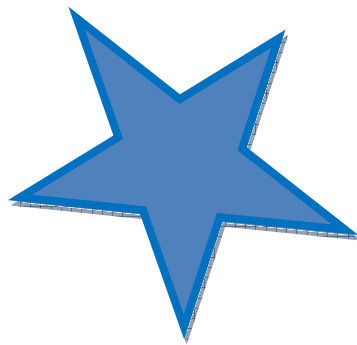
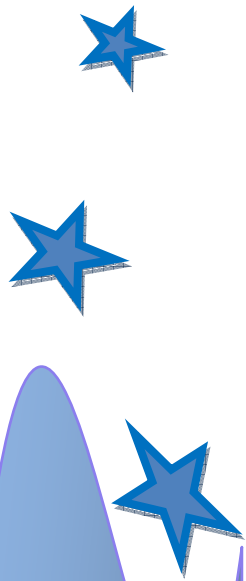




# **Connecticut Council On Developmental Disabilities**



**2011  
ANNUAL REPORT**



**Our  
Mission:**

To promote  
the full  
inclusion of  
all people  
with  
disabilities in  
community  
life.

*The Council on Developmental Disabilities is a Governor-appointed body of people with developmental disabilities, family members and professionals who work together to promote the **full inclusion** of all people with disabilities in community life.*

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*WELCOMING LETTER FROM THE CHAIR OF THE CONNECTICUT COUNCIL ON  
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES*



**Frank Reed, Chair**

As the Chair of the Council on Developmental Disabilities, and a person with a disability, I am pleased to write this welcome letter for our 2011 Annual Report.

This has been a year of transition for our Council. I want to personally thank Council Members for their leadership and commitment through this year of change. Members participated at Council Meetings, Committees and/or Task Forces where they contributed their knowledge and personal experiences about disability issues.

On March 2, 2011 current and veteran Council Members and distinguished guests attended the Council's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. They celebrated the many accomplishments that the Council has made toward promoting the full inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in the community. Also, they honored leaders who have advanced equal opportunities for people with disabilities.

In June, 2011 we said goodbye to the Council's Executive Director, Ed Preneta, who retired after thirty three years of service. Over his long and

dedicated service to the Council, Ed has been persistent in his support of inclusion. He has provided many Council members opportunities for leadership roles in ground-breaking initiatives spearheaded and supported by the Council. On behalf of current and prior Council members, thank you Ed, we will certainly miss you.

In July we welcomed our new Director, Molly Cole, who comes to the Council with over thirty years of experience in disability advocacy. Molly brings renewed energy in this renaissance opportunity, reminding us of our commitment to services for people with disabilities in Connecticut. Prior to coming to the Council she was the Associate Director at our sister agency, the University of Connecticut Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities.

In this year of change, we also said goodbye to one Disability Policy Specialist and welcomed another. Margaret Cohan left the Council in May, and in December we welcomed Cathy Adamczyk as our new Disability Policy Specialist. We wish Margaret well, and are excited to welcome Cathy. She comes to the Council with over twenty years of experience in providing parent support and training in the state.

Our five year plan includes priority areas addressing Employment, Health and Housing. In collaboration with our sister agencies, the Office of Protection and Advocacy and the University of Connecticut Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, we began developing a Partners in Policymaking leadership training initiative, which is being offered in 2012.

We look forward to making continued strides in improving the lives of people with disabilities in our state in the coming year.

Sincerely,

*Frank M. Reed*

Chair

CT Council on Developmental Disabilities



*Members of the CT Council on Developmental Disabilities*

The Connecticut Council on Developmental Disabilities is a governor-appointed body of people with developmental disabilities, family members and professionals who work together to promote the full inclusion of all people with disabilities in community life. The Council has 29 members – 60 percent of whom are either people with disabilities or parents of children with disabilities.



**Joyce Baker, Self Advocate  
Wethersfield**

**Michelle Johnson, Self Advocate  
Manchester**

**Steven Belske, Self Advocate  
Bloomfield**

**Fred Frank, Center for Disability  
Rights  
Stratford**



**Darlene Borre, Parent  
West Hartford**

**Gabriela Freyre-Calish, UCONN  
Center on Disabilities  
Farmington**

**Lawrence Carlson, Department of  
Social Services, BRS  
Hartford**



**Mark Keenan, Department of  
Public Health, Title V  
Hartford**

**John Curtin, Self Advocate  
Bolton**

**Haley Kelley, Parent  
Winsted**

**Catherine DuPree, Department of  
Developmental Services  
Hartford**

**David King, Self Advocate  
Bridgeport**

**Jacqueline Jamison, Parent  
Hartford**



**William Knight, Self Advocate  
Torrington**

**Mary Ann Lombardi, Parent  
Wilton**

**Jennifer Lortie, Self Advocate  
Lisbon**

**Laura Marcinauskis, Parent  
Shelton**

**Zuleika Martinez, Self Advocate  
Bridgeport**

**Sabra Mayo, Parent  
Hartford**

**Peter Morrissette, Self Advocate  
East Hartford**

**Dwayne Paul, Parent  
Milford**

**Sarah Rafala, Self Advocate  
Windsor**

**Frank Reed, Self Advocate  
Danbury**

**Monica Smyth, Abilis  
Stamford**

**Guy Sullivan, Parent  
Fairfield**

**Brenda Stenglein, Parent  
Ashford**

**Anita Tremarche, Parent  
Manchester**

**Patricia Tyler, Office of Protection  
and Advocacy  
Hartford**

**Jennifer Throwe, Department of  
Social Services, Aging Unit  
Hartford**

**Kathy Wolkner, Parent  
Farmington**



*Promoting the Full Inclusion of People with Disabilities Through*

**COUNCIL FUNDED INITIATIVES**



**PROMOTING ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION**

The CT Council on Developmental Disabilities funded the Housatonic Area Regional Transit District (HART), Danbury, to demonstrate an on-demand wheelchair accessible system that enables people with developmental disabilities to get transportation to attend meetings and events of their choice in their community. The initiative was supported by the City of Danbury, the Housatonic Valley Council of Elected Officials and local provider agencies. 200 to 300 people with disabilities were surveyed. Preliminary indications are that people with disabilities would benefit from the establishment of an accessible taxi service with a voucher component, provided by existing taxi services. It was recommended that most capital costs for the accessible vehicles and half of operating costs of the service could be made available through the CT Department of Transportation's federal "New Freedom" funds. Based on this project the Council believes that other transportation alternatives in addition to accessible taxi services need to be developed.



**PROMOTING AGING IN PLACE**

The CT Council on Developmental Disabilities funded the Western CT Association for Human Rights (WeCAHR), Danbury, to demonstrate the organization and delivery of services and supports to 55 people with developmental disabilities



who are aging in their homes in their community. The regional demonstration is based on the Beacon Hill Village (Boston) aging-in-place in the community model. In addition, WeCAHR collaborated with AgePlan of New York, to develop a survey instrument to measure peoples' interests and the connections they already have in their communities. They have convened an advisory committee to continue to promote this concept. WeCAHR has networked and attended a national conference with other "Aging in Place" villages and is the only "village" model that is inclusive of people with and without developmental disabilities.



## **ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY**

The CT Council funded Trinity College, Hartford, to host a RoboWaiter competition for college, high school student and independent engineers and to hold a symposium on service robots. The competition was to design, build and demonstrate robots that assist people with developmental disabilities with household activities, chores, tasks and other activities of daily living. 14 teams from around the United States, Canada, China, Israel and India registered to compete.

Over two hundred people attended a symposium on contact robots and neuron-recovery by Dr. Neville Hogan, Sun Jae Professor of Mechanical Engineering, Professor of Brain and Cognitive Sciences, and Director of the Newman Laboratory for Biomechanics and Human Rehabilitation at MIT. Participants were welcomed by Frank reed, DD Council Chair, and Joyce Baker, a Council member, presented the awards.

The concept of Robo-Waiter is becoming well known and continues to demonstrate dynamic growth and international recognition.



## **TRANSITION PLANNING FOR YOUNG ADULTS**

The CT Council funded Educational Consultants of CT, Canton, to train parents and professionals on using personal futures planning techniques to achieve quality

transition plans with students with developmental disabilities. 89 participants signed up for 3 training sessions using the MAPS/PATH process. 28 people (14 Teams) were accepted into Facilitator Training. 100% of the participants reported an increase in their level of competence on person centered planning and transition.

## **MEDICAL SAFEGUARDS**

The CT Council funded CT Legal Services, Middletown, to work with St. Mary's Hospital, Waterbury, and Charlotte-Hungerford Hospital, Torrington, regarding end of life planning, do not resuscitate (DNR) orders, advanced directives, guardianship, and other medical ethics and medical/legal issues regarding people with developmental disabilities entering emergency rooms. The intent of this initiative is to protect the lives of people with developmental disabilities in in-patient settings. Hospital emergency rooms can be the most dangerous encounter with the medical system and medical professionals for people with developmental disabilities, particularly people with intellectual disabilities and communication disabilities. CT Legal Services consults with the Social Role Valorization Implementation Project, Massachusetts. Also, CT Developmental Disabilities Network partners, the CT Council, the Office of Protection and Advocacy and the University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities at the UCONN Health Center, held a forum in the Legislative Office Building on January 22, 2010, that averted state legislation enabling physician assisted suicide.



## **SUPPORTING PARENTS WITH COGNITIVE LIMITATIONS**

The CT Council funded the State Board of Education, in partnership with the Department of Children and Families and the Parents with Cognitive Limitations Work Group. This all volunteer work group has been meeting regarding issues of support for PWCL for over ten year. This project is funded to train services providers in the greater Norwich area to better support and meet the needs of parents with cognitive limitations.

## *Council, Staff and Stakeholder Activities That Promote the Full Inclusion of People with Disabilities*

### **TRAINING AND LEARNING FORUMS**



The Council supported a number of training and learning opportunities:

- Wrightslaw : Training on Special Education laws and effective advocacy
- The Developmental Disabilities Network sponsored an invitational forum for key stakeholders with John O'Brien: "Using our limited resources in changing economic times".
- Making disability policy decisions in the current economic climate
- Outreach



#### **Collaboration to promote policies that support inclusion of people with disabilities in their communities**

- Medicaid and Dual eligible individuals (Medicaid/Medicare)
- Medical Home
- Aging and Disability Resource Centers
- Faith Based Inclusion (with the DD Network)
- Family Support
- Collaboration with the Alliance for Full Participation state team

### **Emergency Preparedness for People With Disabilities**



The Council is partnering in educating First Responders and Community Emergency Rescue Teams (CERT) in the Capitol Region. Training is supported by the Capitol Region Emergency Planning Committee (CREPC). Presentations have been made to over 300 Responders and CERT members to learn how to assist people with disabilities during and after a disaster. The Council has also provided information to policy makers on Emergency Preparedness following the two storms that devastated Connecticut in 2011.

## ***A PERSPECTIVE FROM A COUNCIL MEMBER***



**Zuleika Martinez**

My name is Zuleika Martinez. I am 21 years old, and live in Bridgeport, CT. I have been blind since birth. I was appointed to the Council on Developmental Disabilities in December, 2009. Since joining the Council, I have become the Vice-Chair of the Advocacy, Public Information and Education Committee, and serve as a member of the Legislation Policy and Planning Committee and Housing Task Force. To further develop my leadership and self-advocacy skills, I have enrolled in Partners in Policymaking 2012.

Until recently I was working at a daycare center and also as a personal care assistant. Currently, I am focusing my attention on learning the skills necessary to get a seeing-eye dog. I am also making preparations to attend Norwalk Community College in the fall, with the goal of earning a certification in interpreting. I speak four languages fluently.

I am proud of my work on the Council, and feel that my leadership opportunities both on the Council and in the community are growing. I look forward to working with others to improve the lives of people with disabilities in Connecticut.

**HOW THE CT COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES  
DOLLARS WERE SPENT**

The CT Council on Developmental Disabilities operates entirely with federal developmental disabilities funds, which are distributed among the states under a formula based on population, per capita income, unemployment rate, and Social Security disability statistics.

**2011-2012 Expenditures by Areas of Emphasis**

Employment	\$ 40,073
Inclusive Education	\$ 56,573
Inclusive Housing	\$ 54,023
Health	\$ 80,073
Self Advocacy	\$ 40,073
Transportation	\$ 47,573
Inclusive Communities	\$ 90,103