



## Annual Report

FY 2017

Fiscal Year 2017 was a challenging year for families, individuals, advocates and provider agencies due to a complete redesign of the state's payment for services and new service system. This redesign required a transition from a state contracted service system to fee-for-service system. The NJ Council on Developmental Disabilities (NJCDD) responded to individual and family questions, concerns, and disruptions in the services individuals were receiving for years. The challenges individuals and families faced impacted the provider community as well. NJCDD hosted many forums, education days. Printed materials were also developed to during the transition.

NJCDD FY17 report provides a summary of goals and targeted objectives. NJCDD's year one of the 2017-2021 Five-Year Plan focused on laying the ground work toward overall plan accomplishment. NJCDD focused on the following areas during FY17:

- Transportation
- Health and Wellness
- Housing
- Direct Support Staffing Issues
- Employment
- Self-Advocate and Family Training & Information
- Special Education Advocacy

NJCDD used a variety of methods to address its goals. NJCDD staff played a vital role in conducting local and statewide meetings. NJCDD partnered with the NJDD Network: Disability Rights New Jersey and the Boggs Center to achieve established goals. NJCDD also worked closely with the newly-formed NJ Developmental Disabilities Advocacy Network (NJ DDAN) as well as additional system partners/stakeholders. Focus groups, surveys, training sessions, website development and resource sessions were among a few of the strategies used to complete targeted outcomes.

NJCDD awarded sub-contracts and renewed current contracts in FY17 to achieve targeted goals. NJCDD staff remained engaged in sub-contract activity.

Significant accomplishments in FY17 include expanding and strengthening the DD Network collaboration, as well as the collaboration with other system partners and state administrators. The system redesign in New Jersey forced all stakeholders to organize around changes impacting many aspects of the service system.

NJCDD staff and Council members participated in listening sessions, informational meetings, focus groups, read letters and took phone calls from individuals and families being impacted by the system redesign. There was a significant increase in feedback from impacted individuals and their families. The NJCDD remained engaged by increasing informational sessions with individuals and families while maintaining regular communication with state officials.

NJCDD's significant FY17 accomplishments include the following:

1. **Direct Support Staffing Issues:** NJCDD funded the Coalition for a Direct Support Professional (DSP) Living Wage. This funding permitted the Coalition to study DSP wage issues in New Jersey and across the country. Materials were established to promote the DSP living wage issues and to educate individuals with I/DD and their families, providers, DSPs and the legislature. As a result, the NJ legislature approved increased funding that supported a onetime salary/bonus adjustment to most DSPs working within the DD service system.
2. **Self-Advocate and Family Training and Information:** Self-advocate and family engagement during statewide information sessions improved during FY17. Individuals and families actively participated during meetings and hearings across the state.
3. **NJ Developmental Disabilities Advocacy Network (NJ DDAN):** The first NJ DDAN organized as the system redesign in NJ from a state system that had contracted for services with providers for more than four decades. The contracted system transitioned to a fee-for-service delivery system. The state also transitioned from a state case management system to a privatized system using support coordinators.
4. **Housing:** Through a contract with The Supportive Housing Association of New Jersey (SHA), a housing resource guide was developed to provide a road map for individuals with I/DD and their families. This guide is available in English and Spanish. The resource guide has been an excellent tool for helping individuals and families navigate a variety of methods of accessing housing in New Jersey

New Jersey is facing a host of critical concerns as it transitions from a contracted to a fee-for-service environment for most of its service system. It has been challenging to

remain focused on all areas while continuing the work within our five-year plan. NJCDD will prioritize its efforts to address new issues raised by individuals with I/DD and their families while remaining focused on its five-year plan goals/objectives.

NJCDD acknowledges the importance of engaging with all system partners in its day to day work. This engagement is more critical than ever as resources become more limited.

## **Council Projects**

### **People First New Jersey**

People First is an international advocacy movement for people with disabilities. NJCDD launched it in New Jersey during 2014. People First is grounded in the philosophy that all people with disabilities are capable and entitled to pursue advocacy on their own terms. People First chapters strive to be as independent as possible, setting their own agendas and maintaining their own network of volunteers and partners.

In New Jersey, People First chapters have been established in a number of counties. Chapters are assisted by the NJCDD's People First Coordinator, Jaymes Brill. They are led by advocates chosen solely by chapter members. Members work together to identify and organize the advocacy and fellowship activities on which they focus their efforts.

NJCDD's People First Coordinator and advocates gave People First New Jersey presentations at 9 schools and community organizations, speaking to more than 800 students and community members. People First New Jersey information and resources were also disseminated at resource fairs, conferences, and other community events across the state, reaching individuals with I/DD and stakeholders.

### **Youth Leadership**

The NJCDD's Youth Leadership Project works with schools and community organizations to provide leadership and advocacy training to young adults with developmental disabilities aged 15 to 25. While attending fun and engaging training sessions, these young people develop valuable skills to become the next generation of disability advocates in our state.

Over the course of eight two-hour sessions, participants hone their advocacy and public speaking skills, participate in team-building exercises, and develop a better understanding of how government and public policy works. The program encourages

its participants to carry the variety of skills and knowledge that they gain into the world of self-advocacy.

During FY 2017, 50 participants attended NJCDD Youth Leadership training program. As these young people with disabilities move on from the program, the NJCDD will continue to encourage their advocacy with the hope that they will continue speaking up for themselves and all people with disabilities.

Anti-Bullying Presentations – 17 presentations, 2,845 attendees

R-Word Presentations – 6 presentations, 150 attendees

### **Family Support**

Twelve monthly statewide teleconferences – approx. 144 total participants

Four (quarterly) statewide meetings – 333 total participants

Assisted the Family Support Planning Council to recruit the Family Advisory Council and scheduled 12 meetings with the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD)

Assisted the Regional Family Support Planning Councils to conduct 14 public forums/providers fair attended by more than 1,000 family members.

Assisted the Family Support Planning Council plan and organize the Developmental Disability Advocacy Network Summit. Over 60 people from 30 agencies attended

Attended bi-monthly meetings hosted by the Southern Region Children's Coordinating Councils. Each meeting had approximately 30 attendees

### **Conferences and Events**

In an ongoing effort to spread awareness of the NJCDD's work in the community, the Council often presents information tables and displays at conferences and events geared toward audiences with developmental disabilities and the public.

The following is a list of some of the conferences and events the council attended in FY 2017:

Dare to Dream Conference 4 sites 400 to 500 students

NJLM (NJ league municipalities) 5000 to 7000 attendees

NJEA (NJ Education Association) Teacher Conference 1500- 2000 attendees

Ability Expo 3,000 to 4,000 attendees

Library conference 200 attendees

CSOC (children's system of care) conference 300 attendees

ARC of Monmouth Self advocacy Conference 230 self -advocates

ARC of NJ Spring into Action Luncheon 200 attendees

Facing the Future Employment Conference 600 attendees

SHA Housing Conference 350 attendees

Disability Policy Seminar 250 attendees  
Social Worker Conference 450 attendees  
NACDD National Conference 1500

**FY 2017 Fiscal Report**

**Allocated Funds**

Federal Award	\$1,591,365
State Money	\$306,000
Total:	\$1,897,365

**Expenditures**

Salaries:	\$621,216
Admin:	\$72,880
In House Project:	\$264,002
Contract:	\$306,550
Grants:	\$615,149
Community Innovation Projects:	\$17,568
Total:	\$1,897,365