

## NDACP NEWS

Volume 22



April, 2011



### Message from the Executive Director



#### 2011 Platform

1. We support the Governor's request for 3% for each year of the biennium.
2. 7.65% increase in the benefit multiplier to cover the increasing costs of health insurance.
3. \$1.46 an hour market adjustment for all staff
4. Continuation of funding for the critical needs of individuals who are medically fragile and / or behaviorally challenged
5. Transition from Developmental Center to the community, including increased community capacity development through use of flexible funding mechanisms (e.g., DD Loan Fund)
6. State set-aside for digital imaging
7. Increased corporate guardianship capacity.

### Greeting to all NDACP members & supporters.

#### Mission Statement

Through collective and collaborative means, enhance, improve and advocate for positive change in the service delivery system for people with disabilities.

#### Statement of Values of NDACP

NDACP supports the viability of all existing members. Diversity of providers enhances quality.

#### Summary of Platform Results

1. The Legislature approved 3% each year of the biennium.
2. The 7.65% was not approved.
3. The Legislature did not approve any wage pass through for all staff
4. The critical needs funding for individual who are medically fragile and / or behaviorally challenged was continued.
5. DHS can use roll-up to fund transition from the Developmental Center to the community. The BND will work with providers on funding for specialized facilities, as needed.
6. The state set aside was passed.
7. Partial funding for corporate guardianship capacity was included.

See p. 6-10 for additional details.

*Barbara Murry*

**YOU CAN HELP! JOIN NDACP TODAY!**

NDACP is a statewide group whose member organizations provide a wide range of services for people with disabilities – developmental, mental and physical. Our membership is made up of North Dakota organizations that are governed by citizen Boards of Directors to provide services specifically for people with disabilities.

NDACP strives to stimulate public interest and understanding. We share information, expertise, and develop and enhance special programs. We conduct research and studies, promote advocacy, and are a proactive liaison with governmental agencies on behalf of all North Dakota citizens with disabilities.

Our Mission is to enhance, improve and advocate for positive change in the service delivery for people with disabilities. As a person interested in the Mission of NDACP, WE ASK YOU TO BECOME AN INDIVIDUAL MEMBER IN NDACP.

Individual Member benefits include: 1) Listing on the NDACP Website as someone who supports persons with disabilities, and 2) The satisfaction of knowing that YOU are helping in the ongoing struggle to obtain appropriate levels of service to people with disabilities.

**YOU CAN CONTINUE TO HELP OUR EFFORTS! PLEASE CONSIDER RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN THIS DYNAMIC AND GROWING ORGANIZATION FOR THE SAKE OF THE PEOPLE WE SERVE!**



**Individual Membership  
2011**

Please consider membership in this dynamic and growing organization for the sake of the people we serve.

Yes, I want to join the advocacy efforts of NDACP. Enclosed is my check for \$10 payable to NDACP.  
 I am an employee of an NDACP Member.

No, I do not want to join now, but have enclosed a contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to help the Mission of NDACP.

(Please Print)  
NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ORGANIZATION: \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

**MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION SHOULD BE SENT TO:**  
Barbara Murry, North Dakota Association of Community Providers,  
PO Box 7037, Bismarck, ND 58507-7037

**All memberships run until the end of 2011.**

**Memberships received after 10-1-11 will be applied to 2012.**

**DHI:** Cindy Holweger, Danita Heilig, Gordon Johnson, Jessica Olson, Kara Odegaard, Kathryn Allery, Matt Meuwissen, Shannon Ehlers, Susan Weber

**Fraser:** Liz Thelen

**Friendship:** Dori Leslie

**HAV-IT:** Amanda Kopseng Lies, Evelyn Meier, Loretta Baumsbach, Margaret Hager, Mary Hager, Mary Ann Michelson, Melissa Sass, Nancy Schaeffer, Pamela Brewer, Tammy Doubek, Tammy Hornbacher, Teha Haisley, Tim Huseth, Tina Selzler

**HIT:** Laura Kouragian

**Knife River:** Candace Ramsden, Carol Nodland, Elizabeth Reynolds, Gina Weiler, Joyce Henke, Kelsey Hill, Lisa Buchmann, Lyn Haugen, Marilyn Jensen, Michelle Barnick, Tamera Wolf

**Lake Region Corp:** Alicia Dalzell, Alyssa Tofsrud, Amy Saari, Beverly Oehlke, Charlotte Burt, David Olson, Deb Johnson, Deb Schindele, Gloria Schlittenhart, Janice Johnson, Jean Aardahl, Jeff Jacobson, Jennifer Tollefson, Kari Kopp, Laurie Chepulis, Lisa Wessels, Paula Bertsch, Peggy Peters, Rodney Ivesdal, Stacy MacDonald, Teresa Stenson, Theresa Overbo, Tom Watt, Vicki Vinnard

**LISTEN:** Bethany Poole, Carla Tice, Cassandra Connell, Charles Bremseth, David Brend, Deborah Marthe, Denae Boushee, Deneka Lecy, Dixie Arnold, Dorothy Gomez, Jody Belanus, Krystal Roth, Laura Bolen, Mark Rath, Michelle Meagher, Michelle Mutscher, Nancy McKay, Paul Duckstad, Sharon Bakke, Sheila Rhoads, Thomas Martin, Veronica Miller

**Opportunity Foundation:** DiAnn Merk, Tony Puckett

**Pride:** Brenda Parker, Carol Gass, Darcy Severson, Dawn Thuen, Jani Seifert, Lori Sitter, Shantell Meidinger, Suzy Jans

**Red River Human Services:** Jana Sundbom, JoAnne Hartman,

**REM-ND, Inc.:** Alissa Hannah, Amanda McKinney, Beth Lemer, Betty Faul, Brenda Bednarz, Brent Mertz, Casey Schill, Cathy Stevenson, Charles Evanson, Cheryl Nelson, Cynthia Kirschenmann, Cynthia Mogard, Deb Carlson, Debora Clark, Diane Slominski, Edgar Tirado, Erica Rebenitsch, Fran Carroll, Gary Henry, Gretchen Hendrick, Harumi Pavlicek, Jade Tandeski, Jeanne Nybo, Jill Foster, Jonathan Luke Brandt, Joyce Carter, Judy Dewitt, Kady Hirsch, Kari Titus, Larry Kraft, Linda Hughes, Lindsay Hovey, Lu Ann Hinderscheit, Mary Skadsem, Melane Knutson, Melinda Proper, Michelle O'Connor, Michael Matchett, Mickelle Arens, Patricia Dettling, Patrick Kenneh, Paul Engeldinger, Quinlan Mikula, Shannon Nybo, Skip Narum, Trish Koop, Trista Johnson, William Feltus

**AARP:** Marlowe Kro

**Individuals:** Barb Hausauer, Roxane Romanick

Please let me know if your name has been missed, in error.

## **EXECUTIVE MEMBERSHIPS 2011**

**(\$100.00 Memberships)**

**Alpha Opportunities: Don Nelson**

**Ann Carlsen Center: Eric Monson**

**DHI: Sandi Marshall**

**LRC: Ellen Davidson**

**NDACP: Barbara Murry**

**RRHSF: Tom Newberger**

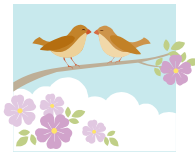
**REM: Brenda Niess**

# **2011 NDACP OFFICERS**

President: Sandi Marshall, Development Homes, Inc., Grand Forks

Vice President: Mike Remboldt, HIT, Inc., Mandan

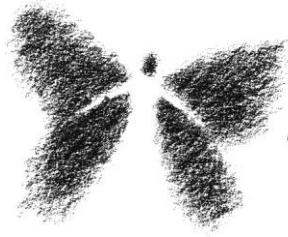
Secretary-Treasurer: Don Nelson, Alpha Opportunities, Jamestown



## **FEATURED AGENCIES**

### **Congratulations to Alpha Opportunities, Inc.**

Alpha Opportunities, Inc. recently finished an extensive remodeling project of the administrative offices. Along with refurbishing the entire building, several additions were made. The hallways were widened for convenience purposes. An addition was added on to the north side of the building to enlarge the main conference room. Five new offices were added. Each room is now technologically equipped for future advancements. A fire room was added for documents along with the time clock system. Any wasted space was incorporated to enhance other areas. In the ISLA area, the Individual Program Coordinators offices were enclosed for privacy. A second conference room was added on the east side of the building for additional meeting room space. A larger unisex bathroom was added along with new furnaces. The staff is happy to be finished with the remodeling; it was a noisy and messy five months. When in Jamestown stop in and see us we will be happy to give you a tour.



Anne Carlsen

CENTER

Nurturing abilities. Changing lives.

## Congratulations to the Anne Carlsen Center

### Anne Carlsen Center Receives \$10,000 High Impact Grant from Dakota Medical Foundation Impact Institute

The Anne Carlsen Center (ACC) has been named the recipient of a \$10,000 High Impact Grant from the Dakota Medical Foundation Impact Institute.

Since 2005, Dakota Medical Foundation has invested \$1.2 million in the Impact Foundation Institute to help nonprofits "do good...better" by building their capacity to serve. DMF's support provides training and technical assistance to dramatically improve the efficiency and effectiveness of health-related nonprofits in our region.

The grant funds will be used to implement a multiple phased, skill development program for the 14 directors and 20 supervisors at ACC. Individual and team assessments will be purchased to help build the communication skills and teamwork of this core management group. The program consists of one-on-one and group sessions as well as practical application of the skills and techniques acquired throughout.

"Developing our core communication skills is a key component to building our organization's capacity," said ACC Organizational Development Director Rebecca Udem. "As the Anne Carlsen Center continues to serve individuals with a broader range of needs, our ability to adapt and accept change is critical. When a team responsible for executing an individual's service plan communicates in a collaborative, transparent and flexible manner, all parties win."

The Anne Carlsen Center provides assistance for individuals of all ages with a wide variety of developmental disabilities, including autism and medical fragility. By embracing the core values of compassion, teamwork and services above self, ACC's staff carries out the organization's mission of "Nurturing abilities; changing lives". Through the services offered both at the Jamestown campus and community-based programs throughout North Dakota, individuals are empowered to connect with their home communities and become as independent as possible.



## New Open Door Center Office Building Opens



After 30 years in the same location, the Open Door Center office area will relocate on May 3 to 129 3rd Ave. NW, just two blocks from the current building. The day program will remain in this building; all the upstairs offices will move as well as a program director office on the main floor.

The new building will allow for extra offices that have been much needed as ODC programs have expanded over the years. Another important feature is that it is handicap accessible. Those having offices in the new building will also appreciate windows that don't leak rain or cold air, larger offices, and heating/cooling that is consistent throughout the building! The building will have geothermal heating/cooling.

Mavis Johnson donated the land for the building and Wick Construction was the contractor. Dan Smith was the architect. Building and relocating a business takes a lot of coordination, communication and decision-making. In this technological world, phone and computer network systems, especially when they serve multiple buildings, take several businesses working together to make the move. Then there are things like paint, carpet, countertops, cabinets, etc. Kay Metcalf, Secretary/Receptionist, assisted Mary Simonson in making most of the interior decisions and will be very relieved when everybody is settled in the new building - especially when the copy machine, computers and phones are all working properly!

Please stop by to visit us! We are eager to show off our new building!



# Summary of DD Related Legislation

## HB 1041

A Bill for an Act to provide for a registry for Unlicensed Assistive Persons within the Dept of Health. Passed with some fees for registration.

## SB 2012

DHS Appropriations Bill – contains all funding for DD. 3% was included for each year of the biennium. The amendments for \$.50 and the reduced amendment for \$.25 failed. Transition funding will have to come out of roll up funding from DD utilization.

## SB 2043

A Bill for an Act to provide for a developmental disabilities service provider payment system pilot project.  
Passed. Funding was decreased and the project will take 5 years instead of 2.

## SB 2121

A Bill for an Act to eliminate the DD Loan Fund.  
Passed. The Bank of North Dakota will work with providers, as needed, to fund new and renovated building to meet consumer specific needs.

## SB 2155

A Bill for an Act to create. . .certification of applied behavior analysts.  
Passed. The exemption for existing behavior analysts was included. Supervision by a psychologist will be required for BA level.

## SB 2261

A Bill for an Act to create. . .a moratorium on granting licenses to ICFs/MR.  
Failed. DHS and Providers will work together to study the need during the next biennium.

## SB 2265

A Bill for an Act to create. . .an expanded set-aside for providers of services to people with disabilities.  
Passed. Providers may submit a competitive bill, without having to go through a competitive bidding process.

## SB 2331

A Bill for an Act to create. . .a tax incentive for employers hiring people with disabilities.  
Failed. The Legislature felt this created unfair competition.

# Summary of Voting Records Related to DD Legislation

## ND House of Representatives

Name	District	% for All Issues	% Voting For 3%, \$.50/\$.25
<a href="#">Amerman, Bill</a>	District 26	91.91%	0.00%
<a href="#">Anderson, Dick</a>	District 7	70.00%	100.00%
<a href="#">Beadle, Thomas R.</a>	District 27	90.00%	0.00%
<a href="#">Bellew, Larry</a>	District 38	45.00%	25.00%
<a href="#">Belter, Wesley R.</a>	District 22	71.43%	100.00%
<a href="#">Boe, Tracy</a>	District 9	80.00%	100.00%
<a href="#">Boehning, Randy</a>	District 27	80.00%	100.00%
<a href="#">Brabandt, Roger</a>	District 5	80.00%	100.00%
<a href="#">Brandenburg, Michael D.</a>	District 28	60.00%	100.00%
<a href="#">Carlson, Al</a>	District 41	70.00%	100.00%
<a href="#">Clark, Donald L.</a>	District 44	70.00%	100.00%
<a href="#">Conklin, Tom</a>	District 4	100.00%	100.00%
<a href="#">Dahl, Stacey</a>	District 42	90.00%	100.00%
<a href="#">Damschen, Chuck</a>	District 10	70.00%	100.00%
<a href="#">DeKrey, Duane</a>	District 14	80.00%	100.00%

<a href="#">Delmore, Lois</a>	District 43	88.89%	0.00%
<a href="#">Delzer, Jeff</a>	District 8	60.00%	100.00%
<a href="#">Devlin, Bill</a>	District 23	70.00%	100.00%
<a href="#">Dosch, Mark A.</a>	District 32	70.00%	100.00%
<a href="#">Drovdal, David</a>	District 39	70.00%	100.00%
<a href="#">Frantsvog, Robert</a>	District 40	80.00%	0.00%
<a href="#">Froseth, Glen</a>	District 6	70.00%	100.00%
<a href="#">Glasheim, Eliot</a>	District 18	90.00%	0.00%
<a href="#">Grande, Bette</a>	District 41	72.73%	100.00%
<a href="#">Gruchalla, Ed</a>	District 45	90.91%	0.00%
<a href="#">Guggisberg, Ron</a>	District 11	100.00%	100.00%
<a href="#">Hanson, Lyle</a>	District 12	100.00%	100.00%
<a href="#">Hatlestad, Patrick</a>	District 1	90.91%	100.00%
<a href="#">Hawken, Kathy</a>	District 46	100.00%	100.00%
<a href="#">Headland, Craig</a>	District 29	54.55%	100.00%
<a href="#">Heilman, Joe</a>	District 45	90.00%	100.00%
<a href="#">Heller, Brenda</a>	District 33	80.00%	100.00%
<a href="#">Hofstad, Curt</a>	District 15	66.67%	100.00%
<a href="#">Hogan, Kathy</a>	District 21	88.89%	0.00%
<a href="#">Holman, Richard</a>	District 20	100.00%	100.00%
<a href="#">Hunskor, Bob</a>	District 6	90.00%	0.00%
<a href="#">Johnson, Dennis</a>	District 15	70.00%	100.00%
<a href="#">Johnson, Nancy</a>	District 37	100.00%	100.00%
<a href="#">Kaldor, Lee</a>	District 20	84.21%	50.00%
<a href="#">Karls, Karen</a>	District 35	70.00%	0.00%
<a href="#">Kasper, Jim</a>	District 46	63.64%	100.00%
<a href="#">Keiser, George J.</a>	District 47	66.67%	100.00%
<a href="#">Kelsch, RaeAnn G.</a>	District 34	88.89%	0.00%
<a href="#">Kelsh, Jerry</a>	District 26	90.00%	0.00%
<a href="#">Kelsh, Scot</a>	District 11	90.91%	0.00%
<a href="#">Kempenich, Keith</a>	District 39	70.00%	100.00%
<a href="#">Kilichowski, Robert</a>	District 16	90.00%	0.00%
<a href="#">Kingsbury, Joyce</a>	District 16	70.00%	100.00%
<a href="#">Klein, Matthew M.</a>	District 40	80.00%	100.00%
<a href="#">Klemin, Lawrence R.</a>	District 47	71.43%	100.00%
<a href="#">Koppelman, Kim</a>	District 13	72.73%	100.00%
<a href="#">Kreidt, Gary</a>	District 33	56.25%	50.00%
<a href="#">Kretschmar, William E.</a>	District 28	90.00%	100.00%
<a href="#">Kreun, Curtiss</a>	District 43	72.73%	100.00%

<a href="#">Kroeber, Joe</a>	District 12	90.00%	0.00%
<a href="#">Louser, Scott</a>	District 5	80.00%	100.00%
<a href="#">Maragos, Andrew</a>	District 3	100.00%	100.00%
<a href="#">Martinson, Bob</a>	District 35	90.00%	100.00%
<a href="#">Meier, Lisa</a>	District 32	80.00%	100.00%
<a href="#">Metcalf, Ralph</a>	District 24	94.12%	50.00%
<a href="#">Meyer, Shirley</a>	District 36	81.82%	0.00%
<a href="#">Mock, Corey</a>	District 42	90.00%	0.00%
<a href="#">Monson, David</a>	District 10	90.00%	100.00%
<a href="#">Mueller, Phillip</a>	District 24	88.89%	0.00%
<a href="#">Nathe, Mike</a>	District 30	63.64%	100.00%
<a href="#">Nelson, Jon</a>	District 7	64.71%	50.00%
<a href="#">Nelson, Marvin E.</a>	District 9	90.00%	0.00%
<a href="#">Onstad, Kenton</a>	District 4	90.00%	0.00%
<a href="#">Owens, Mark S.</a>	District 17	66.67%	100.00%
<a href="#">Paur, Gary</a>	District 19	60.00%	100.00%
<a href="#">Pietsch, Vonnie</a>	District 22	63.64%	100.00%
<a href="#">Pollert, Chet</a>	District 29	52.63%	25.00%
<a href="#">Porter, Todd</a>	District 34	88.89%	0.00%
<a href="#">Rohr, Karen M.</a>	District 31	70.00%	100.00%
<a href="#">Ruby, Dan</a>	District 38	63.64%	100.00%
<a href="#">Rust, David S.</a>	District 2	80.00%	100.00%
<a href="#">Sanford, Mark</a>	District 17	80.00%	100.00%
<a href="#">Schatz, Mike</a>	District 36	80.00%	0.00%
<a href="#">Schmidt, Jim</a>	District 31	80.00%	100.00%
<a href="#">Skarphol, Bob</a>	District 2	77.78%	100.00%
<a href="#">Steiner, Vicky</a>	District 37	80.00%	100.00%
<a href="#">Streytle, Roscoe</a>	District 3	54.55%	0.00%
<a href="#">Sukut, Gary R.</a>	District 1	63.64%	100.00%
<a href="#">Thoreson, Blair</a>	District 44	80.00%	100.00%
<a href="#">Trottier, Wayne</a>	District 19	63.64%	100.00%
<a href="#">Vigesaa, Don</a>	District 23	54.55%	100.00%
<a href="#">Wall, John D.</a>	District 25	70.00%	100.00%
<a href="#">Weiler, Dave</a>	District 30	63.64%	100.00%
<a href="#">Weisz, Robin</a>	District 14	80.00%	100.00%
<a href="#">Wieland, Alon</a>	District 13	70.59%	100.00%
<a href="#">Williams, Clark</a>	District 25	100.00%	100.00%
<a href="#">Winrich, Lonny B.</a>	District 18	90.91%	0.00%
<a href="#">Wrangham, Dwight</a>	District 8	54.55%	100.00%

<a href="#">Zaiser, Steven L.</a>	District 21	90.91%	0.00%
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### ND Senate

Name	District	% Voting	% Voting for
		For DD All Issues	DD 3%, \$.50/\$.25
<a href="#">Andrist, John M.</a>	District 2	90.00%	100.00%
<a href="#">Berry, Spencer D.</a>	District 27	100.00%	100.00%
<a href="#">Bowman, Bill</a>	District 39	81.82%	50.00%
<a href="#">Burckhard, Randy</a>	District 5	90.00%	0.00%
<a href="#">Christmann, Randel</a>	District 33	63.64%	0.00%
<a href="#">Cook, Dwight</a>	District 34	90.00%	100.00%
<a href="#">Dever, Dick</a>	District 32	90.00%	100.00%
<a href="#">Dotzenrod, Jim</a>	District 26	100.00%	100.00%
<a href="#">Erbele, Robert</a>	District 28	90.91%	100.00%
<a href="#">Fischer, Tom</a>	District 46	84.62%	50.00%
<a href="#">Flakoll, Tim</a>	District 44	90.00%	100.00%
<a href="#">Freborg, Layton</a>	District 8	80.00%	0.00%
<a href="#">Grindberg, Tony</a>	District 41	90.00%	100.00%
<a href="#">Heckaman, Joan</a>	District 23	100.00%	100.00%
<a href="#">Hogue, David</a>	District 38	90.00%	0.00%
<a href="#">Holmberg, Ray</a>	District 17	90.91%	100.00%
<a href="#">Kilzer, Ralph L.</a>	District 47	76.92%	50.00%
<a href="#">Klein, Jerry</a>	District 14	90.00%	100.00%
<a href="#">Krebsbach, Karen K.</a>	District 40	90.91%	100.00%
<a href="#">Laffen Lonnie J.</a>	District 43	90.00%	0.00%
<a href="#">Larsen, Oley</a>	District 3	90.00%	0.00%
<a href="#">Lee, Gary A.</a>	District 22	90.00%	100.00%
<a href="#">Lee, Judy</a>	District 13	100.00%	100.00%
<a href="#">Luick, Larry</a>	District 25	80.00%	0.00%
<a href="#">Lyson, Stanley W.</a>	District 1	100.00%	100.00%
<a href="#">Marcellais, Richard</a>	District 9	100.00%	100.00%
<a href="#">Mathern, Tim</a>	District 11	100.00%	100.00%

<a href="#">Miller, Joe</a>	District 16	90.00%	0.00%
<a href="#">Murphy, Philip M.</a>	District 20	100.00%	100.00%
<a href="#">Nelson, Carolyn C.</a>	District 21	100.00%	100.00%
<a href="#">Nothing, Dave</a>	District 12	100.00%	100.00%
<a href="#">Nodland, George L.</a>	District 36	90.00%	0.00%
<a href="#">O'Connell, David</a>	District 6	81.82%	0.00%
<a href="#">Oehlke, Dave</a>	District 15	100.00%	100.00%
<a href="#">Olafson, Curtis</a>	District 10	90.00%	0.00%
<a href="#">Robinson, Larry</a>	District 24	100.00%	100.00%
<a href="#">Schaible, Donald</a>	District 31	90.00%	0.00%
<a href="#">Schneider, Mac</a>	District 42	90.00%	100.00%
<a href="#">Sitte, Margaret</a>	District 35	90.00%	0.00%
<a href="#">Sorvaag, Ronald</a>	District 45	80.00%	0.00%
<a href="#">Stenehjem, Bob</a>	District 30	80.00%	0.00%
<a href="#">Taylor, Ryan M.</a>	District 7	100.00%	100.00%
<a href="#">Triplett, Connie</a>	District 18	100.00%	100.00%
<a href="#">Uglem, Gerald</a>	District 19	90.00%	100.00%
<a href="#">Wanzek, Terry M.</a>	District 29	90.91%	100.00%
<a href="#">Wardner, Rich</a>	District 37	90.91%	100.00%
<a href="#">Warner, John</a>	District 4	92.31%	75.00%

## Summary of Voting Records

As you review the tables above, keep in mind that there are a variety of reasons a person might vote against a bill. SB 2012, the DHS funding bill, has many issues other than DD. Legislators sometimes vote against an issue to protest it not containing enough funding.

However, a number of Legislators clearly did damage to the funding and salary efforts advocated for by NDACP. You will note that we clearly received more support from the Senate than we did from the House of Representatives. There are three Senators in positions to be able to help us, who have very poor records in support of DD salaries. On the House side, there are also three Representatives in position to be able to help us, who have very poor records in support of DD salaries. One was particularly vocal and effective in ongoing efforts against the \$.50 and then \$.25 increases. Leadership in the House did not support the pass through wage for DD.

Two members of the House and two members of the Senate stood out with their continuous efforts to support salary and quality of service delivery issues. Senator Judy Lee and Senator John Warner were champions for DD this session. House champions were Representatives Alon Wieland and Lee Kaldor.

Thanks to Senator Robinson for noticing his record was incorrect so I could change the formula error.

The full voting record in relations to developmental disabilities can be reviewed at:

[www.ndacp/news.html](http://www.ndacp/news.html)

## Self Advocacy A Voice for Others

Bismarck Tribune 2-20-11

Like many North Dakota residents, Leon Dietrich wants members of the Legislature to listen to him. As a self advocate with a disability, Dietrich takes great pride in attending legislative hearings and testifying before committees.

"It feels good," Dietrich said. "I let my voice be heard. We all have to speak up for ourselves."

Several years ago the Bismarck native attended Partners in Policy Making, an extensive monthly workshop to help people with disabilities advocate on their own behalf for numerous health, education or legislative issues.

At this year's 62nd Legislative Assembly, Dietrich wrote testimony in support of a bill for a income tax credit for employers who hire individuals with a disability and also on public transportation.

"I try to persuade them to do better," Dietrich said.

Dietrich has worked for Bismarck Public Schools for about 25 years and is full time as a custodian at Jeannette Myhre Elementary School in Bismarck.

He also is a co-facilitator with the Legislative Working Committee. The committee of self advocates and advocacy organizations meet weekly at the school during the legislative session to review and update upcoming legislation regarding disability issues.

"We just try to do the best for our community so it's a good place to live.

"Leon is a person that always knows what he wants and what he thinks will be good thing for people with disabilities and for the community," said Veronica Zietz, executive director of The ARC of Bismarck.

Teresa Larsen, executive director of the North Dakota Protection and Advocacy Project, said Dietrich has the greatest laugh of anyone she knows. She said even his eyes smile.

# Doing Other Business

## Brain Injury Services

HIT provides services to people with brain injuries. The services consist of a rehabilitation center (Dakota Alpha), residence (Dakota Pointe), and Transitional Brain Injury Program.

We're proud of our brain injury services. For the second year in the row US News and World Report ranked Dakota Alpha in the elite top again!

Dakota Alpha, a 20-bed residential facility in Mandan for people with a brain injury or physical disability, has been listed as one of America's best nursing homes by U.S. News & World Report.

For the second year, Dakota Alpha earned the high score given, a five-star ranking in each of three categories rated by Nursing Home Compare, a program run by the federal Centers for



Dakota Alpha

Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Of more than 15,500 facilities in the nation, Dakota Alpha was one of 18 to earn the highest 15-star score, and the only facility in North Dakota earning the top rating.

Dakota Alpha is the only skilled nursing facility in North Dakota specializing in providing rehabilitation services for individuals with a brain injury.

Landon Feil is the administrator for Dakota Alpha and vice president of brain injury services for the umbrella organization, HIT Inc.

In the rankings, Best Nursing Homes Definitions, Best Nursing Homes, The 18 nursing homes listed alphabetically below make up the 2011 Honor Roll. They were the only homes, out of more than 15,500 in the latest U.S. News Best Nursing Homes rankings, to receive four straight quarters of perfect five-star ratings from the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, in health inspections, nurse staffing, and quality of care, the three areas in which CMS evaluates these facilities.

For more information, visit <http://health.usnews.com/health/best-nursing-homes> or [www.hitinc.org](http://www.hitinc.org).

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# Up Coming Training Opportunities

Brochure and more information available at  
<http://www.ndacf.org/training.htm>

May 3

Jon Fortune – New Payment System Development Issues  
Fargo, ND Ramada Plaza Suites

<b>May 4-6</b>	<b>NDACP Annual Conference</b> <b>Fargo, ND</b> <b>Ramada Plaza Suites</b>
<b>June 16</b>	<b>Tom Pomeranz Training: Positive Behavioral Supports</b> <b>Bismarck, ND</b> <b>Comfort Inn</b>
<b>Sept 20-22</b>	<b>Mark Knuckles &amp; Associates: Commensurate Wage and HR Practices</b> <b>Bismarck, ND</b> <b>Comfort Inn</b>
<b>Sept, Oct, Nov</b>	<b>Fourth Session Supervisory Training Series</b> <b>Bismarck, ND</b>
<b>Oct 11 – 14</b>	<b>Six State Summit</b> <b>Boulder, CO</b>

