



NORTH DAKOTA CENTER FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

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October 2008

Director's Message

By Brent A. Askvig, Ph.D., Executive Director

The fall season is truly a season of change in North Dakota (ND). ND farm families will look back on their efforts and struggles to plant and grow healthy, profitable crops. Hopefully the harvest season brings forth prosperous results. These families then can begin their future planning and preparations for next year. As the leaves change colors and the fields change from green to golden brown we also take time to reflect on our NDCPD spring and summer accomplishments. This October NDCPD staff will carefully examine our grant proposal and revenue development activities (the planting season) and see how our funding requests (the harvest) brought forth new projects. From this examination and reflection, staff will plan for another year of fruitful work in research, training, information dissemination and services for ND citizens with disabilities.



Sunflower fields of North Dakota.

As the new Executive Director of NDCPD, I approach this fall as a time of reflection and excitement. I use this time to first reflect on a major change here at NDCPD, the departure of Dr. Bryce Fifield. Personally and professionally we will miss Dr. Fifield's leadership, mentoring and friendship. Much of what we are and have recently "harvested" comes from his sowing and nurturing of good ideas. We will miss his "green thumb" and wish [\(continued on page 2\)](#)

Data Linkage and Early Hearing Detection

By Neil Scharpe, Project Director, Data Linkage Project

NDCPD was recently awarded a grant from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. This three year project has a goal to link the current newborn hearing data set with other data sets such as Vital Records, Immunizations and/or Metabolic Screening and offer primary care physicians access to this information so they can keep parents informed about additional follow-up that may need to occur.

While North Dakota (ND) screens 98% of newborns prior to leaving the hospital, only 54% of those infants who miss or fail are returning for another screen and only 23% who require audiological testing are reported as receiving follow-up care. One possible reason is that the current system may not [\(continued on page 3\)](#)

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Harvesting time in North Dakota.

“It is such a simple word—DISCOUNT”



Director’s Message (continued from page 1)

him well in his new job.

My excitement about our new season at NDCPD comes from a review of our staff. These individuals are some of the most competent, connected and enthusiastic professionals that I know in the disability field. I especially look forward to their thoughtful insights on the needs of citizens

with disabilities and the possible solutions for meeting those needs. I can hardly wait to watch their ideas be planted, grow, and bring forth beautiful results that improve the lives of people with disabilities. And then, as our farmers can hopefully do this year, we can look back on our successes, and plan once again for continued fruitful seasons.

Medicare Phone Scams Reappearing with a Bit of a Twist

This article was reprinted with permission from the National Consumer Protection Technical Resource Center

IT IS SUCH a simple word -- discount -- and therefore such a simple word to manipulate to the harm of consumers. For most people, discounting is the essence of retailing, the way people actually shop, especially for the most basic of the commodities they use all the time.

At 72, Harold looks as sharp as he was 20 years ago. He tends a large property and cares for his wife Evelyn and their three pets. He never thought he'd be taken in by a Medicare phone scam until he received a call from someone claiming she was calling from the Medicare Discount Bureau.

According to Harold, the caller said we've checked on your Medicare Part B and you've not used much of it, so we're going to give you a discount. We're going to knock sixty dollars off your Part B premium a month, which will be added to your Social Security check and also to your wife, Evelyn's check. The caller explained that she was an employee of the discount division of Medicare. All her department had to do was change the amount, "we're going to draw from your social security check and then reroute the increased check to your bank account.

May I have that number so that I can increase both of your checks next month?" Harold said it sounded so real that he gave her his bank account number.

Others have reported receiving phone calls from Mr. Jones, Medicare Representative ID #dj1049. Jones reports that all Medicare beneficiaries who did not use all of their part B benefits will receive \$200 or \$150. Jones states that the beneficiary is entitled to a refund and asks to confirm their Medicare Number and then asks for their bank account number in order to make the deposit.

Remember:

- Medicare will never ask for that type of information.
- Any changes to Medicare plan are done through paperwork.
- Medicare Discount Bureau doesn't exist.
- If you get a call like this, just hang up the phone and do not give out your personal information to someone you do not know.
- It's shrewd to be rude, simply hang up!

For more information on how to protect yourself against Medicare fraud, contact Linda Madsen, Senior Medicare Patrol Project Director, at 1-701-858-3424 or linda.madsen@minotstateu.edu.



ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY CENTERS ON DISABILITIES
RESEARCH, EDUCATION, SERVICE

The North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities is a member of the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD). AUCD is a national network of interdisciplinary centers advancing policy and practice through research, education and services for and with individuals with developmental and other disabilities, their families, and communities.

National Disability Employment Awareness Month

October is designated as **National Disability Employment Awareness Month** (NDEAM) by congress. In July U.S. Secretary of Labor, Elaine L. Chao, announced the official 2008 theme:

**America's People...
America's Talent...
America's Strength!**

Of the theme Secretary Chao said, "Full access to community life for Americans with disabilities is an imperative and this year's theme conveys the tremendous contributions that these Americans can make in the workplace."

Observed nationally NDEAM increases public awareness of the contributions and skills of American workers with disabilities. The Labor Department's Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) leads the way in planning activities for the month. Other national and local organizations can attach individual events and programs to ODEP efforts to showcase the abilities of employees with disabilities. Various programs carried out throughout the month also highlight the specific employment barriers that still need to be addressed and removed.

This effort to educate the American public about issues related to disability and employment actually began in 1945, when Congress enacted a law declaring the first week in October each year "National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week." In 1962, the word "physically" was removed to acknowledge the employment needs and contributions of individuals with all types of disabilities. In 1988, Congress expanded the week to a month and changed the name to "National Disability Employment Awareness Month."

"It is important to note that having people with disabilities in the workplace is valuable to the individual and to businesses," said Neil Romano, ODEP assistant secretary. "People with disabilities are the next great wave of diversity, and diversity fosters innovation to drive our economy and our nation into the future."

For more information, visit <http://www.dol.gov/odep/programs/ndeam.htm> .

Data Linkage (continued from page 1)

contain accurate contact information such as parent's name, address, and phone number. Another reason is that there is still education to be done with hearing screening staff, parents, primary care physicians, educators, and the general public of the importance of hearing screenings and the developmental consequences of late-identified children.

Development of a data use agreement with the Department of Health: Division of Vital Records has begun which would allow ND Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) staff to manually match data in OZ eSP with Vital Records. The project is also looking at software that could offer electronic notification of appropriate personnel when an infant is reported to have a refer result at the first or second hearing screening level.

The ultimate goal is to have ND meet the 1-3-6 month timelines for detection, assessment and intervention of hearing loss for all newborns in ND. Having accurate, timely data will assist our ND EHDI program in achieving this goal.



2008 National Disability Employment Awareness Month theme emblazoned on an image of Mount Rushmore National Memorial.

“People with disabilities are the next great wave of diversity.”





Tom Alexander, Region V Delegate of APSE.



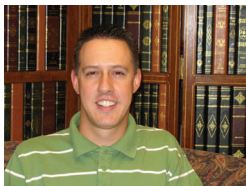
Amy Armstrong, ND APSE President.



Lisa Johnson, ND APSE Treasurer.



Barb Johnson



Chad DeCoteau



Brenda Munson



Nicole Adams

CES Staff Recognized

Tom Alexander, Amy Armstrong, and Lisa Johnson of NDCPD's Medicaid Infrastructure Grant have been elected to positions in the Association for Persons in Supported Employment (APSE).

Mr. Alexander has been elected as the Region V Delegate to the APSE Chapter Delegate Council. This 11 person council provides member support and advice to the central APSE office. He represents the states of Minnesota, Montana, Wisconsin, North Dakota and South Dakota and is the primary liaison between state members and the national office. His appointment runs through 2011.

Ms. Armstrong is the current year president of the ND Chapter of APSE, and Ms. Johnson was elected as state Treasurer.

APSE provides advocacy and education to customers of supported employment, including service providers, employers, and persons with disabilities. Its goal is to assure that all persons, regardless of disability or condition, receive community employment. The ND APSE chapter has about 25 members, and the national APSE organization has about 3,500 mem-

New Grant Awards

Great Plains Autism Spectrum Treatment (GPAST)

Funding Agency: US Dept of Health & Human Services, HRSA

Grant Type: Research

Funding Amount: \$397,839

ND Integrated Services (NDIS)

Funding Agency: US Dept of Health & Human Services, Maternal & Child Health

Grant Type: Public Service

Funding Amount: \$367,268

ND Data Linkage

Funding Agency: US Dept of Health & Human Services, Centers for Disease Control

Grant Type: Public Service

Funding Amount: \$150,000

Tele-Audiology

Funding Agency: US Dept of Health & Human Services, Centers for Disease Control

Grant Type: Research

Funding Amount: \$144,559

New Faces at NDCPD

NDCPD welcomed four new faces to the staff in July.

Barb Johnson joins the Great Plains Autism Spectrum Disorder Treatment Program (GPAST) as a Family Support Specialist. Barb has a Masters degree in Early Childhood Special Education and has worked in the field for 20 years. Barb is the co-founder of the first camp for families affected by HIV/AIDS and has published several inspirational articles and children's books.

Chad DeCoteau is working on the Rural Health Network for Family Support project as the Business Operations Specialist. His primary responsibility is to work with stakeholders to create a sustainable network and a new non-profit organization. Chad is a former MSU graduate and is currently completing his Masters in Business Administration through Gonzaga University.

Joining our administrative team are Brenda Munson and Nicole Adams. Brenda serves as administrative assistant for the Associate Director of Development. She also provides support to the GPAST, Transition Partnership, and Realtime projects. Nicole joins the team providing administrative support to the ND Hear Now, Senior Medicare Patrol, and Data Linkage grants and the Core dissemination coordinator. Welcome!

November 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

December 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

January 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Upcoming Training Events

Supporting Employment Outcomes in a Rural State

Presenter: Roger Shelley

Site: Comfort Inn, Bismarck (Call 701-223-1911 for sleeping rooms before November 18)

Date: December 3, 2008

Time: 9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Registration Fee: \$70.00

For more information contact: Cheryl Rystedt @ 1-800-233-1737 or email @ cheryl.rystedt@minotstateu.edu

Upcoming LEND Seminars

The Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LEND) Seminars are held on Fridays from 1pm to 5pm in the NDCPD Teleconference Studio (Rm 207, Memorial Hall, Minot State University Campus). These interactive seminars are free and open to the public. Participants may attend for all or part of the time.

Systems/Medical Home

By: Gina Pola-Money

Date: October 3, 2008

Autism: Etiology and Prognosis

By: Lisa Samson-Fang, Sarah Winter, & Paul Carbone

Date: October 24, 2008

Legislative Issues

By: Marty Blair & Gina Pola-Money

Date: October 31, 2008

Evidenced-Base Practice

By: Lisa Samson-Fang & Sarah Winter

Date: November 7, 2008

Autism: Screening and Early Signs

By: Lisa Samson-Fang & Sarah Winter

Date: November 14, 2008

Parent Directed Clinic

By: Barb Fiechtl

Date: November 21, 2008

Upcoming CD/Webcasts

Transitional Jobs

By: Melissa Young and Tom Alexander

Date: November 18th

Time: 2:00 P.M. - 3:30 P.M.

Fee: \$30.00 per site

Reducing the Stigma Associated with Disability What Agencies, Staff, and Families Can Do

By: Kathie Snow

Date: December 10, 2008

Time: 1:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Fee: \$30.00 per site

Making it All Count: The Big Picture of Physical Activity

By: Amy E. Rauworth, MS, RCEP

Date: January 14, 2009

Time: 2:00 P.M. - 3:30 P.M.

Fee: \$30.00 per site

For more information contact: Vicki Brabandt @ 1-800-233-1737 or email @ vicki.brabandt@minotstateu.edu

For additional copies of the Collaborator contact Cynthia Salazar at 1-800-233-1737.

Please feel free to copy and distribute articles or excerpts from The Collaborator, provided the following acknowledgement is used: *Used with permission from the North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities, a center of excellence at Minot State University, Minot, North Dakota, USA.*

COLLABORATOR
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Minot, ND
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Grafton State School

“In addition to expanding their own horizons, they bring disability issues into the mainstream of campus life...”

Living at Grafton DVD

NDCPD has a new DVD, “Living at Grafton,” by Dr. Brent A. Askvig. Living at Grafton is a 25-minute DVD presenting the reflections and stories of 6 former institutional residents of the Grafton State School in North Dakota. These individuals describe their life in the institution, including the circumstances leading up to their institutionalization. They also detail the daily life of living in Grafton State School. This DVD continues Dr. Askvig’s research of the North Dakota Developmental Center and makes a great companion to his book, “One Hundred Years: The History and Chronology of the North Dakota Developmental Center.”

For more information on this product contact Cynthia Salazar, Dissemination Core Coordinator, at 1-800-233-1737 or 701-858-3356.

2008 NDCPD Access Scholars

The North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities (NDCPD) at Minot State University (MSU) awarded 2008 Access Scholarships to two MSU students. Each student will receive \$200 towards their education during the 2008-2009 school year.

The NDCPD established the Access Scholarship to help students with significant disabilities attending MSU finance their college experience. The scholarship endowment is managed by the MSU Foundation and the NDCPD Consumer Advisory Council Scholarship Committee screens applications and awards the interest of the endowment as scholarships.

As Access Scholars pursue their education, they touch the lives of their peers, colleagues, and professors. In addition to expanding their own horizons, they bring disability issues into the mainstream of campus life and make discussions about quality of life and independence relevant for all college students.

For more information on the Access Scholarship, visit our website at www.ndcpd.org/disinfo/access.shtml or contact Susie Mack at 1-800-233-1737 or 701-858-3009.

Giving Tree

For several years now, NDCPD has supported a Giving Tree which provides Christmas gifts for 25-30 selected children in need from the Minot area. Each Christmas, staff and friends of NDCPD purchase gifts of clothing and toys for families in hardship who might not otherwise be able to provide Christmas for their children. The Giving Tree is one way NDCPD gives back to our local community.

For more information about the Giving Tree, or if you wish to participate, please contact Donna Weishaar at 701-858-3054.



NDCPD Staff with gifts for the 2007 Giving Tree.

We Care Winners

July/August, Janice Fuchs (Minot)
September, Marcia Johnson (Minot)

Thanks to all who contribute to NDCPD fundraising efforts by bringing in **MarketPlace receipts**. For every receipt turned in with the “WE CARE” stamp, MarketPlace Foods will give 1% of the total back to NDCPD for the NDCPD Endowment/Access Scholarship fund. Continue to bring your receipts to NDCPD and be sure to include your name and phone number on the back of the receipt to be eligible for the drawing.



National APSE Position on Olmstead & Supported Employment

In 1999, the Association for Persons in Supported Employment (APSE) issued a call for action to reverse the wide practice in this country of segregated “employment” for adults with high support needs. APSE is not alone in publicly stating that individuals with disabilities must be protected from unnecessary isolation.

- In July, 1999 the Supreme Court issued a decision in Olmstead v. L.C. that Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act requires states to provide individuals with disabilities with services and programs in “the most integrated setting appropriate to the needs of qualified individuals with disabilities.”

While the Olmstead case was about institutional vs. community living, the integration mandate applies to all state and local programs and indeed extends to state day and sheltered employment services.

- In January, 2001 the Rehabilitative Services Administration (RSA) issued regulations limiting employment outcomes in the Title I vocational rehabilitation system to integrated employment. Under the RSA Rule a sheltered work setting could only be funded with Title I funds under *temporary* training circumstances leading to integrated employment.

Inclusive competitive employment is the clear goal the Rehabilitation Act has established for State- VR programs.

- In January, 2000 the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) wrote to State Medicaid Directors: “...Medicaid may be of great assistance to States in fulfilling their civil rights and responsibilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).” HCFA promised to

“review federal Medicaid policies and regulations to identify areas in which policy clarification or modification would facilitate your efforts to enable persons with disabilities to be served in the most integrated setting appropriate to their needs.”

HCFA’s primary Olmstead enforcement efforts have been focused on individuals who are “allegedly inappropriately institutionalized or are at risk of inappropriate institutionalization,” and on “states’ efforts to craft comprehensive, effectively working plans to remedy inappropriate institutionalization.” However, they also have made it clear that the decision includes all public programs.

Since the two major Federal funding sources for employment services for individuals with disabilities have taken the lead on community inclusion, providing, through landmark decisions, a new foundation for state supported employment services across the country

APSE calls on each State Vocational Rehabilitation system, Medicaid program, and One Stop Center to fully implement the spirit and mandate of the Supreme Court and the Rehabilitative Services Administration through the dedication of funding and other resources to support a strong statewide system of supported employment for all individuals with high support needs who choose to work. This would also include local employment provider agencies who are receiving state funds to provide employment services for people with disabilities. Integrated community employment is the goal of these federal initiatives and of APSE- The Network on Employment.



“Individuals with disabilities must be protected from unnecessary isolation.”



This article was taken from the following resource: National APSE - The Network on Employment. *APSE Position on Olmstead and Supported Employment*. Retrieved September 12, 2008 from www.apse.org.

**NORTH DAKOTA
CENTER FOR
PERSONS WITH
DISABILITIES**

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upon request.

The Collaborator

The Collaborator is the quarterly newsletter for the North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities (NDCPD). NDCPD is a University of Excellence on Developmental Disabilities in Education, Research, and Services at Minot State University. It is part of a network of similar programs at universities throughout the United States.

Our mission...

To provide leadership and innovation that advances the state-of-the-art and empower people with disabilities to challenge expectations, achieve personal goals and be included in all aspects of community life.

Vision Statement...

We believe that people with disabilities have the same rights as all citizens. We believe that people with disabilities who receive publicly funded services have the right to expect that those services appropriately promote their independence, productivity, integration and inclusion. Furthermore, we believe that the public expects that these services will be provided in an effective manner.

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