



The 2011 Legislative Session is Here!

Council member, Rep. Paul Ray, is sponsoring a disability amendment law to change all state code references of “mental retardation” and replace that term with “intellectual disability”. If passed, Utah will follow suit to the recently passed federal legislation, Rosa’s Law.



For years adults with intellectual disabilities have been disrespected by their peers and society at large through the “slang” use of their diagnosis. The “r” word is used so casually by many people who do not have a clue about how hurtful and disrespectful they are being to people with developmental disabilities.

Last week, I was appalled as I listened to the discussion of some family members and professionals as they casually dismissed the effort to change “mental retardation” to “intellectual disability”, chalking it up to another “politically correct” concession. How odd that this group did not understand the very basic value of RESPECT involved with this significant language change. This is not political correctness, this change is all about respect. I just couldn’t let it pass without saying something because I have witnessed the passion of so many People First advocates who have talked long and loud about how “language matters”. I found myself making a rather pointed comment to the group. I said “I doubt that with the new term ‘intellectual disability’, people will now go around disrespecting others by saying, ‘You are such an intellectual...’” That kind of put down doesn’t have the same tone, does it? My hope is that more of our community will continue to listen to the individuals with the label, and be glad for them and understand their feelings of celebration when at long last, we have respectful language to speak about a diagnosis!

Seeking new Council members – October 2011

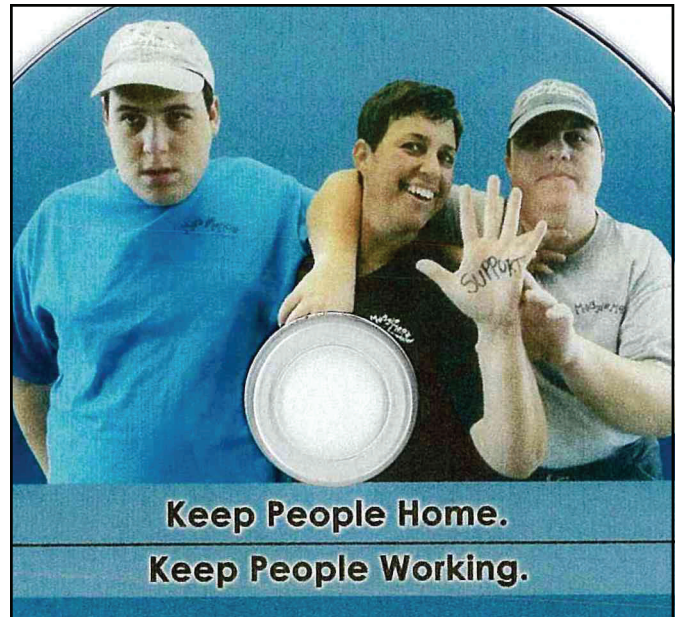
Each year the Council solicits applications from the community to fill citizen member positions as other members complete their appointed three year terms. The Council Nominating Committee invites people in the developmental disability community to make application for three potential positions slated specifically for individuals with developmental disabilities.

Applications are available on the Council website: www.utahddc.org. The application process is open from January through March 31, 2011. Applicants will be reviewed by the Nominating Committee and names will be forwarded to Governor Gary Herbert for his official appointment. People who are appointed will serve a three year term starting October 2011 through September 2014.

The Council would like to encourage individuals with developmental disabilities to apply. Call the Council office for more information. 801-533-3965

Council Video is Educating Legislators and the General Public

The video *Keep People Home, Keep People Working* produced under the direction of Council member Nevah Stevenson and Claire Mantonya is being shown by community advocates across the state. They worked with Todd Newman from the Center for Person's with Disabilities, Utah State University, with the help of Deborah Bowman and Vicki Clayson, to put this 18 minute video together quickly before the 2011 Legislative Session started. Council member, Senator Pat Jones, suggested last summer that the legislators needed a video to illustrate the needs of people and the different services since so many legislators do not have time to visit homes and go where people work to grasp a good understanding of the needs of the developmentally disabled community. The video captures a glimpse of these personal stories. The Council is very appreciative to all the people who were willing to open their lives to demonstrate to the audience, the needs and concerns of our community.



DVD copies are available at the Council office, and you may view it online through the Council website. www.utahddc.org

5-Year Plan

Update from the 5-Year Planning Committee

Dr. Bryce Fifield worked very hard with the 5-Year Planning committee last fall and now the draft of the plan is ready for the Council's initial approval during the February 2nd Council Meeting at the Capitol (11:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) The next step following this approval will be a time for public input. There will be public meetings held across the state and the approved draft of the 5-Year Plan will also be online where comments can be posted. Once the public comment period is complete, the committee will revise the plan as needed and take it back to the full Council for a vote. A final copy will be submitted to the Administration on Developmental Disabilities by August 15, 2011.

As a result of the successful trip and Council meeting held last November in St. George, the Executive Committee wants to hold the April Full Council meeting in Vernal to learn about the issues and resources available for people with disabilities in the Basin. Initial plans for this meeting will be discussed during the February 2nd Full Council meeting.



Utah State Capitol Building Rotunda

LCPD Reception with Legislators February 2, 2011 in the Capitol Rotunda 4:30 - 5:45 p.m.

As the disability community approaches the Legislative Session, we know that Governor Herbert's budget proposal is keeping our disability community services basically intact, replenishing one-time funding that back-filled cuts made last year and also helped the provider system stay afloat (although there are many smaller companies that have already closed their doors. Providers cannot make enough money to keep their small businesses viable.) A collapse in the provider infrastructure is totally dependent on no further cuts. The DSPD Service system may likely be facing some additional cuts to services. The Legislative leadership is asking Departments to prepare for another 10% across-the-board cut.

This year, maybe more than any time in the past, it is essential that the whole community educate their own Legislators about the needs and how supports help. We are encouraging all Council members to use the video produced this fall to educate the public about the disability community needs. This video is a good basic introduction to the needs of people with developmental disabilities and their families. Council members are encouraged to meet with their own Representative and Senator, show the video, and explain a little about your own family needs.

Meeting your legislators at the Legislative Coalition for People with Disabilities (LCPD) Reception is a wonderful way to make another contact. If you don't know who your elected officials are, go to the Council website (www.utahddc.org) and click on "Find My Legislator". It will direct you to the State legislative webpage and from there you will simply type in your address and all the contact information for your legislator will pop up.

Make it your goal to contact your representatives and invite them to the LCPD reception. Tell them they can meet you there! Email them or call them today. It is not as scary as you think, they are elected to represent you!

Special Advocacy Efforts Recognized

The Utah Association of Community Services (UACS) recognized the advocacy efforts of Deborah Bowman, LuWenn Jones, and Claire Mantonya during their December luncheon.



l-r: Deb Bowman, Claire Mantonya, LuWenn Jones not available

Council Members on the Radio



Council Members **Eric Stoker, Jennifer Kuhn and her three children,** and **Executive Director, Claire Mantonya** were guest participants on a panel to discuss a recent study regarding children's books portraying children with disabilities. BYU professor Dr. Tina Dyches co-author of the study and her student Melissa Leninger, lead author of the study, were also panel members. The panel taped the discussion for the KSL radio talk show called "Cultural Connections," hosted by reporter Nkoyo Lamba.

*Cultural Connections airs on Sundays at 7 a.m.
A podcast will be available after Sunday, January 23, 2011.*

People First / GAP Management Contract Awarded

January 1, 2011, the new contractor, Family Advocacy from Ogden began the large task of managing the self-advocacy network of People First and the Grassroots Advocacy Network (GAP). Mandy Shale, Executive Director, has experience working as direct care staff for people with Autism, she has worked as a special education teacher, and also as a support coordinator. The agency she started provides private support coordination services. The goals will be to create a private non-profit that will allow for the sustainability and self-governance in the years to come in order to provide sustainability for groups all over Utah.

Brooke Wilson, one of the GAP's Regional Organizers, has been hired to provide the direct program administration for Family Advocacy. Brooke has a child with a disability and has immediate experience with supporting the Park City People First group.



We are very excited about the future and the opportunities for growth and leadership development that this new

UTAH DD COUNCIL CALENDAR FOR 2011

(Please check the UDDC website frequently for updated information www.utahddc.org)

FEBRUARY

- 2 **Wednesday:** Full Council Meeting at the State Capitol 11:30 - 4:00
- 10 [Access Utah Now:](#) Sunny Udell, Aging Services
- 24 [Access Utah Now:](#) Maureen Henry: Aging Disability Resource Center

MARCH

- 8 Executive Committee Meeting
- 10 [Access Utah Now:](#) Multiple Sclerosis Society
- 24 [Access Utah Now:](#) TBA

APRIL

- 11-12 Full Council Meeting in Vernal, Utah
- 14 [Access Utah Now:](#) TBA
- 28 [Access Utah Now:](#) TBA



Call us with your disability questions!
800.333.8824 www.accessut.org
Go to <http://www.ustream.tv/accesut7>
for live and archived Access Utah Now broadcasts!



155 South 300 West, Suite 100
Salt Lake City, Utah 84101
801.533.3965

www.utahddc.org

Fax: 801-533-3968

Toll Free: 800-333-8824