ON BEHALF OF THE NEW JERSEY COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES, I AM PROUD TO PRESENT THIS ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2005.

AS YOU CAN SEE, THE COUNCIL CONTINUES TO PROMOTE POSITIVE CHANGES FOR PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND THEIR FAMILIES THROUGH TRAINING, COALITION BUILDING, OUTREACH, AND ADVOCACY. WE FOLLOW THROUGH ON OUR FEDERAL MANDATE FOR ADVOCACY, CAPACITY BUILDING, AND SYSTEMS CHANGE.

THROUGH ITS ACTIVITIES, THE COUNCIL HAS GIVEN INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES, THEIR FAMILIES, AND THEIR FRIENDS, THE TOOLS TO ACCESS, AND PARTICIPATE IN SHAPING THE PUBLIC POLICIES THAT AFFECT THEIR LIVES. WE HELPED TO ESTABLISH AND TO PROVIDE ONGOING SUPPORT TO THE FAMILY SUPPORT COUNCILS AND THE MONDAY MORNING NETWORKS. THESE ARE STATEWIDE GROUPS OF INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES AND FAMILY MEMBERS THAT HAVE RESHAPED THE DISABILITIES SERVICES SYSTEMS AND ADVOCACY IN NEW JERSEY OVER THE PAST DECADE.

OUR EFFORTS HAVE CHANGED THE WAY THE PUBLIC AND PUBLIC OFFICIALS VIEW PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES, AND HAVE CHANGED THE WAY PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES VIEW THEMSELVES.

IN THE AREAS OF EDUCATION, HEALTH CARE, HOUSING AND EMPLOYMENT, THE COUNCIL HAS WORKED WITH A NUM- BER OF OTHER GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS ON PROBLEMS IN THESE AREAS TO EXPLORE PROGRESSIVE SOLUTIONS THAT, WHEN ADDRESSED, BENEFIT THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY.

BY EMPOWERING PEOPLE AND BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS, THE COUNCIL CONTINUES TO FULFILL ITS MANDATE AS A LEAD CHANGE AGENT IN NEW JERSEY.

AS WE CONTINUE TO GO FORWARD, ENVISIONING A NEW JERSEY WHERE PERSONS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES ARE EQUAL PARTNERS WITH ALL OTHER MEMBERS OF THEIR COMMUNITIES, WE ASK YOU TO JOIN US IN WORKING ON THE THEME OF OUR NEW FIVE-YEAR PLAN, “RAISING EXPECTATIONS.”

—MAUREEN BABULA, CHAIR
**PURPOSE**

The Council, funded by the federal government with matching funds from the state, has a role as lead change agent in the State, responsible for a vision of what the lives of people with developmental disabilities should be. Through its membership and its activities and projects, the Council provides a forum and resources for making its vision a reality.

Many public and private agencies are involved in the lives of people with developmental disabilities. The Council provides a platform for these agencies, together with consumers, parents and advocates, to develop a coordinated social policy. To this end, the Council commissions research on policy issues and funds model projects. The Council also funds projects to inform decision-makers, legislators and the general public about developmental disabilities.

The State Plan is the official document that contains details on Council membership, information about research findings, a listing of Council priority areas and activities for the Plan Cycle, required assurances and basic financial information on Council allocations.

The Council is authorized by the federal Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act, and in New Jersey state government by NJSA 30:1AA 1,2 and is codified in Title 10 of the State Administrative Codes. State law places the Council “in but not of” the New Jersey Department of Human Services.

**THE COUNCIL’S VISION**

All individuals with developmental disabilities are natural, contributing members of their neighborhoods and communities, have real choice and control over their own lives, have the freedom to strive, excel, and make mistakes, are in a position to achieve personal goals, are in a position to affect policy and process, and have the same rights, privileges, responsibilities, and opportunities of citizenship as does any other New Jersey resident.
PARTNERS IN POLICYMAKING

The overall goal is to achieve a productive partnership between people needing and using special services and those in a position to make policy and law.

In its tenth year, Partners in Policymaking has graduated over 200 participants. Many of the graduates are actively serving on various State Boards and Councils, as well as serving as leaders in various community programs involving their local school districts and recreational activities involving people with disabilities.

PIP is designed to provide information, training and skill-building so that participants may obtain the most appropriate state-of-the-art services for themselves and others. Partners learn about the current issues and best practices and become familiar with the policymaking and legislative processes at the local, state and federal levels.

2005

PIP GRADUATES

MICHELLE APPIOTT
JEFFREY D. BERREST
JUDITH BREIDIGAN
MICHAEL BRILL
KIM COLL
MICHELLE EHART
DEBORAH GONZALEZ
ILSA GONZALEZ
ANGELA GORE
SHERYL GRIFFIN
KARINA MARI
MICHAEL MARUE
CHRISTOPHER MILLER
BRIAN Mincy
BRUNILDA MORALES
MERCEDES RAMIREZ
NORMA RAMSEY
SCOTT RAYNOR
ESTHER RICHARDSON
FRANK RIVERA
CHERIE L. RODAN
DIANE SAVAGE
STEVEN SCHENCK
ORRIE M. SCHULMAN
GWENDOLYN STEVENS
FAMILY SUPPORT

A system designed to strengthen and promote families who provide care within the family home for a family member with a developmental disability.

The Family Support Act was signed into law in New Jersey in 1993. The Act called for a statewide network of Regional Family Support Planning Councils that would advise the Division of Developmental Disabilities about how to allocate funds to support individuals with disabilities who live with their families.

In 2005, the Division served a caseload of more than 35,000 individuals. Of that caseload, more than 22,000 or approximately 64% resided at home with their families. However, only 8.5% of the Division’s budget went to serve those families.

The Regional Family Support Planning Councils led a petition drive and held a Statehouse rally to urge the NJ Legislature to provide more funds for in-home services, transition services for students leaving the school system and individuals on the waiting list for services who do not want to leave their families. As a result, an additional $12.5 million was allocated for these services.
WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES ARE AMONG THE MOST DISADVANTAGED GROUPS IN OUR SOCIETY AND MAY BE AT GREATER RISK FOR HEALTH PROBLEMS THAN MEN WITH DISABILITIES OR WOMEN WITHOUT DISABILITIES.

THE WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES TASK FORCE PLAYS AN ACTIVE ROLE IN ADDRESSING STATEWIDE HEALTH CARE ISSUES AND ADVOCATING FOR SYSTEMS CHANGE. THIS CONSUMER-DRIVEN TASK FORCE IS SUPPORTED BY THE COUNCIL. IT HAS THE MANDATE TO EXPLORE ISSUES AND NEEDS, AND DEVELOP STRATEGIES TO INCREASE APPROPRIATE OUTCOMES, FOR WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES USING THE GENERAL HEALTH CARE SYSTEM. STATEWIDE CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS HAVE BEEN COMBINED WITH THE NEWSLETTER HEALTH ACCESS TO BRING ISSUES TO THE ATTENTION OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC, AS WELL AS THE DISABILITY POPULATION.

A SUMMER SEMINAR, “LIVING LIFE TO THE FULLEST,” WAS HELD IN AUGUST 2005 TO DISCUSS:

- LIVING POSITIVELY WITH MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES
- IMPROVING HEALTH LITERACY

IN ADDITION, TWO ISSUES OF HEALTH ACCESS WERE PUBLISHED IN 2005.
PUBLICATIONS

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES MAGAZINE IS A HIGH-END PRODUCTION MAGAZINE FOR AND ABOUT PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES. THE MAGAZINE USES PROFESSIONAL WRITERS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS TO COVER A SINGLE TOPIC WITH NEWS, FEATURE AND OPINION ARTICLES IN A PUBLISHING STYLE COMPARABLE TO TIME, NEWSWEEK, ETC. THE MAGAZINE RUNS FROM 48 TO 64 PAGES, WITH LONGER SPECIAL EDITIONS ON CERTAIN ISSUES. PAST TOPICS INCLUDED: PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN POLITICS, ACCESSIBILITY, AGING, TRAVEL, AND THE HISTORY OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES.

FAMILIES MAGAZINE SERVES AS A COMPANION PUBLICATION TO PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AND SHARES THE SAME CREATIVE TEAM AND DESIGN QUALITY. HOWEVER, FAMILIES IS GEARED TOWARD FAMILIES OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AND DEALS WITH A VARIETY OF TOPICS IN EACH ISSUE. IT ALSO SERVES AS HOME TO THE FAMILY SUPPORT NEWSLETTER FOR THE NEW JERSEY REGIONAL FAMILY SUPPORT PLANNING COUNCILS.

BOTH PUBLICATIONS ARE OFFERED FREE-OF-CHARGE TO A MAILING LIST OF ABOUT 14,000 SUBSCRIBERS WITH AN ADDITIONAL 1,000 TO 1,500 DISTRIBUTED THROUGHOUT THE STATE BY STAFF AND OTHERS.

THE COUNCIL ALSO PUBLISHES THE MONDAY MORNING NEWSLETTER (FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL NEWS), IDEA NOW AND COMMON GROUND (INCLUSIVE EDUCATION ISSUES), AND HEALTH ACCESS (HEALTH CARE FOR WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES).
We're here today to make sure the ADA is not killed. All these people are here to make sure the ADA is not forgotten. Yeah, it's hot out here. Yeah, we're going to be tired. But we demand to be recognized.

—Sam Jenkins, New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project
MONDAY MORNING

A grassroots network of political advocates with disabilities

In its 10th year, the Monday Morning Project continued to set the standard for grassroots disability advocacy in New Jersey, while becoming a model project for other states to emulate.

On July 26, 2005, the fifteenth anniversary of the Americans With Disabilities Act, more than 200 people marched from the State House to a park in Trenton in stifling heat to protest the erosion of the ADA. Guest speakers included Bob Kafka, co-founder of ADAPT and Jim Ward, executive director of ADA Watch. The “Forgotten at 15” rally was the high-water mark for the Monday Morning Project.

The 19 Monday Morning Networks continue to work on accessibility issues regarding Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and the Help America Vote Act (HAVA).

A grassroots effort has been organized to alert merchants and businesses of the physical barriers that prevent people with disabilities from entering restaurants, movie theatres and stores. It is an effort to get
Taking the position that a voting public is critical to addressing needs and issues, Monday Morning continued to promote non-partisan voter registration and education. To date, more than 18,000 voters with disabilities and their family members have been registered and assisted by more than 30 organizations and self-advocacy groups. A significant outcome of this effort has been a partnership between the Council and the NJ State Board of Elections around HAVA to ensure polling places are accessible. More than 100 polling places have been surveyed through the end of 2005 by self-advocates, with the results presented to county boards of elections for resolution.

Monday Morning facilitators and members participate in the legislative process by advocating and testifying at hearings for the passage and the enforcement of legislation that impact the lives of people with disabilities. In 2005, Monday Morning successfully advocated for the passage of a bill requiring newly constructed affordable housing units to be adaptable for use by people who are elderly and people who have disabilities. The bill passed both houses of the New Jersey Legislature.

Inclusive Education

Making school environments more inclusive among New Jersey’s more than 600 independent districts.

The Council’s successful Fellowship Program in Inclusive Education has recognized school districts throughout the state that are making significant strides in including students with disabilities in the general education environments. Fellowships of $1,000 are awarded to the successful nominees who have excelled in encouraging the inclusion of students with disabilities in all areas of school life, including academic and non-academic activities. Awards are used to promote and expand those efforts.
Staff distributed material on the fellowship program, as well as the Council’s popular “Tools for Teachers” manual and “Inclusion Resources for Families,” at the annual New Jersey Education Association Convention in Atlantic City, attended by approximately 30,000 school personnel from throughout the state.

The Council also continued to fund two inclusive education oriented publications, IDEA Now and Common Ground.

**2005 Fellowship Program in Inclusive Education Winners**

**Candace Coccaro** and **Paul Sosnowski**, Jersey City Public Schools
Practice: Providing inclusive fitness program for preschoolers in the school district

**Candace Coccaro**, Jersey City Public Schools
Practice: Providing ongoing cross training for general and special education teachers, students and administrators

**Walter Oberwanowicz**, Branchburg Township Public Schools
Practice: Administrative Leadership for Inclusion

**Julie Campanella**, Hamilton Terrace School, Berkeley Heights Public School District
Practice: Building inclusive classroom environments through partnerships, strategic planning and differentiated instruction

**Karen Heaphy** and **Richard Reduzzi**, Franklin Township School, Washington, New Jersey
Practice: Providing motivating science lessons supported by technology ranging from no-tech to high tech

**Shawn David Dey**, Northeast Elementary School, Montclair Public Schools
Practice: Providing a music program which reaches every student with a disability or special learning need

**Ila Lewis**, Seneca High School, Mt. Holly, New Jersey
Practice: Using a variety of non-traditional methods and strategies to ensure that all students can be successful in general education world language classrooms
HOUSING

HOUSING IN NEW JERSEY IS AMONG THE MOST EXPENSIVE IN THE COUNTRY. HOUSING AND POPULATION DENSITY IN THE STATE RIVALS THAT OF INDIA. FOR MOST PEOPLE, INCLUDING THOSE WITH DISABILITIES, HOUSING TRANSLATES TO RENTAL HOUSING. AFFORDABLE, ACCESSIBLE RENTAL HOUSING IS MANDATED BY LAW, BUT REALITY OFTEN REQUIRES AN INDIVIDUAL TO MEET INCOME OR ASSET GUIDELINES IN SOME FORM.

THE NJ CDD BEGAN WORKING WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS TO TEST AN INDIVIDUAL ASSET BUILDING EFFORT INCORPORATING INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT STRATEGIES FOR PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES. THE COUNCIL MAINTAINS A PRESENCE AT THE SUPPORTIVE HOUSING ASSOCIATION AND OTHER AFFORDABLE HOUSING EFFORTS IN THE STATE TO EXPLORE PROCESSES BY WHICH PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL AND OTHER DISABILITIES CAN BREAK OUT OF THE POVERTY CYCLE.

BASED ON THE OUTCOMES OF THE INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT PROJECT, PHASE I, THE COUNCIL CONTINUED TO PROVIDE SUPPORT IN 2005 FOR A SUCCESS OF SAVINGS (SOS) EFFORT FOR AN ADDITIONAL 40 PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES IN NEW JERSEY.

EMPLOYMENT

WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT (WIA) AND NEW JERSEY’S CORRESPONDING COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARDS, MOST TYPICAL EMPLOYMENT AND RE-EMPLOYMENT SERVICES FOR ALL PERSONS ARE BEING PROVIDED THROUGH A SYSTEM OF ONE-STOP CENTERS. THE COUNCIL FUNDED RESEARCH INTO THE USE OF THESE ONE-STOP CENTERS BY PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL AND OTHER DISABILITIES. FINDINGS INDICATED THAT ABOUT 20 PERCENT OF THE PEOPLE WHO CAME THROUGH THE DOORS OF THE ONE-STOP CENTER ON ANY GIVEN DAY ARE PEOPLE WHO SELF-IDENTIFY AS HAVING A WORK-RELATED DISABILITY.
FINANCIAL REPORT

COUNCIL BUDGET = $1,996,949
PROGRAM = $1,397,162
ADMINISTRATIVE = $599,787

PROGRAM BUDGET = $1,397,162

In-House $830,581
Contracts $293,000
Publications $225,000
Other $48,579

60% 21% 16% 3%
COLLABORATING ORGANIZATIONS

Rutgers University
Heldridge Center on Workforce Development
Center for State Health Policy
School of Management and Labor Relations

University of Medicine and Dentistry of NJ
School of Public Health
New Jersey Dental School

Centers for Independent Living
PCIL - Mercer County
HIP - Hudson, Bergen Counties

Cooper University Hospital
Community Health Affairs Department

State of NJ Agencies and Authorities
Division of Developmental Disabilities, DHS
Division of Disability Services, DHS
Office of Special Education Services, DOE
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services, DOL
State Employment and Training Commission, DOL
NJ Transit, DOT
Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services, DHS
State Division of Elections, DLPS
Dept. of Human Services - Olmstead Committee

County Offices
Warren County Dept. of Human Services
Union County Office of Transportation
GloUCESTER County Workforce Development Board
Mercer County Board of Elections
Mercer County Office on Disabilities
Mercer County Dept. of Human Services

Private Agencies and Associations
Allies, Inc.
Community Options, Inc.
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
Supported Housing Association of NJ
Human Services Research Institute - Cambridge, MA
Center for Outcome Analysis - Narberth, PA
Mathematica, Inc. - Princeton, NJ
AccessPoint Solutions
Down Syndrome Support Group of South Jersey
People Support Network
Association for Special Children and Families
Considine Communications, Inc.
NJ Citizen Action, Inc.
Resources Division - UCP/Middlesex
Consumer Support Programs of NJ
COUNCIL MEMBERS

MAUREEN BABULA, CHAIR
LORRAINE D’SYLVA-LEE, VICE-CHAIR

CONSUMER MEMBERS
ROY CARBONE
VIRGINIA PETERS
STANLEY SODEN
DAVID TAG
MARY KAY WEBER
HOLLY WETSCHER

PARENT OR GUARDIAN MEMBERS
MAUREEN BABULA
JENNIFER DEMAURO
LORRAINE D’SYLVA-LEE
LEILA GOLD
CAROLYN HAYER
PURNIMA HERNANDEZ
PATRIZIA ZTA

FEDERALLY MANDATED MEMBERS
CELESTE ANDRIOT WOOD, DIV. OF FAMILY HEALTH SERVICES
WILLIAM DITTO, DIV. OF DISABILITY SERVICES
ROBERTA WHOLE, DEPT. OF EDUCATION
THOMAS JENNINGS, DIV. OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES
SARAH W. MITCHELL, J.D., NJ PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY, INC.
ANN C. KOHLER, DIV. OF MEDICAL ASSISTANCE & HEALTH SERVICES
CAROL GRANT, DIV. OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
DEBORAH SPITALNIK, PH.D., THE BOGGS CENTER ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES - UCE

PUBLIC MEMBER
FRANK CARAGHER, THE ARC OF UNION COUNTY

COUNCIL STAFF

SUSAN RICHMOND, DEPUTY DIRECTOR
CAROLE TONKS, PROJECT SUPERVISOR
GAIL FURRER, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT/OFFICE MANAGER
DENNIS RIZZI, GRANT & CONTRACT MANAGER/PLANNER
NORMAN REIM, PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER
JANE DUNHAM, EVENTS COORDINATOR
LUKE KOPPISCH, MONDAY MORNING COORDINATOR
PAT KRUPKA, HEALTH CARE COORDINATOR
MONIQUE WILSON, FAMILY SUPPORT COORDINATOR
DENNIE TODD, PARTNERS IN POLICYMAKING PROGRAM COORDINATOR
SUE GOTTESMAN, GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COORDINATOR
SHARIAN MACKINS-GIST, SECRETARY/DATA BASE MANAGER
GAIL HODGES, RECEPTIONIST
JOURDAN RICHMOND, OFFICE ASSISTANT