

2007 Annual Legislative Report

Fiscal Year July 2006 - June 2007



Minnesota State Council
on Disability

**Your Policy, Training
and Technical Resource**

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ABOUT US

Mission

The Minnesota State Council on Disability is an agency that advises, provides technical assistance, collaborates and advocates to expand opportunities, improve the quality of life, and empower all persons with disabilities.

Values

We operate with a specific set of values:

- Inherent Respect For All. We assume all individuals are entitled to live productive, independent, healthy lives within their community.
- Integrity. We examine issues affecting the disability community in Minnesota and disseminate fair and objective information in a timely manner.
- Independence. We promote independence and choice for all people with disabilities.

Vision

To be a primary, productive resource for disability-related information providing leadership and promoting innovative policies through:

- Effective administrative operations
- Legislative interaction, and
- Statewide collaboration

Customers

- People with disabilities and their families
- The Governor
- Legislature
- State and local government
- Private agencies
- Employers
- General public

Services

- Review disability issues and advise State government
- Promote coordinated, collaborative interagency efforts
- Provide information and referral
- Collect, conduct, and make disability-related research and statistics available to all customers
- Advocate for policies and programs that promote quality of life for all people living with a disability

COUNCIL BOARD MEMBERSHIP

The Governor appoints all members to three-year terms. The Governor also appoints the board chair. To apply to become a Council member contact the Council office for an application.



David Schwartzkopf, Chair

Rochester, Minnesota - Region 10

David has worked in the disability field as Executive Director of the Southeastern Minnesota Center for Independent Living and as Assistant Commissioner of Jobs and Training. He served as past chair of the Minnesota Council for the Blind and the Governor's Initiative of Technology for People with Disabilities. He has over 30 years of executive experience with for-profit and not-for-profit organizations and groups.

Rev. David Sams, Vice-Chair

Redwood Falls, Minnesota - Region 8

Dave has had a dual career as a Career Rehabilitation Counselor at the Worthington Rehabilitation Services Office and as an Episcopal priest. He has served on the board of the Southwest Center for Independent Living (SWCIL) in Marshall and is now an employee. He is a recipient of the Rose and Jay Phillips Award from Courage Center and the Victory Award as Disabled Minnesotan of the Year in 1994.

Russell Philstrom

Emily, Minnesota - Region 5

Russ is an active volunteer, spokesperson, and Chair of the Brain Injury Association of Minnesota. He is involved in numerous community activities and was previously mayor of Emily, Minnesota. As proprietor of Northwood's Exposure Art Gallery and Custom Framing Company he enjoys working with customers. Russ also sells pieces of art known as "custom fishing rods". His claim to fame is that you always catch a fish with one of his rods. He is currently chairperson of Emily/Fifty Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce.

Mark Hughes

Shoreview, Minnesota - Region 11

Mark has served as co-chair of the St. Paul Mayor's Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities and on the board of the Disability Institute. He is currently employed at Hubbard Broadcasting. He also hosts a weekly cable access talk show on disability issues, titled "Disability Viewpoints".

Joanne Olson

Duluth, Minnesota - Region 3

Joanne received her education as a nurse with a special interest in rehabilitation. She worked as a nursing instructor, as a nursing home educational director, outreach nurse for Planned Parenthood, and in on-call positions in various hospitals in the Duluth area. In addition to work as a certified message therapist, she helped her mother pass this world with dignity knowing she was loved and cherished.

Edward Butterfass

Watkins, Minnesota - Region 6

Ed has been a farmer in rural Minnesota for over 30 years. Ed knows first hand the hardships and joys a family with a child with a severe disability faces. Ed's son, Joshua, has spina bifida. Because of Ed's tireless advocacy in the rural educational system, Joshua and other children have been able to have successful educational experiences. As an advocate for the economically disadvantaged rural farmer, Ed lends his experience and hearty laugh to farmers in the Fenceline program - a program that provides advice and encouragement to farmers who face disability. He also served on the Heartland Community Action Agency Headstart Board for six years.

Sylvia Carty

St. Paul, Minnesota - Region 11

Sylvia is an active community volunteer who has served on numerous public and private boards. Sylvia enjoys a heartwarming reputation in her community and is recognized by many volunteer organizations for her tireless involvement. Currently Sylvia volunteers with the Living at Home Senior Program, Crossroads Elementary School, and the Quality Design Commission of the Minnesota Department of Human Services. Before retiring, Ms. Carty served as Director of the Child Development Center at Hallie Q. Brown Center for 24 years.

Kenneth Rodgers

Minneapolis, MN - Region 11

Ken is originally from California, where he earned his B.S. degree in Human Services/Education and taught junior high school math and science, and high school computer programming. He moved to Minnesota in 1989 and attended the College of St. Catherine, where he received his nursing degree and a certification in Holistic Health Studies. In 1992, Ken began his second career as a Registered Nurse at Abbott Northwestern Hospital and worked as an HIV/STD Education Specialist managing the

Project Positive Program at Clinic 42. Ken is also the President of the American Council of the Blind of Minnesota and sits on the Transportation Accessibility Advisory Committee of the Metropolitan Council. Recently, Ken began his Master's of Public Affairs program at the University of Minnesota's Humphrey Institute for Public Affairs. Ken, along with his guide dog Nan, and his life partner Richard, live in the Riverfront District of Northeast Minneapolis.

Kathleen Peterson

Warren, Minnesota - Region 1

Kathleen, as the parent of a deaf child, brings an advocacy perspective to the Council, as well as the expertise of a professional and volunteer sign language interpreter. Currently, Kathleen is the manager of Interpreter Services for the University of North Dakota. Kathleen is involved in her community and has served on the executive board of the Warren Parent Teacher Association. Ms. Peterson founded "Socialization Day," an annual workshop for deaf/hard of hearing students, their parents, interpreters, and teachers. Kathleen also provides a wealth of previous council experience, having served as a council member of the Minnesota Commission Serving Deaf and Hard of Hearing People and as chairwoman of the Special Education Advisory Council.

Barbara Stensland

Bemidji, Minnesota - Region 2

Ms. Stensland is the current co-chair of the Relocation Committee and is a member of the MSCOD Executive Committee. Since 1993, Barb has worked as Area Director of the Lutheran Social Service (LSS) of MN. Prior to her current position, Barb was co-owner of an intermediate care facility for persons with disabilities for 14 years. She is a licensed social worker and special education and elementary education teacher, and has done substitute teaching for the Bemidji school district in the past. Barb has previously served on a Department of Human Services Advisory Committee for Home and Community Waiver Programs. She also volunteers with the Minnesota chapter of the MS Society as an MS Walk Coordinator and Caregiver Support Facilitator.

Joani Werner

St. Paul, Minnesota - Region 11

Joani is an Area Work Incentive Coordinator for the Social Security Administration in the St. Paul office. She serves as a regional expert on employment supports for Social Security disability programs, and approves and provides technical guidance on work incentives for 22 offices covering Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan. She also coordinates and conducts training and outreach seminars on the Ticket-to-Work program and other employment supports. She has over 20 years of experience with work incentives with the Social Security Administration. She was an original member of the award-winning St. Paul Pass Cadre. Her special interest is working with youth with disabilities, advising them on how to use the SSI program employment supports as a bridge to work. She recently contributed to two journals: "SSI Work Incentive Case Studies for Special Ed Youth" and "Meeting the Needs of Youths with Disabilities."

Kathy Wingen

St. Cloud, Minnesota - Region 7

Kathy knows from first-hand experience that working hard to complete an education in challenging circumstances is only half the battle. After graduating college it took six years before Kathy was able to break down cultural barriers so she could begin to realize her dreams of being employed. Since then, Kathy has been a supportive, tireless, and active voice in her community, serving such organizations as: St. Cloud Area Council on Disabilities, United Cerebral Palsy of Central MN, St. Cloud Metropolitan Transit Commission, National Organization of Pro Bono Professionals, and the St. Cloud Church of St. Michael. Currently, Kathy works with St. Cloud Legal Services, Inc. as a public benefits paralegal. Prior to joining Legal Services, she coordinated the Supplemental Security Income Outreach project in St. Cloud, acting as a liaison between persons applying for SSI and the Social Security Administration.

COUNCIL MEETINGS



Photo 1: Left to right; Evelyn Anderson, Stuart Cross, Kathy Wingen and Joan Willshire at a MSCOD Council Meeting.

According to its bylaws, the MSCOD meets at least three times each year. In 2005, legislation was passed allowing the MSCOD to conduct council meetings by electronic means when necessary. Council members who travel from greater Minnesota or who are unable to attend in person can attend via teleconference. Our partners in State government, non-profit agencies, and local businesses provided meeting space for our council board meetings. Everyone is welcome to attend council meetings, which are all open to the public. During fiscal year 2007 the full council and its sub-committees met four times.

Quarterly Council Meetings

December 7, 2006:

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Hiway Federal Credit Union St. Paul, MN

January 25, 2007:

MN Department of Health St. Paul, MN

June 7, 2007:

Metro Square Building St. Paul, MN

October 19, 2007: Annual Awards Luncheon

Radisson Hotel Roseville, MN

Council Sub-Committee Meetings

To explore approaches to achieve its statutory obligations, the Council is divided, by issue area, into two sub-committees:

- Employment, Education, Transportation and Nursing Home Relocation
- Access/Building Codes, Emergency Preparedness, Voting and Rights

Executive Committee

In addition to the Council Chair, whom the governor appoints, the Executive Committee consists of four council members selected by the full council. The Executive Committee met ten times in fiscal year 2007:

August 10, 2006	<u>Executive Committee</u>
	<u>Members</u>
October 11, 2006	
November 9, 2006	David Schwarzkopf - Council Chair
November 21, 2006	David Sams - Co Chair
January 10, 2007	Barb Stensland
February 14, 2007	Ken Rodgers
March 14, 2007	Kathy Peterson
April 11, 2007	
May 9, 2007	
June 13, 2007	

SPECIAL EVENTS

Minnesota State Fair



Photo 2: Mike Chevrette and Carissa Rasmussen working at MSCOD's State Fair booth.

August 2006: During the last two weeks of August, the State Council hosted its annual booth at the Minnesota State Fair. At the event, MSCOD gave away hundreds of Pathways to Employment fans, , boxes of linkage line magnets, anti-discrimination buttons and posters, STAR directories, Explore Minnesota books, and many other handouts and brochures. This event was a great way to provide a vast amount of information to individuals regarding disability matters. In all, both volunteers provided information to more than 2,300 fairgoers.

Annual Awards Luncheon



Photo 3: Left to right: Keynote speaker, John Kemp, Council Chair, David Schwarzkopf, and MSCOD Executive Director, Joan Willshire

October 19, 2006: Over 150 people from around the state attended the Minnesota State Council on Disability's Annual Awards Luncheon on Thursday, October 19, 2006. The event recognized individuals and organizations committed to eliminating societal and personal barriers that exist for Minnesotans living with a disability. John Kemp delivered the keynote address. A special award for *Outstanding Achievement* was given to Joel

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Ulland and John Tschida, co-chairs of the Minnesota Consortium of Citizens with Disabilities.

The State Council would like to congratulate this year's recipients:

- Employers of the Year: Bernick's Beverage Company
- Entrepreneur Award: Brian and David Muhs
- Access Award: Minneapolis Public Library - Katherine Hadley
- Distinguished Service Award: Laurie Brownell
- Legislator of the Year Award: Rep. Fran Bradley
- Chairs Award: Darlene Plante
- Distinguished Service Award: Minnesota Award: Scott Coleman
- Friend of the Council Award: Otto Bremer Foundation
- Sports Innovation Award: Craig McClellan
- Technology Award: Carol Fury
- Community Award: James Lindberg
- Community Award: Gillette Technology Center Mobile Outreach Clinic - Patti Bahr and Dave Wilkie
- Transition Award: Kathleen Johnson
- Youth Award: Matt Williams
- Recognition of Past Council Members Award: John Tschida and Nancy Eustis

Annual Legislative Forum

December 4, 2006: The MSCOD hosted its annual Legislative Forum via video conference. 150 people attended from the seven locations via videoconference site and over 40 disability organizations participated in the event. For the first time ever we also were able to web stream the event too with around 70 people accessing the event. Representative Paul Thissen, Chair of the House Health Care and Human Services Committee, spoke at the event. Organizations were encouraged to share their legislative agenda for the upcoming session. At the event, individuals asked questions of state agencies and disability organizations. In addition, members of the Minnesota Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (MN-CCD) and other groups presented their proposals for the 2007 legislative session.

Town Hall Meetings

The MSCOD began holding quarterly town hall meetings to focus on specific disability-related issues. The meetings were held via videoconference and were Web streamed

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and closed captioned. Video streamed out to 12 county locations throughout the state. Town Hall Topics included:

June 5, 2006:	Guest speaker Senator David Durenberger
September 18, 2006:	Voting, Code Changes, Disability Parking
February 5, 2007:	PCA and Managed Care Providers
April 2, 2007:	Transportation

Day at the Capitol



Photo 4: Citizens listen to speeches above the Rotunda holding signs that say "Support the COLA".

The MSCOD, Courage Center, and Metro Center for Independent living hosted their annual Day at the Capitol at the Kelly Inn in St. Paul during the morning of April 2, 2007. Participants then spent the afternoon speaking with members of the legislature. 150 people attended.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Technical Assistance

The MSCOD provides disability-related technical assistance to individuals, businesses, governmental, and agency representatives from all over Minnesota by phone, e-mail, letter, and in person. Most contacts were from individuals in need of resources in order to live more independently. Referrals were made to the Disability Linkage Line, other state and federal agencies, and many non-profit organizations. The MSCOD continues to work with the legislators to assist in providing solutions to both individual and broad problems and issues.

Most common Issue inquiries received at the Council:

1. Building Code/Technical
2. Disability Parking
3. Disability Information
4. Laws and Regulations
5. Social Security Programs
6. Other
7. ADA Human Rights
8. Accessible Residential Housing
9. Vocational Rehabilitation
10. Public health Insurance Programs

Training/Presentation

The MSCOD provides training on a number of topics to any group or organization requesting such information. Presentations are tailored to meet the needs of each particular group to ensure effectiveness.

During the past year, staff developed and presented over 16 training programs to approximately 550 individuals, including county workers, state employees, non-profit workers, building code officials, architects, emergency management planners and many others. Presentation topics include: access, the Americans with Disabilities Act, job accommodations and EEOC, polling access for voters, discrimination issue, disability awareness, human rights laws, and emergency preparedness. Training programs are listed as follows:

MTM – MNET Training with Barb Lemke from Arc Greater Twin Cities (Attendees: 20)
Held 07/21/06 – Post-Polio Group in Owatonna

Disability Awareness Training (Attendees: 25)
Held 08/02/06 – BLN Group in Minneapolis

Housing Access Training (Attendees: 30)
Held 08/15/06 – Legal Aid Group in St. Paul

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Residential Access Training (Attendees: 65)
Held 10/05/06 – Odyssey Conference in Duluth

Emergency Preparedness Training (Attendees: 57)
Held 10/06/06 – Odyssey Conference in Duluth

Emergency Preparedness Training (Attendees: 25)
Held 10/12/06 – SILIC Meeting in Metro

Emergency Preparedness Training (Attendees: 80)
Held 11/13/06 – ADA Employers Conference in Metro

Emergency Preparedness Training (Attendees: 5)
Held 11/15/06 – MSCIL Meeting in St. Cloud

Disability Awareness Training (Attendees: 55)
Held 11/30/06 – Human Resources, City of Minneapolis

Emergency Preparedness Training (Attendees: 25)
Held 01/25/07 – Institute on Community Integration meeting

Core Supervisor Training (Attendees: 40)
Held 4/16/07 – Centennial Building

Emergency Preparedness Training (Attendees: 20)
Held 04/20/07 – University of St. Thomas

Building Access Training (Attendees: 30)
Held 04/23/07 – University of Minnesota School of Architecture

Emergency Preparedness Training (Attendees: 25)
Held 05/15/07 – St. Paul Disability Advisory Committee

Core Supervisor Training (Attendees: 50)
Held 6/18/07 – Centennial Building

Disability Rights Training (Attendees: 20)
Held 6/19/07 – MTM Office

Disability Awareness (Attendees: 14)
Held 01/17/ 2006 – Slice of Summer

Emergency Preparedness Disability Awareness Presentation (Attendees: 65)
Held 03/13/07 – Governor's Conference on Emergency Management

Living & Aging with a Disability Presentation (Attendees: 35)
Held 09/21/06 – SCI Support Group

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Accessible Housing Presentation (Attendees: 60)
Held 02/23/07 – Handi Medical Conference

Publications

The MSCOD publishes and disseminates information on a variety of disability issues, including a *Legislative Summary*, *Access Survey*, *Responding to Disability: A Question of Attitude*, and informational brochures. On-line versions are user-friendly and accessible to all individuals. The Council also organized a legislative reference manual for legislators that contained valuable information on disability awareness, the ADA, key disability issues, and other information.

Legislation



Photo 5: MSCOD's Executive Director Joan Willshire testifying in front of the Legislature.

The MSCOD continued to advocate for individuals with disabilities at the Minnesota State Legislature. Members of the Minnesota Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (MN-CCD) were able to effectively advocate for Minnesotans with disabilities.

The MSCOD also worked with legislators to enact other disability-related legislation including:

- The removal of the MSCOD's sunset provision has now resulted in the MSCOD becoming a permanent fixture in Minnesota's baseline budget.
- Granting preference to people with disabilities and disabled veterans in housing provided by the public housing authority.
- Exploring the possibility of incorporating the adaptability design elements in the State Building Code for single family homes, duplexes, triplexes, and multi-level townhouses.
- Convening a work group to address equipment issues for safe patient handling.

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- Facilitating a statewide review of the assistive technology needs of people with disabling conditions, and seniors. The Council shall present to the chairs of the house and senate committees having jurisdiction over human services, by January 1, 2009, the recommendations.
- The Council on Disability in fiscal year 2008 is to provide \$100,000 financial support to the, Minnesota Regional Assistive Technology Collaborative, and \$200,000 is for a transfer to the commissioner of administration for the purposes of completing the state's remaining share of the local match required to access the federal Technology Related Assistance Act for Persons with Disabilities.

MSCOD Legislative letters of support written on the following issues:

Letter of Support for State Services for the Blind

Letter of Support for the "Freedom to Breathe Act"

Letter of Support for the "Seat Belt Law"

Letter of Support for MCIL for increased funding

Letter of Concern for Met Council bill SF1111

Letter of Support for Newborn Infant Hearing Screening HF1095/SF1206

Surveys and Research

- The Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities conducted a survey that had been conducted in 1966 and recreated it again to conduct the survey in 2006. MSCOD contributed to this survey. The survey was on employers' attitude regarding disability.
- Conducted Annual Customer Satisfaction Survey using Supersurvey.com, which assists the Council in determining the strategic direction. This year, we received 181 responses, higher than any previous year.
- Over 10 accessibility surveys were conducted to businesses, state agencies and others as requested.

Outreach



Photo 6: Stuart Cross answers questions at the MSCOD display booth

Display booths

Conference Information/Display Booth

May 9-10, 2007 – Association of Residential Resources in Minnesota (160 attendees)

Conference Information/Display Booth

May 18-19, 2007 – Advocating Change Together (200 attendees)

National MS Minnesota Chapter Annual Conference (500 attendees)

November, 2006 St. Paul Radisson

MSSA conference/display booth (3000 attendees)

Together Conference (90 attendees)

Social Workers Conference (75 attendees)

St. Paul Radisson

Conference Information/Display Booth

February 23rd, 2007 – Handi Medical Conference (260 attendees)

Conference Information/Display Booth

March 13-14, 2007 – Homeland Security & Emergency Management Conference (125 attendees)

Conference Information/Display Booth

March 21-23, 2007 – MSSA Training Conference & Expo (2500 attendees)

Town hall meetings

Sept. 19th, 2006: Voting, Code Changes, Disability Parking (45 attendees)

April 2nd, 2007: Transportation Town Hall Meeting (28 attendees) and 64 attendees web stream

Media Exposure

- Voting Access Presentation
09/11/06 - Disability Viewpoints Cable Show, viewing audience potential 21,000+
- Emergency Preparedness Presentation
06/11/07 - Disability Viewpoints Cable Show, viewing audience potential 21,000+
- Options Too
05/12/2007 - Cable Show - Ann Roscoe and Joan Willshire presented
- Executive Director Joan Willshire was interviewed by several newspapers, and radio and TV programs, including MPR, WCCO Channel 4 TV, and KMSP FOX Channel 9, regarding her testimony at the Veterans Home hearings.
- Monthly Access Press Advertisements

Information and Referral contacts in office via telephone: 2900

MSCOD reached over 12,000 people this year!

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

As part of our advisory capacity, staff and council members serve on a variety of boards and commissions to promote independence, participation and opportunities for individuals with disabilities. The following is a list of those boards and commissions in which staff and council members served during Fiscal Year 2006-2007.

- Access Minneapolis Advisory Committee
- Access Resource Network Committee
- Access Review Board
- Accessible Housing Information Exchange Committee
- Accessible Pedestrian Signal Advisory Committee
- Business Leadership Network
- CMIST Emergency Preparedness Committee
- Diversity Discussion Group
- DOER ACCESS Committee
- Emergency Preparedness Public Information Campaign
- HAVA Committee
- Housing Lobbyists Group
- Interagency Committee on Transportation Coordination
- Interagency Planning for Transition in Minnesota
- Library Access Committee
- LRT Central Corridor Advisory Council
- Minneapolis Cab Access Committee

- Minneapolis Legal Aid Board of Directors
- Minnesota Consortium of Citizens with Disabilities
- Minnesota Consortium of Citizens with Disabilities Housing Committee
- Northstar Commuter Rail Access Committee
- Pathways to Employment – Staff and coordinating team
- State Rehabilitation Council
- State Transition Coordination Committee
- Statewide Review Committee 5310 Grant
- Transportation Accessibility Advisory Committee
- Twins Stadium Access Committee

ADVISORY FUNCTIONS

In accordance with M.S. 256.482, Subd. 5, Sections (1), (2), (4), (6) and (7), the duties and powers of the Minnesota State Council on Disability include: to advise state elected officials, state agencies and the public on matters pertaining to public policy and programs, services, and facilities for persons who have a disability in Minnesota.

Legislature

- Advised the Legislature on the needs of voter access, healthcare, disability parking, transportation, education, housing, and Metro Mobility.

Technical Assistance and State Agency Advisories

- Voter education, election judges training on disability awareness and accessible voting equipment
- Disability parking and special plates policy to Department of Public Safety
- Disability Awareness, access and ADA employment to the Department of Employee Relations
- Consulting with Minnesota Department of Transportation
- Technical consulting on workers' compensation division of the Department of Labor Workers Compensation cases regarding home modifications.
- Consulted on building accessibility, including renovations and new construction.

MSCOD STATUTORY RESPONSIBILITIES

General Duties, MS 256.482, Subd. 5, Sections (1), (2), (4), (6) and (7) describes the powers and duties of the Minnesota State Council on Disability to include: advise state elected officials, state agencies and the public on matters pertaining to public policy and programs, services, and facilities for persons who have a disability in Minnesota.

Access Code Development, MS 16B.61, Subd. 5, Section e the commissioner of the department of administration, state building codes division is required to consult with the council on disability before any rules are proposed for adoption for current disability access requirements.

Building Code Access Appeals, MS 16B.67 the council on disability may appeal any final decision of any municipality as to the application of the code to the commissioner of administration.

State Agency Reasonable Accommodation Plan, MS 43A.191 agency affirmative action programs require the council on disability to serve in an advisory role for the department of employee relations in providing assistance with the state agency reasonable accommodation plan.

Disability Parking Certificate Restriction, 169.345, subdiv. 3 the commissioner of the department of public safety shall not issue more than three replacement certificates within any six year period without the approval of the council on disability.

Special Vehicle Variance, MS 174.30, Subd. 2, Section (c) the commissioner of the department of transportation shall consult with the council on disability before making a variance from the operating standard for special transportation services.

WC Home Modifications, MS 176.137, Subd. 4, Section 1 the council on disability advises the workers' compensation division of the department of labor and industry and the workers' compensation court of appeals as to the necessity and extent of any alteration or remodeling of an existing residence or the building or purchase of a new or different residence which is proposed by a licensed architect.

Access Review Board, MS 471.471 the council on disability has membership on the Access Review Board and advises on the installation of stairway chairlifts in buildings that could not otherwise be made more accessible.

Transportation Accessibility Advisory Committee, MS 473.386, Subd. 2, section e the council has membership on the transportation accessibility advisory committee of the metropolitan council.

School Access Improvements, MS 123B.58 the commissioner of the department of children, families & learning will consult with the council on disability when developing criteria to determine the cost-effectiveness of removing barriers in older buildings.

School Access Grants, MS 123B.69 the commissioner of the department of children, families & learning, in consultation with the council on disability, shall review applications for access grants.

Library Access Grants, MS 134.45, Subd. 2 the commissioner of the department of children, families and learning, in consultation with the council on disability may approve or disapprove access grants to public libraries for removal of architectural barriers.

Children's Development Plan, MS 145.951 the commissioner of health may in consultation with the director of the council on disability develop an implementation plan for the establishment of a statewide program to assist families in developing the full potential of their children.

Licensing Criteria, MS 148C.11 the council on disability advises on the development of special licensing criteria for issuance of a license to alcohol and drug counselors who practice with a member of the disability population.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Joan Willshire *Executive Director*

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Nadia Facey *Employment, Education, and Transportation Specialist, June 2006 to December 2006*

Gina Kiser *Pathways to Employment Communications Coordinator, June 2006 to December 2006*

John Steinbacher *June 2006 to May 2007*