



**PADDCC**

PA Developmental Disabilities Council

**State Plan  
Update  
2016**

## PADDC Mission Statement

The Council engages in advocacy, systems change and capacity building for people with developmental disabilities and their families in order to:

- ✓ Support people with disabilities in taking control of their own lives
- ✓ Ensure access to goods, services, and supports
- ✓ Build inclusive communities
- ✓ Pursue a cross-disability agenda
- ✓ Change negative societal attitudes towards people with disabilities



In so doing we will bring about benefits to individuals with disabilities other than developmental disabilities and, indeed, to all people.

## PADDC Value Statements — *Guiding Principles, What We Stand For, What We Believe*

**Empowerment** – We engage in activities which meaningfully involve people with disabilities from start to finish.

**Inclusion** – We prefer activities to be integrated with people without disabilities in regular and generic settings.

**Systems Change** – We promote activities that make wide reaching changes through broad social and cultural systems.

**Cross-disability** – We fund activities in common areas such as housing, health, employment, and community inclusion.

**Natural Part of the Human Condition** – We believe disability is a natural part of the human condition – we see disability as a difference, not a deficit.

**Intersectionality** – We believe that the skills involved in understanding disability are related to the skills of embracing all forms of diversity.

**Generic Social Change** – We work to change generic systems for all people in ways that do not relate solely to disability.

# Introduction

The objectives contained in the 2012-2016 state plan cover many areas of work as demonstrated by the word cloud below. This update covers year five of the plan cycle, and includes information from 2016.

On the following pages, we present several short summaries of project outcomes so that you may have a glimpse of the impact that the Pennsylvania Developmental Disabilities Council is making for the people living in our state.

Thank you for your interest in this very important work. Should you wish to view the entire federal report that covers all of our grant projects, you may visit [www.ddsuite.org](http://www.ddsuite.org) where the complete “*Council State Plans and Program Performance Reports*” are published.





# Public Forums and the Community Alliance Summit

The Pennsylvania Developmental Disabilities Council has realized that “doing disability” is about changing the beliefs and attitudes of the general public and embracing a commitment to diversity. When it comes to people who are “disability different,” we realize that we have much to learn from other people who are marginalized on the grounds of racial, ethnic and sexual differences, and have developed a commitment to making partnerships with other marginalized groups.

This has been a learning exercise that has expanded our approach to cross-disability thinking. The Community Alliance Summit, held in 2015 and 2016 led to new relationships amongst our membership and grantees, as well as with hundreds of representatives from diverse organizations throughout the commonwealth.

In addition to building alliances among marginalized groups, the public forums and Summit have become catalysts for collaboration, conversation and suggestions for future work such as:

1. Develop a multifaceted media campaign to both educate the general public about the history of disability rights and to push forth the stance that disability is another aspect of life, not to be pitied or belittled.
2. Pursue a concerted effort to educate professionals-in-training about the cross disability movement, disability rights and the social model of disability. This education might well be taught as college curriculum or as an in-service training, and could be most effective if provided by people with disabilities.
3. Educate younger individuals with disabilities and their families. If future leaders are to push for a more inclusive society, they will need the history and education to develop a passion for the movement.



## PADDC Impact



**3,967 students and teachers** in PA have been **trained in leadership, advocacy and self-determination.**

More than

**\$2 million** was leveraged to create affordable, accessible housing.



Polling place accessibility surveys were conducted in over **200 sites in 11 counties** using the ADA Accessibility tool.



**More than 50 accessibility site surveys** were conducted at recreational, health care, governmental, and community facilities in PA. **These data helped to leverage almost \$1 million** to complete accessibility improvements to the properties.

37 human resources professionals from 22 companies participated in peer to peer mentoring sessions on creating a more disability friendly workplace.



**1,143 individuals who are involved in grassroots disability groups** received technical assistance and training so they can **make positive change** in their communities.

Trainings were held in **Harrisburg, Pittsburgh and Philadelphia** for emergency managers, people with disabilities, and family members on Emergency Preparedness.

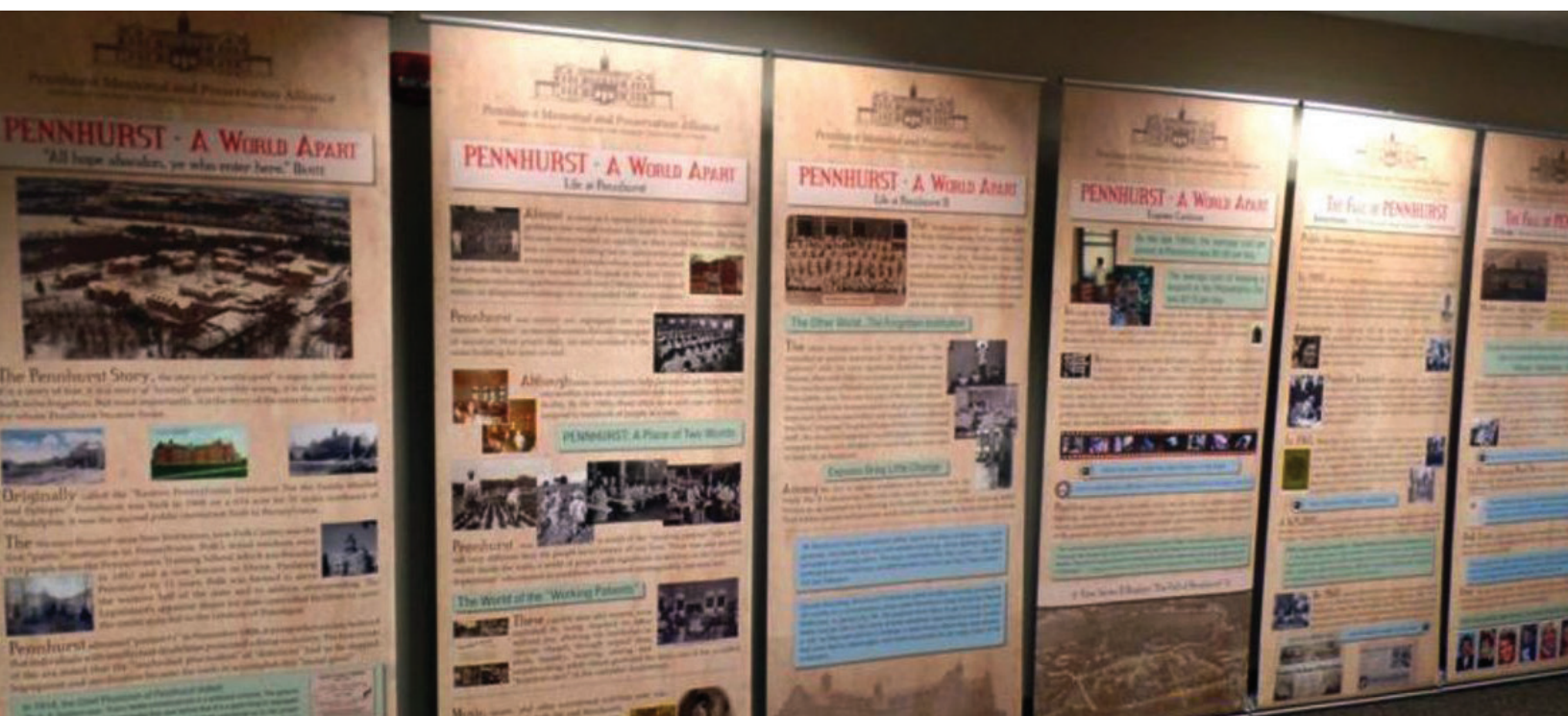
# History of Oppression

The Council established a goal to examine and memorialize the history of oppression of people with disabilities in Pennsylvania.

After the initial work of investigating the best ways to preserve artifacts and the memories of oppression experienced by people with disabilities, a 56-minute documentary film called "I Go Home" was produced. The film features 18 interviews with key human service leaders of this generation, including people with disabilities, family representatives, service workers, administrators, the press, historians, and social scientists. It premiered in March, 2016 and was broadcast on PBS stations nationwide.

The introduction reads: "For years, children with intellectual disability were not allowed in public schools. Parents were told to send their children with intellectual disability away to institutions. It was not until the late 1960s that a television expose shed light on what was happening inside the walls of institutions. It was that knowledge that fueled parents and the public to ignite change." The film may be viewed online by visiting <http://video.witf.org/video/2365712709/>

In addition to the work on the documentary, the history of oppression project developed a traveling exhibit, which has appeared at Philadelphia City Hall, the U.S. Constitution Center, Coventry Mall in Pottstown, PA, and the Russell Senate Office Building Rotunda in Washington, D.C. The appearance in Washington was sponsored by U.S. Senator Bob Casey, along with former Senator Tom Harkin and former Representative Tony Coelho (authors of the ADA). It was accompanied by a special showing of the documentary, which was attended by over 200 people, and included a panel discussion of state and national leaders on the disability rights movements.







# STIGMA PROJECT

The goal to change the negative societal attitudes toward people with disabilities, resulted in a hard-hitting, provocative, multi-media campaign.

Approximately 200 volunteers from 42 partner organizations launched the campaign by placing “thought bubbles” across the commonwealth. The bubbles were meant to smack people in the face and draw media attention. Simultaneously, a social media campaign was launched using Facebook, Twitter and a standalone web site [www.letsthinkagain.org](http://www.letsthinkagain.org). On the web site, visitors had the opportunity to test their own knowledge about stigma and whether they knowingly or unknowingly stigmatize people with disabilities. Following the quiz, people were asked to take a pledge in support of ending stigma and were encouraged to include an action they would take to help put a stop to the stigma against people with disabilities.

## The results from the campaign launch?

- ✓ The story appeared on 64 web sites, including the *Pittsburgh Business Times*, *Philadelphia Business Journal*, CNBC, Reuters and others.
- ✓ Local television stations with viewership of 273,000 covered the campaign on their broadcasts, and newspapers with readership of over 2,941,000 shared the story online and in print.
- ✓ Within the first month, the videos created had 1,649 views and 35,100 uploads; the web site had 2,108 users, the Facebook reach was 18,925 and the Twitter exposure was 10,900.
- ✓ 872 people took the Stigma Quiz and 317 people took the pledge at [www.letsthinkagain.org](http://www.letsthinkagain.org), providing more people the opportunity to educate themselves about stigma, to think again and to take action.

# **Pennsylvania Developmental Disabilities Council**

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Council Membership as of September 1, 2017