

AAIDD Interest Network Petition & Initial Plan

This document is a revised **Interest Network Annual Plan** with additional documentation further detailing the rationale requested from the **Interest Network Leadership Manual**.

Interest Network:	History
History of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (HIDDIN)	
Lead Contact Person:	Holly Hohmeister, MS, FAAIDD holly.hohmeister@gmail.com
Next Scheduled Election May 2027 & Leadership Position(s) that will be Open for Nomination: Co-Chair; Co-Vice Chair	
Annual Report According to the AAIDD Interest Network Manual: Interest Networks can be formed by a petition of AAIDD members to the AAIDD Board or by initiation by the Board. A petition or plan for a new Interest Network must include: • A mission statement that aligns and supports the overall mission of AAIDD. <i>The History of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Interest Network (HIDDIN) is dedicated to advancing the study, preservation, and critical examination of the historical experiences, policies, institutions, and lived realities of people with intellectual disabilities. We foster interdisciplinary collaboration to promote rigorous research, amplify historically marginalized voices, and encourage ethical engagement with the past. Through scholarship and dialogue, we seek to deepen understanding of how history shapes contemporary policy, practice, and social attitudes—while contributing to a more inclusive and informed future.</i> • A clear rationale that the new Interest Network addresses an unmet discipline/topic without duplicating an existing Interest Network. <i>There are currently eighteen interest networks. No current interest network focuses on the history of our field. There is a real interest and importance in preserving the history of our field, as noted by the number of members who have initially signed on to this request, in addition to the long-standing History Preservation Award. This year's Sesquicentennial was also well received.</i> • Identification of the initial leadership team (adhering to structure as specified below). Each Interest Network is required to have an Executive Committee consisting of at least three members: Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary. Other roles can be developed or assigned by the Executive Committee of each Interest Network to address their activities or projects. Each Interest Network Executive Committee is responsible for developing its own plan for leadership elections and succession. Chair – Holly Hohmeister, MS, FAAIDD Holly is a former Psychology IN secretary and Assembly of Interest Networks Co-Chair Vice Chair – Sharon Gomez, FAAIDD Sharon was President of AAIDD from 2011-12 and former Chair of Community IN Secretary – Matt Velissaris, MA, LPC Matt was AAIDD-Wisconsin President from 2014-15 as its Secretary	

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*Initially HIDDIN will operate on a **Matriculating System** which will advance into the **Self-Replenishing 2x2 Staggered Rotating Executive Structure** that fortified the Psychology Interest Network several years ago and has been replicated in the Education Interest Network with success. That model provides for continuance of government. As HIDDIN grows, the Executive Committee will consist of five positions (2 Co-Chairs, 2 Co-Vice Chairs, and 1 Secretary). The new structure will operate on a staggered, rotating schedule with continuity. With twenty-three members already committed to HIDDIN, that structure is theoretically possible now, but elections must take place over time to create the staggered, rotating model.*

- A strategic plan of activities for the first two years, including plans to increase its membership. *See below. HIDDIN has already introduced new members to AAIDD. Dr. Laurel Daen, active within the Disability History Association and the American Historical Association has joined AAIDD specifically because of HIDDIN. Her involvement can open new networking opportunities to increase membership: she has already encouraged her colleagues Allison Carey, PhD (Chair of Sociology / Anthropology at Shippensburg) and Sarah Rose, PhD (Prof of History at Texas Arlington) to join.*

- A minimum number of 10 members who agree to join the new group. *Currently there are twenty-three members who have expressed interest in this network:*

Caitlyn Angelone, MSLIS

Bonnie-Jean Brooks

Guy Caruso, PhD, FAAIDD (2024 Wolf Wolfensberger Valor Award) ◇

Vincent Chesney, MS, FAAIDD (2019 Service to the Association Award) ◇

Diane Cochran, MA

James Conroy, PhD, FAAIDD

Susan Copeland, PhD, FAAIDD (2015 Education Award) ◇

Ellis "Pat" Craig, PhD, FAAIDD

*Laurel Daen, PhD (2026 Historic Preservation Award)**

Steve Eidelman, MSW, FAAIDD (2023 Service to the Field Award; 2015 & 2000 Leadership Award) ◇

Sharon Gomez, FAAIDD (2018 Service to Association Award; 2026 Humanitarian Award) ◇

Peg Gould, PhD, FAAIDD (2021 & 1998 Hervey B. Wilbur Historic Preservation Award)

Holly Hohmeister, MS, FAAIDD

Laura Kennedy, MA

Paul Kolstoe, PhD, FAAIDD ◇

Anna Lansky, MPA

Susan Palmer, PhD, FAAIDD (2026 Distinguished Career Award) ◇

Joanna Pierson, PhD, FAAIDD (2020 Leadership Award; 2025 Distinguished Career Award) ◇

Diane Ryndak, PhD

Jerry Smith, MBA, FAAIDD (2017 Hervey B. Wilbur Historic Preservation Award) ◇

Lisa Sonneborn, MFA (2022 Hervey B. Wilbur Historic Preservation Award)

Elisa Velardo, MMHS, FAAIDD (2026 Presidential Award) ◇

Matt Velissaris, PhD, LPC

** - denotes new AAIDD member ◇ - denotes Sesqui winner*

The AAIDD Board of Directors can approve, reject, or request a revised plan for a new Interest Network. If approved, the Interest Network will be on a provisional status for the first two years, pending a report and review of its progress.

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Annual Plan: Goals, Objectives, Activities, and Strategies

For the **coming year** (July 1-June 30), describe the planned objectives, activities, and proposed expenditure of funds.

This inaugural year of the History of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Interest Network (HIDDIN) there will be a focus on creating a culture of scholarship by leveraging the energy generated by creating a new interest network. HIDDIN will develop talent to solidify its future as a strength within AAIDD.

- *The HIDDIN executive committee will explore expansion.*
 - *In addition to Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary, a Social Media Director, Research Whip, and Award Committee Member may be created to alleviate the executive committee and allow for pathways of development.*
- *Collaborative networking with other history-focused groups.*
 - *The winner of the year's Historic Preservation Award is involved with the Disability History Association (DHA), having served as Treasurer. She plans to actively engage DHA to recruit new AAIDD members and develop cooperative events.*
 - *Other members belong to regional history groups, such as the New York Legacy Project, which seeks to preserve the social justice efforts of the Disability Rights Movement in that state. Networking can recruit more members into AAIDD.*
- *Establish mentorship network within HIDDIN.*
 - *Work with Phase Two of 'Ceiba' Mentoring Leadership Committee to further enhance opportunities of members to interact with each other.*
- *Cultivate social media platforms.*
 - *With the addition of a dedicated Social Media Director position to focus solely on creating viable posts, platforms can be explored as options for creating a HIDDIN footprint.*
- *Students and early career professionals will be engaged regularly to encourage more involvement in various initiatives.*
 - *As feasible, scholarships will be awarded.*
 - *Scholarship award winners will be contacted for ongoing involvement in HIDDIN.*
- *Monthly conference calls with follow-up minutes that are published electronically will motivate members.*
 - *The minutes can be scavenged for bullet points to further promote on our social media platforms.*
- *In-person Business Meeting to be held at the Grand Hyatt Atlanta in June 2027.*