PURPOSE OF THE COUNCIL

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, 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.
ON BEHALF OF THE NEW JERSEY COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES I AM PLEASED TO PRESENT THIS ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2006. THE YEAR WAS ONE OF TRANSITION FOR OUR COUNCIL. IN ADDITION TO THE IMPORTANT WORK WE DID IN THE AREAS OF FAMILY SUPPORT, TRAINING, HEALTH CARE, ADVOCACY, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS, WE HIRED A NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND ARE NOW IN THE PROCESS OF WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS.

ONE OF THOSE WILL BE THE NEW CHAIR. WHILE I AM SAD TO BE LEAVING WHAT FOR ME HAS BEEN AN EXCITING AND REWARDING TENURE AT THE COUNCIL, I RECOGNIZE THAT CHANGE IS ESSENTIAL FOR THE FORWARD MOVEMENT OF ANY ORGANIZATION AND WISH THE BEST FOR THE NEW CHAIR, MEMBERS AND DIRECTOR.

THIS REPORT SHOWS THE VITAL WAYS THIS COUNCIL WORKS TO PROMOTE SYSTEMS CHANGE, BUILD THE CAPACITIES OF INDIVIDUALS AND THE SURROUNDING SOCIETY, AND ADVOCATE FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN THE LIVES OF PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES.

WE WORKED WITH OUR PARTNERS TO SECURE FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES WITH FAMILY MEMBERS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES LIVING AT HOME. WE SUCCESSFULLY CONTINUED OUR EFFORTS TO BOOST INDIVIDUAL AND SYSTEMS ADVOCACY SKILLS THROUGH THE PARTNERS IN POLICYMAKING PROGRAM. OUR NATIONALY RECOGNIZED GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY NETWORKS, THROUGH THE MONDAY MORNING PROJECT, MADE EVEN MORE PROGRESS TOWARDS ENSURING THAT PUBLIC SERVICES AND BUSINESSES, AS WELL AS VOTING AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS, ARE ACCESSIBLE TO PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES.

OUR HEALTH CARE TASK FORCES CONTINUED TO PROMOTE ONGOING STATEWIDE DISCUSSIONS ON HOW TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY AND AVAILABILITY OF HEALTH CARE FOR ALL NEW JERSEY RESIDENTS.

THE COMING YEAR WILL BE AN EXCITING AND PRODUCTIVE ONE FOR THE COUNCIL. I’M PROUD TO HAVE BEEN A PART OF THE WORK WE’VE DONE HERE IN THE PAST. I BELIEVE IT PROVIDES A SOLID FOUNDATION FROM WHICH THE COUNCIL MEMBERS AND STAFF CAN TRULY HELP PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND THEIR NEW JERSEY NEIGHBORS ENVISION A BETTER FUTURE, TOGETHER.

MAUREEN BABULA
CHAIR
It has been more than six months since I came to be the Executive Director of the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities. In the past months I have come to know many very dedicated individuals on the Council, amongst Council staff and in the community. It is very obvious there is great energy and enthusiasm on many levels in New Jersey to improve the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

The New Jersey DD Council has historically been a leader in the state’s disability community in advocating for the rights of people with developmental disabilities and their families. This leadership role is evidenced by the programs supported by the Council that are documented in this annual report. Above all else, it is obvious the Council’s focus has been on honoring the rights and responsibilities of people with developmental disabilities and giving voice to the individuals and their families.

I look forward to continuing to work on the issues identified in this annual report. Also, to reach out to new collaborators whose interests and concerns mirror those of the DD Council members.

Alison Lozano, Ph.D., MPA
Executive Director
FAMILY SUPPORT

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Individuals with developmental disabilities and their families receive supports and services as needed throughout their life span.

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 (RFSPCs) that would advise the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) about how to allocate funds to support individuals with disabilities who live with their families. Unfortunately, families continue to fight for funding in the state budget for services.

In 2006, a strategic plan was developed by the RFSPCs, the Council on Developmental Disabilities and the director of DDD to define the RFSCP’s role as the division moves to a self-directed system.

The Council on DD was part of a coalition that held public hearings to hear the stories of families and to educate the legislature about the numbers of families that want to keep their loved ones with developmental disabilities at home.

L-R: Becky, Mindy and Alli Norlian (from the cover of Families magazine)
PARTNERS IN POLICYMAKING (PIP) has trained more than 200 self-advocates and family members of people with developmental disabilities in order to obtain the most appropriate state-of-the-art services for themselves and others. Partners learn about current issues and best practices, and become familiar with the policymaking and legislative processes at the local, state and federal levels.

In 2006, PIP graduated 23 participants, who developed their own specific projects and participated in a mock hearing with legislators at the State House. These projects included:

- Participating in workshops regarding the Community Health Care Waivers for people with disabilities;
- Working with recreational centers in providing accessible gyms, spa’s etc.;
- Advocating for Braille menus in restaurants;
- Tracking the disability vote in New Jersey;
- Becoming a school board member to work with inclusive programs for students with disabilities;
- Working with medical professionals on accessible services for people with disabilities;
- Sitting on the board of a major corporate business to create awareness about people with disabilities.

PARTNERS IN POLICYMAKING

PIP graduates

Felicia Stovall-Barron
Mildred Brill
Ronnie Coll
Jamar Coleman
Barbara Coppens
Diane Cucciniello
Adelaide Daskam
Francis Fiore
Victor Gainer
Sheilah M. Garry
Gail Griffin
Nancy Ivins
Samuel Jackson
Matthew Manning
Venta Martin
Geraldine Moore
Celest Niles
Christine Pietrow
Richard J. Savarese
Dana Taboadae
David Tag
Dawn Watkins
Myles Williams
THE COUNCIL SUPPORTS TWO HEALTH CARE TASK FORCES IN PLAYING AN ACTIVE ROLE IN ADDRESSING STATEWIDE HEALTH CARE ISSUES AND ADVOCATING FOR SYSTEMS CHANGE. IT HAS THE MANDATE TO EXPLORE ISSUES AND NEEDS, AND DEVELOP STRATEGIES TO INCREASE APPROPRIATE OUTCOMES, FOR MEN AND WOMEN WITH DEVELOPMENTAL AND OTHER DISABILITIES USING THE GENERAL HEALTH CARE SYSTEM.

A FORUM WAS CONDUCTED IN JUNE CONCERNING SOCIAL ISSUES, RELATIONSHIPS AND SEXUAL HEALTH REGARDING WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES. SPONSORED BY THE WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES HEALTH CARE TASK FORCE, THE NEW JERSEY COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES, AND THE SPEICHER-RUBIN WOMEN’S CENTER AT NEW JERSEY CITY UNIVERSITY, THE PROGRAM WAS TITLED “CELEBRATING WOMEN.” THE TOPICS RANGED FROM LACK OF FUNDAMENTAL HEALTH CARE FOR WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES TO THEIR SOCIAL LIFE, A LIVELY PANEL DISCUSSION ON SELF IMAGE, SELF ESTEEM AND BECOMING MORE POLITICALLY ACTIVE TO FOSTER CHANGE, CONCLUDED THE FORUM.

IN SEPTEMBER, MORE THAN 100 ATTENDEES AND EXHIBITORS PARTICIPATED IN THE STATE’S FIRST MEN WITH DISABILITIES HEALTH CONFERENCE. SPONSORED BY NJ CDD’S MEN’S HEALTH CARE TASK FORCE, THE ALL-DAY EVENT FEATURED A JOKE-PEPPERED PLENARY ON HUMOR, MINI-MASSAGES, A VARIETY OF EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS THAT EXPLORED HEALTH AND WELLNESS TOPICS, AND INFORMATION STATIONS STAFFED BY OVER A DOZEN PROVIDERS AND ADVOCATES.
IN ITS 12 YEARS OF EXISTENCE, THE MONDAY MORNING PROJECT HAS BECOME AN IMPORTANT AGENT FOR CHANGE IN NEW JERSEY. MEMBERS ARE COMMON AT PUBLIC HEARINGS, TESTIFYING ON ISSUES CONCERNING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES. CHIEF AMONG THE ISSUES CONTINUED TO BE ACCESSIBILITY REGARDING TITLE III OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA), AND THE HELP AMERICA VOTE ACT (HAVA).

ARMED WITH ACCESSIBILITY PACKS AND ADA GUIDELINES, MONDAY MORNING NETWORK MEMBERS TRAVEL FROM TOWN TO TOWN TO ALERT MERCHANTS AND BUSINESSES OF THE PHYSICAL BARRIERS THAT PREVENT PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES FROM ENTERING RESTAURANTS, MOVIE THEATRES AND STORES.

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. IN JUNE, MONDAY MORNING AND THE NORTHEAST ADA & IT CENTER CONDUCTED A POLLING PLACE ACCESSIBILITY CERTIFICATION TRAINING SEMINAR. IT WAS AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN HOW THE ADA RELATES TO POLLING PLACES. PARTICIPANTS WERE TRAINED AND CERTIFIED IN CONDUCTING ACCESSIBLE POLLING PLACE SURVEYS IN THEIR OWN COMMUNITY.

MONDAY MORNING ALSO TESTIFIED IN SUPPORT OF A BILL INTRODUCED THAT WOULD HELP CUT DOWN ON ILLEGAL PARKING IN ACCESSIBLE SPACES AND THE USE OF PHONY OR EXPIRED ACCESSIBLE PARKING PLACARDS. THE MEASURE WOULD REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES TO ISSUE COLOR CODED EXPIRATION STICKERS FOR ACCESSIBLE PARKING PLACARDS AND LICENSE PLATES WHEN RENEWED EVERY THREE YEARS. THE BILL WOULD ALSO ESTABLISH THE “HANDICAPPED PARKING EDUCATION FUND,” ADMINISTERED BY NJ MOTOR VEHICLE COMMISSION, THAT IS TO BE USED FOR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS ABOUT ACCESSIBLE PARKING LAWS.

Monday Morning advocates on an accessibility tour in Somerset County.
A press conference was held in late November to kick off Monday Morning’s Snow Removal Campaign. The focus was a 7-year-old state law against the practice of piling plowed snow in handicapped parking spaces and not clearing curb cuts for wheelchair users. Two new publications were introduced on the Snow Removal Law — one for advocates and one for municipalities.

At year’s end, the project was gearing up for changing the New Jersey Constitution to eliminate the phrase “idiot and insane” from the article on voting. Monday Morning not only testified on the measure introduced by State Senate President Richard Codey, but helped write the amendment. The constitutional amendment will be a focal point for the project in the coming year as it will require a question on the statewide ballot in the 2007 election.

Inclusive Education

Children and youth with developmental disabilities access educational supports, programs and services that promote inclusion and independence throughout the life span.

The New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities, Education Task Force announced its fifth group of Fellowship Award Winners for the 2005/2006 school year. The goal of this program is to recognize and honor individuals who proactively embrace the principles of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and implement them in every aspect of their practices.

Fellowships of $1,000 were awarded to successful nominees who excelled in encouraging the inclusion of students with
Developmental Disabilities in all areas of school life, including academic and non-academic activities. Awards will be used to promote and expand their efforts.

The Council continued to distribute “Tools for Teachers,” which contains basic information and guidance in demonstrated best practice strategies for including students with disabilities in general education settings.

2005/2006 Fellowship Program in Inclusive Education Winners

**Patricia Berezny**  
Woodrow Wilson School, Bayonne  
Practice: Supporting general educators in inclusive classrooms and communities

**Amanda Charney**  
Nokomis Elementary School, Medford Lakes  
Practice: Integrated speech-language therapy and social support

**Roger Jinks**  
Franklin Township School, Washington  
Practice: Administrative leadership to ensure effective inclusion for all children

**Cathay Macysyn**  
Renaissance Middle School, Montclair  
Practice: Coordinated and comprehensive inclusive supports

**Joseph Spano**  
North Cliff School, Englewood Cliffs  
Practice: Administrative leadership to ensure effective inclusion for all children.

**Michelle Stover**  
Toms River Intermediate East, Toms River  
Practice: Providing academic and social supports to deaf students in an inclusive setting.

**Andrea Sussner**  
Albert Payson Terhune Elementary School, Wayne  
Practice: Inclusive art environment that elicits student strengths and success.
CRITICAL ISSUES

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In New Jersey, individuals with developmental disabilities are active participants in choosing from and arranging for adequate, affordable, appropriate and accessible housing.

HOUSING

Affordable, accessible housing remains a serious need in this state for a number of populations. The Council continues to collaborate with the Supportive Housing Association and others in designing alternatives to existing housing.

The Council’s personal asset-building project, in collaboration with Allies-NJ, Inc., has grown from 20 consumers to 60 in the past year. The “Success of Savings” (SOS) concept, an individual savings program where consumers receive financial literacy training and personal budget assistance, has received attention from the Federal Department of Health and Human Services. An initial Individual Development Account Project (IDA) grant was awarded to New Jersey as a result. IDAs can be used to accumulate assets for home purchase (including condominiums), employment costs (including self-employment), or education.

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EMPLOYMENT

The United States reports an unemployment rate between five and six percent. New Jersey’s unemployment rate is about 4.5% at this time, but the rate for people with developmental disabilities has been 75%-85% since numbers were recorded.

Traditional strategies include job-development, placement and coaching, and selective incentives for employers and employees. However, recent developments have caused the Council to look at this issue in a different way.
PUBLIC AWARENESS

There is heightened public awareness that individuals with developmental disabilities are living as integral and contributing members of our communities.

The Council has been working with the Heldrich Center, NJ Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, and several small agencies to get a handle on the dynamics of unemployment among people with developmental disabilities in New Jersey. Expectations—individual, family, professional, and administrative—appear to play a major role in determining the degree and type of employment sought by an individual with developmental disabilities. The Council will be exploring this further in the coming months.
FINANCIAL REPORT

COUNCIL BUDGET = $2,078,403
  PROGRAM = $1,454,882
  ADMINISTRATIVE = $623,521

PROGRAM BUDGET
$1,454,882

- In-House: 65%
- Contracts: 27%
- Publications: 7%
- Other: 1%
COLLABORATING ORGANIZATIONS

ACADEMIC AND UNIVERSITY
Rutger University
- Heldridge Center on Workforce Development
The Children’s Center at Montclair State University

University of Medicine and Dentistry of NJ
- Boggs Center - UCE in DD
- School of Public Health
- New Jersey Dental School

Centers for Independent Living
PCIL - Mercer County
HIP - Hudson, Bergen Counties
A.D.A. - Middlesex/Union

Cooper University Hospital
Community Health Affairs Department

State of NJ Agencies and Authorities
Division of Developmental Disabilities
Division of Disability Services
Office of Special Education Services
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services
Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services
NJ Department of Community Affairs
- IDA Program
State Division of Elections

Department of Human Services
- Olmstead Committee

County Offices
Gloucester County Workforce Development Board
Mercer County Office on Disabilities
Mercer County Department of Human Services

Agencies, Companies and Associations
NJ Protection and Advocacy, Inc.
Allies, Inc.
Commerce Bank
Wachovia Bank
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
Supportive Housing Association of New Jersey
Considine Communications, Inc.
NJ Citizen Action, Inc.
Resources Division - UC P Middlesex
Family Resource Associates, Inc.
COUNCIL MEMBERS & STAFF

COUNCIL MEMBERS

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

CONSUMER REPRESENTATIVES
STANLEY SODEN, LONG BRANCH
DAVID TAG, VOORHEES
MARY KAY WEBER, EATONTOWN
HOLLY WETSCHER, WESTFIELD

PARENT OR GUARDIAN REPRESENTATIVES
MAUREEN BABULA, PHILLIPSBURG
JENNIFER DEMAURO, ALLENTOWN
LORRAINE D’SYLVA-LEE, CHANGEWATER
LEILA GOLD, WEST ORANGE
CAROLYN HAYER, HACKENSACK
PURNIMA HERNANDEZ, GLEN ROCK

FEDERALLY MANDATED MEMBERS
FEDERALLY MANDATED MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL SERVE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FEDERAL DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES BILL OF RIGHTS AND ASSISTANCE ACT.

N.J. DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF MEDICAL ASSISTANCE & HEALTH SERVICES,
ANN C. KOHLER, DIRECTOR

PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY SYSTEM
N.J. PROTECTION & ADVOCACY, INC.,
SARAH W. MITCHELL, J.D., EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND SERVICE
THE BOGGS CENTER ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES,
DEBORAH SPITALNIK, PH.D., DIRECTOR

PUBLIC MEMBER
FRANK CARAGHER, THE ARC OF UNION COUNTY

COUNCIL STAFF

ALISON M. LOZANO, PH.D., MPA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
DOUGLAS MCGRUTHER, DEPUTY DIRECTOR
JANE DUNHAMN, EVENTS COORDINATOR
GAIL FURRER, FISCAL MANAGER
GAIL HODGES, RECEPTIONIST
LUKE KOPPISCH, MONDAY MORNING COORDINATOR
PAT KRUPKA, HEALTH CARE COORDINATOR
SHARIAN MACKINS-GIST, SECRETARY
GREGORY MIZANIN, PUBLICATIONS/WEBSITE MANAGER
NORMAN REIM, PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER
DENNIS RIZZO, GRANTS MANAGER/PLANNER
DENNIE TODD, PARTNERS IN POLICYMAKING COORDINATOR
CAROLE TONKS, MONDAY MORNING YOUTH COORDINATOR
MONIQUE WILSON, FAMILY SUPPORT COORDINATOR

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