



2011 Legislative Session:

Something We Can Brag About!



The Grassroots Advocacy Partnership and the video, “Keep People Home, Keep People Working” helped educate Legislators about the needs of the disability community this year, and we need to celebrate our victories! One of the issues that John Agosta helped the Council understand a year ago this May was that a key bottom line issue we needed to address - our policy makers did not understand or have the political will to support and fund disability services as compared to a majority of the other states. The results of the 2011 Legislative Session proved that our efforts, of course in conjunction with ALL the combined efforts of many people in our disability community, showed that we turned this around!

Two key pieces of legislation passed: HB 230 (Rep. Paul Ray) “Disability Amendments” changed state code to use respectful language and HB 240 (Rep. Ronda Menlove) “Social Services Employment First Priority” made Utah an “Employment First” state! In addition, money was allocated to replace previous cuts that were backfilled by one-time monies. This means that we are not starting next year in a real deficit position, our base budgets are set and ideally, we can negotiate for additional funding to meet our needs.

The DSPD Budget got a boost: \$1,200,000 new ongoing money for mandated additional needs for people already getting services and \$1,051,000 new ongoing money toward people on the waiting list! We got new waiting list money for the first time in 3 years!

Rep. Menlove was able to get \$250,000 ongoing monies to fund the supported employment program that she has championed. This money helps pay for job coaching so that people who are on the DSPD waiting list for supported employment can get and keep jobs!

Assistive Technology monies were funded with ongoing, not one time money, at a \$200,000 level!

There were many other bills and issues that impact the disability community. For a detailed list please visit the Legislative Coalition for People with Disabilities website at <http://www.lcpdut.org/> for details.

Congratulations and thank you to ALL the citizens who educated their legislators. Compared to what is happening to disability services in so many other states, Utah is coming out of this horrible economic downturn and we will be able to continue to move forward!

Utah Developmental Disabilities Council 2011 Annual Advocacy Awards!

Each year the Utah Developmental Disabilities Council likes to recognize outstanding people and their efforts on behalf of the disability community. The Council will recognize individuals during our Annual Meeting this fall on September 20, 2011 at Noon at Thanksgiving Point.

The categories for the awards include:

Self-Advocate of the Year

Legislator of the Year

Parent of the Year

Media Representative of the Year

Educator of the Year

Adult Sibling of the Year

Child Sibling of the Year

Employer of the Year



Nominations should be submitted to the Council office **no later than June 30, 2011**.

Please see last page for nomination form!

Any Council Member or member of the public is invited to make their nominations! You can find the Nomination Form on the website: www.utahddc.org



Jennifer Kuhn, Claire Mantonya, Trevor Spackman, James O'Neill, and Deborah Bowman, all members of the Council Executive Committee, met with Governor Herbert on April 6th to discuss disability issues and to inform him about the work of the Council. Governor Herbert understands that people in the disability community need supports and services and that everyone has some “disability” at some point in their life which is something we all have in common.



Basin Transit Authority Open for Business!

The long awaited bus service between Duchesne and Vernal officially started carrying passengers on May 2nd. Frank Long and Claire Mantonya, along with former Council Chair and Roosevelt resident, Bryon Murray witnessed the ribbon cutting ceremony. Local dignitaries including mayors, county commissioners, and Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) officials were all on hand to celebrate this major collaboration that will help seniors, people with disabilities, low income folks, and all members of the public that need public transportation.

This project marks the accomplishment of a specific goal under the Council's current 5-Year Plan. Bryon Murray reflected back upon his involvement in the planning stages of the 2006 – 2011 Plan. "During our planning meeting at the National Ability Center in Park City five years ago about now, I remember saying 'Guys, we got to do something for the rurals'. It seems like we forget about people who live outside the Wasatch front." Bryon was one of the Council members who advocated for this goal in the plan back then.

Bryon was really proud to see this project finally become a reality. He said, "I feel like this was my baby! Having bus service so I can ride to Vernal for a buck each way will really change my life and the many people who cannot drive now have a way to get to shopping, college classes, and doctor's appointments!"

Council members can all be proud that this Basin Transit Authority has become a reality and that their dreams and efforts contributed to help make this project finally get off the ground!



Executive Director Receives Excellence in Leadership Award from Governor Herbert

Claire Mantonya, Utah DD Council's Executive Director, was awarded the Governors Award for Excellence in Leadership on May 5th. The award is presented annually to a state employee who has exemplified the finest of public service and dedication to the people of Utah. There are

three other categories that are awarded as well: Innovation and Efficiency, Outstanding Public Service and Humanitarianism.

The Awards Ceremony took place in the Governor's Mansion with Governor Gary Herbert presenting the Awards along with Department of Human Services Executive Director, Palmer Depaulis.

Congratulations, Claire! Thank you for your tireless advocacy and leadership in the disability community!

5-Year Plan

5-Year Plan Almost Completed!

Many thanks to Dr. Bryce Fifield and the 5-Year Planning Committee Members: Amy Weyrich, Andrew Riggle, Bill Young, Eder Soriano, Elsie Dee, Deborah Bowman, Jennifer Kuhn, Reed Hahne, Tom Brownlee, and Trevor Spackman as their major task this year is almost completed. This Committee met for many hours through last summer and fall sifting through a mountain of information to help define the goals and objectives that will guide the future resources and efforts of the Council.

Comments were gathered from public meetings around the state. LuWenn Jones and Sherri Dial were instrumental in covering the Southern part of the state during collaborative public meetings with the 5-County Association of Governments. During the Family Links Conference in Salt Lake, Deborah Bowman helped conduct a session to present the plan and to listen for feedback. We also used electronic media to solicit input, blasting the plan through the various disability listserves and posting the plan on the Council website asking people to react. We received numerous emails and a couple of voice mails with comments.

The last meeting of the 5-Year Planning Committee is scheduled for May 24th where they will review public comments and prepare a final draft for the official Council vote of approval at the June 14th Council meeting.

Council members will tell you that this has been a productive year. Starting with our November Council meeting in St. George, we toured several local service provider agencies and listened to public comments during an evening public meeting. In April, Council members traveled to the Uintah Basin with a presentation and public meeting in Roosevelt to learn about the new public transit system project the Council is helping fund. The April Council meeting was held in Vernal the next day.

Our next 5-Year Plan, 2012 – 2016 will be submitted to the Administration on Developmental Disabilities by August 15th and the Council will have new goals to work toward starting in October with the new federal fiscal year!



*Governor Herbert and
Trevor Spackman,
Council Chair*

*Envisioning the Future:
Utah Team*



*Rep. Paul Ray
and Tom Brown-
lee, Council
Members*

*Public Policy Seminar 2011: Wash-
ington, DC. James O'Neill, Claire
Mantonya, Nevah Stevenson*





Grassroots Advocacy Partnership and People First *sharing a common vision*

by Mandy Shale, *Family Advocacy*

When I sat down and wrote the grant request for the administration and management of the GAP and People First programs I had a vision that self-advocacy and advocacy for people with developmental disabilities would become second nature to those of us living, working, playing, and policy making in Utah. Through increasing disability awareness in those with little knowledge or empathy and through increasing leadership and advocacy skills to people with disabilities and their circles of supports this vision may be possible.

It was fortunate that I and others understood the value and importance of electronic media in this mission. It is important that we reach out to those not on the Wasatch Front and ensure that those who are unable to leave their home also are involved. Electronic media is an essential tool towards the completion of our mission and we spent a great deal of energy and resources in creating a live, usable, and fun product.

The Grassroots Advocacy Partnership (GAP) website, www.utahgap.org was up and operating within weeks of the beginning of this year's Legislative session thanks to our webmaster Bryan! The website contains live feeds of disability-related information and provides information on current events and upcoming state-wide meetings. The Regional organizers have just been set up to begin blogging so we are expecting some really great blogs on experiences and things going on regionally in Utah. If you have always wanted to be a better advocate but didn't always know how to start then check out our site and if you like it, then join us! We'll increase your disability awareness and your advocacy skills. The People First website, www.peoplefirstutah.org is a bit of a different story and wasn't released until after the Legislative session was coming to a close. This website is a gem in the rough but updates are being made to it almost daily. Each one of the 22 State wide Chapters will be receiving orientation training and Chapter bloggers (self-advocates) will be providing ongoing communication on important regional issues and their personal experiences. Please check out our calendar as Chapter meetings are being added to it as they are scheduled and don't forget to bookmark both of the sites.....they are definitely worth a look once or twice a week. Anyone interested in starting a new People First group or joining a group as a self-advocate or as a mentor can contact Mandy at mandy@utahadvocacy.org



UTAH DD COUNCIL CALENDAR FOR 2011

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

JUNE

- 9 [Access Utah Now](#): TBA
- 14 Full Council Meeting: UDDC Large Conference Room 10 - 2 pm
- 23 [Access Utah Now](#): TBA
- 30 **Deadline for Nominations for 2011 Advocacy Awards**

JULY

- 12 Executive Committee Mtg: 2 pm by teleconference
- 14 [Access Utah Now](#): TBA
- 28 [Access Utah Now](#): TBA

AUGUST

- 11 [Access Utah Now](#): TBA
- 16 Executive Committee Mtg: 9 - 1 pm
- 25 [Access Utah Now](#): TBA

SEPTEMBER

- 8 [Access Utah Now](#): TBA
- 20 Annual Meeting and Awards/Celebration Luncheon at Thanksgiving Point
- 22 [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

NOMINATION FORM FOR
THE UTAH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL
2011 ADVOCACY AWARDS

Please submit your nomination on or before **June 30, 2011**. Winners will be notified and recognized during the Annual Council Meeting in September 20, 2011. Please print! You may nominate people in all categories or just the categories that you wish.

Self-Advocate of the Year: _____

(Self-advocate is a person with a developmental disability that has spoken up for themselves and others)

Nominee Contact information:

Phone: _____ **Email** _____

Outline reasons for nomination

Legislator of the Year: _____

(This is your chance to recognize a Legislator who has been proactive for the disability community)

Nominee Contact information:

Phone: _____ **Email** _____

Outline reasons for nomination

Parent of the Year: _____

(This is the opportunity to recognize a parent who has been a leading advocate)

Nominee Contact information:

Phone: _____ **Email** _____

Outline reasons for nomination

Media Representative of the Year: _____

(This award can recognize someone who has helped spread a positive image in the news)

Nominee Contact information:

Phone: _____ **Email** _____

Outline reasons for nomination

Educator of the Year: _____

(This award can recognize someone's contributions to the education and disabilities)

Nominee Contact information:

Phone: _____ **Email** _____

Outline reasons for nomination

Adult Sibling of the Year: _____

(This is a chance to recognize an adult – 18 or over - brother or sister who is supporting their sibling)

Nominee Contact information:

Phone: _____ **Email** _____

Outline reasons for nomination

Child Sibling of the Year: _____

(This is a way to recognize a sibling (17 or younger) who has contributed to the life of their brother or sister with a disability)

Nominee Contact information:

Phone: _____ **Email** _____

Outline reasons for nomination

Employer of the Year: _____

(This is an opportunity to recognize an employer for employing people with developmental disabilities)

Nominee Contact information:

Phone: _____ **Email** _____

Outline reasons for nomination

Your contact information:

Name _____ Phone: _____ Email _____

Please send, fax, or e-mail form to:

Utah Developmental Disabilities Council

155 South 200 West, Suite 100

Salt Lake City, UT 84101

Fax: 801-533-3968

email: BEMARTIN@utah.gov

Phone: 801-533-3965 or 1-800-333-8824