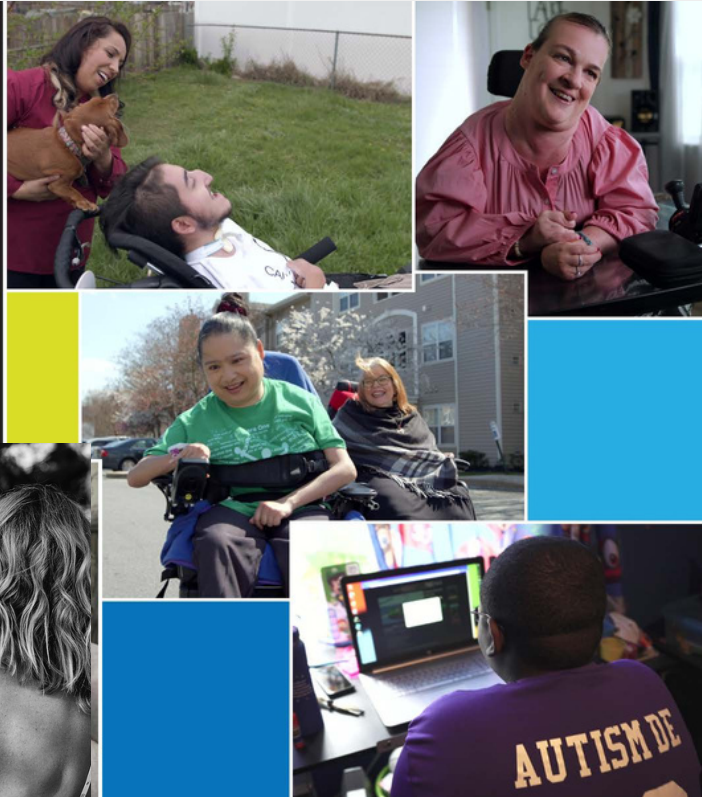


Help us
CELEBRATE
Disability Pride



ANNUAL REPORT



Meet Our Council

Per The Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 ("the DD Act"), the state Council representing individuals with developmental disabilities must be comprised of no less than 60% of people who are individuals with developmental disabilities; parents or guardians of children with developmental disabilities or immediate relatives or guardians of adults with developmental disabilities who cannot advocate for themselves; and individuals from state agencies in accordance with the DD Act per federal requirements.

Individuals with a developmental disability/advocate:

Maitri Campbell - Advocate
Deb Economidis - Advocate
Alvin Emory - Advocate
Derrick George - Advocate

Daniese McMullin-Powell- Advocate
Arte Mays- Advocate
Joseph Merritt- Advocate
Amber Rivard - Advocate

Individual who now/ever lived in an institution:

Karen Gallagher - Advocate

Parent or guardian of child with a developmental disability or immediate relative as stated above:

Nadine Chance
Andrea Creed
Patty Fazio
Terri Hancharick
Michael Harris
Nancy Lemus
LeTonya Wilson

Members in accordance with other federal requirements:

DD University Affiliated program - Beth Mineo
Individuals with Disabilities Education Act - Dale Matusevich
Local/Non-Governmental. agency concerned w/services for ppl w/DD- Susannah Eaton-Ryan
Rehabilitation Act of 1973- Cynthia Fairwell
Private Non-Profit Agency - Katie Macklin
Older Americans Act of 1965 - Chris Oakes
Title V of the Social Security Act - Isabel Rivera-Green
Title XIX of the Social Security Act/Medicaid - Jody Roberts
Protection and Advocacy Organization - Laura Waterland



Who We Are

The Delaware Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC) is federally funded through the Administration for Community Living (ACL) and is authorized by Public Law 106-402 to address the unmet needs of people with developmental disabilities through system-wide advocacy, planning, and capacity building efforts that promote self-determination, integration, and inclusion. More than 60 percent of the Delaware DDC membership consists of individuals with developmental disabilities or their family members. The remainder of Council membership includes advocates and state agency representatives. This diversity enables Delaware DDC to better analyze and improve systems and services within Delaware and ensure that the voices of people with developmental disabilities and their families are heard.

What We Believe

The Delaware DDC believes that all people with disabilities can fully participate in community life, and that supports should be provided on an individual basis that honors the service recipients' self-direction. Although people with developmental disabilities have equality under the law; vision and leadership are vital if they are to have equity in their everyday lives. The Delaware DDC strives to create opportunities in the everyday lives of people with developmental disabilities. We are committed to improving the quality of services for this population in Delaware and to serve as an advocate and an instrument of systems change. We look to a future where all people will have the opportunity to be included and to exercise control over their own lives.

For more information on the Delaware DDC, please visit: www.ddc.delaware.gov

“ One person can make a difference,
and everyone should try.

-John F. Kennedy

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A Message from our Chairperson



Understanding the importance of our mantra A.E.I.O and U helps the community understand the commitment the Council has in improving the lives for all in the Disability Community. Our strong foundation of Advocacy leads the way as we Educate and Inform not just the decision makers but also insuring Outreach to our constituents in the community. We understand truly, by only Unifying all, can we have a true inclusive society that helps address the needs of all who want to be a productive asset in his or her community. We in the disability community have many positive attributes to offer when we are simply included in the thought process and decision making.

- Michael Harris



A Message from the Executive Director

If you turn to the last page of this report, you will notice that it is dedicated to the memory of our friend and longtime Council member, Karen Gallagher. I find myself thinking about Karen a lot...always with tremendous respect and gratitude. She was a phenomenal and trailblazing advocate. Born with a disability, Karen resided in an institution until she decided that she wanted something different for her life- so she worked hard to gain her independence and freedom. She never stopped giving back, speaking up, and showing up (or sharing a good joke). She was approachable, funny, smart, and always willing to help. Karen personified what the Delaware DDC is about. Our dedicated Council members and staff all share some of Karen's best qualities, values, and determination. Their commitment, knowledge, and willingness to share their experiences and wisdom knows no bounds. I am honored to work alongside them every day. Karen was known to end any conversation with, "if you need me, I'll be there, just ask." This may sound like a simple quote, but it is a powerful one. As a Council, we strive to be all the things that Karen was- approachable, kind, funny, wise, giving and supportive. We are here to serve all Delawareans with developmental disabilities regardless of age, race, gender identity, citizenship status, preferred communication method or place of residence just to name a few. If you live here and you or your family member have a developmental disability, we are here for you. It is our honor to serve. If you need us, we'll be there-just ask.

With respect,
Kristin Harvey



2022 LIFE Conference

The annual LIFE Conference presents educational content and resources on emerging topics and issues relevant to Delawareans with disabilities and their families. The LIFE Conference Planning Committee creates each year's content carefully based on current events, issues brought to the table by planning committee members, and past attendee feedback and evaluation data. The LIFE Conference uses its content to promote and support full community integration by focusing on four main topic areas of Legislation, Independence, Families, and Education. The LIFE Conference empowers participants to become better advocates for themselves and others by encouraging participants to be NICE -Network, obtain up to date Information, Connect with providers and advocates in the disability community, and obtain Education on topics important to persons with disabilities. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, the conference had to be held in a fully virtual format.

The DDC is proud to be the contract holder and primary funding source for the conference, and to serve as active participants of the LIFE Conference Planning Committee. The conference is truly a collaborative effort, with representation on the planning committee from our University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD), state Protection and Advocacy (P&A) agency, partners from other state agencies and non-governmental advocacy agencies, and most importantly, people with disabilities and their families. Having the intended audience at the table right from the beginning is key to developing content that resonates with them. When the event is held in person, registration is around 500 attendees. As we expected, registration numbers were lower for the FY 2022 conference, with 344 attendees.

The LIFE Conference registration system asks attendees to self-identify which category they feel fits them best. LIFE Conference registration data showed that out of 344 registrants 63 identified as a person with a disability, 80 shared that they were a parent/family member of a person with a disability, 170 said that neither designation applied to them, and 22 preferred not to answer. Registrants also had the option to share their gender identity. Of the 344 registrants, 74% identified as female, 21% identified as male, and 5% preferred not to answer.

"Wonderful conference again this year! All of the speakers were wonderful, and I truly enjoy hearing all of the personal experiences!"

- Attendee evaluation feedback



"I love how you stay on the cutting edge of disability topics. Keep up the great work!!!"

- Attendee evaluation feedback

"I think every session could have been a full day even with all the information that was given. Hearing the testimonies proves that Delaware has Champions for LIFE! I am so happy i was able to take part!"

- Attendee evaluation feedback

DEMONSTRATING IMPACT

Hear from some of the partners behind the DDC's projects as they share their thoughts about how working with the DDC has influenced their perspective and future work

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As the LIFE Conference Contractor for several years, it has been my privilege to work very closely with the team at the Delaware DDC. The LIFE Conference not only offers education and resources, but it has also proven to be highly impactful on the lives of people with disabilities, their families, and the professionals who support them. Year after year I've witnessed the power of this impact, the stories of those who benefitted, and the sheer force of people coming together with a common goal of improving lives. I am humbled and honored to work with the professionals at the DE DDC on providing the invaluable opportunities that the LIFE Conference affords all attendees.

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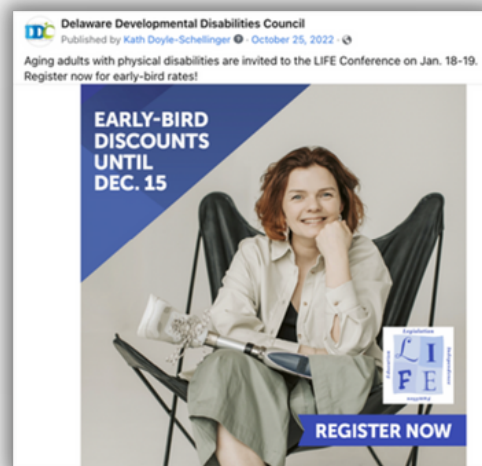
- Lorraine Janusas

 **EVENTFUL CONNECTIONS**

Exceptional Events, One Detail at a Time!



Amplifying Messaging About the LIFE Conference- A collaboration with Aloysius, Butler, and Clark (AB&C)



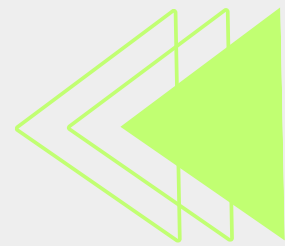
DDC partnered with professional marketing team Aloysius, Butler, and Clark (AB&C) to amplify messaging about the LIFE Conference and encourage more Delawareans with disabilities and their families to attend. Council has prioritized effective marketing and promotion of its projects and initiatives in the past three years, feeling that a project or initiative is only useful if people know about it. To that end, AB&C was able to use its social and media connections to assist the Council with expanding our reach. AB&C reported the following about the 2022 LIFE Conference marketing campaign:

"The campaign was successful in terms of spreading awareness, garnering over 1.5M impressions and over 7K clicks. The LIFE Conference Promotion ad led the campaign with 832,041 impressions, 4,155 clicks, and 560 post reactions. Users found this campaign engaging, resulting in 720 reactions and 123 shares. All ads received post reactions, with the LIFE Conference Promotion garnering the most, at 560. AB&C saw a high number of post shares (123), showing that users shared posts with their friends and networks".

DDC determined that social media helped amplify our information, however word of mouth and other traditional outlets such as radio commercials and press releases leading to interviews and publication in local news outlets were also useful to amplify messaging. The DDC will work with AB&C on future campaigns to expand upon all types of outreach, particularly to non-English speaking populations.

ALOYSIUS
BUTLER
& CLARK

BRAND | DIGITAL | MEDIA



Delaware Developmental Disabilities Council's Promotional Campaign

The DDC continued to contract with the State of Delaware's approved marketing contractor, Aloysius, Butler and Clark (AB&C). Over the course of the year, DDC worked collaboratively to create a variety of social media materials sharing what the Council does and encouraging people to reach out to us. Materials were developed in both English and Spanish.

Some data on the impact that their efforts were able to help the DDC secure:

AB&C secured four news media placements, generating more than 1.192 million impressions that are worth over \$128,000 in advertising value. This equates to each placement being viewed/read/listened to by more than 1.192M Delawareans who may not have been reached otherwise, many who have I/DD or know someone with I/DD.

AB&C established seven new partnership opportunities for DDC, generating an additional 30,000 impressions. This means that through our outreach and toolkit distribution, more than 30,000 Delawareans with I/DD were reached who may not have been reached otherwise.

AB&C arranged for three speaking/event opportunities in an effort to generate awareness for DDC, which will result in 20,000 impressions.* (reach more than 20,000 Delawareans with or know someone with I/DD). The Council also supported the following: Down Syndrome Association of Delaware Walk, Delaware Foundation for Reaching Citizens with Intellectual Disabilities—Blue Gold Southern Delaware Golf Classic, and the Special Olympics Fall Festival.



ALOYSIUS
BUTLER
& CLARK
BRAND | DIGITAL | MEDIA



COVID -19 Vaccine Public Relations Campaign

DDC worked with Aloysius, Butler, and Clark (AB&C) to develop plain language materials that encouraged individuals with disabilities to get the COVID-19 vaccine. Messaging also focused on how to navigate some of the logistical challenges that may come with scheduling and getting to a vaccination appointment such as transportation to the site to receive the vaccine, coordination with the service provider to obtain an appointment, physical barriers to getting into the location to get the vaccine, etc. The target audience for this messaging was school-aged children with disabilities and their parents. Partnerships with school administrators, parent groups and teachers were utilized to share this information widely.

One of the most useful deliverables of this project was a toolkit of information in both English and Spanish. Additionally:

- AB&C secured two news media opportunities generating more than 210,000 impressions that are worth over \$65,000 in advertising value. This equates to each placement being viewed/read/listened to by more than 210,000 Delawareans who may not have been reached otherwise, many who have I/DD or know someone with I/DD.

- AB&C established four new partnership opportunities for DDC, generating an additional 20,000 impressions. This means that through our outreach and toolkit distribution, more than 20,000 Delawareans with I/DD were reached who may not have been reached otherwise.

- AB&C created four videos with Charmaine Wright, M.D., MSHP, Director of ChristianaCare's Center for Special Health Care Needs to promote COVID vaccines and boosters targeting families of teens with disabilities. This were shared amongst 50+ partners and news media with the potential of reaching 250,000+ Delawareans with ID/DD.

- AB&C arranged for three speaking/event opportunities in an effort to generate awareness for DDC, which will result in more than 20,000 impressions, This includes three speaking engagements: Down Syndrome Association of Delaware Walk, Delaware Foundation for Reaching Citizens with Intellectual Disabilities—Blue Gold Southern Delaware Golf Classic, and the Special Olympics Fall Festival .





If you have a question about the COVID-19 vaccine, the Delaware Developmental Disabilities Council is here to help.



If you or a loved one lives with a developmental disability, you may have questions about the COVID-19 vaccines. The Delaware Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC) can help.

Not sure where to start? Here are a few questions many people ask.

Can anyone get the COVID-19 vaccine?

The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is authorized by the FDA for all children 6 months and older. Those 18 and older can get the Pfizer, Moderna, or Johnson & Johnson vaccine.



Can I get the COVID-19 vaccine at the same time as other vaccines?

Yes. You can get the COVID-19 vaccine with other vaccines, during the same visit.

Will the vaccine alter DNA?

No. COVID-19 vaccines do not interact with your DNA, so they cannot alter it.



Aren't kids immune to COVID-19?

No. When the delta variant emerged, it spread so easily that Delaware saw a rise in cases and hospitalizations among children.

What everyone should know about the COVID-19 vaccine:

- Millions of people have received the COVID-19 vaccine safely.
- No corners were cut in vaccine development.
- The COVID-19 vaccine does not infect you with the virus.
- The COVID-19 vaccine is extremely safe and effective, even against variants.



Are there long-term side effects from the COVID-19 vaccine?

No. There are no long-term side effects from the vaccine; however, there are numerous long-term side effects from COVID-19.

Does the COVID-19 vaccine affect fertility?

No. There is no evidence that any vaccine, including COVID-19 vaccines, causes infertility.



If you need assistance getting your COVID-19 vaccine, call 302-739-3333 or visit VaccineAccessDE.com.



El Consejo de Discapacidades del Desarrollo (DDC) de Delaware puede ayudarte a recibir la vacuna contra el COVID-19.



La vacunación de niños y jóvenes con discapacidades o necesidades médicas especiales es importante porque pueden ser más propensos a desarrollar síntomas graves de COVID-19. Las vacunas han demostrado ser seguras y eficaces en la prevención de síntomas graves y muertes, y pueden ayudar a tu hijo a retomar sus actividades habituales.

Lo que todos deberíamos saber sobre la vacuna contra el COVID-19:

- Millones de personas se han vacunado contra el COVID-19 en forma segura.
- No se tomaron atajos en el desarrollo de la vacuna.
- La vacuna contra el COVID-19 no contagia el virus.
- La vacuna contra el COVID-19 es sumamente segura y eficaz, incluso contra las variantes.



Si tienes preguntas sobre su funcionamiento o necesitas ayuda para acceder a la vacuna, llámanos. Podemos darte la ayuda que necesitas.

Si necesitas ayuda para vacunarte contra el COVID-19, llama al 302-739-3333 o visita VaccineAccessDE.com.



The Delaware Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC) is here to help you get access to the COVID-19 vaccine.



Because children and youth with specialized health needs or disabilities may be at higher risk for more severe illness from COVID-19, it's important for them to get the COVID-19 vaccine. The vaccines are proven safe and effective against serious illness and death, and can help your child return to their normal activities.

If you have questions about how it works, or even need help getting the vaccine, call us. We can give you the help you need.

What everyone should know about the COVID-19 vaccine:

- Millions of people have received the COVID-19 vaccine safely.
- No corners were cut in vaccine development.
- The COVID-19 vaccine does not infect you with the virus.
- The COVID-19 vaccine is extremely safe and effective, even against variants.



If you need assistance getting your COVID-19 vaccine, call 302-739-3333 or visit VaccineAccessDE.com.



Si tienes preguntas sobre la vacuna contra el COVID-19, el Consejo de Discapacidades del Desarrollo de Delaware puede ayudarte.



Si tú o un ser querido conviven con una discapacidad del desarrollo, es posible que tengan preguntas sobre las vacunas contra el COVID-19. El Consejo de Discapacidades del Desarrollo (DDC) de Delaware puede ayudar.

¿No sabes por dónde empezar? Aquí encontrarás algunas preguntas muy frecuentes.

¿Cualquiera puede vacunarse contra el COVID-19?

La FDA ha autorizado el uso de la vacuna de Pfizer-BioNTech para todas las personas mayores de 6 meses de edad. Las personas mayores de 18 años pueden aplicarse las vacunas de Pfizer, Moderna o Johnson & Johnson.



¿Puedo vacunarme contra el COVID-19 y otras enfermedades en la misma visita?

Sí, puedes vacunarte contra el COVID-19 y otras enfermedades en la misma visita.

¿La vacuna puede modificar el ADN?

No, la vacuna contra el COVID-19 no interactúan con el ADN, por lo que no pueden modificarlo.



¿Los niños no son inmunes al COVID-19?

No. Cuando apareció la variante delta, se propagó con tanta facilidad que Delaware vio un aumento en la cantidad de casos y hospitalizaciones entre los niños.

Lo que todos deberíamos saber sobre la vacuna contra el COVID-19:

- Millones de personas se han vacunado contra el COVID-19 en forma segura.
- No se tomaron atajos en el desarrollo de la vacuna.
- La vacuna contra el COVID-19 no contagia el virus.
- La vacuna contra el COVID-19 es sumamente segura y eficaz, incluso contra las variantes.



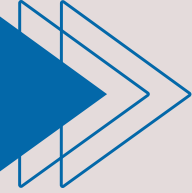
¿La vacuna contra el COVID-19 afecta la fertilidad?

No, no hay evidencia de que alguna vacuna, incluidas aquellas contra el COVID-19, cause infertilidad.



Si necesitas ayuda para vacunarte contra el COVID-19, llama al 302-739-3333 o visita VaccineAccessDE.com.





COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy Project

DDC partnered with the Delaware Division of Developmental Disabilities Services (DDDS), providing funding for a COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy research and public awareness campaign. The project was conducted by the nonprofit group Public Agenda in coordination with DDDS and the University of Delaware's Partnership for Healthy Communities. DDDS and Public Agenda conducted outreach to DDDS service recipients who have intellectual and developmental disabilities to gather information about the reasons that they may have been hesitant to receive the vaccine.

Outreach was conducted largely by a "text, talk, engage" feature that allowed for a broader distribution method. 3,000 Direct Support Professionals were targeted with this outreach.

1,000 families with individuals with I/DD living at home with them were engaged through outreach through DDDS community navigation service provider the Columbus Organization through its case management system. 21 individuals provided direct text responses to participate in all activities. 10 of those who responded stated that they had already received the vaccine. 1 indicated that they were seriously concerned because of safety and testing reasons. 1 stated they most likely would get the vaccine.

The responses and data received showed that many individuals in the disability community were still unclear, anxious, or afraid to go out in public and be in large gatherings during the pandemic. DDC will use the findings from this project to inform future outreach efforts and resource materials.



Landscape Analysis: Accessing Skilled Nursing Care for Children with Medical Complexities (CMC)

Children with medical complexities (CMC) and developmental disabilities under the age of 21 who live at home and receive skilled nursing care were the focus of this study. In order to strengthen advocacy efforts for CMC and better understand the obstacles to providing skilled nursing care to CMC receiving services in the community, the DDC engaged our network partners at the University of Delaware Center for Disabilities Studies (CDS) and the Center for Research in Education and Social Policy (CRESP) to conduct a landscape analysis of the obstacles to providing skilled nursing care to CMC receiving services in the community.

Key informant interviews were completed to gather insights into direct and indirect obstacles to accessing skilled care in the state. Some of the challenges that were documented are the following:

- Workforce shortages due to poor pay, lack of career advancement, burnout, training gaps.
- Lack of transparency of available services; confusing language and communication barriers faced when trying to access services
- Lack of coordination of care between service agencies including nursing services, home health aides, medical supplies/equipment, as well as therapies needed in the community.



The final report and analysis included recommendations about how to expand upon the study's findings. The Council's Policy and Law Committee will use the data and information in the report to inform future project development, and make recommendations to the full Council in the coming year.

For more information and to request a copy of the final report compiled from this project, please contact the DDC office at 302-739-3333.



DEMONSTRATING IMPACT



Hear from some of the partners behind the DDC's projects as they share their thoughts about how working with the DDC has influenced their perspective and future work



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As the contractor for the Partners and Junior Partners in Policymaking Programs, my experience working with the DDC has been amazing. I've been fortunate to meet many wonderful people who have become life-long friends. In addition, it's provided me with an incredible opportunity to see the world from a new perspective, which continues to help me learn and grow."

”



Junior Partners in Policymaking
Delaware Developmental Disabilities Council

- Donna-Marie King
Sage Strategy & Communications



Junior Partners in Policymaking
Delaware Developmental Disabilities Council

Junior Partners in Policymaking

Council continued their work with Donna-Marie King of Sage Marketing and Communication to facilitate the 2022 Junior Partners in Policymaking program. Donna-Marie used her marketing experience to conduct extensive outreach efforts to recruit participants for the 2022 class. English and Spanish versions of fliers were created & distributed to transition coordinators & special education teachers throughout Delaware, as well as to several organizations that serve teens & young people with developmental disabilities.

At the beginning of this year, the contractor worked to reach out to the public to gauge the best ways to reach our target audience (was it social media, tv, etc.). This outreach was done via a Survey Monkey link that was shared via DDC's Instagram, Facebook, Website and listserv. Based on the survey results, our target audience finds out about programs available to them via social media so that is how we moved forward with our targeted marketing approach.

The Junior Partners in Policymaking program took place this year on the University of Delaware campus June 19-24, 2022. Instruction and activities for the FFY 2022 JPIP program included: the history of disability advocacy; the legislative process, vision board creation, IEP/IPE advocacy, Assistive Technology, budgeting, life skills, Charting the LifeCourse, "how I identify" (explores preference for people-first or disability first language), employment options, college options, and a graduation activity. Fourteen individuals applied and were accepted into the program. Two dropped out before the program began. 12 completed and graduated from the program. Eleven of the participants have autism spectrum disorder and one of the participants had several disabilities including: Epilepsy, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, Oppositional Defiance disorder, ADHD, Bi-Polar Disorder, Right VP Shunt and PDD. The participants bonded extremely well with the staff members, with many forming friendships that will continue long after the program's completion.

As is tradition, the week culminated in the participants giving mock testimony at Legislative Hall. While the exact topics presented varied widely from participant to participant, the common theme was one of empowerment, positivity, and a strong desire to advocate for change not only for themselves, but for all people with disabilities.



Disability Pride Documentary Phase II



Building on the success of the 2021 Disability Pride documentary, Council expanded on their Disability Pride Documentary series in 2022. Qua Marketing, with the support of Short Order Production House, assisted the Council in establishing storyboards to bring the Policy and Law Committee's vision and goals for this project to life. The end product is intended to be used for advocacy and education purposes for the public, policymakers, and other key decision-makers.

The 2022 series focused on:

- Eliminating the institutional bias
- The importance of affordable, accessible housing
- Education and setting the bar high for students with disabilities
- Health care disparities
- Pride in having a disability

The videos were shared widely on the following media outlets: ·WBOC Delmarva Life, Delaware Online, Voice Radio Network, Hoy En Delaware, and with the University of Delaware Access:Ability Scholars. The Council continues to schedule viewings of the videos to further educate, advocate and inform the community.

The video series can be found on the DDC's YouTube channel here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rlf8XLRkaEM&list=PL5FakxxJJSTjaAsSjFkLpX_Doq8YeHv6

DEMONSTRATING IMPACT

Hear from some of the partners behind the DDC's projects as they share their thoughts about how working with the DDC has influenced their perspective and future work

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In the Summer of 2022, I had the opportunity to produce and direct the DDC's Disability Pride series; a project that showcased stories of people from the disability community in Delaware.

Working on this documentary for the DDC, became one of my career's most impactful and rewarding experiences. I had the chance to learn from DDC staff and members, and from disability rights activists about the history of this community – the legal and political battles that were fought for the civil rights of people with disabilities, and how those battles are still being fought today.

I had the chance to meet and interview people, and learn about their experiences; a young woman who moved from an institution to finally live independently, a mother who was seeking equitable educational opportunities for her son, a family who was fighting for proper, unbiased medical care for their son, and many others.

The DDC introduced me and my production team to these individuals and gave us the privilege of being able to share their stories through film. I am grateful for having had the opportunity to work with DDC as a contractor. It's clear that uplifting voices from all across the disability community is their mission, and I'm honored to have been a part of the work that they do.

- Alexander Newman

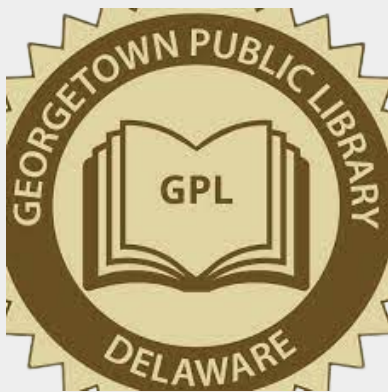
Producer, Short Order Production House



Our community partners are talking...



The Delaware Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC) has been a wonderful partner to the Georgetown Public Library. They came to the Georgetown Public Library to do an assessment of our accessibility and explained that while it is great that we are ADA compliant, being accessible is more than just compliance. For example, they encouraged us to increase our automatic door open length from 5 seconds to 12 seconds. This small change gives patrons with assistive technology and service animals more time to comfortably enter or exit a room. The DDC also provided a staff training to Georgetown Public Library employees that taught the importance of being an ally, as well as ways to implement the lessons learned. Finally, the DDC partnered with the Georgetown Public Library for a screening of a film they made showing Disability Pride. We look forward to our continued partnership with the Delaware Developmental Disabilities Council.



- Rachel Culver

Director, Georgetown Public Library

"I am a proud member of the DDC on behalf of The Arc of Delaware. Being a council member allows me to hear many views regarding the Delaware disability community and the support needed by individuals to live a life of choice."

- Susannah Eaton - Ryan

DDC Council Member &
Director, The Arc of Delaware



HAVE A SEAT AT OUR TABLE



Advocates of the Roundtable

invites voters with disabilities and their families to join us for an online interactive discussion with some of the candidates on the ballot for the November 8th election.

MEET THE CANDIDATES

Thursday, October 26th
On Zoom from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Attend this online forum to:

- Hear from some of the candidates who are running for election
- Talk with the candidates about issues that are important to you

Registration is required!

The DDC supports Delawareans with disabilities and their families/ caregivers by coordinating informal group meetings with speakers covering varying topics that promote the sharing of mentorship and peer support opportunities.

The Council hosted Advocates of the Round Table discussions and Let's Talk About It YouTube series that was spearheaded by the DDC's Community Relations Officer, Emmanuel Jenkins. These sessions brought together educators, parents, advocacy allies, our network partners and other state agency partners to discuss and brainstorm solutions to emerging issues and concerns in Delaware. Topics for the popular series are identified based on what we are hearing from the community. Questions that help determine what to focus on for episodes include "What are people calling us about?" and "What new initiatives are out there that we think more people should know about?" "Let's Talk About It" also serves as a tool to promote Council's projects and initiatives and to showcase our members and their unique backgrounds and contributions to the Council and the community.

Advocates of the Round Table presents:

All Things LOVE

Join us as we tackle the topic of love and it's many forms. Topics will include: introductions, first dates, marriage and intimacy

We want to hear from YOU! Your stories, your opinions, views, advice, **ALL ARE WELCOME**. Join us for a very memorable Advocates of the Round Table!!!

February 23, 2022

In keeping with the spirit of "Let's Talk About It", the Council's Advocates of the Round Table online discussion group addresses topics that have come to the staff's attention. The difference with this approach is the format. Monthly sessions are planned and promoted through social media and our listservs. Discussion topics for Advocates of the Round Table in FFY 2022 included life in the community, voting, and mental health.

Winter Holiday Blues

Shorter days, cold weather, and the holidays can make the winter season tough to handle. Come join the Advocates of the Round Table for a candid conversation about:

- What do accessible, inclusive holidays look like to you?
- What are some of your favorite accessible winter activities?
- Fire department crash your holiday party? Aunt Gladys wrapped up her cat again? Share your best winter or holiday horror story (bonus points for sharing in a dramatic voice). After all, laughter is the best medicine.

November 30, 2022
6:00 PM to 8:00 PM
on Zoom



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, developmental disabilities are a group of conditions due to an impairment in physical, learning, language, or behavior areas. These conditions begin during the developmental period, may impact day-to-day functioning, and usually last throughout a person's lifetime

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the United States about one in six, or about 17%, of children aged 3 through 17 years have a one or more developmental disabilities.

WHEREAS, this year's theme "Worlds Imagined" seeks to raise awareness about the inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in all aspects of community life, as well as awareness of the barriers that people with disabilities still face in connecting to the communities in which they live.

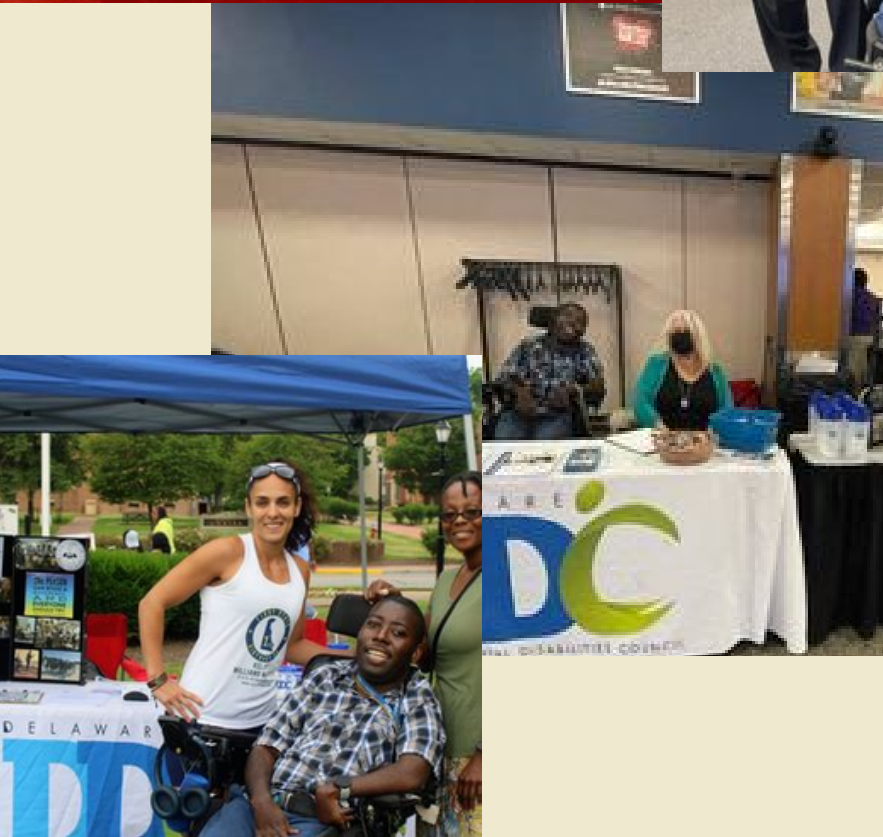
WHEREAS, this year we will celebrate the 32nd anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which prohibits discrimination against all Americans with disabilities and codified the protection of their civil rights.

WHEREAS, early intervention, education, employment, and home and community-based services are vital to people with developmental disabilities.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROBIN R. CHRISTIANSEN, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF DOVER, DELAWARE, do hereby proclaim March 2022 as

Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

in the City of Dover and continue to strive towards diversity, equity, and inclusion to ensure all citizens are treated with dignity.



STATE CARE

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

**PROCLAMATION
IN OBSERVANCE OF
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES MONTH**

WHEREAS, the Delaware Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC) aims to address the unmet needs of people with developmental disabilities through system-wide advocacy, planning and demonstration projects; and

WHEREAS, Delaware DDC is a local Council of the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Delaware DDC is to promote and embrace inclusion, equality, and empowerment; and

WHEREAS, Delaware DDC strives to create opportunities in the everyday lives of children and adults with developmental disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the Delaware DDC is committed to improving the quality of services for this population in Delaware and to serve as an advocate and instrument of system change.

Now, Therefore, We, John Carney, Governor, and Bethany Hall-Long, Lieutenant Governor, do hereby declare March 2022, as

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES MONTH

in the State of Delaware, and urge all citizens to recognize the many ways people of all abilities come together to form strong, diverse communities.

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Delaware Developmental
Disabilities Council

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Meet our staff



Kristin Harvey
Executive Director

Kristin.Harvey@delaware.gov
302-739-3623

Stefanie Lancaster
Social Services Administrator
Stefanie.Lancaster@delaware.gov
302-739-7193



Emmanuel Jenkins
Community Relations Officer
Emmanuel.Jenkins@delaware.gov
302-739-7192

Hogan IV
Assistant to Mr. Jenkins



STATE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL

STATE COUNCIL FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

GOVERNORS ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CITIZENS

DELAWARE DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL (DDC)

GOVERNORS ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CITIZENS

DDDS ADVISORY COUNCIL

CONCUSSION YOUTH PROTECTION ADVOCACY ACT

DDC ADVOCACY AND OUTREACH

HOUSING COMMITTEE

PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY

CONCUSSION YOUTH PROTECTION ADVOCACY ACT

DDC ADVOCACY AND OUTREACH

DDDS ADVISORY COUNCIL

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DDC POLICY AND LAW COMMITTEE

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DDC POLICY AND LAW COMMITTEE

NACDD



NACDD

NACDD PUBLIC POLICY

BRAIN INJURY COMMITTEE

DDDS ADVISORY COUNCIL

DDC

DDC ADVOCACY AND OUTREACH

DDC POLICY AND LAW COMMITTEE

EMPLOYMENT FIRST OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

STATE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL

STATE COUNCIL FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

GOVERNORS ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CITIZENS

NACDD

NACDD STATE POLICY

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PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY



In Loving Memory
Karen Eileen Gallagher

October 29, 1952 - August 21, 2022

Trailblazing advocate,
wise mentor,
treasured friend, and
devoted Council
member

