

Massachusetts

Developmental

Disabilities

Council

FFY 2000 ANNUAL PROGRAM  
PERFORMANCE REPORT



*174 Portland Street  
Boston, MA 02114  
(617)727-6374 (Voice)  
(617) 727-1885 (TTY)  
(617) 727-1174 (FAX)  
email: [council@mddc.state.ma.us](mailto:council@mddc.state.ma.us)*

**The mission of the Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council (MDDC) is to provide opportunities for people with developmental disabilities and their families to enhance independence, productivity, and inclusion.**

The Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council is comprised of twenty-eight volunteer members and a small staff. Members are appointed by the Governor for up to three-year terms, and include individuals with developmental disabilities, family members or guardians of people with developmental disabilities, professionals, advocates, and representatives of state and private service agencies.

The Council believes:

- ✓ Individuals with developmental disabilities must have the opportunity to live a full, productive and independent life in the community; and
- ✓ The greatest impact on public policy occurs through self-advocacy.

The Council supports these beliefs by:

- ✓ Promoting self-advocacy;
- ✓ Providing opportunities for people with developmental disabilities to impact public policy through self-advocacy;
- ✓ Promoting activities that build the capacity of communities to provide opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities to actively participate in community life;
- ✓ Promoting system-wide changes that result in long-term positive impact on the capacity of individuals with developmental disabilities to lead meaningful lives in their home communities;
- ✓ Increasing public awareness and working to eliminate the attitudinal barriers that impact independence, productivity, and inclusion;
- ✓ Fostering and supporting coalitions with other advocacy and community groups;
- ✓ Supporting close working relationships among and between the various public and private service providers.

## **WHAT ARE DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES?**

Although the exact number is unknown, it is estimated that over 108,000 Massachusetts citizens have a developmental disability. A “developmental disability,” as defined in federal law, is a severe, chronic, often lifelong disability that causes substantial limitations in several major life activities such as: self care, receptive and expressive language, learning, mobility, self-direction, the capacity for independent living, and economic self-sufficiency. It is attributable to a mental, emotional, sensory, and/or physical impairment that is apparent before the age of twenty-two. People with developmental disabilities often need a combination of special services, supports, and other assistance that is likely to continue indefinitely. People with developmental disabilities constitute the most severely underserved population in the Commonwealth.

## **THE STATE PLAN**

The Council develops a State Plan every three years that includes goals and objectives to address the most important issues affecting people with developmental disabilities. Priorities are established through the input from people with developmental disabilities and their families. The Council's success is measured by both its ability to achieve the outcomes established by the State Plan, and the real impact that these outcomes have on the lives of people with developmental disabilities and their families.

## **THE ANNUAL REPORT**

The FFY 2000 annual report is a synopsis of the activities of the Council from October 1999 – September 2000. The outcomes indicated were generated from numerous initiatives undertaken to meet the State Plan objectives. These initiatives were implemented through our partnerships with the disability advocacy community, various grants and contracts awarded by the Council, and through the collaborative activities undertaken with our DD Partners, the University Affiliated Programs and the Protection and Advocacy Agency.

## **FFY 2000 STATE TRENDS**

The unemployment rate for people with developmental disabilities remains high. This reflects the continued lack of connection between the disability and employment communities, and a lack of supports that many people with developmental disabilities need in order to work. Although the state continues to generate surplus revenues, human service agencies still struggle to meet costs. A petition to roll back the state income tax passed in November 2000, further limiting funds for human services over the next several years. Increases in property values have impacted the ability to find and maintain affordable housing. Much low-income housing has also been lost as HUD loans/contracts expire, and due to the elimination of rent control in many communities. The FY 2001 state budget changed the special education standard from "Maximum Feasible Benefit" to the federal standard of "free and appropriate" education. Eligibility criteria changed from "functional need" to "diagnosis" and a greater burden was placed on families to incur the costs for evaluations. The criteria change will result in services to fewer students, and the standard change could reduce the level of services provided. *Rolland v. Cellucci* was filed on behalf of 1600 nursing home residents not receiving medically necessary services in the most integrated settings. Plaintiffs argued that class members were unnecessarily admitted and confined to nursing homes, and could live in the community with appropriate supports. A settlement was reached under which the state has moved 75 individuals from nursing homes in 2000, with 175 individuals to be moved in 2001 and 2002. In addition, residential and other supports will be provided to 150 individuals per year from 2003 through 2007. *Boulet v. Cellucci* was filed on behalf of 2400 people on the DMR waiting list. In October a tentative settlement was reached providing \$85 million over five years.

## **COUNCIL ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

### **Self-Determination**

**State Plan Goal: Support self-advocates to address universal disability issues.**

### **FFY 2000 Outcomes**

**146 people have control, choice and flexibility in the supports they receive through Council efforts**

**10,800 people on waiting list(s) received services/supports**

**\$39,836,891 dollars were leveraged for self-determination**

**52 self-determination programs/policies were created or improved**

**11 people facilitated self-determination**

**1649 people received Council training in self-determination**

**1151 people were active in systems advocacy about self-determination**

**244 people were trained in systems advocacy about self-determination**

**589 people were involved in services/supports evaluation and quality assurance activities**

**2 publications providing resource information for elder caregivers were published**

The Barbara Gopen Memorial Fellowship supported an individual with a developmental disability to develop a curriculum for consumer leadership. Self-advocates from Massachusetts Advocates Standing Strong were supported to attend and participate in the SABE National Self-Advocacy Conference. One individual with a developmental disability was sponsored to participate in a national training on legislative advocacy and empowerment. The Council collaborated with its DD partners to plan the first ever cross disability summit to establish a consumer mandate for the future of services and supports for people with disabilities. An analysis of all state budget line items impacting people with developmental disabilities was completed for all three state budget documents. The Council sponsored an annual reception to provide a forum for people with developmental disabilities and families to present their legislative and budget priorities, and to visit with their legislators. Legislative and budget advocacy skill training was provided to individuals and families, and technical assistance on organizational development was provided to numerous community groups. The Council continued support to the Disability Policy Consortium, a statewide advocacy organization run by people with disabilities, to enhance member leadership skills and to plan for self-sufficiency. The Council assisted minority agencies to develop supports for people with developmental disabilities and families. An outreach project was conducted to identify senior caregivers, provide education about supports and to facilitate connections to area service providers. The Council worked with the state mental retardation and elder services agencies to assist aging parents to plan for the future, and held four regional cross-training conferences for service agency staff. The Council collaborated with the Association for Community Living to conduct seminars for people with developmental disabilities and families on advocacy and how to access supports through local community resources. A booklet on estate planning for parents and other family members of people with developmental disabilities was updated and disseminated.

## **Employment**

**State Plan Goal: Increase the employment of people with developmental disabilities.**

### **FFY 2000 Outcomes**

**33 Adults have jobs of their choice through Council efforts**

**\$126,134 dollars were leveraged for employment programs**

**9 employers provided vocational supports to students on the job**

**21 businesses/employers employed adults**

**6 employment programs/policies were created or improved**

**105 people facilitated employment**

**3700 people received Council training in employment**

**50 people were active in systems advocacy about employment**

The Council collaborated with Community Work Services to create an assistive technology evaluation program designed to determine the employment support needs of individuals, and to prescribe assistive technology packages in preparation for employment. The Council participated on the Disability Employment Project, providing coordination, training and technical assistance to state agencies on employing people with developmental disabilities. The project also worked with the Commonwealth's Human Resources Division to set and implement policies that remove barriers and promote the hiring of people with developmental disabilities in government. The Council conducted a public awareness campaign to promote employment of people with developmental disabilities. A billboard campaign utilized the FDR poster with the slogan "Sometimes a person with a disability is the best person for the job". The Council collaborated with the state mental retardation agency on other public awareness activities including educating chambers of commerce, a press campaign, the Fleet Bank/Best Buddies Friendship Ride event, and employment awards. In partnership with the Northeast Independent Living Program the Council conducted a statewide assessment of school career development systems, focusing on system capacity for inclusive career counseling and transitional planning. The Council also worked with The Seven Hills Foundation to provide training and technical assistance on transition to local school systems and education on transition to parents and teachers. The Council served on the Employment Services Action Council, working with the Executive Office of Health and Human Services to develop community based employment options for people with developmental disabilities. ESAC is planning a supported employment summit in 2001. The Council continued collaborative efforts with the Governors Commission on Employment to promote employment opportunities for people with developmental disabilities in the public and private sector. Council staff served on the Business Leadership Committee. The Council continued to advise the Institute for Community Inclusion on strategies to enhance services and supports to people with developmental disabilities.

## **Housing**

**State Plan Goal: Expand housing opportunities for people with developmental disabilities.**

### **FFY 2000 Outcomes**

**210 individuals have homes of their choice through Council efforts**

**425 people on waiting list(s) received services/supports**

**250 people moved from congregate settings to homes in the community**

**\$14,561,210 dollars were leveraged for housing**

**30 people facilitated home ownership/rental**

**178 people received Council training in housing**

**387 people were active in systems advocacy about housing**

The Council collaborated with United Cerebral Palsy of Metro Boston to conduct research on alternatives to traditional housing models for people with developmental disabilities. The project will recommend models for providing flexible, on-going support to individuals with developmental disabilities, focusing on strategies for continuous support and facilitation of recreational and social opportunities. The Home Modification Loan Program, originally funded through a Council supported bond bill, provided loans for home access modifications through regional broker agencies. The first loans were made in December 1999 and the program projects to serve 200 households each year. The Council collaborated with ARC Massachusetts to conduct community specific housing seminars and to provide support to individuals with developmental disabilities and families to conduct housing searches. The project also works with local and state policymakers to enhance housing options. The Council supported the Citizens Housing and Planning Association to develop an interactive web site for Mass Access, a housing registry for people with developmental disabilities. The registry provides accurate and up to date information on accessible, affordable housing. The project also conducted public awareness activities.

## **Health**

**State Plan Goal: Improve the quality of health services provided to people with developmental disabilities.**

### **FFY 2000 Outcomes**

**10,000 people have needed health services through Council efforts**

**21,736 people on waiting lists received services**

**\$59, 491,928 dollars were leveraged for health services**

**14 health care programs/policies were created or improved**

**514 people received Council training in health care services**

**50 people were involved in systems advocacy on health care**

**1 Personal Care Attendants Bill of Rights was passed**

The Council participated on the Coalition for Managed Care Quality, educating policymakers on health care issues impacting people with developmental disabilities and their families. The coalitions efforts resulted in passage of the Patient Protection Managed Care Reform Act. The Council collaborated with Community Partnerships, Inc. to organize partnerships for supporting and serving individuals with developmental disabilities who abuse alcohol and/or drugs within the community and criminal justice systems. In partnership with the Department of Public Health the Council supported New England Index to create a statewide database of dentists providing services to people with developmental disabilities. The database was entered into the MA Network of Information Providers lotus notes system, which is accessible to individuals through the Internet and through community independent living programs. The Council participated on The Massachusetts Health Council board. The Health Council published "Common Health for the Commonwealth" an analysis of the major factors affecting the health of Massachusetts residents. The Council supported The Association for Community Living to develop protocols to assist people, families and hospital personnel to effectively collaborate in serving and supporting people with developmental disabilities in hospital settings. A curriculum and training manual were developed and training was provided to health care professionals. The Council participated on the Statewide Personal Assistance Services Coalition, working with Medicaid to establish consumer control of personal assistance services. The Coalition was successful in establishing a pay increase for PCAs, working with Medicaid to resolve tax and liability issues for consumers, and developing a Personal Care Assistance Bill of Rights.

## **Education**

**State Plan Goal: Improve educational opportunities for children and young adults with developmental disabilities.**

### **FFY 2000 Outcomes**

**13 students have the education and support they need to reach their educational goals through Council efforts**

**20,748 infants and young children have the services/supports needed to reach their developmental goals through Council efforts**

**9 students transitioned from school to the community and jobs**

**6,955 people on waiting lists received services**

**\$12,704,801 dollars were leveraged for education**

**13 education programs/policies were created or improved**

The Council partnered with the Association for Community Living to educate and assist high school students with developmental disabilities and their families to prepare for transition to adulthood. The project conducted one-to-one and small group training, parent training and case management for students in transition. In partnership with the Northeast Independent Living Program the Council conducted a statewide assessment of school career development systems, focusing on system capacity for inclusive career counseling and transitional planning. The Council also worked with The Seven Hills Foundation to provide training and technical assistance on transition to local school systems, education on transition to schools, parents and teachers, and work-based employment experiences to students with developmental disabilities. The Council participated on the Early Intervention Interagency Coordinating Council, assisting the Department of Public Health to develop and implement policies and practices for early intervention services and to promote interagency collaboration. The Council continued to advise the Shriver Center on strategies to enhance services and supports to people with developmental disabilities, through participation on the advisory committee.

## **Community Inclusion**

**State Plan Goal: Expand support services for people with developmental disabilities and their families.**

### **FFY 2000 Outcomes**

**116 individuals are valued, participating members of their communities through Council efforts**

**1925 people on waiting list(s) received services/supports**

**\$395,416 dollars were leveraged for community inclusion**

**14 community inclusion programs/policies were created or improved**

**1 building/public accommodation became accessible**

**3 people facilitated community inclusion and participation**

**1 person received Council training in community inclusion**

**228 people received Council training to prepare for managed long-term supports**

**1045 people were active in systems advocacy about community inclusion**

**294 people were trained in systems advocacy about community inclusion**

**8 people were educated about long-term supports**

**67 people were supported through the Council's Consumer Empowerment Funds (CEF) Program**

The Council supported individuals with developmental disabilities and family members to attend conferences, trainings and related events to support their self-determination activities and enhance self-advocacy skills. Sixty-seven individuals were supported through this project to participate in various events throughout the country. The Council partnered with Norwell Public Schools to create an infrastructure within the school and community recreation systems to support the inclusion of students with developmental disabilities. The project has developed working relationships with local community organizations and businesses to provide ongoing opportunities for people with developmental disabilities to participate in inclusive after school and weekend recreational and social activities. The Council completed a full redesign and upgrade of its Internet web site to increase access to timely and important information by people with developmental disabilities. The site recently received "Bobby" approval as a fully accessible site. The Council now uses the site for wider distribution of all reports, and provides direct links to other sites that can assist individuals to access community services and supports. The Council plans to expand to interactive pages in 2001, providing additional mechanisms for community input to Council activities. The Council successfully completed all remaining objectives from the 1996 strategic plan including increasing leadership roles of individuals with developmental disabilities, improving outreach activities to the community, expanding overall membership roles, and incorporating the former designated state agency functions.

## **Cross Cutting Activities**

### **FFY 2000 Outcomes**

**367 public policymakers were educated about issues impacting people with developmental disabilities**

**8,195 copies of products produced through Council initiatives were distributed to policymakers**

**1,275,000 members of the general public were reached by Council public awareness activities**

Educating policymakers is a major focus of most Council initiatives. The Council collaborated with its DD partners to plan the first ever cross disability summit to establish a consumer mandate and educate policymakers on the future of services and supports for people with disabilities in Massachusetts. The state budget analysis was completed for all three state budget documents and people with developmental disabilities, families and legislators utilized these resources in their successful budget advocacy efforts. The Council sponsored an annual reception to provide a forum for hundreds of people with developmental disabilities and families to present their legislative and budget priorities, and continued its support to the Disability Policy Consortium in their efforts to educate policymakers. The Council participated on the Coalition for Managed Care Quality, educating policymakers on health care issues impacting people with developmental disabilities and their families. The coalition's efforts resulted in passage of the Patient Protection Managed Care Reform Act. The Council also participated on The MA Health Council board. The Council published an analysis of the major factors affecting the health of Massachusetts' residents titled "Common Health for the Commonwealth". Fourteen major publications and many smaller documents were produced and disseminated to policymakers through Council supported projects. The Council conducted a public awareness campaign to promote employment of people with developmental disabilities. A billboard campaign utilized the FDR poster with the slogan "Sometimes a person with a disability is the best person for the job". The Council collaborated with the state MR agency on other public awareness activities including educating chambers of commerce, a press campaign, the Fleet Bank/Best Buddies Friendship Ride event, and employment awards. In addition, the public awareness efforts of many Council projects included articles in newspapers and other local publications.

## FFY 2000 Council Expenditures

### **A. Types of Recipient**

<b>RECIPIENT</b>	<b>Part B \$</b>	<b>Match \$</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
1. DD Council	\$680,346	\$195,734	\$876,080
2. State Agencies	\$26,900	\$38,929	\$65,829
3. P & A System	\$0	\$0	\$0
4. UAP	\$10,000	\$4,188	\$14,188
5. Non-Profit Organizations	\$383,863	\$85,189	\$469,052
6. Other	\$0	\$40,833	\$40,833
<b>7. TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,101,109</b>	<b>\$364,873</b>	<b>\$1,465,982</b>

### **B. Cost Categories – Priority Areas, General and DSA Functions**

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>Part B \$</b>	<b>Other(s) \$</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
1. Employment	\$78,268	\$32,509	\$110,777
2. Child Development	\$0	\$0	\$0
3. Community Living	\$120,846	\$62,897	\$183,743
4. System Coordination	\$493,770	\$73,733	\$567,503
5. General Management	\$400,366	\$195,734	\$596,100
<b>6. TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,101,109</b>	<b>\$364,873</b>	<b>\$1,465,982</b>