



## Leadership

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**Leadership:** is an online newsletter for ND families prepared by the ND Center for Persons with Disabilities (NDCPD) at Minot State University. If you want to get a copy, send your name, address, phone number, and email address to Cathy Haarstad at [haarstad@minotstateu.edu](mailto:haarstad@minotstateu.edu) Please indicate if you are the family member of a person with a developmental disability.

**Leadership Teams:** Leadership teams face many challenges in reaching families. A checklist to use in planning that will help make sure families can attend local training events has been developed by the North Dakota Family Support Project (NDFSP) based on research completed by the Family to Family Network this summer. The checklist is attached. If few families attend the training event that you plan or if you are still planning the event, you may want to complete this checklist for clues that will help you succeed. Please forward a copy to the NDFSP.

### What are other teams doing?

Team A Bismarck – Low attendance caused this team to replan their training  
Team B Bismarck – Meeting to plan on March 27<sup>th</sup>  
Team C Minot – Training scheduled for March 25<sup>th</sup>  
Team E Strasburg - Low attendance caused this team to merge with Team A  
Team F Fargo – Training scheduled for April 15<sup>th</sup>  
Team G Grand Forks – Training completed and 7 families attended

### Who we need to hear from?

Team H Fargo – Shirley Rimer – Hope to hear from you soon  
Team D Dickinson – Connie Kathrein - Hope to hear from you soon  
Team I Whapeton – Scott & Tammy Emmons – Hope to hear from you soon

All teams will receive a follow-up phone call in the near future to help with planning and find out if the training continues to be helpful and what more is needed. The call will come from the Department of Human Services.

**ND Family Support Project Update:** The leadership training was provided through the ND Family Support Project. This newsletter will fill you in on recent decisions that project partners made to finish activities that were funded under the project. The decisions were made at a meeting held on March 14, 2003 at the Doublewood Inn in Bismarck. These activities involve sharing information, training families and family support

providers, adding new partners to the project, and collaborating on several activities to achieve outcomes and strengthen family support in ND.

**The partners who attended or participate in the planning meeting include:**

The Department of Human Services – DD Division  
The Department of Human Services - Children’s Special Health Care Services  
The Department of Public Instruction  
The ND Center for Persons with Disabilities  
The ND Family to Family Project  
The Early Childhood/Tribal Education staff from the Three Affiliated Tribes  
The ND State Improvement Grant  
The Protection & Advocacy Project  
Family Voices  
The Arc, Upper Valley

**Other partners who have been active on the project and were unable to attend include:**

The Federation of Families for Children’s Mental Health  
The Dakota Center for Independent Living  
The Pathfinder Family Center

A second planning meeting is being held in Bismarck on Thursday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> from 1 to 8 PM. This time was selected to help partners who are active in the Legislative process to attend. The location in Bismarck has yet to be determined. Partners are encouraged to bring one family member each to the planning meetings as their guest (costs will be covered by the project). The project does not have the funds to open this planning meeting up to all families. If you are interested in attending please contact any of the partners with whom you may be affiliated and let them know if you would like to attend.

**Family Support Activities that will complete this project:**

- Send copies of the n2k website address to families
- Send copies of the Family Support Partners brochure to families
- Share new training resources developed by the project with families and family support specialists, Indian Health Services, early intervention specialists, educators, and Head Start staff.

**N2K Website Brochure**

**Family Support Partner Brochure**

**Attending Training and Information Opportunities: A report on what ND families have to say**

## **Supporting Families When Parents Have Intellectual Disabilities**

### **Managing Supports At Home: Using Family Subsidy Dollars to Pay for FS**

### **Supporting American Indian Families (Under production – available July 03)**

### **Supporting New American Families (Under production – available July 03)**

- Offer leadership training to parents on the state ICC and IDEA committees
- Obtain mentor families for parents with intellectual disabilities
- Gather information on the impact of family support on economic development
- Train ethnic leaders and bi-lingual staff about family support resources available to New American families
- Invite new partners to collaborate with the Family Support Advisory Committee (i.e. Easter Seals/Goodwill, policymakers, tribal representatives).

**Legislative Process:** Cuts in the budgets for the Department of Human Services and Department of Public Instruction and the need to fund services that have not yet been cut are of critical importance to families. These include:

- Cuts in funding the cost of durable medical equipment
- Cuts to programs providing home and community based services to seniors
- Cuts to the budget for the State Hospital in Jamestown
- Cuts to the budget for the Developmental Center at Grafton
- Cuts to regional human service centers that eliminate DD case managers
- Cuts in the budget that will eliminate pay raises for educators
  
- Need to continue the asset disregard for families under the Home & Community Based Waiver

Be sure to let your legislators know how your family would be impacted. Are you supporting an elderly parent? Does your child depend on durable medical equipment that you will have to find a way to pay for on your own? Is your child receiving outpatient services at the State Hospital or services at Grafton? Will your DD case manager be able to give your family the individual attention it deserves with a caseload of 75 families to support? Will your community be able to recruit special education teachers given the current salary that the local school can afford to pay? Would your family be able to access respite care or other family supports if the asset disregard is eliminated on July 1, 2003?

As leaders we need to contact our state senators and representatives and communicate with them on how important family support is for each of us in successfully raising our children with special needs. In addition to sending letters or

emails, please contact your legislative working group and learn how you can work with other advocacy organizations to give testimony at hearings to be held this week. The NDFSP is collecting information about the economic impact of family support on real families in ND. If you have a story or idea of how the support impact's your family . . .

- Your ability to work or accept a promotion
- A van that you have to pay for instead of planning for retirement
- The excess cost of child care that takes most of your paycheck

Please email the project at [haarstad@minotstateu.edu](mailto:haarstad@minotstateu.edu) and share your ideas.

**Leadership Links:** If you are interested in new web-sites as a leader, please check on the following links.

**No Child Left Behind: A Desktop Reference**

<http://www.ed.gov/offices/OESE/reference.html>

**National Core Indicators for Families**

<http://www.hsri.org/cip/core.html>

**When Addiction and Mental Disorders Occur**

<http://www.recoverymonth.gov/2003/multimedia/>