

2003-2004

SPECIAL REPORT

THE TENNESSEE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES



GRACE GOAD AND HER MOTHER, LEISA HAMMETT. Read about Grace's PATH on page 4.

INSIDE:

THE SELF-EMPLOYMENT PROJECT
TENNESSEE HOME OF YOUR OWN
COUNCIL BUDGET





Andrea Cooper



Wanda Willis

Dear Readers,

The 2003-2004 Special Report of the Tennessee Council on Developmental Disabilities describes efforts of the Council over the past year to improve policies and services to citizens with disabilities. Council initiatives cover many areas including housing, employment, health, education, self-determination, and leadership development. The initiatives address needs of Tennesseans of all ages, with all types of physical and cognitive disabilities. The Special Report is designed to make Tennesseans aware of the work of the Council and of the exciting accomplishments of individuals across the state who contribute to improving life in our communities for all citizens.

We would like to thank the Council members for their tireless efforts in identifying and working on issues that confront Tennesseans who have disabilities. They are committed to their work because each has a personal connection to disability. They are incredibly generous in volunteering time and energy to the Council.

We also thank agency representatives on the Council. Their role is to provide information about the organizations they represent to the Council as its members direct and carry out Council work. Each one has shown great understanding and support of the Council and its mission.

The Council depends on constant communication with people like you as we pursue our goal of making Tennessee a completely supportive and accessible community for all citizens. Let us hear from you about your concerns and ideas to improve disability policies and services in our state.

Sincerely,

Andrea Cooper
Chair

Wanda Willis
Executive Director

COUNCIL GRANTS AND INITIATIVES

Consumer Education and Travel

CONSUMER TRAVEL FUND AND CONFERENCE/TRAINING SUPPORT: The Consumer Education Fund assisted 39 people in attending meetings, conferences, and workshops around the country this fiscal year. These opportunities empower individuals with disabilities and their families to become advocates and take control of their lives.

The Council also funded conferences and forums for a variety of disability advocacy agencies. Gatherings, such as the statewide MegaConference, the Families and Schools Together (FAST) Conference, and the Fifth Annual Autism Society of Middle Tennessee Conference, brought national experts to local communities to educate and inform individuals about highly relevant disability topics.

DUAL DIAGNOSIS: COMMUNITY INCLUSION PROJECT: A new project with the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center for Research on Human Development seeks to establish a model support system for people with dual diagnoses of mental illness and mental retardation. Funding for the project is a collaboration initiated by the Council with the Division of Mental Retardation Services and the Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities.

The project began with a statewide conference at the end of the year to discuss the project and its implications for service delivery and current issues in psychopharmacology and behavior analysis regarding persons with dual diagnoses. Fifty professionals in mental health and mental retardation attended. In the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2004, four individuals at the Middle Tennessee Mental Health Institute received comprehensive health, psychiatric, and behavioral service evaluations and one of these individuals started receiving support in the community using a support plan. Intensive staff training on implementing the plans and monitoring each individual's progress are also components of this project. The goal of the project is to facilitate the individuals' transition to the community.

TENNESSEE OLMSTEAD COALITION: The Council meets bi-weekly with the Arc of Tennessee, People First of Tennessee, and Tennessee Protection and Advocacy, Inc. on strategies regarding the state's response to individuals needing home and community-based services. The Supreme Court's decision in the Olmstead case suggests a state assessment and plan for citizens who need more inclusive, community-based supports. The Olmstead Coalition this year sponsored daylong summits to discuss housing, employment, mental retardation, and transition services from public education. Participants recommended that a "disability cabinet" be convened to communicate disability programs and services across state government for Tennesseans.

TENNESSEE DISABILITY MEGACONFERENCE—SHARING OUR STRENGTH 2004: Now in its second year of existence, the Tennessee Disability MegaConference, funded in part by the Council, drew 500 attendees from across the state, 48 exhibitors, and 125 local and national speakers. Attendees toured a brand new accessible Metro bus and cast their straw votes on an accessible voting machine.

This year, the three-day conference added a pre-conference day with extended workshops geared toward occupational and physical therapists and speech-language pathologists. Over 80 diverse sessions provided information on housing, transportation, employment, education, empowerment, assistive technology, access, systems change, and recreation and leisure. Plenary speakers included national disability visionaries Norm Kunc, Michael Smull, and James Meadors, and lunchtime entertainment was provided by the Night Fever Dancers and the Arc Angels.

Consumer Education Fund

"This was a truly amazing conference. I thank you once again for the opportunity to attend."

"The quality of presentations at this conference, and the number of contacts to be made were extraordinary. I appreciate the Council scholarship..."

"This was a learning experience for the whole family."

Tennessee Disability MegaConference

"I learned new things and feel rejuvenated."

"I attend conferences regularly and this is one of the best I've seen."



Conference participants express their creative side during an arts workshop at the conference.



Tennessee Disability Coalition Voter Project

FAMILY MEMBER: “This makes registration simple and reaches many people who might not have registered...”

INDIVIDUAL: “It was good to listen to the fact that I can make a difference. My vote should count, and it does.”

AGENCY REPRESENTATIVE: “One person who is deaf had never voted. She was shown how to use the voting machine...she had always been scared to vote. Now, she will vote because she knows what to do and what to expect.”

INDIVIDUAL: “I was shown the voting [machine] and how to use it.”

TP&A Voter Empowerment Project

INDIVIDUAL: “I liked the fact that I was taking part as an American citizen.”

Self-Determination

PATH: Planning Alternative Tomorrows with Hope (PATH) is a method of person-centered planning supported by the Council as part of its Microboard project, and is a great process to use in identifying and accomplishing goals for yourself or for an organization. To date, over 50 Tennesseans have received training to be PATH Guides and are qualified to conduct PATHs for individuals or groups. The Arc of Tennessee and the Tennessee Microboard Association can connect interested individuals with qualified PATH Guides.

Pictured left is two portions of Grace Walker Goad’s PATH – The family and support team of 10-year-old Grace gathered last spring to participate in a professionally facilitated PATH (Planning Alternative Tomorrow’s with Hope). Like other disability community members engaging in this newer, popular vehicle of self-determination, Grace and her team projected an ideal, all-encompassing vision for her future. Then, they planned backwards, naming specific steps, delineating and assigning tasks for the coming year – effectively launching the transformation of a dream into reality.

VOTER PROJECTS: According to the American Association of People with Disabilities, only 39.4% of Tennessee’s 1,059,947 persons with disabilities of voting age actually voted in the 2000 election. To address the disparity between the percentages of people with and people without disabilities who vote, the Council brought people together at the grassroots level around the issue of people with disabilities and their participation in the voting process, and established Tennessee Disability Voters (TDV). The purpose of TDV is to address the areas of voter education, voter registration, voter and voting accessibility, “get out the vote” activities, and systems policy and change.

The Council also funded two voter projects that have completed their second and final year of funding. The Tennessee Voter Empowerment Project of Tennessee Protection and Advocacy (TP&A) educates people with disabilities about voting rights and procedures, and educates local election officials and workers. During this fiscal year, the TP&A project completed a total of 51 training sessions, reaching 1,189 Tennesseans, and also registered 58 new voters. TP&A reached out to 1,086 election officials and poll workers through five training sessions and the use of their voter education video. In addition, TP&A developed an information packet including the Bill of Tennessee Voting Rights signed by Governor Bredesen. TP&A also developed a manual that will serve as a resource for election officials as well as other community groups interested in developing a voting program.

The Voter Project of the Tennessee Disability Coalition (www.tndisability.org) focuses on increasing the number of people with disabilities and their supporters who are registered to vote, including the development of a voter database that can be used to get out the vote. During this fiscal year, the Voter project directly registered 1,567 persons to vote, and the database now includes 142,000 names.

TENNESSEE MICROBOARD ASSOCIATION: The Tennessee Microboard Association (TMA) was formed to provide support and training to individual microboards (small groups that have formed non-profit organizations around one person with a disability for the purpose of providing supports and services to that person) across Tennessee. All people on the microboard are committed to helping an individual create and work toward a vision for his or her life.

TMA's mission is to promote the creation of microboards for individuals with disabilities in keeping with the principles of self-determination: freedom, authority, support, and responsibility. TMA currently provides help in the areas of incorporating a non-profit organization, training and development for microboard members, becoming certified and licensed to provide services and supports, and required and advanced training for direct support professionals hired by individual microboards. TMA also helps individual microboards plan services and supports through PATH (Planning Alternative Tomorrows with Hope). TMA's website is www.tnmicroboards.org.

TMA HIGHLIGHTS

- 23 people trained in the PATH (Planning Alternative Tomorrows with Hope) process
- 9 PATHs conducted for individuals
- 6 board training sessions
- 52 mentoring sessions
- 23 people trained in Circle of Support development

In total, 59 people are supported by TMA in the microboard development process; four groups have filed Charters with the State to become microboards, and 12 microboards are in operation.

SUPPORTED LIVING DEMONSTRATION GRANT: John and Connie Lyle O'Brien define supported living as a service that entails providing people with disabilities the individualized help they need to live successfully in the home of their choice. Making the shift to supported living involves more than providing a different location or a different type of service; it requires organizing and managing systems and agencies in new ways that challenge common perceptions of how organizations work and change. With this in mind, the Council established a supported living demonstration project. The CDD provided funds to the Down Syndrome Association of Middle Tennessee and they established a supported living program using the companion model that supported nine people.

Leadership Institute

PARTNERS IN POLICYMAKING™ : Now in its eleventh year in the state of Tennessee, the Partners in Policymaking Leadership Institute strives to improve the lives of persons with disabilities and their family members by supporting and advancing their leadership and advocacy skills. Nineteen individuals completed the 2003-2004 sessions, covering a wide range of disability topics presented by local and national experts. The class also received hands-on legislative experience by participating in the second annual Mock Testimony, which, according to evaluations, was the most challenging and rewarding aspect of the Partners seven-month experience.



“Prior to Partners, my husband and I were often frustrated when dealing with professionals in the disability community. The class was composed of individuals with common goals and desires; even if we did not have the same circumstances, the same job, same kind of family, or same living environment, we all had the same goals and desires for our loved ones. Partners gave me the knowledge and the resources to make changes in the school system, my community, and our church.”
-Annette Franklin

Partners in Policymaking Leadership Institute



“Partners in Policymaking offered me these four E's: 1) Education covering issues that may impact my child and family; 2) Empowerment to be 3) an Effective advocate for my children and other families; and 4) Essential allies and people to network with.” -Kimberly Meese



“Being a part of Partners has been a life-changing experience for me. Partners networking is incredible.”
-Luke Randall, Partners Graduate 2003-2004



Self-Employment Project

“This grant has empowered me to pursue a career and step up and out of a life that otherwise limited me from achieving my great potential.” -Turena Austin, June 3, 1994

Turena, through support and training provided in the first year of the CDD grant, has started her own business, Natural Care Reflexology Practice. She will be working in Johnson City. As of today, Turena is waiting on her business license from the State of Tennessee and is completing a PASS plan so that earnings from her business do not reduce her SSI benefits.

“I see a lot of individuals who have a hard time in community-based employment but have great talents in other areas, who would benefit from self-employment and be productive in the community.”
-Irma Augustine, Senior Employment Specialist, Community Options, Inc.

Employment

SELF-EMPLOYMENT PROJECT: The Council released a Call for Application to establish self-employment pilot projects in Tennessee in the summer of 2003. The goal of the Self-Employment Project is to develop expertise across Tennessee in helping people with disabilities start businesses of their own. In order to accomplish this goal, three pilot sites were selected (one in each grand region). They are The STAR Center of Jackson, Community Options, Inc. of Nashville, and ETTAC (The East Tennessee Technology Access Center) of Knoxville.

Each pilot site was asked to support a minimum of two people per year in starting their own businesses, and each has exceeded this expectation. In total, 14 people have been supported across the State in exploring business ownership. Business ideas have been diverse and have included opening a gym; operating a music CD store; selling gift baskets of scented soaps, lotions, and candles; growing and selling shiitake mushrooms; selling premium, ready-to-serve BBQ meals; and making and selling American flag items.

Additionally, each pilot site has been developing the expertise necessary to continue helping people with disabilities achieve self-employment long after the grant project ends. Specifically, grantees are receiving training and technical assistance from Dave Hammis in West Tennessee and Cary Griffin in Middle and East Tennessee. The grantees and the people they are supporting are learning to write business plans, conduct market research, develop marketing and advertising plans, develop appropriate pricing for their products, write PASS plans, and develop budgets and cash flow plans. All training sessions have been open to the public, resulting in over 171 people across the state becoming trained in various aspects of self-employment.

Being able to open a health and fitness center is like getting my old life back. Sixteen years ago, when I suffered a traumatic brain injury in an auto accident, I had to give up a lot of sports activities because my coordination was poor. The one thing I could still do was lift weights. In high school, I worked out with the football team. After I was injured, part of my rehab was to work out with



weights. I joined a health club and dreamed about owning one of my own. I hope that I will be able to help people with disabilities to regain their confidence and self esteem. I also hope that I can be a productive person again. -Matthew McKnight

I feel that this fitness center is going to be a great start for my partner, the community and me. For myself, because it has been a life-long dream to own my own business, especially having a sports background. This business will allow me to provide for my family and to get off all government assistance so I can make my own way in life. It will give me great pleasure knowing I will be working with people of all ages and benefit from what I will accomplish. -Charles (Chuck) Darden Jr.

TENNESSEE EMPLOYMENT CONSORTIUM: Year three of the Tennessee Employment Consortium (TEC) grant has been completed. TEC was a “challenge grant” to the Division of Mental Retardation Services (DMRS) to increase to 25% the number of people served in community-based employment. A statewide TEC group meets monthly, with regional employment consortiums meeting quarterly. The goal of the incentive grants is to support people in achieving community based employment. Today, approximately 6,400 people with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities, 22 years of age and older, are served by community-based services in Tennessee. Currently, 1,395 people with disabilities (21.8%) are served by DMRS in competitive, community-based employment.

EAST TENNESSEE

Total Served: 2,540
 Total Employed: 686, or 27%
 Number of agencies with incentive grants: 4
 Number projected to be placed in employment for grant year three: 20

MIDDLE TENNESSEE

Total Served: 2,291
 Total Employed: 458, or 20%
 Number of agencies with incentive grants: 3
 Number projected to be placed in employment for grant year three: 26

WEST TENNESSEE

Total Served: 1,570
 Total Employed: 251, or 16%
 Number of agencies with incentive grants: 3
 Number projected to be placed in employment for grant year three: 9

OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE TEC PROJECT:

- Development of a three-year Strategic Plan
- Development and facilitation of DMRS accepting Employment First! as Division policy
- Completion and distribution of 2nd edition of DMRS Supported Employment Resource Manual
- Development of TEC web page on Tennessee Association for Persons in Supported Employment website
- Conduction of TEC Job Coach Training for 477 people
- Approval of TEC Job Coach Training by Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) as meeting DRS training requirements
- Development of DMRS definition of employment
- DMRS/DRS collaborative “How To” guide development and dissemination in TN, FL, CT, TX, NY, and Washington, D.C.
- Changeover projects underway with 14 agencies across Tennessee

“I enjoy working with people and meeting new people. I like being able to make my own money and I get to buy more things for myself. It feels good to know I help other people.” -Maureen Bruce, Douglas Cherokee Economic Authority, Meals on Wheels, Newport

Tennessee Employment Consortium
 Working in the Community



Alice Miles is nonverbal but can utter sounds others can understand. She makes over minimum wage working for Aramark, where she is able to clock in and out, report to her workstation, hang smocks, and sort aprons by color. She enjoys taking a 2:00 p.m. break with her coworkers, which is when she introduced visiting staff to her friends. When asked what her dream was, she replied that it was to go to work everyday at Aramark.



Since landing a job at Hardee's, Charlie Bingham has learned how to wash his own uniform and clock in and out using a touch screen computer. He wears his nametag proudly and enjoys talking with coworkers and getting paid.



LINK coordinator, Loria Hubbard, and LINK parent members meet to discuss next year's agenda.

Creative Discovery Museum



Education

PROJECT LINK: Project LINK (Leaders in Education Networking for Kids) is an education initiative of the Arc of Tennessee, funded by the Council. Three regional staff members work with parents of children with disabilities to help them organize into groups for support, empowerment, and training. They also help parents collaborate more effectively with their local education agencies (LEAs), and “link” together with other area groups and statewide educational initiatives like Supporting and Training for Exceptional Parents (STEP) and the Disability Coalition on Education (DCE). The goal is to assist these parent groups in promoting best inclusive practices in their local communities, and to inform those families that may not have access to the same resources.

A total of 121 parents are involved in 23 active groups, whose activities include establishing special education steering committees, meeting directly with the Superintendent of Schools or LEA representatives, serving on the transition committee of a local school board, attending all school board meetings, and conducting family needs assessments. Additionally, these parents have assisted 419 other families.

CREATIVE DISCOVERY MUSEUM: An exciting new collaboration between the Council and the museum, Club Discovery is an after-school program for children ages 8-12 with disabilities, and friends or siblings without disabilities. During three six-week units, 16 students with disabilities and eight friends or siblings explored different countries around the world with the assistance of ten adult volunteers. Each unit ended with a presentation to about 40 family members and guests.

DISABILITY COALITION ON EDUCATION: Family members, educators, administrators and State and advocacy agency representatives gather monthly to brainstorm ideas and collaborate on initiatives that promote the inclusion of students with disabilities in typical educational settings, and best practices for diverse learners. During the course of this busy year, DCE produced three informative newsletters distributed statewide by mail and electronically, and began planning a regional education mini-conference geared toward parents, educators and administrators, covering communication challenges between educators and families, IEP basics, closing the achievement gap for all students, and the components of best educational practices.

“Maggie was able to form relationships with kids she would not have met except for Club Discovery.”

“The most important accomplishment for my child was to have social interaction with kids that help her cope in the world.”

“...an excellent educational opportunity as well as a social outlet for my daughter.”

“Great for children with or without a disability. My children have learned to help with children who have disabilities.”

For more information about The Council, contact our office at:

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Tennessee Council on Developmental Disabilities, Authorization Number 339441, 5400 copies, August 2004. This public document was promulgated at a cost of \$.48 per copy.

Public Policy

This year, the Council established a staff position to more effectively carry out its mission of working directly with legislators and policymakers on the subject of disability issues. This staff researches legislative and public policy issues of interest to persons with disabilities and is responsible for communicating information about those issues to Council members, other staff, and members of the disability community. During the State's legislative session, the Council staff attends committee meetings to monitor the discussion on relevant legislation. In accordance with Council legislative and public policy priorities, Council members and staff provide information to legislators and public policy officials regarding legislation or policy issues. The Council has collaborated with other disability organizations to form the Alliance for Disability Policy, modeled after the national public policy alliance established by The Arc of the US and United Cerebral Palsy Associations in December 2002. The Alliance meets biweekly and develops joint policy and legislative priorities and annual goals through consensus building. While each member organization maintains strong internal public policy structures that assure active participation and input of its constituencies, the collaboration offers greater recognition and greater impact on public policy.

Transportation

PROJECT R.I.D.E.: As a result of meetings with major transportation providers coordinated through the Siskin Rehabilitation Center in Chattanooga, the Council received four proposals to initiate driver and rider travel training for individuals with disabilities. The Council funded one travel trainer grant with the Nashville Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) in collaboration with the Greater Nashville Regional Council Area Agency on Aging and Disability. In three months, 36 individuals received training on riding buses, 1,035 people attended group presentations on travel training, and 12 drivers and MTA staff received training on riders with disabilities.

Health

PROJECT DOCC MEMPHIS: A two-year training project for families and pediatric residents. Delivery of Chronic Care (DOCC) promotes the understanding of family issues involved in caring for children with chronic illness. The outcomes of the two-year pilot include the training of 40 residents in in-home visits and interviews with families, completion of intensive training by 36 parents, and parent donation of approximately 400 hours of their time to the program.

Information and Referral

DISABILITY PATHFINDER: The information and referral office printed a new edition of the Directory of Disability Supports and Services, a very well received publication. Calls to the office increased to an average of about 450 per quarter, and about three percent of the calls came from the Hispanic community. Over 100 bilingual (Spanish/English) resources were identified. Three regional focus groups confirmed the value of the service and the printed directories. Evaluation forms were returned by 107 agencies; they assisted 17,172 individuals during the past year using the directories. There were over 6,500 hits on the Pathfinder web site.

Public Policy

Ensuring that people with disabilities and their families have a voice in the public policy process that affects their lives.



(Front row) TN CDD chairperson Andrea Cooper, (Back row) Laura Fiscus, Legislative and Public Policy Coordinator, William Edington, meet with Representative Lamar Alexander in Washington, D.C. during NACDD annual meeting.

Project RIDE

Project RIDE stands for Raising Individuals' with Disabilities Empowerment.

Project DOCC Memphis

"I truly feel that Project DOCC was an informative and interesting way to further my knowledge of how to help patients with chronic medical conditions." -Dr. Suzanne Oss

Disability Pathfinder

"I feel like I got some good places to start with this service..."

"I got a lot of really good information..."

"I think this is a useful and needed resource, and I really appreciate the availability of it."

"I got a lot of helpful information from your office and I appreciate it very much."

Home Ownership

TENNESSEE HOME OF YOUR OWN PROJECT: Over the past eight years, the Tennessee Home of Your Own (THOYO) project, spearheaded by the Council and the Tennessee Network for Community Economic Development, has worked with seven demonstration sites across Tennessee. THOYO offers qualified first-time homebuyers with disabilities assistance in obtaining a mortgage through a local bank.



CUMULATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE FIRST SEVEN YEARS

- 132 people have homes of their own due to Council efforts
- 73 people have moved from congregate settings to homes in the community
- 947 people have been assisted with homeownership activities including fixing and restoring credit history, opening individual development accounts, arranging for financing, arranging for necessary accommodations to homes, arranging for homebuyer education classes, and facilitating meetings with realtors, lenders, and mortgage companies, etc.
- 185 units of affordable and accessible housing were made available
- 1,101 people were trained in housing
- 355 people were trained in systems advocacy about housing, with 240 being self-advocates, 40 being family members, and 75 being professionals
- 90 people are active in housing advocacy across the state, with 20 being self-advocates, 6 being family members, and 64 being professionals
- Significant policy changes occurred at the State, municipal, and local provider levels; for example, STRAP grants through the Tennessee Division of Mental Retardation Services (DMRS) and the Tennessee Housing Development Agency (THDA) can be used for homeownership as well as rental subsidies (1998); THDA created a new position to review housing needs for individuals with disabilities and families with children who have disabilities (1999)
- Development of "Success Stories" booklet (1999)
- Production of "Why Not," a short documentary film on the project (2003)

2003-2004 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

This year, THOYO helped four people close on homes of their own. They assisted 144 people with homeownership related inquiries. Relationships were developed statewide with 26 realtors, 20 mortgage companies, 17 builders, 92 independent support coordinators, 38 provider agencies, and 31 banks. Additionally, grantees reported reaching 1,318 people in the community through education and public awareness meetings and seminars on the topic of disability and homeownership. One grantee reported outreach to 25,000 people through a WLX radio station broadcast devoted to THOYO.

Perhaps one of the most unexpected and significant outcomes of the project was that the Down Syndrome Association of Middle Tennessee (DSAMT), which joined the project in 2002, ended up developing its own homes through a partnership with Pinnacle Financial Partners and the Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB) of Cincinnati.

Specifically, DSAMT received a \$50,000 American Dream Grant from the FHLB of Cincinnati and then partnered with Pinnacle to build six homes for people with disabilities. Each home will be built to meet the needs of the homeowner. The first of the six homes was completed in October 2003. Further illustrating DSAMT's community partnerships, Affordable Housing Resources donated the land and New Hope Construction Company donated a housing package for the first home. The home is a two-bedroom, one-bath, 950-square-foot house located in Rainwood Subdivision in Nashville. It is modified to accommodate the present and future needs of the homeowner: the doorways were widened, the bathroom was enlarged to accommodate a wheelchair, and the back deck was enlarged as well.

"It's a dream come true for us. We're thankful to the Arc and to everybody that made this possible." -Casey L. Murphy and Myra K. Tucker

Publications

BREAKING GROUND: Six issues of the Council newsletter—over 5,100 copies per issue—were mailed to subscribers. The annual Arts Issue received many compliments, and the contents of the other issues included stories of individuals wanting to leave nursing homes and institutions to live in the community; voting; and the recent Supreme Court decision regarding states and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

LEGISLATIVE MONITOR: The Arc of Tennessee mailed 2,300 monthly updates about Federal and Tennessee legislation involving people with disabilities. While the General Assembly was in session, weekly information about bills pertaining to people with disabilities was e-mailed to 121 people and an average of ten people attended weekly conference calls to discuss pending legislation.

Breaking Ground

“It would be nice to have this type of newsletter every four to six weeks.”

Legislative Monitor

“If you are not up there [in Nashville] this is the only way to keep up.”

COUNCIL BUDGET

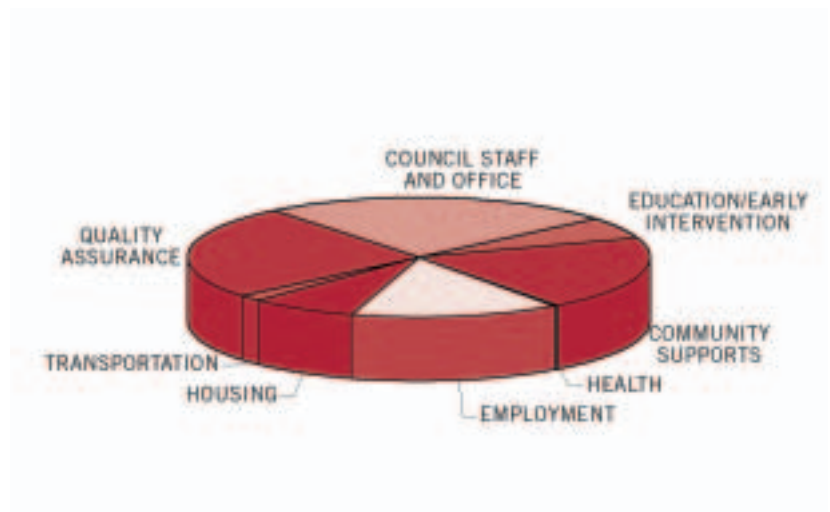
State Councils receive funding from Congress to undertake advocacy, capacity building, and systemic change activities that contribute to a consumer and family centered and directed, comprehensive system of community services.

Congress passes the federal budget each October, and each state Council receives an allotment to implement its program. The Tennessee Council received \$1.52 million in federal funds last year, and leveraged an additional \$717,000, which supported the Council’s initiatives (not reflected in chart).

The chart below shows how federal funds were dedicated to the Council’s areas of emphasis.

COUNCIL SPENDING BY AREA OF EMPHASIS

Education/Early Intervention	\$103,283
Community Supports (includes public education and awareness projects)	\$362,887
Health	\$9,188
Employment	\$267,498
Housing	\$131,464
Transportation	\$32,288
Quality Assurance (includes leadership, advocacy, self-advocacy, and self-determination projects)	\$457,067
Council, Staff, and Office	\$449,603
Total for Fiscal Year 2003-2004	\$1,813,278





MEMBERSHIP AND STAFF

<p>COUNCIL CHAIRPERSONS</p> <p>Andrea L. Cooper, Chair Joyce Sievers, Vice Chair</p> <p>COUNCIL MEMBERS</p> <p>Hicks Armor, Chattanooga Michael W. Boyd, Cookeville Barron A. Garrett, McMinnville Coral Getino, Knoxville Mary Dale Greene, Columbia Nancy Hardin, Dyersburg Angela Hazlehurst, Jackson Pamela Huber, Kingsport June Mangum, Memphis Richard Moore, J.D., Brentwood Alan Muir, Knoxville Randy Oliver, Jackson John D. Piver, Gray</p>	<p>Steven Sheegog, Memphis Rebecca Smith, McMinnville Van Veller, Signal Mountain Marsha Wilson, Antioch</p> <p>STATE AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES</p> <p>Carl Brown Department of Human Services, Division of Rehabilitation Services</p> <p>Joseph E. Fisher Department of Education, Division of Special Education</p> <p>Stephan H. Norris Department of Finance and Administration, Division of Mental Retardation Services</p> <p>Janice Myrick Tennessee Housing Development Agency</p> <p>Virginia Trotter Betts Department of Mental Health and</p>	<p>Developmental Disabilities Richard Kennedy Commission on Children and Youth</p> <p>Nancy C. Peace Commission on Aging and Disability</p> <p>Gregory Yopp Department of Health, Children's Special Services</p> <p>UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE REPRESENTATIVE</p> <p>Frederick Palmer UT Center for Health Services</p> <p>PROTECTION & ADVOCACY</p> <p>Shirley Shea Tennessee Protection and Advocacy, Inc.</p>	<p>LOCAL NONGOVERNMENTAL AGENCY REPRESENTATIVE:</p> <p>Pat Levitt Vanderbilt Kennedy Center for Research on Human Development</p> <p>COUNCIL STAFF</p> <p>Wanda Willis, Executive Director Errol Elshtain, Planning Coordinator Margaret Donald, Administrative Secretary Alicia A. Cone, Coordinator, Project Research and Development Lynette Swinford, Fiscal Manager Ned Solomon, Director, Partners in Policymaking™ Leadership Institute William Edington, Legislative and Public Policy Coordinator JoEllen Fowler, Administrative Assistant</p>
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VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

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