

2016 Election—November 8th

MAJOR STORIES:

Best Practices for Accessible Prescription...

MIND/GAME: My Unique Journey...

Accessibility is more than...

Meet Mariah, "No Boundaries"...

N.C. Trooper Investigated...

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

By the time you receive this newsletter, the 2016 election will be about 60 days away. Absentee ballots will be available around September 23rd. The time to make decisions is drawing nearer.

For information on South Dakota candidates, ballot issues and items like "where do I vote, how can I get a sample ballot, how do I request an absentee ballot," go to:

<https://sdsos.gov/elections-voting>

Also at the Secretary of State's elections-voting page, you can access a booklet focused on the 2016 Ballot Questions. It provides the Attorney General's explanations, as well as a "Pro" and a "Con" position on each ballot question.

For information on the party platforms of the four presidential candidates on the South Dakota ballot, go to:

Constitution Party

www.constitutionparty.com

Democratic Party

<https://www.demconvention.com/platform>

Libertarian Party

<https://www.lp.org/platform>

Republican Party

<https://www.gop.com/the-2016-republican-party-platform>

In the 2012 general election, the voter turnout in South Dakota was 69.72%.

In the 2014 general election, South Dakota's voter turnout was 54.18%.

Here's to our 2016 voter turnout numbers being better than those of either of these previous elections!

**It is not only our right to vote,
It is our responsibility!**

Please vote in 2016! Your Vote Matters!

Best Practices for Accessible Prescription Drug Labeling

National Council on Disability Brochure

Pharmacies have a critical role to play to ensure the safety of blind, visually impaired, and elderly customers. The U.S. Access Board's 18-member working group with representation of national disability organizations and industry groups representing retail, mail order, and independent community pharmacies, released best practices for how pharmacies can make their prescription drug labels accessible for blind, visually impaired, or elderly customers.

Delivery methods for providing accessible prescription drug container labels

Hard copy Braille and Large Print

Digital Voice or Text to Speech Recorder

Radio Frequency Identification Device

Smart Devices and Computer

Be sure to communicate with your pharmacist what your needs are when it comes to accessing your prescription drug information!

2016 Governor's Awards Recipients

Aaron Ready of Rapid City
Outstanding Employee with a Disability

Eric Bowers of Spearfish
Outstanding Citizen with a Disability

NAPA Auto Parts of Watertown
Outstanding Private Employer (Small Employer)

Nyberg's Ace Hardware of Sioux Falls
Outstanding Private Employer (Large Employer)

Cindy Kirschman of Aberdeen
Outstanding Transition Services Award

Strider Sports International, Inc. of Rapid City
Distinguished Service Award

MIND/GAME: My Unique Journey with a Mental Health Condition

Yesterday, I celebrated the 26th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act at the Labor Department. The gathering was a special one, drawing scores of government officials, advocates and others who care about disability, human rights and equality. Why was I among them? Because *I* am a person with a disability.

Until 2004, few would have known this, because my disability is a mental health condition not visible to the eye. Approximately one in five adults in the U.S. experience a mental health issue in a given year, and today I openly discuss my own experiences in hopes of educating others. But I'm the first to confess that upon my initial diagnosis—first with clinical depression and later with bipolar disorder—I did not immediately associate myself with the disability community.

Because of my achievements on the basketball court, I identified as a National Collegiate Athletic Association champion, an all-time winning scorer and rebounder, and the Women's National Basketball Association Rookie of the Year. Some even called me, "the female Michael Jordan." However, off the court, I was dealing with the ups and downs of mental illness in a field where *weakness* and *vulnerability* were looked down upon.

Fortunately, there has been a cultural shift since that time when it comes to understanding mental illness. And since taking my mental health condition public, I've come to understand that mine are common disabilities governed by the same rights, policies and practices as other, more apparent disabilities—particularly in the workplace.

After a screening of the documentary "MIND/GAME: The Unquiet Journey of Champique Holdsclaw," at the Labor Department
(continued on page 4)

Executive Director Notes...

The end of September wraps up another fiscal year for the Coalition. It has been a year of pruning for our organization, as we made the difficult decision to reduce our staffing. We did so because we could not continue on the path of running growing budget deficits year after year. The thing about pruning is that it is a healthy practice for plants, for individuals and for organizations.

It doesn't necessarily feel that way to those who find their positions changing. They need to reassess their situations and figure out what the change means for them. Yet, often they find that the change opens doors not considered before and creates new opportunities that enrich their lives. And in our case, we had seen this need coming for quite some time, so when it finally happened, it was almost a relief.

As we prepare for our annual audit to be completed in the coming months, we believe it was the right choice to make. We also believe that it is a course we need to continue; unless our income increases significantly in the coming year. Why?

I believe there are a couple of reasons, and the most important comes from those of you who took time to respond to our recent member survey.

The two things we heard loud and clear from your responses were: (1) the Coalition needs to continue its work; and (2) the Coalition needs to continue to be a membership organization. The focus you feel it is most important for us to carry out on behalf of people with disabilities throughout South Dakota is to: (i) participate in policy-making initiatives; (ii) track legislative activity; and (iii) bring together disability organizations to work together on issues impacting all people with disabilities. And once again, we learned

that as much as things change, they also stay the same. I say that because your responses affirm what our founders envisioned for the organization.

The challenge as we move forward is, "How do we carry out these activities, when they are often the type of activities that are not paid for by grants and contracts?" So we have more work to be done, and we'll need your help.

In the coming months and year, our board and staff will be looking at our organizational design - its bylaws, articles of incorporation and more to see if we can make changes that will enhance our ability to do the work we all believe is our mission. Once we've completed that work, we will come to you - our members and explain the reasons for seeking changes and ask you to vote on any proposed changes to the bylaws.

We'll also be coming to you seeking your support as we begin an annual fundraising effort which we aim to grow each year. It will be designed to raise funds that will support the activities that are critical to who we are and what we seek to achieve on behalf of people with disabilities in South Dakota.

So, the approaching year is set to be one of new growth and new energy. The result of pruning our organization and allowing some time for healing to occur, followed by new buds and the eventual bearing of fruit.

As we head into Fall and Winter, we will be working hard on plans for the future designed to embrace the vision of our founders, as affirmed by you who responded to our survey. Know that we'll be in touch as we continue our work. Know, too, that our mission of reaching a day of full inclusion for all people with disabilities is one that remains unchanged!

Shelly

MIND/GAME...

(Continued from Page 2)

yesterday, I joined a panel discussion with Rick Goldsmith, the director of the film, and Jennifer Sheehy, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Labor for Disability Employment Policy. The department's Office of Disability Employment Policy works to increase employment opportunities for people with disabilities, whether they're looking for work or already employed, by seeking the supports they need to be productive employees.

Through the lens of my own personal story, we talked about key issues impacting the employment of people with disabilities, from benefits of self-identifying as someone with a disability, to workplace practices that can help people with disabilities succeed on the job. For someone with bipolar disorder like me, such practices can include offering flexible leave to accommodate medical appointments, maintaining open channels of communication and more.

Another key theme we discussed was the important role that work actually plays in the *recovery* of people with mental health conditions. That has certainly been the case for me. During my days as a professional athlete, it was basketball and the adrenaline of competition that kept me centered and looking forward. Today, it's the purpose and satisfaction that come with speaking out about mental health and educating others.

Whether your work environment is a basketball court or a more traditional setting, chances are you know someone with a disability. What's more, *you* could face an acquired illness or disability at any given time. That's why it's critical that all of us open our hearts and minds to disability employment issues.

It was my college coach—the late, great Pat Summit—who first referred me to our team psychologist when my symptoms emerged. If more employers, colleagues, family and friends

Played a supporting role for workers facing mental health conditions, I know America would be on the road to a healthier, happier, more productive workforce.

Chamique Holdsclaw is a retired WNBA basketball player and an educator and advocate for people with mental health conditions. Her story is the subject of the award-winning documentary film "MIND/GAME: The Unquiet Journey of Chamique Holdsclaw," produced and directed by two-time Academy-Award nominated filmmaker Rick Goldsmith. For more information about resources to assist employers in fostering mental health-friendly workplaces, visit ODEP's mental health topic webpage. This article was found via the ODEP website.

Accessibility is more than ramps and Braille programs

By Adam Perry, Senior Program Director & Accessibility Coordinator, Arts Midwest

Last summer during a casual Saturday afternoon stroll through Minneapolis, I ambled into a prominent local art museum to check out the galleries. When I pulled out my wallet to pay the admission, the person behind the counter pointed to me and said, "You need to leave that at the desk."

I am legally blind. The "that" being referred to in this moment was my mobility cane. I was dumbfounded. This began an uncomfortable, but ultimately redeeming day at the museum.

I literally had to explain and demonstrate why I needed my cane to multiple visitor services representatives before I was "cleared" to tour the galleries with it. It was humiliating. Instead of being just like any other patron I was singled out and treated with unfair scrutiny. I could not believe this was happening at one of the world's premiere arts institutions.

As I made my way through the galleries, it struck me that my experience was probably not unique and that while the physical space was most likely very compliant with the rules and regulations required by the Americans with

(Continued on Page 6)

Meet Mariah, “No Boundaries” 2016 Participant

By Carolyn VanBrocklin, Communications Specialist, Disability.gov Team

When Mariah rolls into the office, she exudes bubbly confidence. Born with cerebral palsy, she wanted to participate in “No Boundaries” because she “thought it would be an amazing experience to show what people with disabilities can do. When barriers are broken down, people with disabilities are able to be active participants in their communities and nationwide.”

Mariah didn’t know a lot of people with disabilities when she was younger. She grew up in an Air Force family, which meant frequent moves, and she was often the only person in her school who used a wheelchair. After her family moved to Texas, she joined Kinetic Kids, an accessible sports and recreation program for young people with disabilities. For the first time, she met other kids her age who also used walkers or wheelchairs to get around. Mariah says the program provides a very positive experience for young people with disabilities. “[Participants] realize they can dream big and know not to limit themselves.”

Mariah says that her disability has impacted her life in a positive light through the extraordinary experiences it has made possible—like participating in “No Boundaries.” Though she doesn’t drive, she’s visited more than 15 states and Washington D.C., and made close friends along the way. She has a strong support system of family, friends, co-workers and community to help her fulfill her dreams, which she says have enriched her life and helped share her positive outlook and sense of determination.

Now a young professional, Mariah works for the University of Texas at San Antonio Small Business Development Center (SBDC). She’s been employed there for a year, and was recently promoted from associate to training coordinator. She likes the variety in her job,

which focuses on training and advising. The Center has small business advisors that provide one-on-one support to anyone interested in opening or growing a small business, and Mariah coordinates the training workshops. This includes more than 200 workshops a year for business owners and entrepreneurs on a variety of topics, like business essentials, marketing, social media and more. Mariah puts together the workshop calendars and makes sure the trainings run smoothly. She’s also tech-savvy and uses social media to get the word out about the SBDC’s upcoming workshops. The Center focuses on values-based leadership, and her team focuses on innovation, excellence, service and integrity.

At work, Mariah doesn’t use any particular accommodation. She just makes sure things are in reach and, she says, her team is so tight-knit that if there’s anything she needs, there’s always someone there to help. The Center is located at a university, which means accessibility is built-in. In comparison to previous places of employment, she no longer has to deal with issues such as heavy doors or long commutes on public transportation.

Mariah has always been an advocate for accessible, inclusive communities—you might even say she’s “inclined for inclusion.” This was the message she incorporated into her platform as Ms. Wheelchair Texas in 2012 and Ms. Wheelchair America in 2013. In this role, Mariah traveled across the U.S. to spread her message of inclusion. She originally focused on historic districts, but ended going further and speaking to kids, schools and community groups. She even created her own logo to promote her message and gave out stickers with the logo on them to those she met in the states she visited.

(Continued o Page 6)



**Native American Day
October 10th**

Meet Mariah...

(Continued from Page 5)

Mariah loves adaptive sports and still participates with Kinetic Kids as an ambassador. As an ambassador, Mariah has been part of "Discovering Disabilities Day," where she serves as a speaker for area schools. The students learn about disabilities in a hands-on and meaningful way. With the opportunity to ask questions and interact, the students learn about inclusion. She also has a robust social life and spends time with friends at places such as Morgan's Wonderland in San Antonio, an accessible amusement park. She says she particularly enjoys their "more delightful than frightful" Halloween celebration.

Mariah's words of wisdom? "Stay open to the possibilities and know that you can do everything you set your mind to. You might have to do it differently, but don't limit yourself."

Accessibility is more than...

(Continued from Page 4)

Disabilities Act, the museum itself was not accessible. This feeling was only confirmed when I was asked to take the elevator instead of the stairs by a docent at the end of my tour. Blind people can walk down stairs unassisted just fine, thank you.

I reached out to the museum's administrative staff and asked that they consider using my unfortunate visit as a training opportunity for their front of house personnel. I came back a few months later with a blind colleague to lead a hands-on training session on working with blind and visually impaired patrons. It was a valuable moment for all involved. The museum is not planning similar sessions with deaf patrons and visitors with physical and cognitive disabilities.

Accessibility is not a box that is checked by making accommodations or complying with ADA

Requirements. Accessibility is a mentality of inclusion and a celebration of diversity. Ramps for wheelchairs, special seating, Braille programs, captioned and ASL interpreted performances, and guided tours are all wonderful (and obligatory) accommodations that arts organizations and spaces go out of their way to provide. But accommodations do not matter if the people who need them do not feel welcome.

For arts and cultural organizations, including people with disabilities in every facet of the arts experience—from planning and staffing to implementation and presentation—is the pathway to being fully accessible.

Upcoming Happenings

September

12th - Pizza Ranch Fundraiser in Pierre

13th - Governor's Awards Ceremony at Capitol

16th & 17th - SD Association of the Blind in Aberdeen

21st - Statewide Independent Living Council in Rapid City

22nd & 23rd - Boards of Vocational Rehabilitation and Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired in Pierre

29th & 30th - NAMI SD in Sioux Falls

October

4th & 5th - Domestic Violence Institute in Brookings

10th - Native American Day - Office Closed

15th - Final Dare to Dream Conference in Rapid City

18th, 19th & 20th - Fall Conference in Deadwood

Custer State Park New Visitor Center Access to New Film on Custer State Park

Earlier this summer, I spent a few days out in the southern Black Hills. I had the opportunity to enjoy much of Custer State Park, including the new visitor center. It is a beautiful facility, and from my short time there, it appears to be quite accessible. I was surprised when viewing the film at the visitor center that it did not appear to be captioned for people who are deaf or hard of hearing. Upon returning to work, I wrote the Secretary of the Department of Game, Fish & Parks to bring this matter to his attention and to see if steps were being taken to rectify this matter.

Today, August 18th, I received a response from Secretary Hepler thanking me for taking time to visit the new visitor center and sharing that closed captioning "was not an omission but a requirement we put into the contract with our film company. The version of the film that you viewed is not the final version. The closed captioning of the film is going to be on a closed caption circuit that allows visitors who are deaf or hard of hearing to hold a device that allows them to enjoy the movie. This is newer technology and the film company we are working with is in the process of formatting this technology into the final version of the film."

He continued to "apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused you or your group", which it didn't and continued to assure me that "once completed, the final film will have closed captioning and technology available for the deaf or hard of hearing."

A person never knows when they may encounter a barrier that may not impact "us". Yet it does impact someone within the community we work on behalf of day in and day out. Here's to all of us taking time to do what we can to bring these barriers to the attention of those who need to address them so equal access is present for all!



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.

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.

N.C. Trooper Investigated in Fatal Shooting of Deaf Motorist

By Liam Stackaug - © REUTERS

August 24, 2016—The North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation is conducting a criminal inquiry into the fatal shooting of a deaf motorist by a state trooper last week. The death has raised questions about the use of deadly force by police officers and about how they interact with the disabled.

The motorist, Daniel K. Harris, 29, was shot and killed by the trooper, Jermaine Saunders, just after 6 p.m. last Thursday after Mr. Harris failed to pull over during a traffic stop near Charlotte. Sgt. Michael Baker, a spokesman for the state's highway patrol, said in a statement.

"After a brief pursuit," Sergeant Baker said, "the driver exited his vehicle, and an encounter took place between the driver and the trooper, causing a shot to be fired. The driver succumbed to his injuries at the scene."

The authorities declined to provide any further information about the nature of the encounter between Mr. Harris, who was white, and Trooper Saunders, who is black, or to say whether the trooper believed his life was in danger before he opened fire.

Investigators have not commented on what role Mr. Harris's disability may have played, but his brother said he believed his death was the product of a police department that does not know how to interact with those who are deaf or hard of hearing.

"Being shot by the police is just not acceptable," the victim's brother, Sam Harris, who is also deaf, said through an interpreter during a video interview with Reuters. "If the officer had known that he was deaf, it would have ended differently, and he would still be around with family, and life would be going on. He'd be happy."

But on Tuesday, Frank L. Perry, Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Public Safety

urged the public to "refrain from making assumptions or drawing conclusions prior to the internal and independent reviews."

"Any loss of life regardless of the circumstances is truly a tragic and sad event for all involved," he said in a statement. "While the Highway Patrol, the State Bureau of Investigation and the district attorney's office conduct their respective reviews, we are keeping all those affected by this tragedy in our thoughts and prayers."

Jay Ruderman, the president of the Ruderman Family Foundation, which works for the rights of people with disabilities, said police departments needed to train officers to respond to the needs of the disabled.

"People with disabilities will be safer the more the police are properly trained in this regard, and it needs to happen now before more tragedies occur," Mr. Ruderman said in a statement.

"Whether a person is deaf, autistic or has a chronic health problem these disabilities are often not understood by police officers when encountering them on the streets."

Investigators from the bureau of investigation interviewed Trooper Saunders on Tuesday night and planned to meet with Mecklenburg County's district attorney, R. Andrew Murray, in the coming days, said Shannon O'Toole, a spokesman for the bureau. He said Trooper Saunders had been placed on administrative leave.

The agency investigates 90 to 95 percent of the officer-involved shootings in the state, Mr. O'Toole said, and when it "is requested to conduct an officer-involved shooting investigation, we do so, with the intent that each and every case is going to trial."

The Associated Press reported on Wednesday that since 2008 Mr. Harris had been charged with traffic offenses and other misdemeanors, including petty theft, in Connecticut, Florida and Colorado. In 2010, he pleaded guilty to speeding in Florida and also pleaded guilty to interfering with or resisting the police in Connecticut, the A.P. said.



SOUTH DAKOTA
COALITION
OF CITIZENS WITH DISABILITIES

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

Name/Agency: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____

Email: _____ **Phone:** _____

_____ **New**

_____ **Renewal**

_____ **Individual -
Annual Membership - \$20**

_____ **Organizational - \$100
Annual Membership - \$100**

_____ **Donation - \$ _____**

**Physical presence
does NOT equal
inclusion!**

**Annual Membership
Meeting
Via Conference Call
September 29th
At 11 a.m. (CT)**