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2005 Annual Legislative Report



Minnesota State Council on Disability
Your Technical Assistance and Training Resource

Fiscal Year July 2004 - June 2005



Minnesota State Council on Disability
Your Technical Assistance & Training Resource

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Dear Friends of the Disability Community;

Year after year, the Minnesota State Council on Disability (MSCOD) has remained at the forefront of disability policy development for the citizens of our great state. MSCOD remains focused on our Statutory (MS 256.482) charge by conducting research, providing technical assistance, conducting trainings and providing policy advisories to four target audiences; Citizens, the Governor, State Agencies and State Legislators.

MSCOD has a solid history of delivering expertise on issues important to the disability community; including building access, disability parking and employment. As new and dynamic trends of policy development emerge, MSCOD takes on new challenges such as emergency preparedness and emergency service delivery within the disability community. Because we have made building partnerships with state agencies and appropriate community organizations a top priority, we are able to quickly address new issue areas as they arise and become involved in meaningful strategic planning and program delivery.

In order to more accurately reflect our mission and culture, MSCOD re-designed its logo; adding imagery that culturally reflects us, adding a new tagline: "Your Technical Assistance and Training Resource". Definitive imagery helps us deliver a consistent message and ensures MSCOD's audiences understand and associate our mission and activities while providing information on how to contact us.

As changes implemented at federal and state levels continue to negatively impact Minnesotans with disabilities, one thing is certain: ***MSCOD is needed now more than ever.*** MSCOD forges ahead, meeting challenges of a fiscally demanding landscape. We help to develop sound fiscally responsible public policy; policies that address the rights of individuals with disabilities to live independent, dignified, professionally rewarding lives. The presence of MSCOD in the legislative landscape brings a disability perspective. It's our mission to support and help develop policy to ensure that all Minnesotans can live how they choose.

Throughout this annual report you will find detailed information about MSCOD's major accomplishments as well as information about who we are, our dedicated council members and staff. We look forward to another exciting year, working together with legislators to make Minnesota a more accessible place to live, work and play.

Respectfully,

Joan Willshire
Executive Director

MSCOD's Top Accomplishments:

- Presented "Emergency Preparedness Conference: Focus on Disability". A first of its kind conference, which opened discussion in this field (before Hurricane Katrina hit). The 150 plus individuals who attended this conference were municipal, county and state emergency response planners; professionals who work with disability organizations and populations; first responder trainers and educators; community leaders; facility managers; emergency responders and state and local government officials.
- Advocated successfully for the removal of offensive language referring to persons with disabilities from Minnesota Statute and Rules. Replaced them with more accurate and respectful terminology.
- Delivered a comprehensive reference book containing materials on disability issues to all Minnesota legislators.
- Presented the Department of Labor, Office of Disability Employment Policy Assistant Secretary Roy Grizzard to speak at MSCOD's Annual Disability Employment Awards luncheon.
- Partnered to develop "Pathways to Employment" with Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) and Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS). This partnership is made possible by a five-year infrastructure grant from Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to develop employment opportunities for people with disabilities.
- Became one of four partners in the Minnesota Department of Health grant to prevent secondary disabilities.
- Sponsored the development and distribution of a well received and helpful research project with the Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities (GCDD) and DEED to discover employer attitudes towards people with disabilities.
- Created a consistent and up-to-date image through re-designing our logo.
- Passed a key legislative initiative to develop an interagency work group with Minnesota Housing Finance Agency and Department of Human Services to address the issue of relocating people with disabilities out of institutional settings back into their communities.
- Collaborated with MNCCD to pass the "Minnesotans With Disabilities Act."

Annual Report

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ABOUT US

Mission

The Minnesota State Council on Disability is an agency that advises, provides technical assistance, collaborates and advocates to expand opportunities, improve the quality of life and empower all persons with disabilities.

Values

We operate with a specific set of values:

- *Inherent Respect For All.* We assume all individuals are entitled to live productive, independent, healthy lives within their community.
- *Integrity.* We examine issues affecting the disability community in Minnesota and disseminate fair and objective information in a timely manner.
- *Independence.* We promote independence and choice for all people with disabilities.

Vision

To be a primary, productive resource for disability related information providing leadership and promoting innovative policies through:

- Effective administrative operations
- Legislative interaction, and
- Statewide collaboration

Customers

- People with disabilities and their families
- The Governor
- Legislature
- State and local government
- Private Agencies
- Employers
- General Public

Services

- Review disability issues and advise State government
- Promote coordinated, collaborative interagency efforts
- Provide information and referral
- Collect, conduct and make disability-related research and statistics available to all customers
- Advocate for policies and programs that promote quality of life for all people living with a disability

COUNCIL BOARD MEMBERSHIP

By statute the MSCOD is to have 21 board members. The Governor appoints all members to three-year terms. The Governor also appoints the board chair. To apply to become a Council member contact the Council office for an application.

David Schwartzkopf, Chair

Rochester, Minnesota, Region 10

David has worked in the disability field as Executive Director of the Southeastern Minnesota Center for Independent Living and as Assistant Commissioner of Jobs and Training. He served as past Chair of the Minnesota Council for the Blind and the Governor's Initiative of Technology for People with Disabilities. He has over 30 years of executive experience with for-profit and not-for-profit organizations and groups.

Russell Philstrom, Vice-Chair

Emily, Minnesota, Region 5

Russ is an active volunteer, spokesperson and Chair of the Brain Injury Association of Minnesota. He is involved in numerous community activities and was previously Mayor of Emily, Minnesota. As proprietor of Northwoods Exposure Art Gallery and Custom Framing Company he enjoys working with customers. Russ also sells pieces of art known as "custom fishing rods". His claim to fame is that you always catch a fish with one of his rods. He is currently chairperson of Emily/Fifty Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce.

Susan Abderholden

Minneapolis, Minnesota, Region 11

Sue has worked extensively on disability issues, especially related to children, special education and mental health. She has served in a number of disability advocacy roles at all levels of government receiving numerous acknowledgements. Currently, she is the Executive Director of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill of Minnesota.

Edward Butterfas

Watkins, Minnesota, Region 6

Ed has been a farmer in rural Minnesota for over 30 years. Ed knows first hand the hardships and joys a family with a child with a severe disability faces. Ed's son Joshua has spina bifida. Because of Ed's tireless advocacy in the rural educational system, not only Joshua, but other children were able to have successful educational experiences. As an advocate for the economically disadvantaged rural farmer, Ed lends his experience and hearty laugh to farmers in the Fenceline program; a program that provides advice and encouragement to farmers who face disability. He served on the Heartland Community Action Agency Headstart Board for six years.

Sylvia Carty

St. Paul, Minnesota, Region 11

Sylvia is an active community volunteer who has also served on numerous public and private boards. Sylvia enjoys a heartwarming reputation in her community as she is recognized by many volunteer organizations for her tireless involvement. Currently Sylvia volunteers with the Living at Home Senior Program, Crossroads Elementary School and the Quality Design Commission of the Minnesota Department of Human Services. Before retiring, Ms. Carty served as Director of the Child Development Center at Hallie Q. Brown for 24 years.

Nancy Eustis

Minneapolis, Minnesota, Region 11

Nancy is a professor at the University of Minnesota's Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs. She has served on the Courage Center Board of Directors and at the University of Minnesota's Center on Aging Board. In addition, she served as Special Assistant at the Office of Disability, Aging and Long-Term Care in the Office of Assistant Secretary for Evaluation (ASPE), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Mark Hughes

Shoreview, Minnesota, Region 11

Mark has served as co-chair of the St. Paul Mayor's Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities and on the board of the Disability Institute. He is currently employed at Hubbard Broadcasts. He also hosts a weekly cable access talk show on disability issues, titled "Disability Viewpoints".

Joanne Olson

Duluth, Minnesota, Region 3

Joanne received her education as a nurse with a special interest in rehabilitation. She worked as a nursing instructor, as a nursing home educational director, outreach nurse for Planned Parenthood and in on-call positions in various hospitals in the Duluth area. In addition to work as a certified message therapist, she helped her mother pass this world with dignity knowing she was loved and cherished.

Kenneth Rodgers

Ken is originally from California, where he obtained a B.S. degree in Human Services/Education and taught Jr. High school math and science and High School Computer Programming. He moved to Minnesota in 1989 and attended the College of St. Catherine, where he received his Nursing degree and a Certification in Holistic Health Studies. In 1992, Ken began his second career as a Registered Nurse at Abbott Northwestern Hospital and today works as an HIV/STD Education Specialist managing the Project Positive Program at Clinic 42. Ken is also the President of the American Council of the Blind of Minnesota and sits on the Transportation Accessibility Advisory Committee of the Metropolitan Council. Ken, along with his guide dog Lara, and his life partner Richard, recently relocated to their new home in the Riverfront District of Northeast Minneapolis.

Kathleen Peterson

Warren, Minnesota, Region 1

Kathleen brings the advocate perspective of a parent of a deaf child and the expertise of a professional sign language interpreter. Currently Kathleen is the manager of Interpreter Services for the University of North Dakota. Kathleen is involved in her community and has served on the executive board of the Warren Parent Teacher Association. Ms. Peterson founded "Socialization Day" an annual workshop for Deaf/Hard of Hearing students, their parents, interpreters and teachers. Kathleen brings with her to her services as a council member, previous council experience. She has served as a council member of the Minnesota Commission Serving Deaf and Hard of Hearing People as well as chairwoman of the Special Education Advisory Council. She and her husband, Dwight, live on a farm in Marshall County. They are the parents of three sons.

Rev. David Sams

Redwood Falls, Minnesota, Region 8

Dave has had a dual career as a Career Rehabilitation Counselor at the Worthington Rehabilitation Services Office and as an Episcopal Priest. He has served on the board of the Southwest Center for Independent Living (SWCIL) in Marshall and is now an employee. He is a recipient of the Rose and Jay Phillips Award from Courage Center and the Victory Award as Disabled Minnesotan of the Year in 1994.

Barbara Stensland

Bemidji, Minnesota, Region 2

Ms. Stensland is the current co-chair of the Relocation Committee and is a member of the MSCOD Executive Committee. Barb has lived in Bemidji for the past 30 years. Since 1993, Barb has worked as Area Director of the Lutheran Social Service (LSS) of MN. Prior to her currently held position, Barb was co-owner of an intermediate care facility for the persons with disabilities for 14 years. She is a licensed social worker and a special education and elementary education teacher and has done substitute teaching for the Bemidji school district in the past. She and her husband were also foster parents for many years, serving numerous children in their home. Barb has previously served on a Department of Human Services Advisory Committee for Home and Community Waiver Programs. She volunteers with the MS Society, Minnesota Chapter as a MS Walk Coordinator and Caregiver Support Facilitator. She is involved in many local organizations and committees and is proud to be a member of the Minnesota State Council on Disability.

John Tschida

St. Paul, Minnesota, Region 11

John has extensive experience in the development of public policy at the state and federal level. He is Co-Chair of the Minnesota Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities and the Vice President of Public Affairs and Research for Courage Center in Golden Valley. Among his several recognitions are the 1996 Rose and Jay Phillips Award for excellence in employment and community service.

Brian Wagner

Alexandria, Minnesota, Region 4

Brian has built a local reputation as an advocate for people with disabilities in the Alexandria area. He helped establish, and now Chairs, the Alexandria Area Council on Disability where a primary focus is the removal of architectural barriers. He is an office manager for a long-term care facility.

Joani Werner

St. Paul, Minnesota, Region 11

Joani is an Area Work Incentive Coordinator for the Social Security Administration in the St. Paul office. She serves as a regional expert on employment supports for Social Security disability programs, approves and provides technical guidance on work incentives for 22 offices covering Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan. She also coordinates and conducts training and outreach seminars on Ticket-to-Work legislation and other employment supports. She has 20 plus of experience with work incentives with the Social Security Administration. She was an original member of the award winning St. Paul Pass Cadre. Her special interest is working with youth with disabilities, advising them on to use the SSI program employment supports as a bridge to work. She recently contributed to two journals: "SSI Work Incentive Case Studies for Special Ed Youth" and "Meeting the Needs of Youths with Disabilities"

Sheila Wieser

La Crescent, Minnesota, Region 1

Sheila worked for twenty years as a registered nurse in the emergency room and is currently co-owner and manager of a monument company. She has been an active member in many community service groups.

Kathy Wingen

St. Cloud, Minnesota, Region 7

Kathy knows from first hand experience that working hard to complete an education in challenging circumstances is only half the battle. After graduating college it took six years before Kathy was able to break down cultural barriers so she could begin to realize her dreams to be employed. Since then, Kathy has been a supportive, tireless and active voice in her community serving such organizations as: St. Cloud Area Council on Disabilities, United Cerebral Palsy of Central MN, St. Cloud Metropolitan Transit Commission, National Organization of Pro Bono Professionals and the St. Cloud Church of St. Michael; to name just a few. Currently Kathy works with St. Cloud Legal Services, Inc. as a public benefits paralegal. She provides assistance to clients on issues relating to public assistance programs, including Social Security Income. Prior to joining Legal Services, she coordinated the Supplemental Security Income Outreach project in St. Cloud, which acted as a liaison between persons applying for SSI and the Social Security Administration.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

According to its bi-laws, the MSCOD meets at least three times a year. In 2005, legislation was passed allowing MSCOD to conduct council meetings by electronic means when necessary. Council members who travel from greater Minnesota or who are unable to attend council meetings in person attend meetings via teleconference. Our partners in State government, non-profit agencies and local businesses provided meeting space for our Council Board Meetings. Everyone is welcome to attend council meetings, which are all open to the public. During fiscal year 2005 the full council and it's sub-committees met four times.

Quarterly Council Meetings

September 30, 2004	Four Points Sheraton, St. Paul
November 18, 2004	Goodwill Easter Seals, St. Paul
February 16, 2005	Minnesota Department of Health, St. Paul
May 19, 2005	Minnesota Department of Health, St. Paul

Council Sub-Committee Meetings

To explore approaches to achieve it's statutory obligations, the Council is divided into three sub-committees by issue area:

- Employment, Education and Rural Transportation
- Access/ Building Codes, Housing and Voting
- Nursing Home Relocation and health related projects

These committees meet in conjunction with full council meetings. Additionally, ad-hoc committees are developed to address various issues. To re-define our communications message, this fiscal year saw the development of the Communications Committee, which was instrumental in formulating our new communications plan.

Executive Committee

The executive committee consists of six council members in addition to the Council Chair, which the governor appoints. The Executive committee met ten times in fiscal year 2005.



MSOCD Council members at a council meeting

FINANCES**MSCOD BIENNIAL BUDGET REPORT**

EXPENDITURES	2004 ACTUAL	2005 ACTUAL
1A0 Full Time	\$322,000	\$333,683
1B0 Part Time, Seasonal	37,000	45,191
1E0 Other Benefits	9,000	11,012
2A0 Space Rental, Maintenance & Utility	51,000	51,760
2C0 Printing & Advertising	2,000	21,705
2D0 Professional & Technical Services	3,000	40,173
2E0 Computer & Systems Services	1,000	1,135
2F0 Communications	9,000	10,645
2G0 Travel & Substance	1,000	4,133
2J0 Supplies	4,000	5,212
2K0 Equipment	20,000	18,187
2M0 Other Operating Costs	1,000	38,408
2S0 Professional & Technical Service	1,000	4,532
MSCOD OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES	\$461,000	\$585,776

COUNCIL BUDGET

EXPENDITURES	2004 ACTUAL	2005 ACTUAL
1E0 Other Benefits	\$4,000	7,480
2D0 Professional & Technical Services	1,000	0
2G0 Travel & Substance – Instate	10,000	9,603
2M0 Other Operating Costs	1,000	7,960
Total Council Expenditures	\$16,000	\$25,043

TOTALS	2004 ACTUAL	2005 ACTUAL
Total Appropriations	\$500,000	\$500,000
Total Expenditures	\$477,000	\$610,819
Grants and Interagency Partnership Revenues		\$110,819

SPECIAL EVENTS

ADA Celebration

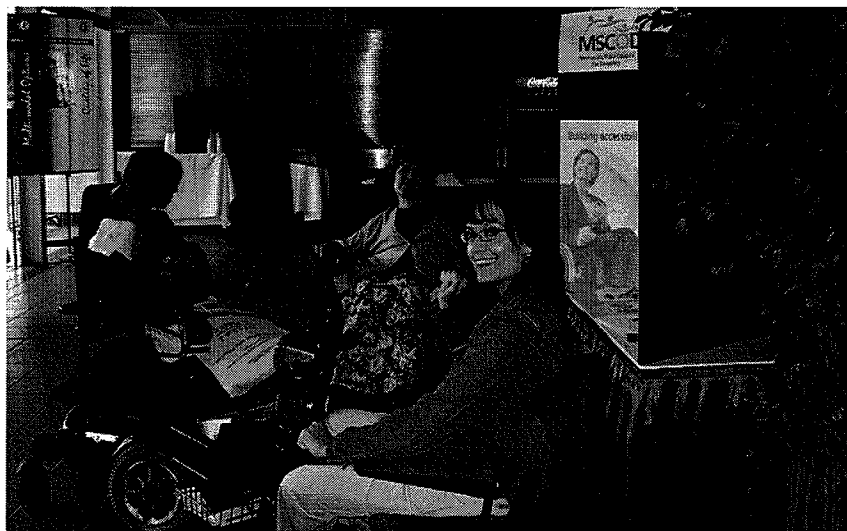
July 26, 2004: Anniversary of the Americans with Disability Act. MSCOD in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Health, ADA Minnesota and the State ACCESS Committee hosted an event titled "*Get the Facts on the ADA*", featuring humorist and playwright Kevin Kling. The free celebration was open to the public. A number of state agencies and disability organizations presented information to the public through display booths.



Kevin Kling speaking at ADA celebration

Minnesota State Fair

August –September 2004: Ten sun-filled days were spent at the 'Great Minnesota Get Together'. At the State Fair, MSCOD connected with well over 6,000 individuals. MSCOD leads by example, partnering with State agencies, non-profits and other organizations to make exhibiting at the State Fair affordable and accessible. Citizens sought information on everything from accessible voting machines to effective communication techniques for interacting with legislators to new building codes.



Right to left: Joan Willshire, MSCOD Executive Director, Linda Wolford, MDHS Home Care Policy Consultant and Katie Wornson, Miss Wheelchair Minnesota, discuss issues.

Annual Awards Luncheon

September 30, 2004: MSCOD held its Annual Awards Luncheon recognizing individuals, groups, organizations and businesses for their efforts to employ people with disabilities. Legislators, individuals and organizations throughout Minnesota nominated businesses and individuals for various awards. MSCOD's Awards Subcommittee reviewed the nominations and selected the recipients. Past Council Members were honored for their work with MSCOD. Dr. W. Roy Gizzard Jr., Assistant Secretary for Disability Employment Policy, United States Department of Labor, delivered the keynote address.



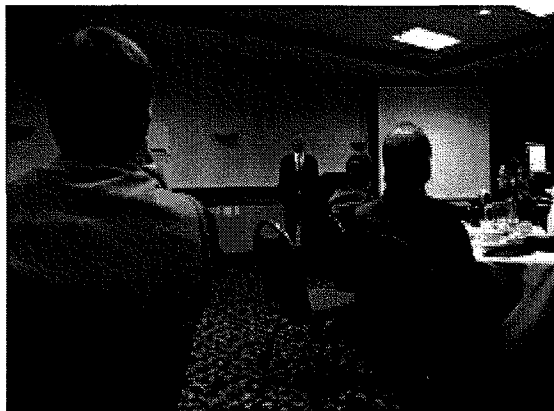
**Master of Ceremony Tom Hauser, KSTP Channel 5 News and MSCOD Council Chair,
David Schwartzkopf**

2004 Award Recipients:

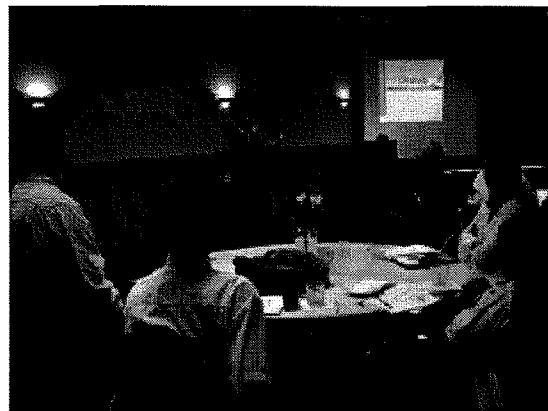
- LARGE EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR: Medtronic
- SMALL EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR: Life Time Fitness Bloomington
- ACCESS AWARD: Anne Roberts
- DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD: David Kolquist
- CHAIR'S AWARD: Ruth Lundquist

Recognizing Contributions of Past Council Members:

Julianne Degenhardt, Geraldine Drewry, John Schatzlein, Carson Stensland, Joan Willshire



Key Note Speaker Dr. Roy Grizzard



Morning training session for employers

Annual Legislative Forum

December 5, 2004: MSCOD hosted its annual Legislative Forum via videoconference. Video conferencing bring the exciting element of connecting individuals from around Minnesota. Seven cities hosted a videoconference site and over 40 disability organizations participated in the event. Organizations are encouraged to share their legislation agenda for the upcoming legislative session. At the event, individuals asked questions of state agencies and disability organizations. Members of the Minnesota Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (MnCCD) announced collaboration on comprehensive legislation, known as the *Minnesotans with Disabilities Act*. The legislation proposed positive changes in a myriad of programs affecting individuals with disabilities in Minnesota.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration

January 17, 2005: MSCOD partnered with the Council of Black Minnesotans to provide disability awareness training for the volunteers and technical assistance at this annual event, honoring and celebrating the vision and life of Martin Luther King, Jr. This year's theme was "*How Far From Freedom? Ordinary People, Extraordinary Actions.*" Approximately 3,000 individuals attended the festivities at Central High School & Concordia College in St. Paul.

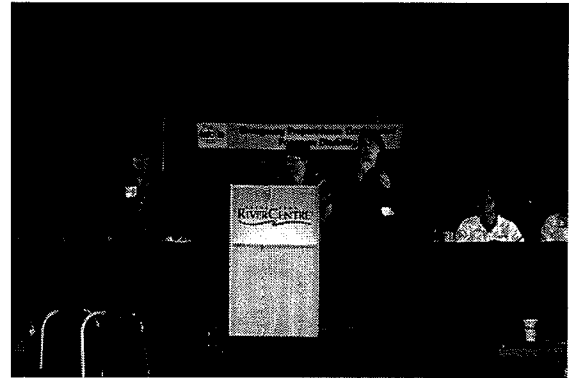
MSCOD Day at the Capitol

February 2005: MSCOD hosted a "*Day at the Capitol*" for MSCOD Board Members. Prominent legislators in the Minnesota State Legislature addressed the group, including Speaker of the House Steve Sviggum, Senate Majority Leader Dean Johnson, House Minority Leader Matt Entenza and Representative Fran Bradley.

Lobby Day for Occupation Therapy Program

March 2005: During the 2005 legislative session MSCOD staff members assisted the University of Minnesota's Occupational Therapy Program coordinate a Lobby Day at the Minnesota State Legislature. Staff provided assistance on effectively communicating with legislators their concerns regarding the proposed discontinuation of the U of M Occupational Therapy Program.

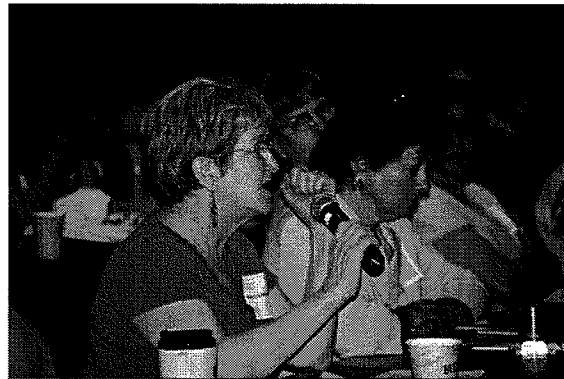
In Case Of Emergency – Emergency Preparedness Conference: Focus on Disability



Speaker Panels

June 10, 2005: An executive order signed by President Bush on July 26, 2004 ordered Federal, State, Local and Tribal Governments "to consider, in their emergency preparedness planning, the unique needs of agency employees with disabilities and individuals with disabilities whom the agency serves" and to "strengthen emergency preparedness with respect to individuals with disabilities".

MSCOD along with the Mn Department of Public Safety Homeland Security Management, the Mn Department of Human Rights, the City of Minneapolis, the American Red Cross of the St. Paul Area, the Mn Department of Human Rights and the Mn Department of Human Services: Deaf & Hard of Hearing Services and the Ramsey County Division of Emergency Management & Homeland Security presented the first ever in Minnesota 'Emergency Preparedness Conference: Focus on Disability'.



Individuals attending a session

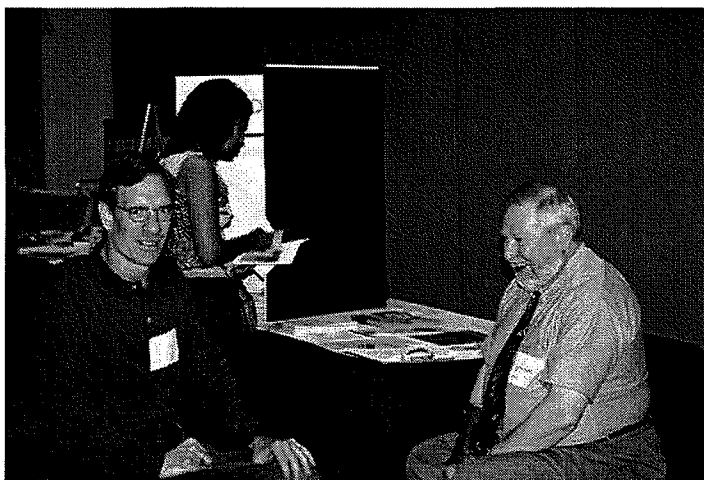
150 first responders, emergency management planners and persons with disabilities attended this very important conference. Information presented included: An Overview of Local Emergency Planning and Response; Examples of Emergency Planning for the Disability Community; Disaster Volunteerism within the Disability Community; Children Playing with Mercury: A Case Study of the Impact on Two Deaf Families and Emergency Planning & Service Delivery for Senior Populations, Persons with Development Disabilities and Persons with Mental Health Issues.

As a result of this conference, MSCOD has built a strong relationship with the Minnesota Department of Public Safety Homeland Security Emergency Management Division as well as metro and out state Homeland Security units. We've assisted both private and public entities as we begin to build strong, informed and trained response networks as well as strategies of delivering emergency management services that address the needs of persons with disabilities.

Other Events

MSCOD participated in many other events and activities throughout the year including:

- Diversity Fair in Alexandria, Minnesota
- Minnesota Human Rights Day Conference
- Staff members were asked to speak to undergraduate and graduate students at the University of Minnesota on disability related issues.
- The Brain Injury Association, Multicultural Affairs, Minnesota Cerebral Palsy, Minnesota Social Services Association, and United Cerebral Palsy held conferences which staff members presented and hosted a booth.



**Curt Wiehle, State of Mn Building Code Representative (left) and
Don Westergard, MSCOD staff**

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Technical Assistance

MSCOD provides disability-related technical assistance to individuals, businesses, governmental and agency representatives from all over Minnesota by phone, letter, email and in person. Most contacts were from individuals in need of resources in order to live more independently. Referrals were made to the Disability Linkage Line when appropriate, state and federal agencies, and many non-profit organizations. MSCOD continues to work with the legislators to assist in providing solutions to individual problems and issues.

Most common Issue inquiries received at the Council:

1. Building Code/Technical
2. Disability Parking
3. Disability Information
4. Laws and Regulations
5. Social Security Programs
6. Other
7. ADA Human Rights
8. Accessible Residential Housing
9. Vocational Rehabilitation
10. Public health Insurance Programs

Overall the Council had over 15,000 contacts on a variety of issue areas.

Training

MSCOD provides training on a number of topics to any group or organization requesting such information. Presentations are tailored to the meet the needs of each particular group to ensure effectiveness.

During the past year, staff developed and presented over 30 training programs to approximately 3,000 individuals ranging from county workers, state employees, non-profit workers, architects, building code officials, emergency management planners and many others in Minnesota. Common presentation topics include: *Access, Americans with Disabilities Act, Employment Job accommodations and EEOC, Polling access for voters and Discrimination issues Disability Awareness, Human Rights Laws and Emergency Preparedness.*

Publications

MSCOD publishes and disseminates information on a variety of disability issues, including a *Legislative Summary, Access Survey, Responding to Disability: A Question of Attitude, and* informational brochures. On-line versions are user-friendly and accessible to all individuals. The Council also organized a legislative reference manual for legislators that contained valuable information on disability awareness, the ADA, key disability issues, and other information.

Legislation

MSCOD continued to advocate for individuals with disabilities at the Minnesota State Legislature. Members of the Minnesota Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (MnCCD) were able to effectively advocate for Minnesotans with disabilities. The main achievement

was the introduction of comprehensive legislation, known as the *Minnesotans with Disabilities Act*. The legislation proposed positive changes to a myriad of programs affecting individuals with disabilities, including employment, dental services, nursing home relocation, transportation, and primary education.

MSCOD also worked with legislators to enact other disability related legislation including:

- Technical corrections to the motor vehicle law with respect to disabled parking;
- Requiring electronic voting equipment at voting locations to enable Minnesotans with disabilities to vote in all elections; and
- Replace outdated and offensive language referring to persons with disabilities in Minnesota Statute and Rules to more appropriate terminology.



Press conference regarding the elimination of the word "Handicap" in state statutes

Surveys and Research

- Participated in the development and distribution of a well received and helpful research project with the Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities (GCDD) and DEED to discover employer attitudes towards people with disabilities.
- Conducted customer satisfaction survey using Supersurvey.com, which assists the Council in determining the strategic direction.
- Over 20 Accessibility surveys were conducted to businesses, state agencies and others as requested
- Contracted with the U of M Center on Surveys and Research where the Council submitted four questions to be asked in their annual fall survey sent to over 700 households

Out Reach

Multi Cultural Affairs (700)

Human Rights Day (300)

Mn Cerebral Palsy (50)

Mn Social Services Association conference (2500)

Diversity Fair in Alexandria (25)

Brain Injury Association State Conference (200)

- MN State Fair (5000)

Total Audience Reached: 8,775

- Coordinated a visit from a group of visitors from Russia Met with them to discuss disability issues in the United States.

Council Communications

Media Exposure

- MSCOD was featured on WCCO 830 am radio for the Emergency Preparedness conference in June; FOX news contacted the Council several times for disability information; Star Tribune contacted the Council twice once for a movie review of Million Dollar Baby and for the Terry Schiavo case revolving around removal of her feeding tube.
- Participated in press conference for the bill on the removal of the word "handicap" from Minnesota Statute and Rules, which included the Governors Council on Developmental Disabilities, Minnesota Associations for Independent Living Councils and State Representative Opatz from St. Cloud.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

As part of our advisory capacity, staff and council members serve on a variety of boards and commissions to promote independence, participation and opportunities for individuals with disability. The following is a list of those boards and commissions in which staff and council members served during Fiscal Year 2004-2005.

- Access Discussion Group
- Accessible Housing Information Exchange
- ADA Minnesota
- Area Council Access Committee
- Breakthrough Internship Program
- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration
- Fair Housing Implementation Council
- Legal Aid Board of Directors
- Metropolitan Council, Transportation Accessibility Advisory Committee
- Metropolitan Council, Light Rail Transit Access Committee
- MN Association of Higher Education and Disability (MNAHEAD)
- MN Business Leadership Network (MN-BLN), Steering committee
- MN Coalition for Citizens with Disabilities (MN-CCD)
- MN Coordinating Committee, Disability Mentoring Day
- MN Dept. of Administration, Access Review Board
- MN Dept. of Administration, Building and Elevator Code Committee
- MN Dept. of Education, Library Access committee
- MN Dept. of Education, Transition Leadership Work Group
- MN Dept. of Employment and Economic Development, State Rehabilitation Council
- MN Dept. of Employment and Economic Development, State Independent Living Council
- MN Dept. of Employee Relations, Access Committee
- MN Dept. of Human Services, Quality Design Commission
- MN Dept. of Human Services, State Solutions Committee
- MN Dept. of Transportation, Northstar Commuter Rail Authority Advisory Committee
- MN Dept. of Transportation, FTA Section 5310 Statewide Review Committee
- MN Dept. of Transportation, Transportation Coordination Advisory Committee
- MN Disability Health Options
- MN Interagency Planning Committee
- MN State Colleges and University, Diversity Committee
- Pacer Center, Education Advisory Group
- Regional Fair Housing Implementation Council of the Twin Cities
- Wilderness Inquiry Access Outdoors Steering Committee

ADVISORY FUNCTIONS

In accordance with ***MS 256.482, Subd. 5, Sections (1), (2), (4), (6) and (7), the duties and powers of the Minnesota State Council on Disability include: to advise state elected officials, state agencies and the public on matter pertaining to public policy and programs, services, and facilities for persons who have a disability in Minnesota.***

We advised the Governor, encouraging the signing of several key pieces of legislation for the disability community, including:

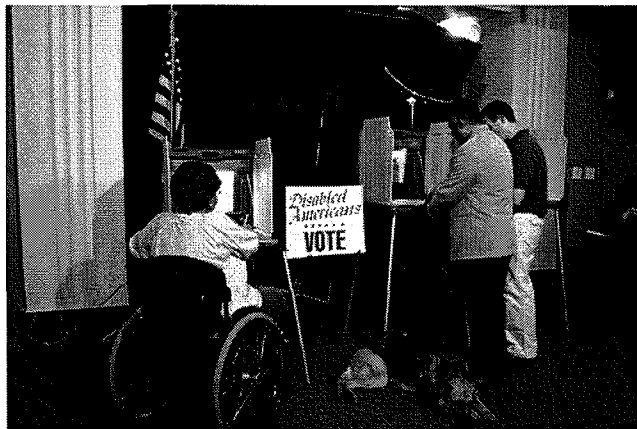
- Omnibus Health and Human Services Bill
- A bill addressing offensive and outdated language in Minnesota Statutes and Rules referring to persons with disabilities

Legislature

- Advised the Legislature on the needs of voter access, healthcare, disability parking, transportation, education, housing, and Metro Mobility.
- Provided testimony to Legislative Committees deliberating State programs that affect the independence and quality of life for persons with disabilities.
- Provided testimony on the need to avoid reducing funding for Metro Mobility and the transportation needs of persons with disability in Minnesota.

Technical Assistance and State Agency Advisories

- Voter education, election judges training on disability awareness and accessible voting equipment
- Disability parking and special plates policy to Department of Public Safety
- Disability Awareness, access and ADA employment to the Department of Employee Relations
- Consulting with Minnesota Department of Transportation before making a variance from the operating standard for special transportation services
- Technical consulting on workers' compensation division of the Department of Labor Workers Compensation cases regarding home modifications.



Citizen review of proposed accessible voting machines

APPENDIX A: MSCOD STRATEGIC PLAN FOR 2004/2005

- I. MSCOD will provide background research and data for use in decision making by the Governor, legislators, State agencies, disability organizations, and citizens.
 - Staff will gather valid research data, organize data and determine where to use it to develop good policy using inter-agency and outside resources. Completed and is also on going in 2006/7
 - Staff will search for various grant opportunities. Completed

I. TACTICS

- Conduct a housing needs Survey to the 87 counties in MN. *Carry over to 2006/07*
- Conduct Vocational Rehabilitation waiting list survey for those who are on this waiting list. Determine what services can be provided while on the waiting list. *On going*
- Use data from the Annual survey conducted by the Centers for Survey Research at the U of M and the Humphrey Institute for legislative initiatives. *Data was not valid due to low response rate and was not used in any legislative reports.*
- Olmstead Act-survey community on what people would like to see happen and determine format and outcome of what should occur in this area for the state. *Carryover to 2006/07*
- Hire part-time research/data analyst to gather data, organize information and write grants where appropriate. *Completed January 2005*

II. MSCOD will continue to be a resource for specific disability issues.

- Staff will maintain their expertise in general disability issues, with an emphasis on the following: Accessibility, Employment, Housing, Olmstead Act and Rural Transportation, while continuing to respond to individual inquiries. On going
- Staff will increase the number of advisory recommendations prepared for the Governor's office, legislature, state agencies, and other disability organizations. On going
- Staff will work with the MN Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (MN-CCD) on issues specific such as Healthcare, Housing, Transportation and other issues as they arise. On going
- Staff will continue to use their expertise in developing and conducting trainings for the state and the public. First ever Emergency Preparedness Conference held in June 2005. Coordinated with MN Homeland Security Department with over 150 participating

II. TACTICS

- Election Equipment Bill-*Bill Passed*
- Technical Assistance and coaching- *on going*
- Advisory Recommendations such as: Disability Parking, Housing, Olmstead, Rural Transportation, Homeland Security and emergency evacuation, accessible voting, and others. Wrote advisories on disability parking and relocation issue.
- Training-ongoing areas such as: access, disability awareness, ADA, Emergency Evacuation and Homeland Security and employment issues. *Conducted 32 trainings with an audience of over 2700 with the newest training being the Emergency Preparedness.*

III. MSCOD will partner and build relationships to effectively and efficiently serve the state and disability community.

- Staff will reexamine partnerships and clarify roles, responsibilities, and seek new partnerships to leverage resources. Two significant partnerships are 1. CES/Pathways to Employment grant partnership with DHS and DEED 2. Homeland Security and the emergency preparedness conference.
- Staff will strengthen MSCOD presence at the legislature. Developed a Legislative Manual for all Legislators containing helpful information about disability issues and other valuable information from MSCOD.
- Staff will increase the level of technology used within the office. All trainings and presentations now utilize the software program of Power Point.
- Collaborating with Assistive Technology Minnesota (ATMn) will be essential to succeed in technology. Worked together at the legislature on their AT legislation which did pass that ensured future funding for the ATM loan program and Telework program

III. TACTICS – Collaborating with:

- Public Safety and all other state agencies on emergency evacuation and Homeland Security –*On Going*
- DHS, other state agencies and the disability community in regard to Olmstead-*On going*
- ATMn in areas of employment and assistive technology-*On going*
- Other state agencies that the Council has not worked with before and other organizations to attend conferences and exhibit display booths: ADA Minnesota, ATMn, Department of Human Rights, Business Leadership Network (BLN), at conferences such as, Aging Conference, Human Rights Day, MN Social Services Association. *On going*
- All state agencies when appropriate to develop interagency contracts to create stronger bonds within government focusing their work on disability issues whenever possible. *Currently have interagency agreements with DHS and MDH.*
- Governor, Legislature and state agencies to develop recommendation process, so as MSCOD would become a part of budget process when governor and state agencies are reviewing budgets to strengthen disability presence within state government.-*Ongoing*

Other areas:

- Council members will attend local community events with display booth. *Attended Disability Awareness day held in Alexandria*
- All training presentations when possible will be conducted in Power Point style via the computer. *Completed and is on going*
- Renovate old training videos by using a grant from ADA Minnesota and the assistance of the area state vocational schools. *Unable to complete this project due to cost of refurbishing videos and the realization that most people do not use videos as a means of training any longer.*
- Create binder for entire legislature containing disability information that will be updated with current disability issues during the legislative session. *Completed and will use in the future.*

IV. MSCOD will continue to emphasize customer focus and quality improvement.

- Staff will continue to respond to complaints related to alleged judicial administrative violations (per the statute.) There were not any complaints to respond to this year
- Staff will assist with disability awareness training within agencies. Both Margot and Don work within their areas of expertise and conduct disability awareness training as a part of all of their trainings.
- Staff will seek an executive order to affirm the ADA within all state agencies in Minnesota and the elimination of the word "Handicap" in all state statutes. Working with the Governor on strengthening the ADA enforcement with in the state agencies and successful eliminated the word Handicap from all state statutes working with the Governors DD Council and the Centers for independent Living.

IV. TACTICS

- The Council will conduct an annual survey to determine customer satisfaction of agency. *Completed in June 2005*
- *Maintain Council's current participation in CORE (state management and supervisory training). W/Don retiring they now are using in house trainers*
- Council staff currently serves on the Legal Aid Board of Directors and also on an Oversight Committee for the Disability Law Center (DLC). MSCOD staff and DLC staff work cooperatively on the implementation of HAVA and related issues. MSCOD staff consult and assist on individual DLC client cases on an as needed basis. *On going*
- MSCOD will continue to meet with Department of Employee relations DOER ACCESS group, which is a collaboration of state agencies focusing on ADA compliance activities for state government. *On going*
- MSCOD will work with the Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD) on the elimination of the word "Handicap" from all state statutes since the DD Council has initiated this bill. *Bill Passed*
- Staff will seek an executive order to affirm the State's commitment to the ADA. *On going*

MINNESOTA STATE COUNCIL ON DISABILITY

STATUTORY RESPONSIBILITIES

General Duties, MS 256.482, Subd. 5, Sections (1), (2), (4), (6) and (7), describes the powers and duties of the Minnesota State Council on Disability to include: advise state elected officials, state agencies and the public on matters pertaining to public policy and programs, services, and facilities for persons who have a disability in Minnesota.

Access Code Development, MS 16B.61, Subd. 5, Section e, the commissioner of the department of administration, state building codes division is required to consult with the council on disability before any rules are proposed for adoption for current disability access requirements.

Building Code Access Appeals, MS 16B.67, the council on disability may appeal any final decision of any municipality as to the application of the code to the commissioner of administration.

State Agency Reasonable Accommodation Plan, MS 43A.191, agency affirmative action programs require the council on disability to serve in an advisory role for the department of employee relations in providing assistance with the state agency reasonable accommodation plan.

Disability Parking Certificate Restriction, 169.345, subdiv. 3, the commissioner of the department of public safety shall not issue more than three replacement certificates within a any six year period without the approval of the council on disability.

Special Vehicle Variance, MS 174.30, Subd. 2, Section (c), the commissioner of the department of transportation shall consult with the council on disability before making a variance from the operating standard for special transportation services.

WC Home Modifications, MS 176.137, Subd. 4, Section 1, the council on disability advises the workers' compensation division of the department of labor and industry and the workers' compensation court of appeals as to the necessity and extent of any alteration or remodeling of an existing residence or the building or purchase of a new or different residence which is proposed by a licensed architect.

Access Review Board, MS 471.471, the council on disability has membership on the Access Review Board and advises on the installation of stairway chairlifts in buildings that could not otherwise be made more accessible.

Transportation Accessibility Advisory Committee, MS 473.386, Subd. 2, section e, the council has membership on the transportation accessibility advisory committee of the metropolitan council.

***School Access Improvements, MS 123B.58**, the commissioner of the department of children, families & learning will consult with the council on disability when developing criteria to determine the cost-effectiveness of removing barriers in older buildings.

***School Access Grants, MS 123B.69**, the commissioner of the department of children, families & learning, in consultation with the council on disability, shall review applications for access grants.

***Library Access Grants, MS 134.45, Subd. 2**, the commissioner of the department of children, families and learning, in consultation with the council on disability may approve or disapprove access grants to public libraries for removal of architectural barriers.

***Children's Development Plan, MS 145.951**, the commissioner of health may in consultation with the director of the council on disability develop an implementation plan for the establishment of a statewide program to assist families in developing the full potential of their children.

***Licensing Criteria, MS 148C.11**, the council on disability advises on the development of special licensing criteria for issuance of a license to alcohol and drug counselors who practice with a member of the disability population.

* no current activity

CURRENT ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

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