

State Plan Progress Report March 2020

Goal #1 (Advocacy)

Strengthen the capacity of the Iowans with Disabilities (ID Action) network to connect individuals with developmental disabilities and their families with resources that grow their advocacy and leadership skills and build their capacity to lead coalitions and grassroots systems change.

Objective 1.1 Build the capacity of Iowans with Disabilities in Action (ID Action) to become a self-sustaining, cross disability advocacy network led by people with disabilities and less reliant on funding from the Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council (baseline: currently 100% DDC funding)

No progress has been made on this objective during the first three years. For reporting purposes we have abandoned this goal as it is not an attainable goal at this point.

Objective 1.2 Increase the number of Iowans with disabilities and family members who are aware of and use information, skill building resources and opportunities to engage in civic and political decision-making processes on issues important to them. (50% of those participating in Council/ID Action Activities)

2017

- Seventeen voter training with 340 people were conducted this year. Topics: the importance of voting, how and where to vote/register, new voting laws, how to make informed choices on who to vote for. 100% survey respondents reported voting.
- The Advocacy toolkit “Advocating for change in the Iowa General Assembly was developed.
- One grant to an advocacy group was supported to provide advocacy training and on-site support with meeting with their elected officials at the capitol and advocating on issues related to disability. Thirteen people attended. All that attended reported that they were able to talk to their legislator and felt that it made a difference.

Two “Make your Mark” self-advocacy conferences were held during the Federal Fiscal year with 121 people in attendance. 88% survey respondents reported that from information learned at the conference, they were going to take action, talk to others in the community about important issues or share their story.

2018

- The bi-annual “Guide to the Legislators” was updated and distributed.
- Five voter trainings with 135 people were conducted this year. 90% survey respondents reported voting.
- Two grants to advocacy groups were supported to provide advocacy training and on-site support with meeting with their elected officials at the capitol and advocating on issues related to disability. Eighteen people participated.
- “Make your Mark” self-advocacy conference was held with 152 attendance. 92% survey respondents reported that from information learned at the conference, they were going to take action, talk to others in the community about important issues or share their story.

- Six civic engagement and overall advocacy training were provided to a variety organizations including, APSE, Education agencies, and the Iowa agencies on Aging with 276 people attending
- Four quarterly Iowa Advocacy Connections were distributed that connects the Iowans with Disabilities in Action network with information needed to increase civic engagement and share advocacy success stories.
- 9423 people were registered with the Iowans with Disabilities in Action network.

2019

- Six voter trainings were conducted with 215 people in attendance. 95 % of survey respondents reported voting.
- Two grants to advocacy group were supported to provide advocacy training and on-site support with meeting with their elected officials at the capitol and advocating on issues related to disability. Twenty people were in attendance. One attendee commented “ I feel more confident with talking to my legislators and my son wants to come with me next time”. Another commented “ Being able to meet with four legislators in one day was phenomenal. All of them were friendly and interested. I look forward to building on each of the relationships and continuing the conversation”
- “Make your Mark” conference was held with 171 people in attendance. “Leading the Way” was the theme this year. A half-day session at the conference focused on the 2020 Caucuses and included a “Mock Caucus” session. 62% indicated that they would caucus after attending the session. One individual commented “Everyone can be a leader, you just need to find your opportunity”.
- Various civic engagement and overall advocacy training were provided to a variety organizations including Vocational Rehabilitation student transition session, Brain Injury Council and the Advocating for Change day with 309 people attending.
- Four quarterly Iowa Advocacy Connections were distributed that connects the Iowans with Disabilities in Action network with information needed to increase civic engagement and share advocacy success stories.
- During all three years, the Council offers sponsorships to organizations to support participation of Iowans with developmental disabilities and their family members at their conferences. The conference must focus on one or all of the following areas: Advocacy, leadership, employment and community living. Past recipients include: Epilepsy Foundation, Parent Empowerment Group, Train to Inspire and APSE.
- 9470 people were registered with the Iowans with Disabilities in Action network

Objective 1.3 With support from ID Action, increase the number of people with developmental disabilities and family members who train and lead community groups to identify local needs, develop solutions, and plan for projects that increase the integration and inclusion of people with disabilities in community living, working and learning.

2017

- Six grants were awarded to advocacy groups that were led by people with disabilities to increase voter turnout among people with disabilities. Twenty-four people with disabilities assumed leadership roles in these projects which include organizing event and providing training.
- From these grants, the Corridor Autism Resource EXPO and the Regional Autism Assistance program hired three people with autism to revise our voting materials to be more sensitive to individuals with Autism. They developed a voter education manual: "Opening up the Voting Process to those on the Autism Spectrum." This group continues to provide outreach and presents at conferences and agencies.
- Advocacy for Change Day at the Capitol was held with over 200 people in attendance who met with 47 senators and 67 representatives. Sixty-one percent who attended reported talking to a legislator about an issue.
- Council staff provided support and training to the 21 trainees in the Iowa Family Leadership Institute. Staff have been engaged in the role of being the primary advocacy resource for trainees and assist with the project plans.

2018

- Eight training and advocacy grants were awarded to advocacy groups that were led by people with disabilities to increase voter turnout among people with disabilities. 256 people attended these events lead by people with disabilities
- Council staff provided support and training to the 18 trainees in the Iowa Family Leadership Institute. Staff have been engaged in the role of being the primary advocacy resource for trainees and assist with the project plans.

2019

- Eight grants were awarded to advocacy groups that were led by people with disabilities to increase voter turnout among people with disabilities, which included candidate forums, registration drives and developing voter education material. Twenty-one people with disabilities assumed leadership roles in these events that reached 1343 people.
- Council staff provided support and training to the 20 trainees in the Iowa Family Leadership Institute. Staff have been engaged in the role of being the primary advocacy resource for trainees and assist with the project plans.
- The Council partnered with the Center for Disabilities and Development to develop a peer mentoring program of people who have transitioned into the community. The "community ambassadors" will travel around the state and share their transition stories with others. Five mentors were trained.

- The Council partnered with the Department of Human Rights to support a web-based system to assist with recruiting under-representative Iowans to serve on state and local boards and council. This is called the Talent Bank and will include a mentoring component.

Objective 1.4 Develop and employ alternate formats, languages, leadership engagement and other culturally appropriate strategies to increase the use of ID Action resources that assist Asians, Latinos and African Americans with disabilities to more effectively advocate for change

2017

- Partnerships were developed with the State office of Asian and Pacific Islanders and the Commission of Latino Affairs to determine what resources would be helpful to increase civic engagement within those populations. Voter Education was translated in six languages. (Vietnamese, Nepali, Laotian, Karen, and Burmese and Spanish) and distributed to over 600 individuals at civic engagements trainings in those communities. These were updated in 2018 to reflect the changes with voting laws.

2019

- The Council supported the “Data Report” through the Department of Human Rights to determine if there were other unmet advocacy needs the Council could address with under-representative populations.

Goal #2 (Systems Change):

Advocate for, engage others and monitor development, improvement, and implementation of policies and practices that assure increased access to services and supports that provide opportunity for Iowans with developmental disabilities to be productive, included and integrated members of community living, learning and working.

Objective 2.1 With DD Network and other partners, advocate for improvements to community infrastructure, services and supports (including natural supports), and funding that supports individuals with developmental and other disabilities to live productive lives in the community.

2017

- In partnership with Disabilities Rights Iowa, a guide to managed care was developed “How to be your best Advocate” and distributed.
- InfoNet publications focused on educating and engaging people with disabilities, family members and advocates issues that affect people with disabilities.
- InfoNet Grassroots Action Center, a communication tool designed to facilitate easy communication with policy-makers, had 92 individuals use the tool to send messages, to state legislators and/or the Governor.
- The Council is a voting member of the Medical Assistance Advisory Committee (MAAC). The MAAC advises the Director of the Department of Human Services about health and medical care services under Medicaid. Recommendations related to implementation of managed care in Iowa were the priority. Specific topics of the recommendations include: Preferred Drug List, reimbursement rates, guidelines and protocols, ensure training, timely communication, durable medical equipment, using case managers effectively & efficiently, tracking methodology, customer service representatives providing consistent, accurate information.

- The Council monitored, supported and advocated for and against several bills including a bill allowing lowans with severe chronic conditions to use low THC medical cannabis.

2018

- InfoNet publications focused on educating and engaging people with disabilities, family members and advocates issues that affect people with disabilities.
- InfoNet Grassroots Action Center, a communication tool designed to facilitate easy communication with policy-makers, had 103 individuals use the tool to send 107 messages, to state legislators and/or the Governor.
- The Council is a voting member of the Medical Assistance Advisory Committee (MAAC). The MAAC advises the Director of the Department of Human Services about health and medical care services under Medicaid. Oversight over the managed care program continue to be the top recommendation priority.
- The Council monitored, supported and advocated for and against several bills including a bills to restore funding cuts made in 2017 for the Regional Autism Assistance Program, Epilepsy Foundation and the brain injury service program.

2019

- InfoNet publications focused on educating and engaging people with disabilities, family members and advocates issues that affect people with disabilities. 3994 people were registered to receive infoNet.
- InfoNet Grassroots Action Center, a communication tool designed to facilitate easy communication with policy-makers, had 18 individuals use the tool to send 34 messages, to state legislators and/or the Governor.
- The Council is a voting member of the Medical Assistance Advisory Committee (MAAC). The MAAC advises the Director of the Department of Human Services about health and medical care services under Medicaid. Oversight over the managed care program continue to be the top recommendation priority.
- The Council hosted two community conversations events this year which include a screening of the feature film Intelligent Lives. The film shares the story of three young people living with an intellectual disability who challenge perceptions of intelligence as they navigate high school, college and the workforce. The Council hosted the screenings to start the conversation about what really is inclusion and what else do we need to be do to make the world fully inclusive. One of the screenings was co-hosted with the Drake University Disability Action Awareness Community, the other with the Vocational Rehabilitation office. Fifty-three people attended the two screening and 65% percent responded that the movie helped them change their perception of how they think of intelligence, employment and relationships between people with disabilities.
- The Council monitored, supported and advocated for and against several bills including eliminated the cap of the Brain Injury Waiver, an increase of \$1 million for community living provider tiered rates, approval of additional reporting and other requirements for the state's managed care organizations and increased legislative oversight for the state's Medicaid Managed Care system.

Objective 2.2 With DD Network and other partners, increase community employment of individuals with developmental disabilities by improving public policies, budget actions and practices that shift public resources toward services that result in integrated community based preparation, job placement and ongoing supports.

2017

- The Council continued to partner with the Iowa Coalition for Integrated Employment (ICIE) to increase integrated employment options. A few accomplishments include:
 - An employment first guidebook was developed
 - An employment data collection process was piloted with 19 providers
 - Submitted an article on promising practices to the Journal of Vocational Rehabilitation
- The Council supported a short-term Community Change project. Goals of this project included
 - Increase the awareness of state and federal laws that mandate community integration
 - Determine the resources that are available to increase inclusion and where gaps exist.
 - Create a vision of inclusion in three communities/regions

The three communities were successful with connecting providers with businesses and agencies not typically in the conversations. Together they developed tools and resources to education others on working and supporting people with disabilities.

- The Council continued to promote National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) by sharing videos, social media posts and news stories of people with DD speaking about their work experiences. In addition, the Council worked with other state agencies to have the Governor proclaim October has NDEAM month.

2018

- The Council continued to partner with the Iowa Coalition for Integrated Employment (ICIE) to build community capacity to support employment outcomes. This including hosting community of practice webinars, mid management and direct support staff training and statewide employment events.
- The Council funded the Department of Education special education conference for educators and family members. The focus of the conference was employment first concepts to prepare students for competitive employment. Council staff also presented at this conference.
- Council staff are on the leadership team for the Employment First State Leadership Program that funds technical assistance and training to providers. Customized Employment training was provided in three regions. This led to discussions of the Council funding future trainings.
- The Council supported the screening of the documentary “Bottom Dollars” to increase awareness of wage equality and competitive integrated employment. The screening was attended by 180 people across the state.
- The Council continued to promote National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) by sharing videos, social media posts and news stories of people with DD speaking about their work experiences. In addition, the Council worked with other state agencies to have the Governor proclaim October has NDEAM month.

2019

- The Council continued to partner with the Iowa Coalition for Integrated Employment (ICIE) to build community capacity to support employment outcomes. This including hosting community of practice webinars, mid management and direct support staff training and statewide employment events. Council staff continue to be member of the leadership team of this project

- The Council and Vocational Rehabilitation partnered to provide customized employment training to Community Rehabilitation Providers (CRPs) and Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors in different regions around the state. During FFY 2019, the customized employment training was provided to seven CRPs and 21 Vocational Rehabilitation Job Candidates. At the end of the training period, four of job Candidates obtained jobs, 10 additional job candidates continue to be in the employment searching process. One CRP staff commented that without the Customized Employment training they did not think employment was possible for one job candidate.
- The Council continued to promote National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) by sharing videos, social media posts and news stories, of people with DD speaking about their work experiences. In addition, the Council worked with other state agencies to have the Governor proclaim October has NDEAM month. This year work was done to organize a “take your legislator to work” event.
- The Council supported an individual with a developmental disability and his father to attend the annual Iowa APSE Conference. Both reported learning information about employment that will help them better engage with their legislators. The Council was also a sponsor of the entire event that was attended by 140 people which included 10 people with disabilities.

Objective 2.3 With DD network and other partners, develop policy changes that increase services and supports for Adults with Autism-Target Disparity Goal

2017

- The council provided support for the Autism Society annual conference for 14 people with autism and 43 family member. Council staff also presented at the Council on advocacy.
- The Council provided support and planning for the Autism Society Employment Conference. The purpose of this conference is to introduce participants to the best practices and resources available in Iowa to help people with autism with employment This includes speakers from various agencies, family members, individuals with autism presenting as well as employers who present and host mock interviews for those interested in developing skills. Seventy-seven people participated.
- The Council is also a member of the Iowa Autism Council (IAC). The IAC submits an annual report to the Governor and General Assembly of the needs and recommendations for improving and enhancing the lives of Iowans with Autism: Some recommendations implemented included:
 - Health insurance plans covering Applied Behavioral Analysis services for children with autism
 - Continued funding to the Autism Support Program (services for people who do not qualify for Medicaid)

2018

- The Council again provided support and planning for the Autism Society Employment Conference. The purpose of this conference is to introduce participants to the best practices and resources available in Iowa to help people with autism with employment This includes speakers from various agencies, family members, individuals with autism presenting as well as employers who present and host mock interviews for those interested in developing skills. Sixty-two people participated

- The Council is also a member of the Iowa Autism Council (IAC). The IAC submits an annual report to the Governor and General Assembly of the needs and recommendations for improving and enhancing the lives of Iowans with Autism: Some recommendations implemented included:
 - Restore funding of the Autism Support program
 - Increase access of treatment through offering telehealth options.

2019

- The Council again provided support and planning for the Autism Society Employment Conference. The purpose of this conference is to introduce participants to the best practices and resources available in Iowa to help people with autism with employment. This includes speakers from various agencies, family members, individuals with autism presenting as well as employers who present and host mock interviews for those interested in developing skills. Fifty-two people attended.
- The Council is also a member of the Iowa Autism Council (IAC). The IAC submits an annual report to the Governor and General Assembly of the needs and recommendations for improving and enhancing the lives of Iowans with Autism: Some recommendations implemented included
 - Grants to graduate students studying to become Board Certified Behavioral Analysts (BCBA). The goal of this grant program is to expand the number of BCBA's and board certified assistant behavior analysts (BCaBA) to provide applied behavior analysis and treatment to Iowans.
 - Continued funding for the Regional Autism Assistance Program