



An Overview of the History and Activities of the DD Council

January 10, 2019

In the beginning. . .

In the early 1960's President John F. Kennedy put forward a proposed legislative package that included objectives regarding intellectual disabilities.

This was the beginning of what we now refer to as the DD Act or the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000. Officially it is Public Law 106-402.

DD Councils were first established under the DD Act in the late 1970's to promote change in public and private systems and programs, as well as public attitudes and understanding, to support achievement of the federal law's goals.



Federal legislation begins with the important reason or principle for the new law. The very first **Finding** (as they are called) in the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 is:

“Disability is a natural part of the human experience that does not diminish the right of individuals with developmental disabilities to live independently, to exert control and choice over their own lives, and to fully participate in and contribute to their communities through full integration and inclusion in the economic, political, social, cultural, and educational mainstream of United States society.”

Programs included in the DD Act

Each state and territory has one each, also known as Network Partners:

- State Council on Developmental Disabilities

In Washington: Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council

- University Centers of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education Research, and Services (UCEDD's)

In Washington: University of Washington Center on Human Development and Disability

- Protection and Advocacy System (P&A)

In Washington: Disability Rights Washington (DRW)

In Washington. . .

Executive Order 76-03 was signed by Governor Dan Evans on April 27, 1976.

This began the Developmental Disabilities Planning Council in Washington State.

Executive Order 16-10 issued by Governor Inslee October 26, 2016 is the latest of the long series of Executive Orders that have kept the DD Council in existence and very busy for more than 40 years!

Our Council Today

- 27 members
- Of which at least 60% must be
 - Persons with developmental disabilities
 - Parents, Guardians or Family members
- The remainder are
 - Representatives of state agencies that receive federal funds to provide services for children and adults with DD, as required under the DD Act.

Developmental Disabilities Council members are appointed by the Governor to advocate for comprehensive services for Washington's citizens with developmental disabilities.



Mission Statement

The Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council's mission is to advocate, promote and implement policies and practices to create pathways to meaningful, integrated and productive lives for people with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities over the life course.

We promote the right of each person to lead a meaningful life in his/her community as a resident of the state.

Our Main Focus in the DD Act

- Advocacy
- Systems Change
- Community Capacity Building

The Values We Promote/Urge/Push For include

- Inclusion
- Integration
- Productivity
- Independence

These apply to all areas of life including and not limited to early services, education, jobs, transportation, technology, housing and community living.

The Council's 5 Year State Plan

- Is required by the Federal DD Act
- Is written by the Council
- Directs what the Council and Staff will work on over the next five years (the current plan covers 2017-2021)
- Reporting is done to the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
 - This reporting reflects the progress on the goals, objectives, outcomes and outputs in the State Plan
- Amendments can be made each year, as needed

We have expanded and grown in our role within the DD Movement to include:

- Self-Advocacy/Civil Rights
- Leadership training in the DD Movement
- Public Policy: laws and funding passed to support people
- Quality Assurance: people living safe and healthy lives integrated and included in their communities
- Building community services: sustaining the workforce
- Informing individuals and families about community supports and services
- Using technology to open new doors for people

Building Collaborations and Coalitions. The DDC:

- Builds coalitions with constituent groups within the developmental disability community to promote more effective public advocacy.
- Tests new services and supports ideas by funding demonstration projects.
- Advises the Governor and members of the state Legislature regarding issues of concern for those with developmental disabilities.
- Negotiates with state agencies.
- Builds bridges between public and private sectors to provide better services.

DD Council Projects

- **The Advocacy Partnership Project** supports advocacy efforts that provide opportunities for self-advocates, family members, and other advocates to effectively participate in policy issues, especially during the legislative session.
- **The Self Advocates in Leadership (SAIL) project** brings self-advocates together to identify the issues that are important to them and to take leadership roles in developing their own legislative agenda and policies that improve quality of life for people with developmental disabilities.
- **The Local Leadership project** trains and supports individuals in leadership skills and systems advocacy. The project prepares participants to get involved in advocacy at the local, state and federal level.

DD Council Projects

- **Informing Families** is a newsletter and web-based resource of trusted news and information for individuals and families throughout the state, empowering them to be active participants in building a network of community and service system supports and opportunities. It is a joint collaboration of the DD Council, the Developmental Disabilities Administration in DSHS and other partners.
- **Community of Practice** is a national grant to several states to explore different ways that families, as the primary caregivers of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, can be supported across the lifespan. This effort is another collaboration with the Developmental Disabilities Administration. This has now been folded into the Informing Families project and other efforts.

- **Washington Allies in Advocacy** is a cross-disability, cross-age statewide advocacy group whose mission is to improve the lives and opportunities of people with disabilities. They authored a *Proclamation for the Dignity and Rights of all Human Beings*. The themes of the U.S. Americans with Disabilities Act and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities are reflected in the Proclamation.
- **Home and Community Based Waiver Quality Assurance Advisory Committee** meets quarterly to review DDA waiver services, service utilization and make recommendations to improve the quality of waiver services. The Advisory Committee also covers Community First Choice issues and CMS Rule on personal centered planning and service integration.
- Recruitment and training of **Community Engagement and Community Guide** providers as well as on-going support to DDA contracted providers