



MDDC Newsletter

Welcome New Council Members!

We are pleased to announce our newest Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council Members: Briana Bevins and Daniel Sandberg.



Briana Bevins

Briana Bevins is a recent graduate of the MDDC's Self-Advocacy Leadership Training (SALS) program. Briana says, "I joined the Council so that I can advocate for individuals with disabilities to receive the services that are needed."

Daniel Sandberg is a senior at Pioneer Valley of Performing Arts in South Hadley. He is very interested in advocacy, enjoys public speaking and has done Powerpoint presentations at colleges and schools for parents, educators and parent groups.



Daniel Sandberg

The Council welcomes applications for membership year round. If you would like to be considered for Council membership or want more information on our SALS program, please visit our website www.mass.gov/mddc

Self-Advocacy Leadership Series Graduation



Congratulations to the eleven students who recently graduated from the MDDC's Self-Advocacy Leadership Program. Over 45 family members, friends and support staff were in attendance to celebrate the nine weeks of leadership training at the August 10th graduation held at the Waltham Public Library.

SALS Featured in Medfield Press

The Medfield Press recently covered the recent Waltham SALS graduation, highlighting the skills that students learned in leadership and confidence.

Here's an excerpt from the piece:
Speaking in public is daunting task for most people, let alone those with developmental or intellectual disabilities. But, a self-advocacy and leadership class sponsored by Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council is training people in the skills to do just that.
To read more, [click here](#).

For more information about the SALS Program, please contact [Sandy Houghton](#) at 617-770-7676 ext 109 or [Lee Larru](#) at 413-455-4452.



Students and instructors in the self-advocacy and leadership class sponsored by the Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council pose for a picture with state Representative Denise Garlick (holding certificate).

Fall 2011

Volume 1 Issue 2

Upcoming Events

Meetings

Quarterly Council Meeting

December 13, 2011
5:30—9:00pm in Quincy
Contact:

Adelia.deltrecco@state.ma.us

Public Policy Team Meeting

October 26, 2011
10:30am in Quincy
Contact:

Kristin.britton@state.ma.us



Providing opportunities for people with developmental disabilities and their families to enhance independence, productivity, and inclusion.

Executive Director:

Dan Shannon

Chairperson:

Julie Fitzpatrick

Did you know?

Over 150,000 Massachusetts citizens have a developmental disability. And we are here to support them!

Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council

A Life of Opportunity



Council Submits Five Year State Plan (2012—2016)

The MDDC has submitted its state plan to the Feds with the 2012-2016 goals and objectives. Under federal law, each DD Council receives funds to carry out systems-change, capacity-building and advocacy initiatives. Through these activities, DD Councils improve and expand opportunities for the independence, productivity, inclusion and integration of people with disabilities in their communities.

[Read the plan here.](#)

MDDC Supports Prohibition of Aversives

The MDDC supports the proposed amendments put forward by the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) to prohibit the use of aversive (Level III) behavioral interventions on a prospective basis. Council Chairperson Julie Fitzpatrick testified before the Joint Committee on Children, Families, and Persons with Disabilities hearings on aversive bills. Julie spoke of her personal experiences as a mother of a child with Autism and what her family endured, stressing that a guiding principle for her child is to ensure that he is raised and lives his life with personal dignity. Read the [testimony](#).



Council Chairperson,
Julie Fitzpatrick

2012 GOPEN FELLOWSHIP APPLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE



The Barbara Wilensky Gopen Fellowship offers a unique opportunity for a person with a developmental disability or a family member to gain valuable knowledge and experience by working with members of the Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Network Programs. The deadline to submit applications is 5:00pm on Friday, October 14, 2011. For more information please [click here](#).

News & Quick Links

[You pick the topic and speaker for White House monthly disability calls!](#) —*Disability.Gov*

[Governor Patrick tours Cape Abilities](#)—video link

[A farm where community is the principal crop](#)—*Boston.com*

[NFPA—Emergency Evacuation Planning Guide for Persons with Disabilities](#)

[Advocates for Autism of Massachusetts](#)

[Autism Insurance Resource Center](#)

Questions or comments?

Email Dan.Shannon@state.ma.us or call 617-770-7676.

To remove your name from our mailing list, please click [here](#).

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