to assist us in planning for the future. We received about a 20% response. By statistics standards - that's good! We had hoped for better... The two major results were:

Almost 97% of respondents answered "Yes" to the question, "I believe the Coalition needs to continue its work for years to come."

Just over 82% of respondents answered "Yes" to the question, "I believe the Coalition needs to continue to be a membership organization."

With those responses in mind, the Board and staff will be spending time in the coming year planning for the future. None of us knows what tomorrow will carry our way. We do know that there is still work to be done to ensure that people with all types of disabilities have equal opportunities to experience all that life has to offer. To that end, we will continue to explore how we move forward in the days and years ahead.

As our members, we need to hear from you. We invite you to be in touch with our Board members and staff with your thoughts on what needs to be done and how we might get it done. We hope to hear from you often in the coming year.



2016-2017 Board Election Results

Our election process has concluded, the ballots have been counted, and it was a close one. The one individual not elected missed out by less than 10 votes... Our Board of Directors for the 2016-2017 year are:

Tom Kober of Vermillion
Lorri Bohm of Crooks
Jack Mortenson of Sioux Falls
Matt Cain of Hartford
Margot Burton of Rapid City

Colleen Moran of Hartford
John Baxter of Sioux Falls
David Scherer of Lead
Kevin Moulton of Rapid City

Congratulations to our newly elected and re-elected members. Thanks, Don for throwing your hat in the ring - here's to next time!

Thank you, Partners!

Every year we work on a variety of projects through agreements with various agencies and partners. We provide staff support, training, technical assistance and so much more through these grants and agreements. Below is a synopsis of these activities during the past year:

SD Council on Developmental Disabilities (Council) - Staff and administrative support was provided to **South Dakota Advocates for Change (SDAC)**. SDAC is a statewide advocacy organization for individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD). It is led by individuals with ID/DD via a leadership team. They promote self-advocacy statewide through providing training to a wide variety of audiences. They participate in state, national and cross-disability events. They also edit and circulate a quarterly newsletter statewide.

Under a second agreement with the Council, staff provides support to the Council for outreach and other activities directed by the Council's Executive Director. The Council is a one-person office, and this agreement provides additional staff support for their Executive Director in carrying out the Council's mission.

SD Division of Rehabilitation Services - Under one agreement, staff and administrative support are provided to the **Board of Vocational Rehabilitation** (Board) and the **Statewide Independent Living Council** (Council). This involves a variety of regular and special activities directed by the Board and Council focusing on promoting vocational rehabilitation and independent living services for people with disabilities in South Dakota.

Under a second agreement, Employment and Benefits Training is provided to service providers, the Freedom to Work website is maintained and kept current, and success stories are developed and circulated about South Dakotans who are living their employment and career goals. Staff also provides information and makes referrals to various employment related services e.g., vocational rehabilitation, benefits specialists services, Medical Assistance for Workers with Disabilities (MAWD).

South Dakota Network Against Family Violence and Sexual Assault (Network) - This work continues as we work with the Network, CSD and national partners to build and strengthen a coordinated statewide approach to serving victims of sexual assault with disabilities in South Dakota. We are presently in the implementation phase of the project. At the same time, we are planning to seek new funding that will enable us to continue our work in this area. As much as we've learned and made some progress in making our three organizations more responsive to the needs of those we seek to serve, we recognize the need to expand these efforts to our members and individuals served throughout the state.

Others too many to mention sounds rather impersonal, yet it's true. We have forged relationships with many organizations over the years that are invaluable to us and all we are working to accomplish. They are in the private and public arenas, near and far, and we cannot do all that we do without those relationships! We hope we tell you regularly of the value you bring to our efforts on behalf of all South Dakotans with disabilities.

Thank you, 2016 Partners!

We look forward to working with you into next year and beyond!



Fiscal Year 2015 October 1, 2014 - September 30, 2015

<u>Sources of Income</u>		<u>Sources of Expenditure</u>	
Contracts & Grants	\$ 306,332	Program	\$ 215,828
Contributions	\$ 12,790	Management/general	\$ 126,220
Memberships	\$ 4,130		
Other	\$ 10,302	Total	\$342,048
Total	\$333,554	Change in net assets	(\$ 8,494)
		Net assets at end of year	(\$ 28,848)

Staff Changes...

Due to our negative bottom line of the past few years, the Board supported the Executive Director's recommendation that our staffing levels be reduced in order to try to change directions of our fiscal picture. As of October 1st we moved from having 3 FTEs (full-time employees) to 2.25 FTEs.

The office continues to be open and staffed Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. We have worked hard to ensure that you and others have not noticed any change in the level of service or responsiveness.

The decision has been to continue this staffing level for the upcoming fiscal year. We are seeing the positive flow in our financial picture. Yet, it is too early to change course, as we are needing to await our annual audit findings and have a plan for establishing a bit of a financial cushion for the unexpected before we do so.

We are grateful that our staff have been able to adjust to the needed staffing changes, recognizing that reducing hours for anyone carries a dramatic impact on their lives and those of their families. We have dedicated staff, and we say "thank you" for their dedication and commitment to the organization.

**Voting is the expression of our commitment to ourselves, one another, this country and our world.
- Sharon Salzburg**

"Let us never forget that government is ourselves and not an alien power over us. The ultimate rulers of our democracy are not a President and senators and congressmen and government officials, but the voters of this country."

Franklin D. Roosevelt

Disability Advocacy Work

Ed Roberts, the father of Independent Living, was once asked, "What is the most important service provided by centers for independent living?" His response, "Advocacy! Advocacy! Advocacy!" And we can't agree more! We continue to work with other organizations to advocate on issues impacting people with disabilities and their families. The Disability Advocacy Network (DAN) met throughout the State Legislative Session, as well as communicated on other issues during the year. We're thankful for the voices currently involved. Yet we know that some voices are missing from the dialogue.

We're seeking one-time funding in support of us going out to those presently involved with the DAN so we can talk about what's next? Some of us believe there is more we can do together. It will take serious dialogue with one another and that takes time. So we're hoping to have resources to go out and begin having those conversations.

We also want to use these funds to talk with groups that are not presently part of the DAN, and we want to talk about why they are not part of this work. We want to talk about how we can invite them to become part of it, and the potential it holds for those they represent, as well as the whole disability community.

So, we'll be in touch about our progress next year. Send positive thoughts our way that we are successful in receiving some additional funds. It will help us grow this into an even more effective tool for advocacy in South Dakota.



2015—2016

Board of Directors

Margot Burton, President
Tom Kober, Vice President
Colleen Moran, Secretary/Treasurer
Vacant, Past President
JoAnne Cleveland
Lorri Bohm
Jack Mortenson
Ardell Fiedler
John Baxter

Staff

Shelly Pfaff, Executive Director
Colette Wagoner, Program Specialist
Faith Korkow, Administrative Assistant

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