

# **UCEDD** Resource Center

A project of AUCD, in partnership with ADD, to strengthen and support the network of UCEDDs

## **AUCD Key Technical Assistance Activities for the UCEDD Network**

**2012 Update**

Technical assistance (TA) was first defined in the 1987 amendments to the DD Act as "a wide array of activities designed to facilitate individual or agency change in some systematic manner by providing expertise in problem solving." Since the DD Act first introduced a technical assistance component, AUCD has served as the ADD technical assistance contractor for the national network of UCEDDs.

Based on the most recent iteration of the DD Act in 2000, AUCD's technical assistance role has been to:

1. Assist in national and international dissemination of specific information from multiple Centers and, in appropriate cases, other entities whose work affects the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities;
2. Compile, analyze, and disseminate state-of-the-art training, research, and demonstration results; policies and practices from multiple Centers; and, in appropriate cases, other entities whose work affects the lives of persons with developmental disabilities;
3. Convene experts from multiple Centers to discuss and make recommendations with regard to national emerging needs of individuals with developmental disabilities;
4. Facilitate electronic information sharing by (a) creating portals that link users with every Center's website; and (b) sharing using state-of-the-art internet technologies on emerging topics that impact individuals with disabilities and their families;
5. Serve as a research-based resource for federal and state policymakers on information concerning and issues impacting individuals with developmental disabilities and entities that assist or serve those individuals; and to
6. Undertake other functions that promote the viability and use of the resources and expertise of the Centers nationally and internationally.

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## **AIDD-AUCD Fellowship**

The inaugural AIDD-AUCD Fellowship was created this year, providing a professional development opportunity for a network member to spend up to a year working at AIDD. Learning experiences include:

- DD Act implementation
- Federal inter-agency work in the development of policy and programs in support of children and adults with developmental and other disabilities
- Policy analysis based on national information and federal data
- Programmatic areas that may vary depending on current activities and needs of ADD but may include topical areas such as community living, family support, employment, vocational rehabilitation, education, child care, and development of inclusive community supports and services and other areas related to improving the quality of life for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (ID/DD)
- Linkages among federal agencies to implement sound policies to promote high quality outcomes for individuals with ID/DD
- The federal role in oversight and management of the network grant programs and services authorized under the DD Act

## **Information Dissemination**

AUCD subscribes to and actively monitors over 50 private and public listservs, e-newsletters, RSS and Twitter feeds, and funding databases that provide news, information, and resources in a variety of formats related to issues relevant to developmental disabilities across the lifespan, as well as training, leadership, research, service, policy, funding and federal legislative activities related to disability issues. Information is disseminated regularly through e-newsletters such as Announcements, Resources, Funding Opportunities, AUCDigest and Legislative News InBrief.

Additional information related to UCEDD core funding and annual reports, TA events, new director orientation, CAC orientation and other information is hosted on the UCEDD Resource Center (URC) website at [www.aucd.org/urc](http://www.aucd.org/urc). This site has recently been updated to include a page addressing leadership development and succession planning.

## **Leadership Institute for UCEDD Managers**

The inaugural UCEDD Leadership Institute will take place at the University of Delaware on June 24-29, 2012. Eighteen mid- and upper-management UCEDD faculty and staff will participate. The goal of the Institute is to identify and support emerging leaders and provide them with the knowledge and skills needed to become transformational UCEDD leaders. Additionally, it is expected that individuals completing this training will have significant impact on the operation of their own or another UCEDD, on the quality of life of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families, on the dissemination of research and effective practices, and on progressive

disability policy within participants' states and nationally. A schedule for the 2012 Leadership Institute is attached. A date for the 2013 UCEDD Leadership Institute is expected to be announced this fall.

## Onsite TA Visits

TA site visits are intended to provide the UCEDD with technical assistance in addressing self-identified topics of interest. This activity typically takes the form of peer to peer on-site consultation. These are not monitoring activities, nor are they full-blown site visits requiring weeks of preparation by staff and presentations by projects and committees. Consultative visits have met with great success.

Over the past year, TA visits have dealt with such issues as program development to address health disparities in people with developmental disabilities, translational research, partnerships with Native American Tribal populations, UCEDD administrative and business processes, UCEDD core grant requirements, and succession planning.

## Self-Advocacy Summits

Four additional summits were held in 2012, including teams from 26 states and territories. This completed the series of summits initiated in 2011, ensuring participation by teams from all 55 states and territories. The 2011 report will be updated with information gleaned from this year's summits, including more detailed recommendations for national activities and federal policy. AUCD is initiating a listserv for all summit participants and interested allies, is presenting information from the summits at several national and international conferences, and will be expanding follow-up technical assistance activities.

## Special Projects

AUCD completes special projects as requested by AIDD. Thus far in this contract year, the following projects have occurred:

- *Bridging the Aging and DD Service Networks*: this report by the Institute on Disability and Human Development at UIC was funded by AUCD's TA contract
- *Native American Developmental Disabilities Needs Assessment*: this report by the Sonoran UCEDD and Native American Research and Training Center at the University of Arizona was funded by AUCD's TA contract, and is expected to be available soon
- *Chronic Condition Data Warehouse (CCW)*: AUCD convened a workgroup of network experts to identify appropriate categories of disability diagnoses to be considered for inclusion in CCW, which provides researchers with Medicare and Medicaid beneficiary, claims, and assessment data linked by beneficiary across the continuum of care.

## Targeted Technical Assistance

Each year, AUCD completes activities targeting priorities identified by AIDD and the Project Advisory Committee. The needs assessment completed last year was also used to identify priority areas across the network

This year, AUCD is addressing the following identified priorities:

- *Alternate Assessments* – With the current reauthorization of ESEA potentially codifying alternate assessments into federal law, understanding recent developments in these assessments is crucial for anyone working in education, special education, or educational accountability. A webinar on “New Developments in Alternate Assessments for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities” was held 1/9/12 and is archived on the URC and AUCD Events page.
- *Minority partnerships* – A report is being developed based upon interviews with UCEDDs and partners in Minority Serving Institutions (MSI) and Historically Black College and Universities (HBCU). The focus will be how UCEDDs can develop effective strategies to partner with minority-serving institutions, train future leaders from under-represented minority groups, as well as utilize such partnerships to serve the needs of a diverse community. Look for this resource toward the end of the summer.
- *Succession planning* – see report: “The Perceptions of Past and Current UCEDD Directors on Transitioning in and out of the Role of UCEDD Director”
- *UCEDD role in monitoring in the community* – AUCD interprets this as the UCEDD role in building capacity through partnerships, resources, and activities across core functions in key areas impacting community integration. Please see, and contribute to, the draft tool-kit pages available here at the TA Institute. This tool-kit will serve as a program development resource for UCEDDs, as well as a resource for network partners and others to better understand the role of UCEDDs.
- *Supporting self-advocacy* – As a follow-up to topic identified at the series of Self-Advocacy Summits, a resource will be developed to highlight effective practices in advising self-advocacy groups to impact issues facing people with disabilities, and how UCEDDs can support these efforts. Look for this resource toward the end of the summer.
- *Involvement of people with the most significant disabilities* - Successful participation of people with quite significant medical, communication, emotional/behavioral, intellectual, and/or other challenges is often times dependent upon the ability to create environments that maximize their engagement. Additionally, some people truly do not have the ability or desire to participate in meetings (CAC meetings, state focus groups, or other such meetings) because they are in a hospital, institution, or simply have no desire to do so. However, their input is just as critical when determining the needs of the state, and determining the work of the UCEDD in supporting citizens of the state. This TA activity will explore and share examples of how people with the most significant needs can be included in UCEDD activities, making sure their voices are heard. Look for this resource toward the end of the summer.

## UCEDD Annual Report

AUCD continues to support the NIRS database to host UCEDD project data and develop the annual report. Revisions recommended by data coordinators to ease use of NIRS are currently being implemented. Revisions are also underway for the 2013 Activity Record and Trainee Record, reflecting recommendations from the Pilot Test Workgroup who tested the output and initial outcomes measures in the UCEDD Logic Model. A Final Report Workgroup is also being facilitated by AUCD to develop data collection strategies and a template for the UCEDD Final Report of Progress due at the end of each core grant cycle.

Ongoing technical assistance related to NIRS is provided to all data coordinators and other users across the network. This TA occurs via telephone, email, an annual Data Coordinators Meeting, and an annual New Data Coordinators Orientation.

## Project Advisory Committee

AUCD is extremely grateful to the PAC members who assist AUCD in prioritizing TA activities. This year, a subcommittee of the PAC also assisted in developing evaluations of two new activities this year: AIDD/AUCD Fellowship, and the UCEDD Leadership Institute. This year's PAC members include:

- Annie Alonso Amador (PR)
- Karen Edwards (OH)
- Bryce Fifield (UT)
- Christopher Smith (MD)
- Barbara LeRoy (MI)
- Mitchell Levitz (NY)
- Don Lollar (OR)
- David Rotholz (SC)
- Dalug Zhang (TX)