NDCPD has established four Theme Teams which coincide with the Center’s four core goals: Inclusive Communities, Workforce Development, Self-Determination, and Healthy Citizens. The Teams are comprised of cross sections of project staff, and each are currently led by one of the Core Coordinators. The Teams meet periodically to review the annual objectives and activities for their respective goals. Team members determine if existing Center projects are conducting the activities, if our partners are working on the activities, or if the Center needs to develop other strategies to accomplish the goal. Theme Teams provide Center leadership with periodic updates on Core goals and suggestions for implementing activities.

Theme Team members are making a difference in the lives of people with disabilities; and, NDCPD wants their stories to be heard. The new e-Collaborator is one of the ways we will share these achievements. Each Theme Team will highlight a success story or discuss how NDCPD staff have made a positive impact on the life of a person with a disability, their family member or their caregiver.
Collaboration Leads to Community Integration

By Neil Scharpe

NDCPD has been the lead agency for the past 14-years in establishing Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) in North Dakota. The EHID project collaborates with the ND Department of Health, ND Birthing Hospitals, Right Track/Tribal Tracking programs, Infant Development programs through ND Human Services, the Parent Infant Program (PIP) at the ND School for the Deaf, Family Voices, and Hands and Voices. Through these collaborations, huge strides have been made in identifying infants with permanent hearing loss much earlier and providing early intervention and family supports to assist the child to achieve developmental milestones.

Recently, NDCPD partnered with KAT Communications to spread the word to parents about the importance of early identification. A video will begin airing on GoodHealthTV in November at tribal health facilities on the Turtle Mountain Reservation. It tells a story of a young mother who did all the right things at all the right times to give her son the best chance of a fully integrated life.

This mother was told by hospital personnel her baby boy did not pass his birth hearing screen and she should bring him back in a few days to be rescreened. Within a week she brought her son back to the clinic where he again failed the screen. She did not stop there, as some mothers have done, thinking their babies can hear. She made an appointment with an audiologist to have diagnostic testing done.

The results indicated profound hearing loss in both ears. This mother continued to assist her son by having him fit with hearing aids, being evaluated for cochlear implants and welcoming into her home the PIP staff who began to teach her, her son and his grandparents sign language. At 14 months he was fit with implants and at 16 months he is a rambunctious young boy engaging in all activities and communicating with his family. This young child will be fully integrated in his community because of his mother’s efforts to accept nothing less.

Success!

FACT: Since July, NDCPD staff members educated 889 people with disabilities on housing.
With the growing trend toward collaborative interdisciplinary efforts in the workplace, there is an increased demand for employees with enhanced teamwork and leadership skills. To meet this demand, NDCPD partners with Utah’s UCEDD to participate in the Utah Regional Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disability (URLEND) program. The URLEND program purpose is to provide opportunities for members of the workforce to increase knowledge and skills in providing services and supports to children with disabilities and their families as part of interdisciplinary teams. During each academic year, NDCPD supports two practicing professionals from health and disability-related fields to participate in the URLEND program. These participants complete a variety of training activities which include weekly didactic seminars, clinical observations and a research/leadership project.

At a recent didactic session, former URLEND trainees previously sponsored by NDCPD shared their experiences with the current URLEND participants from ND and other URLEND sites (Utah, Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming). As reflected in a sampling of their comments below, it is clear that ND’s disability-related professionals have been impacted by their involvement in the URLEND program.

- I am more aware of the social, cultural, and economic factors that influence the provision of services to children with disabilities.
- Learning about principles such as self-determination, cultural competence and family-centered care will change the way I provide services to children and their families in my clinic.
- Having the opportunity to observe specialty clinics in ND and Utah has been a tremendous learning experience for me.
- Participating in a research project has enhanced my leadership skills.
- Because of my involvement in URLEND, I have a network of resources all around the country. This will be so valuable as I support North Dakota families.

Because of their participation in the URLEND program through NDCPD, members of North Dakota’s workforce are truly gaining important leadership and practical skills in providing interdisciplinary services and supports to children with disabilities and special health care needs as well as their families.

FACT: 5,544 people received training to meet the needs of people with disabilities.
Family Benefits from Self-Determination Training

By Kelly Prellwitz

David was born to parents that are both developmentally delayed. David’s dad is self-employed with lawn mowing and snow plowing jobs, and his mom works 20-hours a week at a local restaurant. Both parents are involved in the Second Story social club and take David with them. Mom participates in many Special Olympic events in the community. David’s parents have raised him with the support of the Minot Infant Development program and Easter Seals. David was diagnosed with 22q11.2 deletion syndrome, which entails developmental delays, feeding issues, and a weak immune system.

The family has been concerned with losing their son due to their developmental delays. They have engaged in all services available to them, and have had their own determination to care for their son. They are able to make it to all needed medical appointments, follow through with recommendations to see professionals, seek out help as concerns arise with their son, and work their jobs. David is in the Early Head Start program and the family follows through with requirements of that program. Mom is studying to get her driver’s license so she can be more independent in getting to and from work and picking up their son. The family has become more independent in caring for their son, as they have had guidance and positive feedback from various programs and services in the community. David and his parents attend medical appointments on their own and ask questions of medical professionals if they do not understand something. David’s parents have started to see themselves as capable parents and they are no longer worried about having him taken away from them.
Healthy Citizens

Navigators First Year Highlights
By Neil Scharpe

Health Insurance Marketplace

There are many stories Navigators across the state have reported but there are those that stand out as highlights in a year that had its ups and downs.

The first one is about a 20 something young man who was attending a family funeral on Monday, September 30, 2013. He stayed with his aunt that evening before rising early on October 1 to return home. His aunt, a Navigator, and an ardent proponent of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), had spoken to him about the need for health insurance no matter what age you are. Prior to leaving very early on October 1, the first day of open enrollment, she turned on her computer and opened the browser to Healthcare.gov.

Within 30 minutes he had “navigated” the application, chosen a plan and enrolled in coverage. The Navigator project was later informed that the first person in the country to sign up for health insurance through the Marketplace was from North Dakota. By the time the sun rose on the east coast, the Healthcare.gov website had been rendered useless for the next two months but ND was on the map.

There are many stories of people accessing Medicaid Expansion, an extension of original Medicaid, but a plan that does not involve the limitation on assets as original Medicaid does. A couple months ago the Navigator project received a call from a mother whose son was identified as having Asperger’s. He was 27 years old and working in a job he had landed on his own. He had health insurance through this employer up until he lost his job. Project staff met with him and his parents in their home. After discussing the options, it seemed he would qualify for Medicaid Expansion. He went to the county the next day and signed up. Prior to the ACA, it would have been difficult for him to access any kind of health insurance.

Success!

FACT: NDCPD staff members provided training on Medicare benefits to 682 people.
NDCPD Recently Funded Projects

NDCPD’S TEAM TO ASSIST YOUTH IN HEALTH CARE TRANSITION

NDCPD was recently awarded funding from the North Dakota State Council on Developmental Disabilities for the Teens Entering Adult Medicine (TEAM) project. This funding will address the transition needs of youth with developmental disabilities or special health care needs from pediatric to adult health care services. Hilory Liccini, TEAM project director, indicated the program will train four integral participant groups affected by developmental disabilities or special health care needs: the youth themselves between 14 and 17 years of age, parents of transition-age youth, health care providers and educators of transition-age youth. “The program is designed to educate, train and empower participants with the necessary skills to support youth in health care transition,” Liccini said. For more information on the TEAM project, contact Liccini at Hilory.Liccini@minotstateu.edu or 858-3008.

NORTH DAKOTA SUICIDE PREVENTION AND INCARCERATION PROJECT

NDCPD, MSU’s Rural Crime and Justice Center and the ND Department of Health, Suicide Prevention Program are collaborating on a new project for suicide prevention, the North Dakota Suicide Prevention and Incarceration Project. It is designed to provide law enforcement and jail personnel with training and information on policies, procedures and operations techniques to reduce suicides and suicide attempts in jails. Brent Askvig, NDCPD Executive Director and this project’s director, indicated that the program will bring in a nationally recognized consultant to train law enforcement and jail personnel of safety, security and policy issues. Then NDCPD and RCJC staff will provide individualized technical assistance to incarceration facilities and personnel related to policy and procedures as outlined by the training consultant. “Our goal is to provide training and assistance to law enforcement and jail staff who face challenges of staffing time, facilities-structure issues and operational procedures so that prisoners would not engage in risk behaviors related to suicide,” Askvig said. The project will run through June 30, 2015, and is funded by the ND Department of Health Suicide Prevention Program. For more information, contact Dr. Askvig at brent.askvig@minotstateu.edu or 858-3580 or Micki Savelkoul, North Dakota Suicide Prevention Program, at mlsavelkoul@nd.gov or 328-4580.
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.

**eCollaborator**

**NDCPD’s Quarterly Newsletter**

**Our Mission**

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**NDCPD Upcoming Trainings**

For more information on any of our project-sponsored trainings, call 1-800-233-1737

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<td>April 7-8, 2015</td>
<td>Train-the-Trainer in Therapeutic Responses through Positive Behavior Supports. HIT, Inc., Mandan, ND</td>
<td>Vickie Brabandt</td>
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<td>May 6-8, 2015</td>
<td>ND Association of Community Providers 27th Annual NDACP Conference Creating Inclusive Communities Ramada Plaza, Fargo, ND</td>
<td>Vickie Brabandt</td>
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**NDCPD Personnel Corner**

**NDCPD’s RAM Good Job**

October  
Ashley Dhuyvetter

November  
Emily Rodacker

**New NDCPD Hires**

Student Assistant  
Danae Burke