The MISSION of NDCPD is:
To provide service, education, and research which empowers communities to welcome, value and support the well-being and quality of life for people of all ages and abilities.

Our VISION is that:
- People with disabilities have the right to expect that services they receive will appropriately promote their independence, productivity, integration and inclusion.
- People with disabilities have the same rights as all citizens.
- People with all abilities will be included in all aspects of life and receive services they need.

Affiliation
The North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities is a federal University Center of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research and Services (UCEDD). We have core funding from the US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Developmental Disabilities, and belong to a network of 67 similarly established UCEDDs. NDCPD is housed at Minot State University under the Vice President for Academic Affairs. We are closely aligned with the College of Education and Health Sciences, with affiliations with the Departments of Special Education, Communication Disorders, Psychology, Addiction Studies and Social Work, and Nursing. NDCPD works closely with the North Dakota State Council on Developmental Disabilities and the ND Protection and Advocacy Project to address the needs of persons with disabilities related to independence, productivity, self-determination, and community inclusion.

The Consumer Advisory Council 2010-2011
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The North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities, a University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities at Minot State University completed 21 years of service, education, research and information dissemination to the citizens of our state. Started as a satellite University Affiliated Program of the Utah State University Center for Persons with Disabilities in 1990, NDCPD has grown to be an active and influential partner in the upper Great Plains. The 2010-2011 year was a successful year, but not without significant challenges. Our state’s rural geography has been and continued to be a challenge for service delivery, education and information dissemination.

This year we also saw two new challenges - the impact of the oil industry and regionalized flooding. For nearly three years, western and central ND has been involved in the development and extraction processes for crude oil. The oil industry has impacted our communities greatly. Housing is at a premium, and previously designated affordable housing is being converted to higher level market incomes. This has had a deleterious effect on individuals with disabilities and others with limited income. In addition, the influx of oil workers has strained community services (police, fire, medical), schools, and even roads. Some rural communities in western ND have doubled in size in the last two years without concomitant increases in services, access and supports. Anecdotal reports from consumers with disabilities paint a very negative picture. One consumer spoke about how a community had to prioritize infrastructure and services, and decided to eliminate a drop-in center for individuals with disabilities and mental health issues.

The second challenge has been the recent flooding. Two rivers, the Missouri River in western and central ND, and the Mouse River in north central ND have devastated many communities. Individuals have had to evacuate their homes and thousands of citizens have had their homes destroyed. Obviously this affected hundreds of people with developmental disabilities. We found that ND’s emergency response systems, while well meaning, had limited planning or experiences in assisting people with disabilities. Few if any accommodations were made to account for variances and differences for people with disabilities. The national Red Cross has been helpful, but individuals with disabilities still need to find housing. NDCPD provided guidance, leadership and direction as staff examined affordable housing situations and options in local communities. NDCPD provided awareness information on accommodation needs for specific individuals.

Despite this depressing recent context, we are happy to report that overall, the 2010-2011 year was a success. In July 2010 NDCPD hosted a delegation from Russia through our local International Visitor Leadership Program. Titled “Promotion of Non-handicapping Physical Environments for Disabled Persons” (their title), this activity brought six colleagues from Russia for two days with NDCPD. The focus was on learning about accessibility, design and alterations of physical environments and building public-private partnerships to promote disability access. Both the NDCPD and the Russian colleagues learned much about similarities and differences in our systems and in the supports for people with disabilities.
In September 2010 we celebrated 20 years as a center. We hosted previous directors and staff in the celebration, with luncheons, speakers, and an open house event. National speakers provided a great context for inclusion and integration. NDCPD was fortunate to partner with MSU Student Government Association to host Chet McDoniel who gave a positive message about overcoming anything life throws at you. Both the MSU President and the Chancellor of the ND University System were in attendance for our activities, showing a true center – university partnership.

Our staff were active in state and national leadership. Mary Mercer and Dawn Olson both served on the Association of University Centers on Disability Board of Directors. Their presence and activity helped us to better understand national issues and how they apply to the Great Plains. Staff were involved in our state legislative processes. While ND was one of just a handful of states with a budget surplus, we still struggled to advance new programs or expand existing efforts for citizens with disabilities.

Within our state, NDCPD worked closely with the other ADD funded programs. The Executive Directors of the ND P&A, the DD Council and the UCEDD meet monthly to discuss our work, focus on priorities and look for ways to leverage our staff, resources and activities to support important work and developments for ND citizens with developmental disabilities. We have worked together, as part of a larger effort, in shaping the DD Council five year plan, and have recently begun working together to develop a task force on seclusion and restraint issues for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. In addition we have been working to develop a statewide picture of needs and issues for our future annual and five year plans. We have co-hosted regional summits on our ADD emphasis areas (e.g. housing, transportation, recreation, etc.), and have initiated consumer listening sessions across eight locations to gather grass roots information on needs and gaps in our systems. This information will make its way into our individual program and cross-program collaborations.

NDCPD’s Consumer Advisory Council (CAC) was active. Members revised their member handbook, and developed a new subcommittee on member support. Members were involved in fund raising, and awarded scholarships for students with disabilities to attend higher education. Further, the chair of the CAC, Ms. Deb Unruh, was elected as Secretary to the AUCD Council on Consumer Advocacy. Finally, our CAC poster was recognized as one of the top three posters at the AUCD Annual Conference in November, 2010. NDCPD experienced a change in Associate Directors this year. Dr. David Roof, Associate Director for Development, has moved on to another job out of state, and Dr. Lori Kalash, Associate Director for Community Services, took a tenure track position in Teacher Education at Minot State University. We were fortunate to attract Dr. Lori Garnes, Associate Professor, from the MSU Department of Special Education to take Dr. Roof’s position.

Finally, NDCPD had another banner year in revenue generation and fiscal leveraging. In 2010-2011 NDCPD’s leveraged fund amount was approximately $7.92 million. This compares to $6.83 million in 2009-2010 and $5.71 million in 2008-2009. Clearly our staff have excelled in times of dire national economic stress.
It is important for students to have knowledge about the capacity of various disciplines to best provide support across the lifespan to individuals with disabilities and their families and about how professionals from an array of disciplines can work together to achieve a coordinated system of care. In order to ensure that these outcomes are met, the North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities uses two main approaches to achieve its interdisciplinary preservice training function: “Disability in Society” and Utah Regional Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (URLEND).

Disability Studies Course
“Disability in Society” is a disability studies course that is offered to Minot State University students for diversity and general education credit. This course is designed to change misperceptions by providing information to Minot State students about people with disabilities and their family members and the issues and policies that concern them throughout their lifespan. Students gain information about people with all kinds of disabilities and their cultures as part of a diverse society. Presentations by individuals with disabilities and their family members help to provide a critical link between course content and real life experiences. The capstone assignment for this course is a service learning project in which students apply course content as they interact with individuals with disabilities, families, and disability professionals in natural environments.

The addition of a co-instructor who is the parent of three children with disabilities greatly enhanced the course during the 2010-2011 school year.

In fall 2010, there were 14 students enrolled in the disability studies class. Majors of these students included Elementary Education, Addiction Studies, Business Administration, Chemistry, Communication Disorders, and Special Education. Four students were selected to participate in a second semester internship program. Under the supervision of faculty mentors, the interns had opportunities to participate in a wide array of activities such as shadowing NDCPD staff on various projects, developing resources and materials for dissemination, attending didactic sessions, and observing interdisciplinary clinics.

Utah Regional Leadership in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (URLEND)
Through a collaborative partnership with the Utah Center for Persons with Disabilities at Utah State University, NDCPD supports professionals from disability-related disciplines as well as individuals with disabilities and their family members to participate in the Utah Regional Leadership in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (URLEND) program. Through the URLEND training program, NDCPD had one professional trainee and two family trainees during the 2010-2011 academic year. The professional trainee is a member of the Communication Disorders faculty and is also the director of MSU’s speech-language clinic. One of the family trainees has a son with disabilities and is the receptionist for MSU’s speech-language clinic. The other family trainee has a daughter with Autism and works in business administration. These trainees participated in didactic sessions, a research/leadership project, and observations of specialty clinics in Utah and North Dakota.
NDCPD carries out a variety of training and technical assistance activities to address issues that affect people with disabilities and their families across the lifespan. These activities are designed to enhance the capacity of health, education, employment, and the disability support systems statewide.

**2011 Training and Technical Assistance Activity Highlights**

**Family Involvement and Cultural Competence**
ND Integrated Services conducted a series of learning sessions underlining the importance of family members as experts, outlining the necessity of understanding family culture, and expanding the definition of culture to better meet the needs of CYSHCN and their families. Representatives from Okiciya presented on Cultural Competency/Family Involvement at the NDIS Learning Collaborative in Fargo.

**NDCPD sponsored Workshops and Conferences**
Face-to-Face workshops and conferences are sponsored by several NDCPD projects. A few of the topics include:

- *The Art of Creating Opportunity* by Denise Bissonnette
- *Friendships Matter! Creating and Facilitating Social Networks* by Claudia Bolton
- *Train the Trainer to Train the Staff in Therapeutic Intervention* by Ron Odden
- *Supporting a Person with Difficult Behaviors/Supporting the People Who Care* by David Pitonyak

**Webinar Series for 2010-2011**
Over a 1000 educators, service providers, family members and advocates from 13 states participated in the NDCPD Webinar Series this year. Topics included: health information, positive behavior supports, social competence, and self-determination.

**Universal Design for Learning Faculty Development Course**
NDCPD developed and delivered an online course for faculty from Minot State University and Dakota College at Bottineau on Universal Design for Learning. Faculty completed online lessons that included many multimedia presentations of examples of UDL in post-secondary settings, online assessments, and a project that applied UDL principles to their courses.

**Certification for Qualified Developmental Disabilities Professionals**
As the educational partner of the National Association of Qualified Developmental Disabilities Professionals, NDCPD provided online training for a cohort of QDDPs from Illinois. The training included NDCPD’s online Prevention of Abuse and Neglect Leadership training.

**Healthy Lifestyles for People with Disabilities**
The North Dakota Disability Health project promotes the health and wellness of ND citizens with disabilities, and works to prevent or lessen the effects of secondary conditions associated with disabilities. This year the project focused on teaching 3-day workshops on Healthy Lifestyles for People with Disabilities for adults with intellectual disabilities in Minot & Mandan.

Who Received NDCPD Training and Technical Assistance in 2011?
18,840 people, including:
- 16,165 professionals and paraprofessionals
- 1,696 general public
- 248 Adults with Disabilities
- 109 Children with SHCN
- 66 Legislators/Policy Makers
- 58 family members/caregivers
NDCPD received over $3 million in research funding for FY 2008-2009. Additionally, the Center offers an exceptional research and educational environment that includes research design, statistical analysis, data management, as well as the preparation of research proposals and grants. NDCPD’s core grant had a specific goal in research. It stated: NDCPD will conduct one case study research project to identify services, supports and other assistance that contributes to self-determination, independence, productivity, and integration/inclusion in the community.

**Connected: Social Integration Using Cell Phone Technology.**

This study discovered the how cell phone technology can influence the life activities of one individual with an intellectual disability over the course of three months.

**Research question:** How does cell phone use impact various aspects of life for an adult with intellectual disabilities in North Dakota?

The objective of this study was to discover how using a cell phone impacted the life of an adult with intellectual disabilities. Overall, the participant’s experiences using a cell phone were positive. He valued carrying the phone around with him even when it was not charged. Several modifications to the methodology of the study may be useful to James in the future including a) involving support personnel in the training and education of using the cell phone to self-advocate could increase opportunities to practice in natural settings; b) more frequent data collection using the structured interview will provide better data about the calls made and received; and c) more frequent shorter direct instruction opportunities will allow safe practice of the use of functions available to the participant and assist him in becoming more independent. More research is needed to determine the extent to which cell phone technology and other commonly used devices can support an individual with an intellectual disability in advocating for him/herself and accessing the community with greater independence.
NDCPD staff produced numerous documents, reports, and products for dissemination to individuals with disabilities and their families. The Center communicates and shares information and research findings with a broad constituency and brings the most current findings to the communities we serve. NDCPD’s dissemination highlights this year included:

**36 project web sites** with an estimated over 200,000 page views occurred during this year where viewers accessed reports, newsletters, brochures and other publications.

**Projects developed 120 different products** from which approximately 21,500 items were disseminated through mass mailings, as well as complimentary copies to individuals with disabilities, families, caregivers, service providers, educators, advocates, and policymakers.

**Center projects expanded their use of social networking** using Facebook to keep families, constituents and advocates informed of upcoming training dates and newly published resources.

**The Center developed four issues of its newsletter **The Collaborator** during this year. Each issue highlighted new projects, new products, best practice, & recent research; disability related issues; awards and recognitions (new grant awards, staff recognitions/awards, project/program recognitions) new NDCPD staff; upcoming training; and, service program activities.

**Center staff gave presentations** on their work at over 100 international, national, state and local events including the Association of University Centers on Disability (AUCD) Conference, National Association of QMRPs Conference, Council for Exception Children, Pathfinder Parent Involvement Conference, ND Association of Community Providers, and local civic groups.

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**FUNDING**

NDCPD has been successful in accruing external support for its projects and activities. Along with the Core Funding from the Administration on Developmental Disabilities, NDCPD leveraged over $7.9 million. Staff successfully obtained grants, contracts, cooperative agreements and fee-for-service funding to support individuals with disabilities, their families, and the agencies that provide community supports.
COMMUNITY SERVICES

NDCPD strives to provide direct services and supports to people with disabilities of all ages and their families to minimize disparities in healthcare, enhance educational opportunities, develop work skills, and enrich daily living. Examples of our work include:

**Services to Infants and Toddlers**
The Minot Infant Development program served 165 families from July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011. During this time, a total of 274 Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSPs) were written, 3,168 home visits were conducted, and 192 consultations were completed. “Virtual Home Visits” were also tested with great success. This allowed interventionists to videoconference with families from their offices when inclement weather or family illnesses prohibited travel to the home.

**Services to Young Children and Adolescents**
A total of 99 families of children with autism spectrum disorders were served this year through diagnostic and follow-up services and training. NDCPD staff hosted 11 parent trainings and 8 diagnostic clinics using an interdisciplinary approach. Some clinics utilized videoconferencing technology to assess children from a distance. MSU students and URLEND trainees were also involved in these clinics. One clinic held in October 2010 was aired “live” in nine different communities across five states with over 30 professionals observing.

**Virtual Home Visits**
Among NDCPD’s most recent endeavors has been testing the use of telepractice in our Minot Infant Development Program (MIDP). This program supports activities which identify infants (birth-3) who have developmental delays or at risk. In addition, it provides in-home programming and activities for eligible children. With the price of gas soaring toward $4 per gallon and qualified professionals more difficult to recruit, the delivery of home visitations in rural ND are becoming a real challenge. NDCPD staff believe visitations using Telehealth technology make an excellent supplement to their existing service, enabling activity when otherwise unavailable and reducing travel costs. Over the last year, MIDP staff has been beta testing the delivery of service to rural families using two different software methods.

**Getting the Word Out** *(aka Dissemination)*
A “services spotlight” section was introduced in the April 2011 Collaborator and continues in future publications. The intent is to highlight exemplary services by either program partners around North Dakota or by NDCPD staff.

**Other Direct or Demonstration Services**
The Senior Medicare Patrol held 11 one-on-one counseling sessions to assist seniors in recognizing and acting quickly to Medicare fraud.