



# Developmental Disabilities Planning Council

**Governor Andrew M. Cuomo**

**Sheila M. Carey, Executive Director**



# 2015 Annual Report



**Helping Individuals with Developmental Disabilities to Live  
Independently and Participate Fully in the Community.**

**DDPC.NY.GOV**

# Message from the Director



The ongoing mission of the New York State Developmental Disabilities Planning Council (NYS DDPC) is to promote independence and community inclusion for individuals with intellectual disabilities and/or developmental disabilities and their families. I am exceptionally proud of the work our Council has done this year in fulfilling the goals and objective to this end.

Technology is one of the emerging issues that will have a tremendous impact for people with developmental disabilities. We are just starting to see the potential technology can offer. Our consumer and family members are currently exploring many new and exciting ideas in this area. Although technology is just starting to evolve, the NYS DDPC hopes to be able to test several cutting-edge technological approaches and look at how they may be able to improve the life of a person with intellectual or developmental disabilities to be as independent as possible.

James Traylor, Chairman, Thomas Burke, Vice Chair, along with Wendy Orzel, Consumer Caucus Chair, have provided us with outstanding leadership during this past year. They are a sterling example of what true leadership can inspire and accomplish. Their energy, creative thinking and dedication to the NYS DDPC is sincerely appreciated by every single member of the Council, and staff, without exception.

The past year has had many accomplishments. However, it is imperative that we continue on the path of progress in our work to ensure that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities will have a life of their choosing and an opportunity to fully participate in the community.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sheila M. Carey". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Sheila M. Carey  
**Executive Director**  
**NYS Developmental Disabilities Planning Council**

# Message from the Council Chair



The NYS DDPC serves to enhance the lives of individuals and families touched by disability. One of the important roles the Council plays is to identify information, system and policy gaps and provide both technical support and grant money to create systems change. Over the past year the Council completed numerous projects that were in line with our State Plan.

Some of the most notable projects included:

- Training for First Responders on both disability awareness and how to best interact with individuals with a disability during a crisis
- The creation of an Inclusive Recreation Resource Center to assist individuals with accessing recreation activities both in their communities and across New York State
- An Inclusive Fitness Program for Adults with Developmental and Other Disabilities

As services for individuals with disabilities evolve, the NYS DDPC will continue to provide innovative grants, information and technical support to improve the lives of all New Yorkers touched by disability.

James Traylor  
**Council Chair**  
**NYS Developmental Disabilities Planning Council**

# 2015 Overview

For over 40 years, the NYS DDPC has been developing innovative ways to make positive change in the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. What follows are some of the highlights of our work during 2015.\*

In 2015 the NYS DDPC spent approximately \$2 Million on grants, conference funding, and state plan work.

## This funding led to the:

- Training of over **5,000** self advocates, family members and others (including first responders, NA/PA students, Recreation and Fitness professionals, among others).
- Participation of over **2,000** people in self and systems advocacy efforts.
- Increased access and improved services and supports for nearly **900** people; and the
- Creation and/or improvement of over **30** policies and programs across NYS.

## The NYS DDPC also participated in:

- Community Outreach
- The First Annual NYC Disability Pride Parade
- NYS Special Education Task Force events
- PROMISE
- OPWDD Transformation Panel



\* Represents DDPC performance for federal fiscal year 2015, (October 1, 2014 to September 30, 2015).

# PROJECTS & INITIATIVES

## First Responders Disability Awareness Training (FRDAT)

In 2015, our work with Niagara University around training first responders reached its conclusion. As part of our grant, Niagara University developed and implemented the First Responder Disability Awareness Training Program known as FRDAT which is a specialized disability awareness training and train-the-trainer program for first responders, including fire, police, other law enforcement, emergency medical services (EMS), and 9-1-1 operators.

**In 2015 Niagara trained:**

**56** Police Officers

**81** Firefighters/EMS

**16** 911 Operators



**Over the grant period FRDAT provided training to a total of:**

**556** Fire, EMS, and Law Enforcement Trainers

**These Trainers have then provided training to over:**

**13,250** Law Enforcement personnel

**17,250** Fire Fighters



Since the conclusion of DDPC funding, the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services continues to offer the program in New York. The program is also now being implemented in Arkansas, Missouri, and Montana.

**Interested in the Training? Visit : <http://frdat.niagara.edu/>**

# PROJECTS & INITIATIVES

## Inclusive Recreation Resource Center (IRRC)

The IRRC at SUNY Cortland was granted funds to increase their ability to assess NYS Parks and Recreation sites and expand their Online Recreation Database. These assessments were conducted at recreation sites operated by the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.

### In 2015 SUNY Cortland:

- Trained **118** Certified Inclusivity Assessors to assess sites
- Assessed **408** State Park and outdoor recreation sites.



Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families looking to enjoy outdoor recreation in NYS can look up assessed sites on the IRRC Website!

To learn more about the IRRC visit: <https://www.inclusiverec.org/>

# PROJECTS & INITIATIVES

## Healthy Living—Inclusive Fitness for Adults with Developmental and Other Disabilities

The NYS DDPC awarded funding to Daemen College and the Research Foundation of SUNY Upstate Medical Center (SUNY Upstate) to increase fitness opportunities for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. Inclusive fitness is promoted by providing disability awareness training for fitness professionals, and introducing fun, healthy programs for individuals to participate in.

### In 2015, the two grants resulted in:

Participation by **129** individuals with disabilities in inclusive fitness programs.

Training of **153** fitness professionals on inclusion.

## 2-1-1 New York Disability Links

In 2014 and 2015, the NYS DDPC awarded funds to United Way/2-1-1 to replicate an existing Western NY 2-1-1 Database statewide.



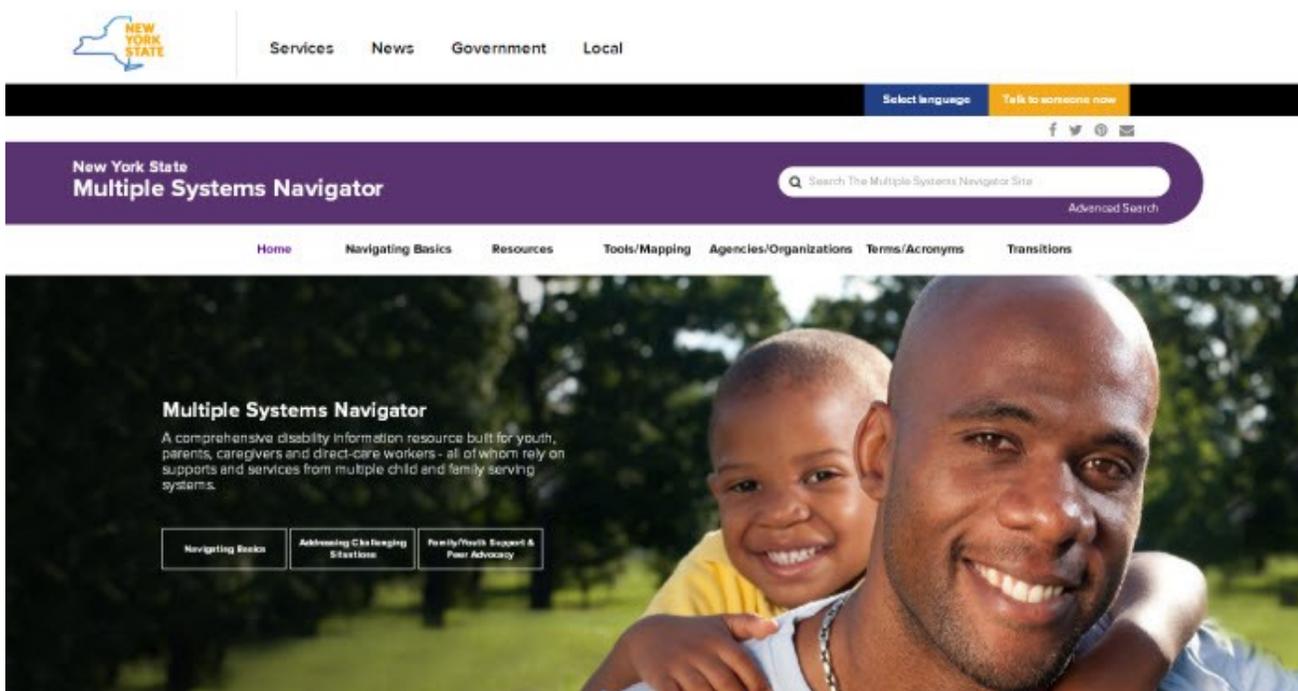
As part of this grant, United Way was able to populate 10 regional databases with disability specific information and complete a public awareness campaign about the newly specialized 2-1-1 Disability links.

See more at: <http://211nys.org/disability-services>

# PROJECTS & INITIATIVES

## Navigating Multiple Systems (NMS)

NMS was a two-year NYS DDPC funded project being implemented by the Council on Children and Families (CCF). As part of this grant, CCF was tasked with creating The MSNavigator website. This website provides accessible resources, service information and tools to families, individuals, and others.



Browse the website for up-to-date information on:

- Agencies and organizations that offer resources and/or programs and services
- Terms and Acronyms used in Health and Human Services
- Transitioning from youth to adult services

You can also explore program, service and family/peer support information located around you with the Interactive Map!

For More Information visit: <http://www.msnavigator.org/>

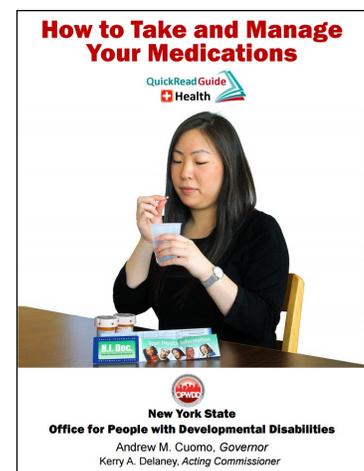
# PROJECTS & INITIATIVES

## Quick Read Guides

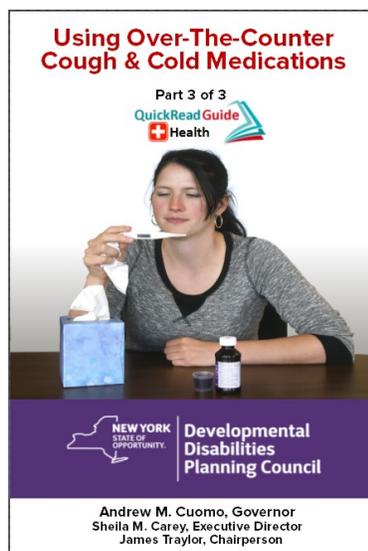
NYS DDPC has begun to produce a series of information guides. Quick Read Guides take about 10 minutes to read and provide information in an accessible format using language that is straightforward and easy to understand. These guides are about a variety of topics and are designed to help individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities live more independently.

In 2015, we completed our first Quick Guide, **“How to Take and Manage Your Medications”**

We have now distributed over **1,200** copies of this Quick Read Guide which is available in multiple languages.



**Keep an eye out for these upcoming Quick Read Guides:**



Find our Quick Read Guides here! <http://ddpc.ny.gov/>

# 2015 COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

## Chairperson

James Traylor

## Vice-Chairperson

Thomas Burke

**NYS Department of Health**

## Caucus-Chairperson

Wendy Orzel

## Caucus Members

Shameka Andrews

Peter Cole

Jennifer Dahlstrom

David Feickert

Stuart Flaum

Tamelia L. Fritz

Aimee Levesque

Megan Meyer

Lisa Severino

Deirdre Staley

Jennifer Thau

## Non-Governmental Members

Lisa M. Fertal

**East End Disability Associates, Inc.**

Shirley Goddard

**Home, Inc.**

## UCEDD Representatives

David O'Hara

**Westchester Institute for Human Development**

Robert W. Marion, M.D.

**Rose F. Kennedy University Center for Excellence**

Steven B. Sulkes, M.D.

**Strong Center for Developmental Disabilities**

## Protection & Advocacy

Timothy A. Clune, Esq.

*Executive Director*

**Disability Rights New York**

## State Agency Representatives

Hon. Anthony J. Annucci

*Acting Commissioner*

**NYS Dept. of Corrections**

Hon. MaryEllen B. Elia

*Commissioner*

**NYS Education Department**

Hon. Corinda Crossdale

*Director*

**NYS Office for the Aging**

Hon. Kerry Delaney

*Acting Commissioner*

**NYS Office for People with Developmental Disabilities**

Hon. James S. Rubin

*Commissioner and C.E.O.*

**Homes and Community Renewal**

Hon. Samuel Roberts

*Acting Commissioner*

**NYS Office of Temporary and Disabilities Assistance**

Hon. Matthew Driscoll

*Commissioner*

**NYS Dept. of Transportation**

Hon. Jeffrey Wise

*Executive Director*

**NYS Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs**

Hon. Howard A. Zucker, M.D., J.D.

*Commissioner*

**NYS Department of Health**

\* Represents DDPC Council Membership as of September 30, 2015

# CONTACT INFORMATION

## 2015 Council Staff

### Executive Director

Sheila M. Carey

### Special Assistant

Maureen Gannon

### Program Planners

Robin Hickey  
James Huben

### Program Research Specialists

Jacqueline Hayes  
Ashely Pacelli  
Kerry Wiley

### Budget Analyst

Kathleen Mazur

### Agency Program Aide

Erika Schmidt

### Public Information Officer

Greg Danis

### Secretary

Marybeth Stoddard

### Excelsior Service Fellow

Jessica Pidgeon, Ph.D.

### Student Interns

Kimberly Berg  
Viktoriiia Borsuk  
Qianfei Ma  
Zachary Powell  
Daniel Russo  
Drew Webster

**PHONE:** (800) 495-3372    **FAX:** (518) 402-3505

**Email:** [Information@ddpc.ny.gov](mailto:Information@ddpc.ny.gov)

### Mailing Address:

New York State Developmental Disabilities Planning Council  
99 Washington Avenue  
Suite 1230  
Albany, New York 12210

Follow us on:  [Facebook](#)  [Twitter](#)