

August 20, 2017

ITACC, NACDD AND AIDD JULY TRIP 2017 SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

Hafa Adai,

I would like to thank our fellow GDDC officers and members for this opportunity to attend this trip. It was another great experience for me to gain and meet new members, keynote speakers and especially our new commissioner Ms. Melissa Ortiz. It's always a great feeling to know we are not alone in our challenges, but knowing we got an amazing support from our fellow councils and administrations.

R.A.D (Reporting Advocacy Diversity) is the topic of the AIDD Technical Assistance Institute. One of the highlights was presented by Demetrius Lewis "Navigating Through the Noise". He had a great display of methods, models and means to manage change in our lives. He gave an example like "I had to fall down so that I could learn to get back up ! " We all have different experiences in life, we must take the negatives and turn it around to a positive look." A Quality Life: Count Me In" is the topic for the NACDD Annual Conference . Their were so much training sessions to attend. So myself, Mr. Ray and Ms. Marie separated to attend as

many trainings we can. We all had gain and got good feedback to excel our knowledge to bring back to ensure our quality of life here in Guam. One of my favorite was a true documentary story of Diana and Kathy "Body & Soul" An adult with Down Syndrome being a caregiver for her long time friend with cerebral palsy. Living testimonies like these shows we can succeed in many aspects and challenges in our daily lives. We must continue to fight for what we believe in and make that change to lower down that noise. Don't give up and keep striving to benefit yourself and others. Thank you all once again, it was a great trip!!

Respectfully,

Josephine E. Guerrero

Chairperson GDDC

Marie Libria, Program Coordinator IV, Trip Report

National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities(NACDD), Territories Meeting, July 11, 2017
Administration on Developmental Disabilities (AIDD), Technical Assistance Institute (TAI), July 11-12, 2017
2017 NACDD Annual Conference, "A Quality of Life: Count Me In", July 13-14, 2017
July 9-14, 2017 @ Salt Lake City, Utah

Tuesday, July 11, 2017 – NACDD and AIDD's Newly Appointed Commissioner, Melissa Ortiz, meet with respective Councils from Guam, CNMI, American Samoa, Virgin Island, Puerto Rico, including Hawaii. Discussions were focused on the following:

- **Current priorities/issues at your Council**
 1. Employment (Self-employment, hobby shop, community habilitation day program)
 2. Increase Self Advocacy participants by continuing to support training/education. Also, assist in establishing another self-advocacy organization.

- **Current projects/initiatives or advocacy efforts at your Council**
 1. Self Advocacy Training (new group, youths, and post-secondary)
 2. Education – Transition Training and Youth for Youth Conference

Due to limited time, issues/concerns regarding Medicaid Services was not discussed during the meeting. NACDD/AIDD anticipates a Webinar session in August 2017 with the territories for further discussion on the impact of the cuts to Medicaid for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). Mr. Andrew Morris, AIDD Policy Analyst, stated that the territories qualify for Medicaid waivers. However, Guam does not participate in the waiver program due to insufficient funding.

Tuesday, July 11, 2017 – Demetrius Lewis, opening keynote speaker focused on Navigating Through the Noise through methods, models, and means because of change. The impact and causes creates noise and the ability to successfully navigate through the noise depends on your focus. About 50% to 70% of planned change efforts fail despite being named as a top priority by organizations. Challenges in the 21st century include: Manage ambiguity, abandon yesterday, improve systematically, exploit success, innovate systematically, avoid innovation traps, and balance change and continuity.

Afternoon session focused on advancing an understanding of the Program Performance Report (PPR) changes and strategies to use in reporting. The new reporting requirements for the annual progress report requires exploring strategies to develop, organize, and manage information to report progress.

Wednesday, July 12, 2017 - AIDD updates include the following:

- Re-Imagine Department of Health and Human Service (HHS)
- HHS submitted a plan to Office Management & Budget (OMB)
- ACL will review guidelines and identify significant relations
- Create Committees to implement Executive Orders (Rescind/Modify to reduce guidelines)
- Stakeholder Engagement/Session (listening, webinars, and conference call)

AIDD mentioned President's Trump FY 2018 Budget proposes to "Consolidate" funding from Part B Independent Living Grant (\$23 million), the State Council on Developmental Disabilities (\$73 million), and Traumatic Brain Injury funding (\$6 million) into one "Partnership for Innovation, Inclusion, and Independence." The funding for this new PARTNERSHIP is \$45 million, a \$57 million loss from the \$102 million combined in funding in FY 2017. AIDD mentioned this proposal needs an "Act of Congress" for approval especially because each program has a specific mandate.

Session focused on Framework to Achieving Cultural and Linguistic Competence in Developmental Disabilities Councils. Cultural competence and linguistic competence are widely recognized as fundamental aspects of quality of health and human services organizations and viewed as essential approaches for reducing disparities and promoting equality by improving access, utilization, service delivery, and outcomes for diverse populations. Many human services continue to struggle with the full integration of these values, policies, practices, and behaviors, and attitudes at both the individual and organizational levels. The need to define culture and describe its multiple dimensions including intersecting identities experienced by individuals with developmental disabilities including defining competence and legal mandates to ensure language access for federally funded programs.

Cultural and Linguistic Competence (CLC) Starts with Me! Getting started and moving forward with CLC -This session focuses on Councils enhancing CLC efforts but having a hard time getting started. Session encourages Councils having a CLC Plan to identify values, policies, and procedures to demonstrate commitment to CLC. Also, exploring challenges and successes related to planning, implementing, and evaluating CLC efforts and initiatives and approaches to getting started and moving forward with CLC.

Partners in Advocacy: State Self-Advocacy Leadership and Councils – Session focuses on strategies for successful partnerships and collaboration between Councils, State Self-Advocacy Organizations, DD Network Partners, and other Stakeholders. Strategies to provide a State Self-Advocacy Organization to support them in showing their effectiveness and reporting outcomes.

Thursday, July 13, 2017 – Advocates Living Their Best Life and Alternatives to Guardianship: A Self-Advocacy Video titled "Body and Soul: Diana Braun and Alice Elliott. Diana shared her life and her advocacy efforts in the areas housing, health care, and educating policy makers on the need to improve services for I/DD. Representatives from North Carolina and Texas shared alternatives to guardianship so that people with I/DD can fully exercise their right to make their own decisions.

Council Activities to Promote Self-Advocacy – Distinct programs across the US offer self-advocates leadership training, skill building training, community inclusion, and social connections. Discussions and sharing of potential replication is available to states/territories DD Councils. Project EQUIP is funded by the South Carolina DD Council. This working model is a peer-to-peer mentorship and skill building in self-advocacy, disability pride communication, goal setting, and leadership for young adults with disabilities ages 13-28. Another program is the Advocate Leadership Academy

Program that uses peer coaching and a set of eight (8) leadership competencies developed by an advocate with disabilities as a part of the LEND project. The goal of this project is to provide people with disabilities leadership training so they can directly engage with the needs faced in their communities.

The Kansas DD Council shared their journey in partnering with United Healthcare Community Plan of Kansas to administer Managed Care leveraged and administered by Medicaid programs. Managed Care works for I/DD, their families and the system that supports them.

Friday, July 14, 2017 – Serving the Community – Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires public entities to administer services, programs, and activities in the most integrated setting appropriate to the needs of qualified individuals with disabilities. The Department of Justice (DOJ) enforces integration and mandate and highlight DOJ enforcement matters that have enabled people with disabilities to move from segregated settings into supported housing and other integrated settings.

The Texas DD Council funded \$250,000 an employment project called Helping Individuals Reach Employment (HIRE) supporting 52 individuals between the ages of 18 and 25 with DD to pursue a post-secondary education at south Texas College and gain employment.

The Florida DD Council provided funding in the amount of \$150,000 for the Transportation Voucher Pilot Program that has proven to be a cost-effective, self-sustaining model with significant return on investment and great potential for further replication. The program is an urban model providing 24-hour transportation services to individuals with I/DD. The program greatly improved transit services and is working on sustainability and was provided funding for another year.

Pathways to Career is a systems change initiative designed to enable I/DD and autism spectrum disorders to have real options for competitive, integrated employment in the community. This initiative is a customized employment approach offering internships and career-oriented employment options that match their individual skill, interest and abilities, facilitating greater inclusion in the community. Ms. Ashtin Miller, Down Syndrome and Pathways to Career participant shared her internship with pay experience working at the Legacy House. She not only takes pride in her work but also enjoys singing, dancing, and playing the guitar to the folks at work. She was awarded the "Personal Touch" Award for 2017.

Save the Date! The 2018 AIDD Technical Assistance Institute and NACDD Conference will be held on July 9-12, 2018, National Harbor, just outside of Washington D.C.!

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Trip Report
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July 9-14, 2017

July 11, 2017: National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD), Territories Meeting; July 11-12, 2017 Administration on Developmental Disabilities (AIDD), Technical Assistance Institute (TAI); July 13-14, 2017 NACDD Annual Conference (2017), "A Quality of Life: Count Me In", July 13-14, 2017

- Tuesday July 11, 2017: Territories Round Table Meeting. This was a meeting dedicated for the Territories of the United States: Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and Hawaii (by virtue of geographic location). Because of our status as Territories or Commonwealth and our geographic location, NACDD-AIDD recognized that we have unique needs and requirements and thus held a separate meeting for this year's 2017 conference. We were introduced to Ms. Melissa Ortiz, AIDD's Newly Appointed Commissioner. Each council discussed various on-going priorities / issues related to our councils such as self-advocacy and employment as well current projects and initiatives such as education and self-advocacy training for new groups, youths, and post-secondary individuals. We also discussed how culture influences how people perceive and relate to individuals with disabilities especially pertaining to our geographic location with a diverse population. For the concurrent sessions, I attended Practical Strategies to Support Data Collection and Analysis. This session highlighted strategies used by other DD Councils in data collection and performance measures.

- Wednesday July 12, 2017: The plenary session covered Cultural and Linguistic Competence in DD Councils. The presenters discussed the reasons for cultural and linguistic competence in reference to individuals with developmental disabilities and the need for DD Councils to achieve competence within this area. For the afternoon concurrent session, I attend Tools for the Trade: Resources for Engaging Diverse Members and Communities. The Colorado, Georgia, and New York DD Councils discussed how their councils meet the charge of diversity, inclusion and cultural and linguistic competence and how their internal policies and procedures are structured in reference to recruitment of council members representative of their states diver population.

- Thursday July 13, 2017: NACDD held two plenary sessions on this day: Advocates Living Their Best Life: Self-Determination and Alternatives to Guardianship; and Health in the New World Order. For the concurrent session, I attended My Voice Counts: Supports vs. Control. This was an interesting day in the conference in that it discussed the independence and self-determination of IWDD and that how often Guardianship is often seen as the only alternative in caring for IWDD when there are alternatives such as decision-making agreement.**

- Friday July 14, 2017: The conference plenary covered Serving the Community reflecting how vital community services are to people with I/DD and that they have full access to these services in the community in which they live. For the concurrent session, I attended Collaborative Leadership to Advance Disability Policy.**

As this was my first time attending the NACDD Conference, it gave me the opportunity to learn first-hand how other DD Council operate within their respective states and the different challenges and issues they face. It allowed me to look at new and developing policies and procedures by NACDD as well as how it is implemented by the different states. The Conference also covered many issues current in the day such as the proposed budget by the President and how it would affect the DD Councils, Medicaid, and taxes.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the ECM for allowing me this opportunity and experience in attending the NACDD 2017 Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah.