

## MAJOR STORIES:

New Report Shows...

Executive Director  
Recognized...

Make the Disability  
Vote...

Seeking Board...

DOJ Findings Letter...

## BOARD MEMBERS:

Margot Burton

JoAnne Cleveland

Lorri Bohm

Colleen Moran

Jack Mortenson

Tom Kober

John Baxter

Matt Cain

David Scherer

## STAFF:

Shelly Pfaff

Colette Wagoner

Faith Korkow

## WEBSITE:

[www.sd-ccd.org](http://www.sd-ccd.org)

## **ATTENTION PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, FAMILY MEMBERS, OTHER ADVOCATES AND OTHERS SUPPORTING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES LIVING INDEPENDENTLY**

You are invited to a public meeting on the State Plan for Independent Living being developed by the South Dakota Statewide Independent Living Council, the Centers for Independent Living – Independent Living Choices, Native American Advocacy Project, Western Resources for Independent Living – and the South Dakota Department of Human Services, Division of Rehabilitation Services.

You will hear about the “draft” State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) for FY2017 – FY2019. You will have an opportunity to provide comments on that plan prior to and during the public meeting. The “draft” SPIL is available at <http://dhs.sd.gov/drs> or [www.sd-ccd.org](http://www.sd-ccd.org).

**When and Where?** Thursday, May 26, 2016 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. (CDT) with 4 video-conference sites located at:

Aberdeen DHS/Division of Rehabilitation Services - Conference Room  
1707 4th Avenue SE

Pierre Department of Human Services - Large Conference Room  
3800 East Hwy 34

Rapid City DHS/Division of Rehabilitation Services DLR - Conference Room  
2330 N Maple

Sioux Falls Rehabilitation Center for the Blind North - Conference Room  
2900 West 11th St

**If you cannot attend one of these locations**, you can join the presentation by clicking on the following link and connecting to the audio by phone.

To connect to the presentation click on: <https://meet.lync.com/southdakotastateof/bernie.grimme/C5YFQ6BR> and to connect to audio by phone: dial 1-866-410-8397 Conference - ID 6057736282

**Special Accommodations:** Facilities are accessible to people with mobility impairments. If you need an auxiliary aid and service e.g., American Sign Language interpreter, please contact SILC staff at 1-800-210-0143 or [shellyp@sd-ccd.org](mailto:shellyp@sd-ccd.org) at least 10 days prior to the meeting.

For more information, contact call 1-800-210-0143 or email [shellyp@sd-ccd.org](mailto:shellyp@sd-ccd.org).

## **New Report Shows Medicaid Expansion Can Improve Behavioral Healthcare Access**

(NAMI Sioux Falls May/June Newsletter)

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released a report showing that states can greatly improve access to behavioral health services for residents by expanding Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

According to the report, in 2014, the most recent year for which data is available, an estimated 1.9 million uninsured people with a mental illness or substance use disorder lived in states that have not yet expanded Medicaid under ACA and had incomes that could qualify them for coverage.

The report finds that people with behavioral health needs made up a substantial share of all low-income uninsured individuals in these states; nearly 30 percent. While some of these individuals had access to some source of health insurance in 2014, many will gain access to coverage only if their states expand Medicaid, and others would gain access to more affordable coverage.

(Press Release: <http://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2016/03/28/new-report-shows-medicaid-expansion-can-improve-behavioral-health-care-access.html>)

**COMING SOON!**

**Saturday, July 9th  
Dare to Dream Conference  
Watertown Event Center**

**To register and learn more, go to:  
[www.sdparent.org](http://www.sdparent.org)**

## **Executive Director Recognized for Advocacy Efforts**

Each year at Partners in Policymaking graduation, the South Dakota Advocacy Services Governing Board presents an Advocacy Award. It is given in recognition for exceptional, positive, visible, and lasting contribution to the disability community and the greater South Dakota community. The 2016 recipient of this award was Shelly Pfaff, Executive Director of the South Dakota Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities.

In presenting the award it was said, "In describing the many achievements of this year's award recipient, there are recurring themes. These include believing that the uniqueness and dignity of every person must be valued and the belief that communities can learn the importance of and develop an appreciation for a society that accepts individual differences. This person rejects the myth that individuals with disabilities should not have high expectations of themselves as persons and should be encouraged to work and to achieve their dreams."

Their remarks continued with, "There are many effective people who contribute to the success of people with disabilities meeting their goals. They are effective because they are knowledgeable, dedicated, conscientious and hard working. But a few stand out because they truly and fully embrace the vision that people with disabilities can learn, work, live and fully participate in their community of choice. They have dedicated themselves to exploring and developing ways to provide opportunity, eliminate barriers, and assist others in realizing their goals. Tonight we honor a person who has set a high mark in each of these areas."

Congratulations, Shelly, on this recognition of your years of dedication and service in support of all people with disabilities.

## Make the **Disability Vote** Count

### **South Dakotans with disabilities CAN influence the outcome of the June 7th South Dakota Primary and the November 8th General Election!**

#### **More than any time in memory:**

- Elected leaders and political candidates are recognizing the 57 Million Americans with disabilities - from birth to advanced age - as a powerful, important constituency.
- Issues important to people with disabilities must be part of the platform for any candidate running for public office.

#### **Don't Mourn...Organize, Register, and VOTE!**

**The November 8th election will be one of the most important elections in over a decade.** The disability community - people with disabilities, family members, attendants, providers, professionals, advocates and supporters - has a major stake in the outcome of this election.

The **Disability Vote** can make a difference on issues such as:

- Adequate funding and coverage for Medicaid acute and long-term services and supports.
- Waiting lists for home and community services.
- Consolidation and closure of public institutions.
- Integrated employment at no less than minimum wage.
- Accessible, affordable, integrated housing.
- Adequate funding for quality public and higher education.
- Quality Medicaid managed care with strict accountability measures.
- Recruitment and retention strategies for improved wages and benefits for attendants.
- Implementation and enforcement of the "most integrated setting" requirements in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).



**To learn more about the RevUp! campaign go to:**

**[www.sd-ccd.org](http://www.sd-ccd.org)**

## Seeking Coalition Board Nominations

Annually the Coalition holds an election process for positions on its Board of Directors. According to the bylaws, nominations must be in the office by July 1st of each year. A ballot will be prepared and distributed to all members by August 1st of each year. The deadline for ballots being received in the Coalition office will be September 1st of each year. Annual election results will be published by September 30th of each year.

This year we will have two vacancies to fill on our Board of Directors. In order to continue to have a majority of our board positions filled by people with disabilities, those elected will need to be people with disabilities, who are members in good standing (meaning they are current members).

If you, or someone you know, is interested in running for a position on our board, please go to our website to access the nomination form. Or if you would like a form mailed or emailed to you, contact our staff at 1.800.210.0143 or colettew@sd-ccd.org and request a form.

To learn more about the role of our board, we invite you to contact any of our current board members or our staff. They'll be more than happy to visit with you further about this opportunity to serve our organization and the disability community of South Dakota.

### Upcoming Events

June 1st - Statewide Independent Living Council in Pierre

June 7th - South Dakota Primary Election

June 16th - Coalition Board of Directors in Oacoma

June 27th & 28th - Board of Vocational

## Washington D.C. Leaders

### Contact Information

#### President Barack Obama

The White House

1600 Pennsylvania Avenue

Washington D.C. 20500

(202) 456-1111

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/president-obama>

#### Senator John Thune

U.S. Senate SD-511

Washington D.C. 20510

(866) 850-3855

[www.thune.senate.go](http://www.thune.senate.go)

#### Senator Mike Rounds

Hart Senate Office Building, Suite 502

Washington D.C. 20510

(844) 875-5268

[www.rounds.senate.gov](http://www.rounds.senate.gov)

#### Representative Kristi Noem

2422 Rayburn House Office Building

Washington D.C. 20515

(855) 225-2801

[www.noem.house.gov](http://www.noem.house.gov)

### Your Voice Matters!

Talk with "our" leaders about what is important to you!

Flag Day  
June 14th



## DOJ Findings Letter to South Dakota

(Excerpt from Olmstead: Community Integration for Everyone - Enforcement Page)

On May 2, 2016, the United States sent its findings to the state notifying it of violations of the Americans with Disabilities Act and Olmstead v. L.C. due to its failure to deliver services to people with disabilities in the most integrated settings appropriate. People with disabilities in South Dakota, including those with chronic illnesses, physical disabilities, disability resulting from the aging process, and cognitive disabilities, often must enter nursing facilities to receive the day-to-day assistance they need when they rely on the state to provide those services.

To read the complete letter of findings sent to Governor Daugaard, go to:

[www.ada.gov/olmstead/documents/south\\_dakota\\_lof.pdf](http://www.ada.gov/olmstead/documents/south_dakota_lof.pdf)



**Vote as if your life  
DEPENDS on it...**

**Because it DOES!**  
(Justin Dart)



This publication is the official publication of the Coalition (South Dakota Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities). We welcome letters, manuscripts, news items, articles and other items of interest, which will be considered for possible publication within future editions. This publication is mailed, electronically or in hard copy, to all Coalition members and other interested parties, as well as located on our website at [www.sd-ccd.org](http://www.sd-ccd.org).

Many of the articles in this publication are reprinted from other sources, as a way to share with our readers an example of the information being presented to leaders and other members of the general public locally and nationwide. The opinions expressed in these articles do not necessarily represent the opinion of the Coalition - its membership, board or staff. Its appearance in this publication does not constitute the Coalition's position in regard to any issue or item, unless expressly stated as such.

The Coalition is a strong supporter of "People First" language and supports its use in written and spoken communication. Some of the articles used in this publication may contain language that is not consistent with the "People First" concept. The language used by authors of articles that are not consistent with "People First" language is not a reflection of the Coalition's preference.



SOUTH DAKOTA

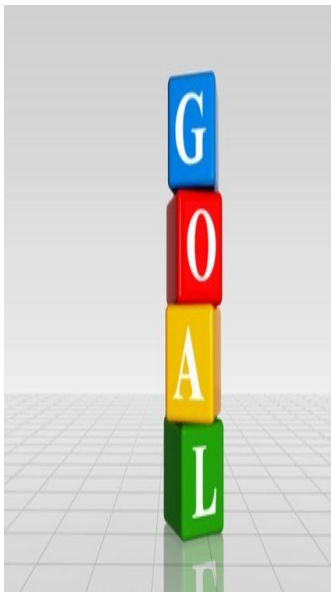
# COALITION

OF CITIZENS WITH DISABILITIES

**Join with others to work towards equal opportunity for all!**

## Our Goal

**\$75,000**



**We  
Need  
Your  
Help!**

**Name/Agency:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **New** \_\_\_\_\_ **Renewal**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Individual - \$20**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Organizational - \$100**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Donation - \$\_\_\_\_\_**

**Join by completing this information and mailing**

**Physical presence  
does NOT equal  
inclusion!**