



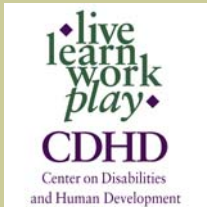
CENTER ON DISABILITIES AND  
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT  
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# CDHD Outreach

Volume 3, Issue 1

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## Inside this issue:

District-wide Supports for Challenging Behaviors **2**

IdahoSTARS Cash Stipends for Career Development **2**

Legislative Highlights **2**

University of Idaho Child and Youth Study Center **3**

Autism Summit **3**

Family Support Update **3**

CDHD Mission & Guiding Principles **4**

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## Idaho Task Force on Self Determination

The Idaho Task Force on Self Determination is a collaborative effort between self-advocates and parents from across the state plus representatives of the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, the Idaho Department of Education, advocacy organizations, the Office of the Governor, state legislators, Idaho Parents Unlimited, the University of Idaho's Center on Disabilities and Human Development, and a range of service provider agencies to consider the implementation of a self-directed service system and waiver in Idaho.

The mission statement of the Task Force states:

We Believe:

**ALL** individuals shall be treated with dignity and honor.

**ALL** individuals shall have authority and control over their life decisions.

**ALL** individuals shall have the right to make and be responsible for their choices.

Given these core beliefs, the Idaho Self Determination Initiative for transition-aged youth and adults with developmental disabilities will be

designed and operated in ways that are consistent with the principles of self determination. This participant-driven, efficient and cost-effective system will assure that individuals have the:

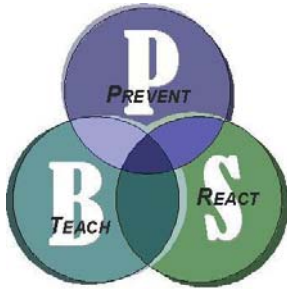
- FREEDOM to plan their own lives
- AUTHORITY to control the resources allocated to them to acquire needed services and supports
- Opportunity to choose their own SUPPORTS,
- RESPONSIBILITY for their fiscal choices and the consequences of those choices
- RECIPROCAL RESPONSIBILITY to participate and become contributing members of the community

The Task Force envisions a self-directed service system in Idaho would contain the following elements:

1. Individual control over pre-authorized budgets
2. Personal Advocates or Brokers who work for the individual to help him/her develop support plans and secure supports
3. Fiscal Intermediary or "business agents"
4. Individuals having a choice of service suppliers
5. Quality assurance as a requirement

Prior to submitting a waiver application to Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, additional research and planning will be done. During this time, the Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities will continue with consumer education as well as outreach and presentations to providers and families. A public awareness campaign, in which the group hopes to engage the legislature as a partner, is scheduled for late 2004 or early 2005. A consumer tool-kit will be developed by Medicaid and the ICDD and used by teams of self-advocates and staff to train individuals on managing their own services and supports in the self-directed model. Qualifications and training curriculum for support brokers will need to be developed and a plan put in place for implementation by the Center on Disabilities and Human Development. Once the requirements and qualifications for fiscal intermediary services are finalized, the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare will undergo a contracting process to make the service available. Lastly, an instrument for determining levels of satisfaction by individual participants will be selected for use. If you would like more information on the Idaho Task Force on Self Determination, contact the Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities at 208-334-2179 or 1-800-544-2433.

## District-wide Supports for Challenging Behaviors



Collaborators from the Idaho State Department of Education and CDHD are piloting District-wide Supports for Challenging Behaviors (DSCB), using the same methodologies as Positive Behavioral Supports (PBS) but with the intent to reach more educators and students within a district.

Veteran PBS consultants Jerry Lilly and Robyn Legarreta are providing support to three school districts for this pilot project, where in addition to providing individual supports and reaching the top 5% of

kids with more severe behaviors, consultants are also able to reach 25% to 50% of students whose at-risk behaviors are more recently emerging.

Like PBS, DSCB consultants conduct observations and environmental assessments, along with supporting school teams in collecting data and creating behavior plans. However, DSCB goes further by reaching staff in all schools within a district, promoting systems change across all environments and broadening staff knowledge around preventing challenging behaviors

and fostering social competence. Success of DSCB relies strongly on staff dedication to use positive practices, an established internal organizational structure for scheduling effective meetings, and existing knowledge of the PBS process prior to being involved in DSCB.

It is the hope that next year DSCB will include three additional districts - reaching more schools and providing more educators with the needed supports for giving students the opportunity to learn in safe, healthy environments.

## IdahoSTARS: Cash Stipends for Career Development



The IdahoSTARS Career Pathways is a series of levels that recognizes the education and experience of early care and education practitioners. The “pathway” is the document that will be utilized to determine

the level of professional growth each early childhood practitioner has obtained. Once a part of the system,

providers are then offered opportunities to further their education and training. Cash stipends are now available for entry and each “move” from one Pathway level to the next.

The University of Idaho’s Center on Disabilities and Human Development, in collaboration with the Idaho Association for the Education of Young Children, is leading Idaho’s effort in the development of this early care and

education professional development system for early childhood practitioners across the state. This system of professional development is funded by the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare. For more information about the IdahoSTARS Career Pathway or the cash stipends available to early care and education practitioners contact Idaho CareLine by dialing 2-1-1 or 1-800-926-2588.

## Idaho Legislative Highlights

**HB579a-Protection of the Mentally Ill.** Through this legislation patients who are subject to involuntary commitment will have the right to contact and communicate with representatives of the state protection and advocacy program.



**HB561-Election Accessibility.** This legislation requires counties to post information about the

accessibility of polling places.

**HB711-Idaho State Independent Living Council (SILC).** This legislation changes the placement of the SILC and makes it independent of any state agency.

**Medicaid Buy-In** did not pass during this legislative session. The program was designed to transition people to work by permitting them to “buy into”

Medicaid while working. People currently on Medicaid will lose their Medicaid coverage if they earn one dollar over their limit. Medicaid coverage pays for the supports and services that people with disabilities need to go to work. Medicaid Buy-In would have allowed the eligible person to work and pay a premium based on a sliding scale, thus allowing them to retain their coverage.

## University of Idaho Child and Youth Study Center

The University of Idaho Child and Youth Study Center (CYSC) was established to provide clinical services to children and families with special needs in the rural communities of the Pacific Northwest. Our goal is to facilitate meaningful progress in all families quest for a quality of life for their child. The collaborative effort between the CDHD, the University of Idaho, and Washington State University, has resulted in a mutually beneficial melding of training needs with the com-

munity needs. The program is staffed by a combination of faculty and advanced graduate students from both universities. The key elements of the services provided are determined by the faculty and delivered by the graduate student. Each student works under the close supervision of clinical faculty and all services are monitored for quality and effectiveness. The faculty are comprised of professionals in the fields of school psychology, child clinical psychology, and special education. The CYSC pro-

vides a wide range of assessments, consultations and technical assistance. These services are made available to families and agencies regardless of financial resources. For more information visit [www.idahocdh.org/projects/cyhc](http://www.idahocdh.org/projects/cyhc) or call 208-882-4853.



## Autism Summit: Current Issues and Recommendations

A two-day Autism Summit was held in December to address Idaho's need for a more systematic and cross-system approach to providing services to children and youth on the autism spectrum. The thirty-six participants included the Idaho Department of Education, Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, Idaho Parents Unlimited, and the University of Idaho's Center on Disabilities and Human

Development. The Summit provided an opportunity for Idaho policy makers, providers, families and educators to come together to make recommendations, in order to further the development and implementation of effective programs that will lead to improved outcomes for children and youth with Autism Disorders. The group was able to effectively prioritize recommendations and arrive

at a consensus. From these recommendations, a Planning Group created an action plan for the agencies which will be presented to the entire participant group in May, 2004.

For more information call Julie Magelky, Center on Disabilities and Human Development, 1-800-877-7004 or email [jmagelky@uidaho.edu](mailto:jmagelky@uidaho.edu).

**“to address Idaho’s need for a more systematic and cross-system approach to providing services to children and youth on the autism spectrum”**

## Family Support Update

The Family Support Program offered through the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare has been reduced from \$245,000 to \$110,000 for fiscal year 2005. This represents a drop of 55% in funding that families receive directly! This legislative session, the Joint Finance Appropriations Committee (JFAC) transferred community supported employment and work services from the Department of Health and Welfare to the Idaho Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (IDVR). JFAC transferred an addi-

tional \$200,000 to IDVR to administer the program and provide rate increases to sheltered work providers. The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare will redirect funds to make up the \$200,000 loss to their budget by removing \$135,000 from the Family Support Program.

The Family Support Program assists parents, family members, or guardians to help their family member with a developmental disability remain in their own homes. The funds are used by families for trans-

portation, respite care, adaptive, equipment, vehicle and home modifications, as well as assistive technology. If you are concerned about the impact this large reduction will have on families, contact the JFAC member from your region or contact the Idaho Family Support Project for information at 1-800-871-7004.





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**Mission**

The Center on Disabilities and Human Development promotes quality lives in integrated settings for people of all ages with disabilities, individuals at-risk, and their families through education, research, and service.

**Guiding Principles**

People with disabilities, their families and individuals at-risk have the right to:

- live, learn, work, and play in their own communities;
- services and supports that are centered on their strengths and capacities;
- make decisions, take risks, and define the quality of life they choose; and
- make a positive contribution to society.

To ensure effective communication, our newsletter is available in Spanish and alternative formats. Alternative formats can be provided with a one week notice. To request a Spanish version or alternative formats of this newsletter, please call (208) 885-3559. English and Spanish versions of this newsletter are available in electronic format on [www.idahocdhd.org](http://www.idahocdhd.org).