



Knowledge | Support | Empowerment

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Region IX and New Jersey Chapter

Combined Newsletter

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FALL 2013



2013 AAIDD Conference

Pittsburgh, PA
By Aisha Arroyo

Introducing Vailene Fields, AAIDD member and Self-Advocate Field Coordinator at the AAIDD Conference this year in Pittsburgh, PA was no trouble. Vailene, a CAU member since 1990 is no amateur when it comes to conferences and public speaking. Vailene has been involved in Jumpstart (now called CAI), a consulting firm for self-

advocates sponsored through CAU, for the past few years. Vailene is passionate about promoting the concept of self-determination as it relates to her expertise, in which she conducts workshops such as “Couples and Relationships” and “Married with Children – An Advocates Point of View”. Before she began serving as a consultant

for Jumpstart, Vailene started a women’s group at CAU in which she spoke on a variety of topics such as personal hygiene, how to protect yourself from violence and tips for being an effective communicator.

Vailene needed no introduction as she stepped in that lobby of the Wyndam Hotel in Pittsburgh. A true advocate, Vailene networked the entire conference promoting the New American Movement and also advocating for herself when she approached AAIDD member Ruth Luckasson, in regards to seeking assistance with her own educational endeavors. In

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From left to right: Alicia Ann Caesar, Vailene Fields, Aisha Arroyo, Deidra Mullan, Leslie Walker Hirsch, Sidney Blanchard, Tiffany Rhoney

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addition, Vailene came out to the conference with other CAU staff to promote the ID Project with Leslie Walker-Hirsch. Given the fact that Vailene was an old colleague of Leslie's, Vailene made it a point to step in and assist when given the chance. With a days notice, Vailene became a part of the ID Project (monologues depicting sexuality within the

Developmental Disabilities population) performing alongside her CAU colleagues.

Vailene enjoyed the experience, gaining insight on educational endeavors and other ways of promoting self advocacy. Vailene

expressed her gratitude during the whole trip, however when asked what she would like to see more of in the future, Vailene's response was she hoped to see

more self advocates at these conferences in the future. Vailene expressed that it was great to get outlook from the professionals within the AAIDD membership; however Vailene hoped to get more of a perspective from her peer self advocates in hopes to share ideas and experiences that each individual could learn from. Vailene hopes to see more self advocates sharing thoughts alongside the professionals in the field, as she quotes a fellow past colleague, Sid Katz, "No decisions about us without us."

"No decisions about us without us." Sid Katz

New Jersey Chapter and Region IX AAIDD combined Meeting

The Region IX and NJ Chapter AAIDD will hold its next meeting at 3:00 PM on Thursday, November 21, 2013, at the Community Access Institute, 88 West Grand Street, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

The Agenda will include discussing and developing a training/workshop schedule for the new year.

We look forward to seeing you there.

**AAIDD Region IX and NJ Chapter
Combined Meeting
Thursday, August 15, 2013**

1. **Attendance: 36 Members**
2. **Minutes of June 4, 2013: Approved**
3. **Financial Report:**

<u>Region IX</u>		<u>NJ Chapter</u>	
Revenue:	- 0 -	Revenue:	- 0 -
Expense:	\$8	Expense:	\$1,755
		R/E	(\$1,755)
Assets:		Assets:	\$18,598
Checking :	\$15,073	Liabilities:	- 0 -
Savings:	14,775	Fund Balance b/f:	\$20,353
Total:	\$29,848	R/E	(1,755)
		Total Liabilities & FB	\$18,598
Liabilities:	- 0 -		
Fund Balance b/f	\$29,855		
R/E	(8)		
Ending F/B	29,848		
Total Liabilities & FB	\$29,848		

4. **Activities 2012/2013:**
 - Discussed AAIDD Conference
 - Report from Sexuality Committee regarding workshop at conference
5. **Planning for 2013:**
 - Updated Planning Committee reports
 - Employment area will be co-chaired by Fredia McKinney, Bernadette Griswold and Alvin Cox
 - Youth with DDD will be chaired by Bernadette Griswold
6. **Region IX & NJ Chapter Newsletters**
 - Call for material
7. **New Business**
8. **Announcements**
9. **Next Meeting:**
Region IX & NJ Chapter: Thursday, November 21, 2013; 3:00pm - 4:30pm at Community Access Institute, 88 West Grand Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07202; (908) 354-3040. For directions, please visit www.caunj.org
10. **Adjourn**

AAIDD Training Committee Reports: 08/15/13

Group Dynamics

The first training is scheduled on 9/30/2013 and a second training is scheduled on 10/24/2013. This is an eight hour training that will incorporate Carl Rogers' Active Listening Model, Transactional Analysis, life scripts, and trauma.

A survey aimed at identifying common trauma inducing situations was created and distributed at a team focus meeting earlier this year. The data was gathered and is being incorporated into the training. This survey was extremely helpful because it identified common trauma experiences by CAU members and pinpointed what staff training is needed to ensure they are handling situations effectively. After completing this course the "graduates" will be able to participate in ongoing refresher trainings.

There is currently a core group of 8 trainers that have been actively working on this training. The group consists of various CAU Administrative staff, an agency trainer, DD behaviorist, and a TOP behaviorist.

Intellectual Disability

This group has been broken down into 4 smaller groups consisting of Group 1: Definitions of Intellectual Disability, Group 2: Diagnosis and Classification of Intellectual Disability, Adaptive Functioning, Professional Judgment and Implication for Practice, Group 3: Systems of Supports and Group 4: Experiences with Discrimination, People First Language and Self-Advocacy.

All groups developed and completed outlines to facilitate development of all the levels of training involved. We established as groups a basic understanding of intellectual disability, variations in definition under law, classification, and system of supports. Groups 1 and 2, along with group 3 completed a multiple choice competency assessment which includes 24 questions.

Overall, this will be a 2 day 6 hour workshop aimed at developing a comprehensive framework for understanding intellectual disabilities, understanding of the methodology for classification, experts on systems of support. There will be an abbreviated training for 6 hours targeting support staff, to create awareness: Definition of Intellectual Disability, highlighting experiences with discrimination, increased system of support and encourage system change.

We would like for the AAIDD committee to implement this training. The Intellectual Disability Committee plans to begin training Assistant Executive Directors, Directors, Behaviorists, and the Quality Assurance Department staff on September 26 and 27 of 2013. After the initial training the group will then provide smaller versions, 1 day (6 hour) trainings to Support Staff.

Nursing and Supports

The original request for better education in regards to Nutrition/Physical Health & Diabetes has

been completed. A training was put together and has been done by the nurses, for our staff and members, for over a year now. We are currently looking over the evaluations from the past few months' worth of trainings in order to see if there are items that could use improvement and would benefit our staff/members or if new advances in the topics have occurred. This training is being done at least twice a month if not more as HR sees the need growing. The intervention/control system was created, approved and rolled out to the nurses so that they may keep watch over important items such as members A1C's, weight, labs, diet compliance etc. They will also assist the programs with following the steps in the system such as an IDT may be required to document the situations at hand.

Regularly scheduled reporting and fidelity checks were the final portion that this committee had to tackle and thru the HRST system we feel that we will have a better handle on the medical complexity at each site. The system was funded by a grant, approved in the past few months for roll out and HRST is currently uploading our members into the system now. Next steps will be to have a team assembled here that will be the experts on HRST (QA and nurses) for questions etc. and it will then roll out to the programs, after a brief training, and inputting the members information in the new database by site staff will start to occur. This system takes the medical page of case elements to whole other level. We are excited to see where this goes!

Positive Behavior Support

Overall the committee's goals have been met. Due to staff turnover the group is now looking to bring on some new staff and schedule formal meetings in the near future. The majority of task analysis items have been completed. The committee has created a self-instruct that includes the most common behaviors that staff see in the program based on a survey that was given out to the programs. The self instruct has been posted on the intranet and is a requirement of all new staff within their first week of orientation. One behaviorist has already been trained to do the Boggs Center PBS training and another behaviorist will be completed the end of the month. Lastly, another behaviorist is set to start the process to become a trainer within the next 2 weeks. Tracy Honig is also contacting the Boggs Center to get the 4 new hired behaviorist set up as Positive Behavior Support (PBS) trainers. The PBS refresher course has been developed and is almost completed. We will need one or 2 more meetings to add a few activities into the refresher course, and once we officially have 2 trainers, we will be able to roll out the refresher course.

The Relationships and Sexuality Committee

The committee is comprised of 8 members: 3 behaviorists, 2 QA staff, 1 AED, and 2 Program staff. The committees' current actions items include creating a new policy and procedure regarding relationships and sexuality. A draft is due to the committee on September 3, 2013. The committee has instituted new evaluations to try to capture the changes in staff beliefs (if any) after each training. This was piloted at the 7/22/2013- there are some revisions to be made for effectiveness. We are now collecting the various conflict examples and resolutions they come up with in the training to utilize for an article to submit to AAIDD. The committee is currently developing an interview process to collect qualitative data regarding staff's feeling about the relationship and sexuality training and CAU's sex positive culture.

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(AAIDD Training Committee Reports cont. from page 5)

12 members have been identified to participate in 7 day training based on a Planned Parenthood curriculum for Adults with Developmental Disabilities. Tiffany Rhoney, Alicia-Ann Caesar and a Member of the Community Access Community will be representing Community Access Unlimited at the CFLE Sex Education Conference- as they have been invited to present their poster on 12/12/13 at 9: 30 am. Lastly, the committee will be revising the STI section to focus more on stigma reduction and local resources.

Social Integration

Since August 2012, the SICC (Social Integration and Community Connections) committee has developed a 90 minute presentation on community inclusion that integrates Community Access members and staff. In the fall of 2012 the committee began presenting to director and support leader forums. The program discusses the method in which staff can capture the interests and passions of the members and capitalize on the community availability of these interests. The committee has incorporated concepts of asset-based community development in to the training – presenting strategies such as linking senior groups and people with disabilities. Equally, the group facilitates the participation of members and the impact that community integration has had on the lives of people with disabilities. Beverly Williams is both part of the committee and participates in the training, speaking as a self-advocate in the ways in which community integration has improved her life.

Alyson Monaco and Bob Laux have been reinforcing community integration into site visits. Topics discussed include ways to help members become a part of their communities, how to deal with potential barriers, as well as the importance of compatibility between house mates as it relates to personal well being and enthusiasm to participate in community events. Equally, after attending the AAIDD Annual Conference, Alyson Monaco has updated the SICC presentation to include concepts such as the “gate keeper” and “value juxtaposition” ensuring that community integration is successful for our members. The presentation is on deck to become training at CAU for all newly hired staff.

The goal of creating an advocacy day and workshops is still in process. It has not yet been implemented because the committee members realized the people who were to be recruited for advocacy day and workshops had the same programs in place. The goal will be revisited to revise and modify in the next upcoming Social Integration meeting on 08/20/13.

Technology Supports

The group is currently working on a 10K request for sense stimulation equipment that can help in-home respite members with coordination, muscle reflex, and stimulation through sight, sound and touch. The team has discussed the development of proposals to fund an assistive technology component that would assist members with computer literacy through technologies that can type what they say and read back to them what is on the screen. We also are looking into cups, spoons, and other equipment that allow an easy grip for individuals with weak hand muscles. The committee is also working on a bi-monthly newsletter focusing on communication, mobility and other technology that is available. We also want to start a member’s spotlight where we focus on a member utilizing their new adaptive equipment. IT has begun fabricating an approved website list for members to use. (To avoid virus downloads). Also the committee is in the process of making a “preferred vendor” list in regard to adaptive equipment.

CONFERENCES & EVENTS

2013 ANCOR Technology Summit & Showcase: October 2-3, 2013, Denver (Broomfield), Colorado
<http://www.ancor.org/training-events/2013-ancor-technology-summit-showcase>

NADD 30th Annual Conference & Exhibit Show: October 23-25, 2013, Baltimore, Maryland
<http://thenadd.org/30th-schedule/>

2013 TASH Conference: December 11-14, 2013, Chicago, Illinois
<http://tash.org/conferences-events/tash2013/>



138th AAIDD Annual Meeting
June 23-26, 2014 | Orlando, FL

The AAIDD Annual Meeting, provides researchers, clinicians, practitioners, educators, policymakers, local, state and federal agencies, and advocates with cutting edge research, effective practices, and valuable information on important policy initiatives.

(AAIDD Training Committee Reports cont. from page 6)

Community providers have already been contacted and meetings have been scheduled for the committee to introduce Community Access to the providers. Two members of the committee will be attending the Coleman Institute on Technology Summit in October.

Support Intensity Scale

In November of 2012, Bernadette Griswold, Sheila McDowell, and Billy Busch completed the Supports Intensity Scale Interviewer Training. Currently this committee conducts a Support Intensity Scale Assessment on any individual admitted to our Emergency Capacity Programs also called ECS. The committee is tracking and analyzing the data from these assessments. Simultaneously the committee is in development of a training for all Community Access Staff on what the Support Intensity Scale is, the rationale and history of the SIS assessment which will be conducted in October of 2013.

AAIDD Announces its 2013-2014 Board of Directors

The American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) is extremely pleased to announce its 2013–2014 Board of Directors, effective July 1, 2013. The Board of AAIDD is elected by its membership in annual elections. The members of the 2013–2014 AAIDD Board of Directors are:

President: James Thompson, PhD, FAAIDD

Professor, Department of Special Education, Illinois State University, Normal, Illinois

President-Elect: Amy Hewitt, PhD, FAAIDD

Director, Research and Training Center on Community Living, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis

Vice President: Susan B. Palmer, PhD, FAAIDD

Research Professor, Beach Center on Disability, Kansas University Center on Developmental Disabilities, Lawrence, Kansas

Secretary-Treasurer: Patti N. Martin, MEd

Executive Director, Montgomery 31 Board, Montgomery, Alabama

Past President: Marc J. Tassé, PhD, FAAIDD

Professor, Departments of Psychology and Psychiatry, The Ohio State University, Columbus
Director, Nisonger Center at The Ohio State University, a University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities

At-Large Members:

Loui Lord Nelson, PhD, FAAIDD

Post-doctoral Fellow, CAST and Boston College, Boston, Massachusetts

Susan L. Parish, PhD, MSW, FAAIDD

Nancy Lurie Marks Professor of Disability Policy and Director, Lurie Institute for Disability Policy, Brandeis University, Waltham, Massachusetts

Elizabeth A. Perkins, PhD, RNMH

Associate Director and Research Assistant Professor, Florida Center for Inclusive Communities UCEDD, University of South Florida

Peter J. Smith, MD, MA, FAAIDD

Associate Professor, Department of Pediatrics, University of Chicago
Associate Director, Illinois LEND, University of Illinois-Chicago

Leadership Roster

Region IX Chapter

Bermuda:	Ellen E. Douglas
Maryland:	Jennifer Wagner
New Jersey:	Sidney W. Blanchard
Pennsylvania:	Michael L. Powanda
West Virginia:	Gabriel A. Nardi

Region IX Board

Chairperson:	Sidney W. Blanchard
Chair Elect:	Bernadette Griswold
Vice President:	Alvin Cox
Secretary:	Sheila McDowell
Treasurer:	Mercedes Witowsky
Immediate Past Chair:	Paul F. Spangler
Member-at-Large:	Open Jennifer Wagner
Assembly Representative:	Todd S. Wilson

New Jersey Chapter Board

Chairperson:	Sidney W. Blanchard
Vice President:	Bernadette Griswold
Secretary:	Sheila McDowell
Treasurer:	Mercedes Witowsky
Member-at-Large:	Alvin Cox Paul LaMaine Open Open

It's a powerful
community, and that
power is growing.



Say "YES!" to AAIDD.
Join/Renew Today!
www.aidd.org

About AAIDD

Since 1876, the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) has been providing worldwide leadership in the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities. We're a powerful community of leaders with a strong voice and important [mission](#).

AAIDD, (formerly AAMR -- American Association of Mental Retardation) is the oldest and largest interdisciplinary organization of professionals and citizens concerned about intellectual and developmental disabilities.

We're tireless promoters of progressive policies, sound research, effective practices and universal human rights for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

With membership over 5,000 strong in the United States and in 55 countries worldwide, AAIDD is the leader in advocating quality of life and rights for those with intellectual disabilities. **Our top-tier [member benefits](#) such as professional training, publications and supports** are created by and for professionals who support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

As a member, you'll **get the professional edge and network you need** -- AAIDD members are an impressive group of dedicated professionals, boasting advanced degrees and extensive field experience.

Mission Statement

AAIDD promotes progressive policies, sound research, effective practices, and universal human rights for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Take advantage of a host of professional benefits designed specifically for you

AAIDD is **the** definitive membership organization and the authoritative source of information for those in the intellectual disability profession. Our membership is over 5,000 professionals strong, in over 55 countries around the world. Joining AAIDD lets you tap into a network of top professionals who can help you find a job, show you the ropes, and deepen your involvement in your profession.



James R. Thompson, PhD
President



Margaret Nygren, EdD
Executive Director
and CEO



American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Dues Invoice

Join or Renew your membership on-line at www.aaidd.org

AAIDD
P.O. Box 79134
Baltimore, Maryland 21279-0134
Phone: 800-424-3688 or 202-387-1968; Fax: 202-387-2193

Mr. Ms. Dr. Rev. Sr. (Please indicate)

First Name _____ MI _____
Last Name _____
Address _____
Address _____
City _____ State/Province _____
Zip Code _____ Country _____
E-mail _____

Nickname _____
Phone _____
Date of Birth _____
Employer _____
Job Title _____
Highest Degree _____

Student at* _____
*Required for student dues discount

Who suggested that you join AAIDD? _____

Annual Dues

Membership Categories:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 International Electronic (open only to those outside the US and Canada) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$175 Standard |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$75 Basic | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Premium |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$125 Classic | <input type="checkbox"/> \$595 Corporate |

Students enjoy a 20% discount on any membership type.

Annual Dues \$ _____

Professional Interest Groups:

Membership in most Division, Special Interest Group, Action Network, or other groups have a fee. Place an "X" before any Group you want to join and total the fees.

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Administration (\$10) | <input type="checkbox"/> Gerontology (\$10) | <input type="checkbox"/> Multicultural Concerns (\$10) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Creative Arts Therapies (\$10) | <input type="checkbox"/> Genetics (\$10) | <input type="checkbox"/> Psychology (\$10) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communication Disorders (\$10) | <input type="checkbox"/> Health & Wellness (\$10) | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion & Spirituality (\$30) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Services (\$10) | <input type="checkbox"/> Humanism (\$10) | <input type="checkbox"/> Research (\$10) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Direct Support Professionals (\$10) | <input type="checkbox"/> International (\$10) | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Work (\$10) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education (\$10) | <input type="checkbox"/> Legal Process & Advocacy (\$10) | <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual/Social Concerns (\$10) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Families (\$10) | <input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Services (\$10) | <input type="checkbox"/> Student & Early Career Professionals (<i>no cost</i>) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Technology (\$10) |

Total Cost of Professional Interest Memberships \$ _____

Contribution to AAIDD Foundation \$ _____

Donation to AAIDD \$ _____

TOTAL Payment \$ _____

Payment Information:

Account Number _____

Check enclosed payable to AAIDD in US dollars.

Visa MasterCard American Express Discover Diners Club

Expiration Date _____

Name on Account _____

Signature _____

Return this invoice with your payment either via fax or mail. Or, renew your membership on-line at www.aaidd.org



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Say "YES" to AAIDD. Join/Renew Today! www.aaidd.org



*It's a powerful community,
and that power is growing.*