

Hope. Vision. Voice.

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2010

EDITOR: SUSAN LAWRENCE

The Council On Developmental Disabilities

It is said that “**Life must be understood backwards; but.... It must be lived forward**”. So it is that the Council moves forward into **2010** with a new name! Much thought and deliberation has been given to this change.

What will not change will be the wisdom learned and experience gained from the past 55 years we have worked with consumers and their families, **and** the desire to carry out **our mission**: *To initiate positive change on behalf of individuals with developmental disabilities by voicing their needs to the community; creating new choices for living, learning, and participation; and, ensuring the highest quality of life possible.*

Through these efforts **our vision** is to one day see: *A society that includes, values, and empowers children, youth, and adults with developmental disabilities.*

The Council's many successes on behalf of individuals with developmental disabilities through the years could not have been accomplished with out our volunteers! The Council volunteers are families, consumers, and everyday citizens, all interested and compassionate individuals like yourself.

We urge you to give thought to becoming involved in one or more of our various activities. Opportunities abound at the Council! To name a few: Parent to Parent Volunteers, Citizen Advocates, becoming part of the Education Committee, or the Governmental Affairs Committee. If arts and crafts is your area of expertise, many hands are needed to bring the annual “Art From the Heart” to fruition. Please don't be hesitant! Call us and talk about where and how you would like to help. We'll listen, and welcome you with open arms!

On behalf of the Council's board and staff,
we wish you all a Happy and Blessed New Year!

“WE WILL OPEN THE BOOK. ITS PAGES ARE BLANK. WE ARE GOING TO PUT WORDS ON THEM OURSELVES. THE BOOK IS CALLED OPPORTUNITY AND ITS FIRST CHAPTER IS NEW YEAR'S DAY.”



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Best Buddies Update

Save A Tree

Send Your Email

Address Our Way!

To receive this news brief

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Council Web Site

www.councilondd.org

The Council On Developmental Disabilities

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PROGRAMS AND SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE COUNCIL

Citizen Advocacy— matches and supports friendships and helping relationships between competent, caring volunteers and persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Educational Advocacy—assistance to families in understanding educational rights and acquiring appropriate school programs.

Governmental Affairs—works to monitor and implement public policy, legislation, and regulation that enhances rights and expands opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Help Now—assistance to individuals and their families in resolving a crisis situation and returning to stability

Leadership and Training—education, information, and training for families, consumers, service providers, community leaders, direct support professionals, and other interested groups.

Parent Outreach—support, resources, and information for parents and family members of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities

The Self Advocacy Connection—invites adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities to work together and in concert with other advocates in the community to seek improved services and opportunities.

Guardianship and Planning for the Future—seminars are conducted through the Parent Outreach program to assist and support families in preventing crisis and planning for the smooth transition of their family members with intellectual and developmental disabilities through the various stages of life..

If you have interest in knowing more details about any of our programs, please call 584-1239!

Speak Now or Forever Hold Your Peace

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Donovan A. Fornwalt, Director Governmental Affairs & Disability Policies

- ◆ Kentucky faces a \$1.4 billion deficit for the next budget cycle.
- ◆ Medicaid enrollment is UP by over 3000 persons, per month
- ◆ Turnover rates for our Direct Care Workforce are 70%
- ◆ One-third of our Direct Care Professionals are eligible for public assistance
- ◆ Rates for human service providers have effectively been frozen
- ◆ **\$400+ million taken from KY Medicaid budget to balance budgets in other Cabinets.**
- ◆ Very experienced journalists, lobbyists and legislators agree:
Kentucky's budget is built on a "house of cards" that is about to fall down.



Speak now. We must protect our most precious things: our dignity, our liberty, and our way of life. It is not just rhetoric. Painful cuts are being contemplated. **The Federal Government is also facing serious deficits (the largest in history) and so don't count on Congress to bail us out.** We have the power to improve our destiny and to survive this recession. Or we can sit idly by and live with the consequences.

Speak now.

Leave a message for House and Senate Leadership:

"Restore the \$400 million taken from KY Medicaid. Please do not under any circumstance cut services to people with developmental disabilities."

800-372-7181

Call The Council's Governmental Affairs Director, Donovan Fornwalt, for details on how to get involved.

502-584-1239 The 2010 Legislative Session begins soon.



Music Therapy To Begin At The Council

Staff at the Council look forward to hearing the sounds of lively music floating up our stairs in the New Year! Donna Brown, MM, MT-BC, of Louisville Music Therapy will begin classes in January.

There will be two classes, one from 4:30pm to 5:30pm, the second begins at 5:30 and will be over at 6:30. Parents are encouraged to come upstairs to the staff break room and enjoy a cup of coffee and talking with each other during the session. There is one opening in each session (for young children). Sessions are \$12.00 each. If interested, please call Abby Ramser at 584-1239 or email at: aramser@councilondd.org.

***If there is enough interest, a class for young adults could be formed too!**



Sibshop activities are planned in January. To find out details call Abby Ramser at: **584-1239** or email at aramser@councilonmr.org

The Self-Advocates Connection

Upcoming meetings:

Tues, Jan 12, 2010, 7pm to 8:30pm, at the Council.

Tues, Feb 9, 2010, 6:30 pm to 8pm, at the Council.

Tues, March 9, 2010, 7pm to 8:30pm, at the Council.

Tues, April 13, 2010, 7pm to 8:30pm, at the Council.

Topics to be announced!

To learn more call Abby Ramser at:

584-1239 or email at aramser@councilonmr.org



1151 South 4th Street

Louisville, Kentucky 40203

Our Mission:

To initiate positive change on behalf of individuals with developmental disabilities by voicing their needs to the community; creating new choices for living, learning, and participation; and, ensuring the highest quality of life possible.

Our Vision:

A society that includes, values, and empowers children, youth, and adults with developmental disabilities.

Non-Profit Org.

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Louisville, KY

Permit No. 1150

For the Best Buddies program, building a more inclusive world, one friendship at a time is what it is all about! This is done through matching people with disabilities with college students and creating one-to-one friendships between them. The Council is honored to be a part of this program as a host site coordinator. We are presently working with Bellarmine college students and look forward to our newly established connection with Spalding University.



If you live in Louisville or surrounding areas, and your son/daughter with mild-moderate intellectual/developmental disabilities is interested in becoming part of this program, **contact Susan Lawrence at 584-1239 or email at: slawrence@councilondd.org to learn more.**