

# Governor's Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities

## Mission and philosophy

The Governor's Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities seeks and advocates for activities which promote self sufficiency, community involvement and educational opportunities for people with disabilities, their families, and the Wyoming Community.

The council's purpose is to assure that individuals with developmental disabilities and their families participate in the design of and have access to needed community services, individualized supports and other forms of assistance that promote self-determination, independence, productivity, and integration and inclusion in all facets of community life, through culturally competent programs authorized under Public Law 106-402, known as the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights act of 2000.

The council accomplishes its mandates through several different avenues. Staff carry out some activities while others are accomplished by partnering with other established agencies and organizations to address areas of mutual concern. Additionally, the council identifies gaps in service delivery and provides sub-grants to agencies and organizations to develop and implement projects that address innovative ways to fill the gaps.

## Results of outcomes

- ◆ To facilitate adult self-advocates, parents and family members to participate with local, state and national decision makers in policy development, the nationally recognized Partners in Policy Making program completed its third year. Eighteen parents and self-advocates completed the course.
- ◆ The council has continued to support the development of local people first chapters by providing board training and technical support. Additionally, the council assisted in organizing and supporting the annual People First conference. A total of 65 self-advocates participated.
- ◆ To enhance the opportunity for people with developmental disabilities to obtain employment consistent with their interest and abilities, 15 young adults were placed in full time employment and ten additional are pending through the Access ABILITY project.
- ◆ The council continues to co-sponsor and coordinate the annual MEGA Conference on disabilities. Approximately 350 people; professionals, providers, self-advocates and family members attended.
- ◆ To increase awareness and understanding of disabilities by decision makers, an advocacy network was established. Three hundred ninety nine individuals joined the network; 35 self-advocates, 132 family members, 196 providers and 36 others.

### General information

Brenda Oswald, Executive Director

### Agency contact

Brenda Oswald  
307/777-7230  
Herschler Building, 1st W.  
122 West 25th Street  
Cheyenne, WY  
boswal@state.wy.us

### Year Established

1976

### Statutory references

Executive Order 1987-13  
Wyo. Stat. §§ 9-1-217  
Wyo. Stat §§ 9-1-603(vii)

### Organizational structure

Attorney General's Office is the designated state agency that "shall, on behalf of the State, provide support to the Council."

### Authorized personnel

5 full-time

### Clients served

People with developmental disabilities, parents and families of people with developmental disabilities, and general public.

### Budget information

|                    |               |
|--------------------|---------------|
| General fund ..... | \$103343      |
| Federal .....      | 446347        |
| Other              |               |
| <b>Total .....</b> | <b>549718</b> |

### Agency to which your group reports

Department of Health and Human Services,  
Administration on Developmental Disabilities

### Number of members

23

### Meeting frequency

Quarterly