



Annual Report FY 2018

Fiscal Year 2018 remained a challenging year for families, individual advocates and provider agencies due to the continued transition to a complete redesign of the state's new payment 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 were also experienced by the provider community. NJCDD hosted many forums, meetings, and education days. Electronic and printed materials were also distributed to help individuals and families navigate system changes.

NJCDD's FY18 report provides an update on activities associated with goals and targeted objectives. NJCDD's year two of the 2017-2021 Five- Year Plan focused on achieving targeted goals. NJCDD focused on the following areas:

- 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 reach established goals. NJCDD partnered with the NJDD Network: Disability Rights New Jersey and The Boggs Center to reach established goals. NJCDD also worked closely with the New Jersey Developmental Disabilities Advocacy Network (NJ DDAN) as well as additional stakeholders. An Ombudsman for Individuals with I/DD and their families was appointed during FY18. NJCDD has maintained regular dialogue with the Ombudsman as he fulfills his new responsibilities. Focus groups, surveys, training sessions, website development and resource sessions were among the strategies used to achieve targeted goals.

NJCDD also awarded new sub-contracts and renewed existing sub-contracts during FY18 to achieve targeted goals. NJCDD staff served as resources while partnering with sub-contractors.

Significant accomplishments in FY18 included expanding and strengthening the DD Network collaboration, as well as the collaboration with other system partners and state administrators. NJCDD families met monthly with the state Division of Developmental Disabilities through a newly-formed Family Advisory Council (FAC). The FAC is used to provide feedback to state officials.

The system redesign in New Jersey forced all stakeholders to organize around changes impacting the service system for individuals with I/DD and their families. NJCDD staff and Council members participated in listening and information sessions, read letters and responded to phone calls from individuals and families. The NJCDD remained engaged by providing more information sessions while maintaining regular communication with the state administrators in order to report concerns and obtain current information.

NJCDD's FY18 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 local and national wage-related issues. Materials were developed to promote the DSP living wage issues and educate individuals with I/DD, families, providers, DSPs and the legislature. As a result, the NJ legislature approved increased funding for the fee-for-service system. This increase funded salary increases for 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 FY18. Individuals and families were more vocal during meetings and hearings across the state.
3. **NJ Developmental Disabilities Advocacy Network (NJ DDAN):** The NJ DDAN was organized as a result of a major system redesign in NJ. The system transitioned from a state contracted system with providers that existed 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 support coordination system. NJ DDAN conducted its second summit during FY18 in response to issues raised in a collective advocacy agenda. The state's new Commissioner of the Department of Human Services attended this event.
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 effective tool for individuals and families to navigate a variety of ways to access housing in New Jersey. SHA also started a video series about successful housing options.

New Jersey is facing a host of critical issues as it transitions from a contracted to a fee-for-service environment for most of its service system. NJCDD will prioritize its efforts to address new issues and concerns raised by individuals with I/DD and their families while remaining focused on five-year plan goals and objectives.

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 1000 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.

In FY 2018, the NJCDD held Youth Leadership programs at five schools and community locations. 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.

Dare To Dream Conference Series – 6 locations, 800-1000 Students

Partners in Policymaking

New Jersey Partners in Policymaking is an 8-month leadership development and advocacy education program for adults with developmental disabilities (over age 18) and family members available through collaboration between The New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities, The Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities, and Disability Rights New Jersey. The goal of this program is to prepare the next generation of disability advocates to work toward meaningful change in our state.

Family Support

Twelve monthly statewide teleconferences – approx. 144 total participants

Four (quarterly) statewide meetings – 301 total participants

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

Six meetings with Children's System of Care officials with committee family advocates present at meetings

Assisted the New Jersey Family Support Planning Councils to organize a Developmental Disabilities Education Day in the Southern Region. 62 individuals and family members attended.

Conducted an online survey regarding the Developmental Disabilities (DD) Eligibility Application process for children under age 21 with a total of 306 respondents

Organized two Developmental Disability Advocacy Network Summits. Over 60 people from 30 agencies attended.

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 was present in FY 2018:

Dare to Dream Conference 6 sites between 800 to 1000 students

Arc State wide self- advocacy Conference 400 advocates

NJLM (NJ league municipalities) 5000 to 7000 attendees

NJEA (NJ Education Association) Teacher Conference 3000 -5000 attendees

Ability Expo 8,000 12,000 attendees

Governors Housing Conference 1500 attendees

Library conference 500 attendees

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

ARC of Monmouth Self advocacy Conference 330 self -advocates

ARC of NJ Spring into Action Luncheon 400 attendees

Facing the Future Employment Conference 500 attendees

SHA Housing Conference 600 attendees

Disability Policy Seminar 350 attendees

Social Worker Conference 1000 attendees

Mayors Conference 400 attendees

NACDD National Conference 2000

Reinventing Quality Conference on Diversity 350

National Self-Advocacy (SABE) 7500 attendees

FY 2018 Preliminary Fiscal Report

Allocated Funds

Federal Award	\$1,635,456
State Money	\$306,000
Total:	\$1,941,456

Expenditures

Salaries:	\$591,080
Admin:	\$85,750
In House Project:	\$285,770
Contract:	\$386,273
Grants:	\$532,571
Community Innovation Projects:	\$60,000
Total:	\$1,941,456