



2024

ANNUAL REPORT

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Oregon Council on
Developmental Disabilities

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www.ocdd.org



ABOUT OCDD



WE KNOW

people are most
successful when
they control their
own lives.

The Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (**The DD Act**) created Councils to conduct capacity building, systems change, and advocacy work in every US state and territory.

Our members are appointed by the Governor to serve up to two consecutive four-year terms.

WE WORK

to support
people with IDD
to pursue full
lives in their
communities.

The Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) is made up of:

► **60%**

People with Intellectual and
Developmental Disabilities (IDD)
and family members.



WE BRIDGE GAPS

in systems and
services that
strengthen self-
determination
for all people
with IDD.

- OIDD Network Partner Representatives: Disability Rights Oregon (DRO), University of Oregon (U of O) and Oregon Health and sciences University (OHSU).
- Community partners and state agencies that provide services and supports to people with developmental disabilities.

Council members work together to:

- determine the goals and objectives in our five-year plan.
- allocate funds to state plan activities.
- review our progress annually.

MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP



Oregon Council on
Developmental Disabilities

2024 - A YEAR TRANSITION AND GROWTH!

We invite you to look at our 2024 annual report to see how the Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) has worked across the state to improve the lives of people with developmental disabilities.

2024 was a year of transition and growth for our Council. OCDD added three new staff and experienced a leadership transition. What did not change was OCDD's focus and commitment to supporting individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and their families. We believe OCDD is the bridge that brings together and connects our IDD community in Oregon. We advocate for the improvement of services and supports at the state and national level with the expertise and leadership of people with developmental disabilities and family members. This past year, we invested 70% of our total funding in statewide projects which support the achievement of our five-year plan goals.

Throughout this report, there are powerful examples of activities OCDD initiated that demonstrate the ways we achieved critical objectives in our annual work plan, and created new connections between people, organizations, and our state agency on developmental disabilities. From all of us at the Council, we thank you for your work to ensure people with developmental disabilities have opportunities for rich, full lives full of hopes and possibilities.



Kelly McCauley
Chair



Eddie Plourde
Vice Chair



Brent Watkins
Interim Executive Director

OUR MISSION

We advance social and policy change so that people with developmental disabilities, their families and communities may live, work, play, and learn together.

OUR VISION

All communities welcome and value people with disabilities and their families.

WE BELIEVE

People are most successful when they control their own lives.

YEAR IN REVIEW

-- Events --

2024 SELF-ADVOCATE AND FAMILY LED EVENTS SUPPORTED BY OCDD

These events educate people about IDD services and resources while also providing peer mentoring, leadership training and advocacy opportunities.

2024 Self-Advocacy Convention

Hosted by Arc of Oregon

- OCDD supported individuals with IDD to attend and participate at the event, through transportation and lodging funding.

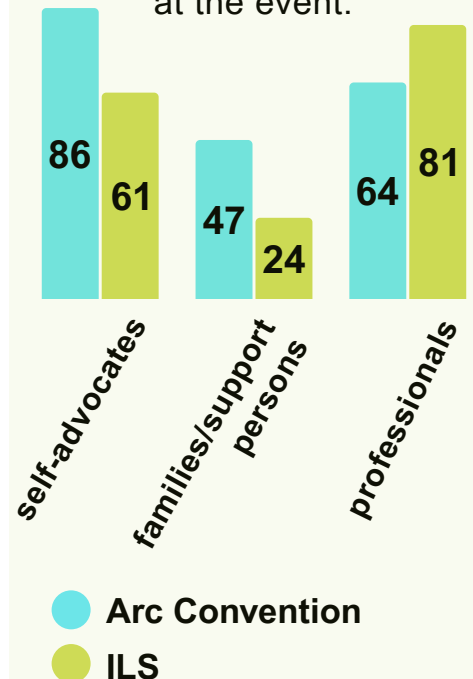
2024 Inclusive Leadership Summit

Hosted by Oregon Self Advocacy Coalition (OSAC)

- OCDD Supported transportation and lodging so people with IDD could attend and participate at the event.
- OCDD created and facilitated a hybrid option via Zoom with an interactive Zoom kiosk where those with mobility or travel limitations could attend and participate in activities and interact directly with those attending in-person.
- OCDD funded Spanish interpretation and translation for the event.

The Numbers

Attendees and participants at the event:



SELF-ADVOCATE SPOTLIGHT: ADRIANNA RICHARDSON

Adrianna is the Vice Chair of the Board of Directors of the Oregon Self Advocacy Coalition (OSAC). She attended and participated at the 2024 Inclusive Leadership Summit via Zoom

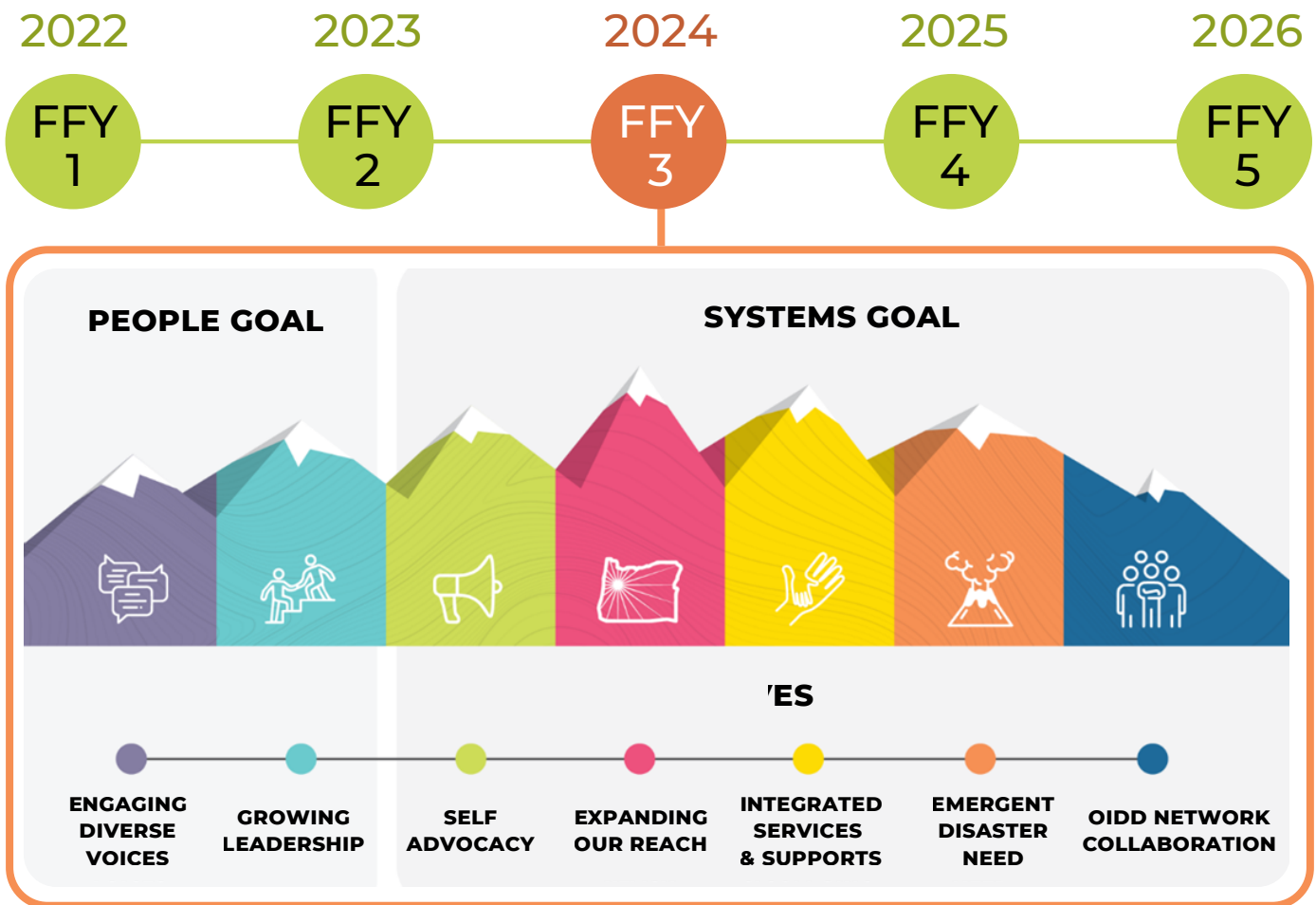
Adrianna could not attend the 2024 Inclusive Leadership Summit in person due to a physical disability. However, she was able to attend via Zoom and talk directly with participants attending in person, including Interim Director, Dana Hittle from the Office of Developmental Disability Services (ODDS).

During a session about employment challenges, the interactive kiosk provided an opportunity for Adrianna to share her experience of being denied a job as a greeter due to her disability. As a result, Dana Hittle heard Adrianna's story and connected with her after the conference to address the issue and support Adrianna in finding employment.

5-YEAR PLAN OBJECTIVES

STATE PLAN OVERVIEW

This was the third year of OCDD's 2022-26 Five-Year State Plan which addresses self-determination, independence, productivity, integration, and inclusion for people with IDD and their families.



PEOPLE GOAL

By 2026, people in the IDD community will know how to advocate for what they need in their communities to control their lives and services and feel included in all areas of their lives.

SYSTEMS GOAL

By 2026, we will use that information to support system and policy changes so people with IDD will have control of their lives and services.

PEOPLE GOAL OBJECTIVE 1

ENGAGING DIVERSE VOICES

The Council will talk, write, train and share information in a way that includes and welcomes every community in Oregon.

OCDD supported trainings, presentations, and communication efforts that reach racially, linguistically, culturally, and geographically diverse voices and experiences to engage the entire IDD community.

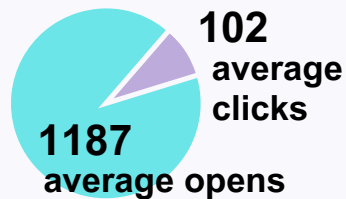
The Numbers

Supported trainings and presentations for:



Engagements and Outreach

Emails/Bulletins:



Social Media:



Videos:

524 interactions



SELF-ADVOCATE SPOTLIGHT: ANDEE JOYCE

Andee came to the Council in 2012 after receiving an autism diagnosis at age 44. Andee is a fierce self-advocate and storyteller, dedicated to inspiring others to tell their stories.

While serving on the Council from 2012-2020, Andee built leadership and advocacy skills and began to recognize that biases and assumptions about her disability had been a barrier to pursuing and fulfilling her dreams of a career in the performing arts. Serving on the Council empowered Andee to begin telling her story.



Andee is now a well-known local musician, comedian and performer through her "Rhythm and Autism" shows.

To learn more about Andee visit: www.rhythmandautism.com

Andee Joyce Video Blog (Vlog)

In June 2024, OCDD contracted Andee to produce video blogs telling her story about her experience as an artist with autism who overcame barriers to realize her dream. A common employment barrier for people with IDD is meeting specific bid requirements, such as having liability insurance. Since Andee did not have access to the required insurance, OCDD staff partnered with **Partnerships in Community Living** to provide the required insurance.

Andee is now contracted to produce inspiring videos about her experience with autism while breaking down barriers to realizing her dream and inspiring others to realize their dreams and find fulfilling employment.

PEOPLE GOAL OBJECTIVE 2

GROWING LEADERSHIP

People with developmental disabilities, their families and supporters will know how to tell their stories and advocate for what they need in their community to control their lives and services.

- OCDD supported people with IDD and their support networks to develop effective advocacy and communication skills.
- OCDD provided Significant Support Needs Listening Sessions.
- OCDD trained self-advocates to advocate and educate policymakers and community members about the lived experiences of individuals with IDD.

The Numbers

251

self-advocates

contributed to advisory or policy meetings on DD systems and supports.

21

self-advocates

trained to educate policymakers and community members.



SELF-ADVOCATE SPOTLIGHT: DANIEL ALRICK

Daniel is a dedicated advocate and leader who brings keen insight to policy and systems change work.

Daniel brought representation to the Council as the first fully self-advocate led Council in the nation, first as the Vice Chair (2017-2019) and then as the Chair (2019-2023).

Using the experience and leadership skills gained in his Council work, Daniel obtained a job as a Policy Analyst for the **Office of Developmental Disabilities Services (ODDS)**. Daniel's recommendations and program evaluation will strengthen the department's ability to support future self-advocates in state employment and serve as a model to other state agencies on supportive, competitive, and integrated employment.

In 2024, Daniel also delivered training to the Council's UCEDD partner, **Oregon Health & Sciences University**, on IDD awareness in healthcare settings. He now serves on the Board of Directors for the **Long-Term Care Ombudsman**.

SYSTEMS GOAL OBJECTIVE 1

SELF-ADVOCACY

Each year, the Council will support a self-advocacy organization, led by people with IDD. They will bring in, train, coach and guide other self-advocates and support them to join different disability organizations.

- OCDD provided support for a self-advocacy organization led by people with IDD to recruit, train, coach, and mentor other self-advocates and support their participation in cross-disability organizations.
- OCDD supported listening sessions with self-advocates across the state.
- OCDD supported meetings with advocacy groups across the state to learn about what matters to people and collaborate on taking action (Discovery Tour).
- OCDD supported self-advocates to attend and participate at the 2024 Inclusive Leadership Summit (ILS).

The Numbers

22
self-advocates
received peer support
to present at
6
statewide
conferences
and events

14 visits
to self-advocacy
groups in
7 regions
in Oregon

36
self-advocates
mentored in
leadership and
advocacy

4
self-advocates
organization quarterly
meetings supported
60
self-advocates
attended



SELF-ADVOCATE SPOTLIGHT: GABRIELLE GUEDON

Gabrielle (Gabby) is the Executive Director of the **Oregon Self Advocacy Coalition (OSAC)**, a 501(c) 3 and the leader in statewide self-advocacy.

Gabrielle is a visionary and trail blazer who is always working to grow leaders in IDD advocacy by providing guidance, mentoring and inspiration to so many individuals and families across the state.

“ **My vision for self-advocacy in Oregon is that everyone has an opportunity to communicate and advocate on topics that are important to them.** ”

The Inclusive Leadership Summit was a huge accomplishment, and we want to include even more people with diverse identities, rural areas and those who have significant support needs who can share their stories. With the continued support of the Council, we can continue advancing our mission to connect and grow self-advocates across Oregon.

SYSTEMS GOAL OBJECTIVE 2

EXPANDING OUR REACH

The Council will better serve Spanish-speaking people with IDD, their families, and communities. We will work with partners to reduce cultural and language barriers to information and services.

- ▶ OCDD reduced cultural and linguistic barriers to information, leading to better access to services for Spanish-speaking people with IDD and their families.
- ▶ Met monthly with Spanish-speaking leaders to identify shared advocacy priorities, create actionable plans, and collaborate with agencies and partners.
- ▶ Worked with a trusted Spanish translation organization to create a Spanish Language Resource guide.

The Numbers

6
family members
trained to
educate policy
makers



1
Spanish Language
Resource Guide
with
58
Collaborating
Organizations



PARENT-ADVOCATE SPOTLIGHT: ROSA BELEM OCHOA

Rosa has been Family Member Representative on the Council since 2018 and is parent of a 14-year-old son with a disability.

“With the support of OCDD, we have a guide for Spanish-speaking families to access resources from across Oregon in our language. None of these things would have been possible without the Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities.”

With the support of OCDD, more Spanish speaking families were supported to advocate leading to greater access to the **Oregon Health Plan (OHP)** and OHP services, ensuring all communities in Oregon have access to IDD services without having language barriers.

Also, with support from the Council, the Spanish Speaking Leaders Group was formed and now partners with the **Office of Developmental Disabilities Services (ODDS)** to ensure that all IDD services documents are available in Spanish, providing greater access to information and resources for Spanish-speaking individuals with IDD and their families.

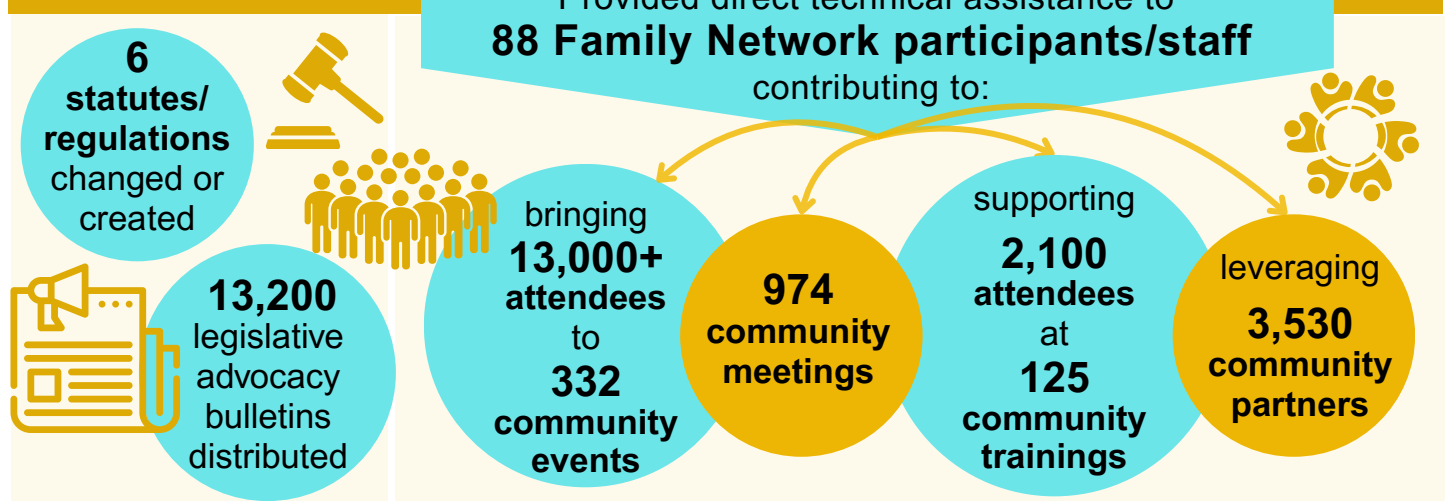
SYSTEMS GOAL OBJECTIVE 3

INTEGRATED SERVICES AND SUPPORTS

The Council works to ensure that service systems promote access to all the supports people with IDD to live the way they want in their own communities.

- ▶ Supported advocacy groups in distributing legislative advocacy bulletins.
- ▶ Influenced changes and development of statutes and regulations supporting policy and system changes for people with IDD
- ▶ OCDD provided direct technical assistance to the six (6) Oregon Consortium of Family Networks, serving 20 counties.

The Numbers



PARENT-ADVOCATE SPOTLIGHT: JULIE CHICK

Julie's journey as a powerful and dynamic parent advocate began with her family and two sons, one of whom has been in the Oregon Coastal IDD Services system since 2005.

“ I am grateful for the Council's work and opportunities to learn and develop relationships across Oregon. ”

Julie served on the Council from 2018-2022. Julie is now the Executive Director of **Sammy's Place**, nonprofit created by peer family advocates. Sammy's place operates the family-led COAST Family Network along with other work, including creating universally designed, home ownership opportunities.

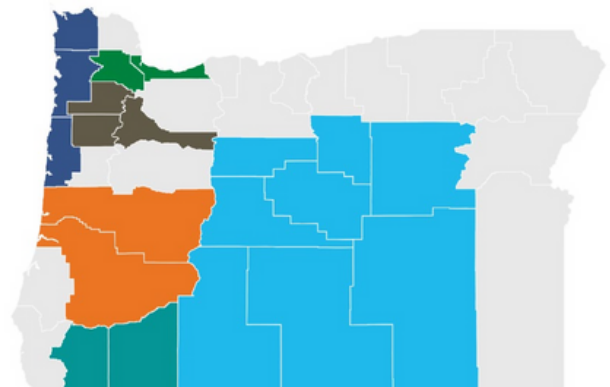
With the support provided by the Council, Julie has developed connections, gained resources and new tools to elevate the voices and self-determination of people and families experiencing intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (IDD).

Julie's innovative spirit and ideas inspire others to push the boundaries of what is possible when all people, communities and systems are ignited with a common purpose.

SUPPORTING FAMILY NETWORKS

The Oregon Consortium of Family Networks (OCFN) is made up of six (6) organizations.

OCFN receives funding and technical assistance from the Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities



SAMMY'S PLACE/COAAST NETWORK – COMMUNITIES OF ALL ABILITIES SUCCEEDING TOGETHER

Counties: Clatsop, Tillamook and Lincoln
sammysplace.info



THE ARC LANE COUNTY

Families Connected
Familias en Conexión
County: Lane
arclane.org

Families Engaging and Thriving Together (FEATT)

County: Douglas
featt.org



CENTRAL OREGON DISABILITY SUPPORT NETWORK (CODSN)

Counties: Crook, Deschutes, Grant, Harney, Jefferson, Klamath, Lake and Wheeler
www.codsn.org



FACT OREGON

Counties: Multnomah and Washington
factoregon.org



CREATING OPPORTUNITIES

Counties: Yamhill, Polk and Marion
creatingops.org



BRIDGING COMMUNITIES

Counties: Jackson and Josephine Counties
bcoregon.org



OCFN

Oregon Consortium of Family Networks



For more information, please visit:
www.ocdd.org/families-supporting-families

SYSTEMS GOAL OBJECTIVE 4

EMERGENT DISASTER NEED

Each year, the Council will identify disasters that may impact the health, safety and well-being of people with IDD and their families and take action where needed.

- OCDD continues ongoing work to keep people with IDD and families informed about potential natural disasters and health and safety concerns and remove barriers to support that may impact people with IDD and their families in Oregon.

SYSTEMS GOAL OBJECTIVE 5

OIDD NETWORK COLLABORATION

The Office on Intellectual and Developmental Disability (OIDD) Network Partners will create accessible information and offer training and support to educators and healthcare workers to educate them about disability language and the healthcare rights of people with IDD, while addressing challenges to accessing health and mental health services.

OIDD Network Partners:

UCEDDS: **University of Oregon (U of O)** and **Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU)**
Protection and Advocacy Organization: **Disability Rights Oregon (DRO)**

- OCDD supported DRO to produce the Easy Voter Guide with voting rights information, plain language candidate statements and ballot measures, and virtual presentation materials.
- OCDD provided two trainings in collaboration with the UCEDDs:
 - Self-advocates lived experience with trauma in healthcare settings (OHSU internship).
 - Self-advocates lived experience with special education and transition services (U of O).

The Numbers

34

professional trainees
trained

7

self-advocates
supported to
give training
to

9

Health
Interns

18

Special Ed
teachers



SELF-ADVOCATE SPOTLIGHT: JUSTIN CONNOLLY

Justin is a strong advocate for community inclusion and self-determination, having served as Chair of [Oregon Self Advocacy Coalition \(OSAC\)](#) since 2022.

Justin has served as a key member on the Employment First Stakeholder Policy Group through the State of Oregon since 2013. His voice in legislative testimony led to the implementation of the ABLE Act and Employment First in Oregon.

With the support of the Council in 2024, Justin delivered training to 162 people with disabilities, allies, community partners, organizations, and state employees about the importance of community living in light of the history of institutionalization in Oregon and the passage of the Olmstead Act.

He also led training and discussion about self-advocacy for the Council's UCEDD partner, the University of Oregon (U of O). One of the 14 student attendees who was training to become a special education teacher said:



Today's class (led by self-advocates) was one of the best classes I've had in my master's program.



COUNCIL MEMBERS



Kelly McCauley
Chair



Eddie Plourde
Vice Chair

Self-advocate Representatives

Kelly McCauley, Chair
Eddie Plourde, Vice Chair
Felicity Woods
Laura Estreich

Family Member Representatives

Dr. Jennifer Luebke
Joe Carroll
Jodi Seale
John Saito
Maria Rangel Romero
Nicola Spears
Paulina Larenas
Randall Wagenmann
Rosa Belem Ochoa

OIDD Network Partner Representatives

Dr. Christen Knowles
University of Oregon (UCEDD)
Rhonda Eppelsheimer
Oregon Health & Science University
(UCEDD)
Jake Cornett
Disability Rights Oregon (Protection
and Advocacy Organization)

Community Partners and Agency Representatives

Corissa Neufeldt
Oregon Department of Human
Services Aging and People with
Disabilities Program
Pennie Hartley
Vocational Rehabilitation
Kristen Darmody
Oregon Health Authority
Laura Petschauer
Oregon Department of Education
Dr. Benjamin Hoffmann
Oregon Center for Children and
Youth with Special Health Needs
Krista Smith
IDD Services Provider
Daniel Peccia
Oregon Community Brokerages
Kirsten Oster
Community Developmental Disability
Program

Current OCDD Members as of May 1st, 2025



Oregon Council on
Developmental Disabilities

COUNCIL STAFF



Oregon Council on
Developmental Disabilities



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Kate Thompson
Operations Administrator
kate.thompson@ocdd.org

**There are
many benefits to
being a Council
member.**



**Join the
Council Today!**

Call or email us for an
application.

For more information
scan the QR Code below
or visit:

[www.ocdd.org/become
-a-council-member/](http://www.ocdd.org/become-a-council-member/)



@OrCouncilDD

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developmental-disabilities



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Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities

In Memory of

ROSS RYAN

February 20, 1969 - April 3, 2024



“Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid.”

– Albert Einstein

This was the quote that Ross shared on his bio page for the **Oregon Self Advocacy Coalition (OSAC)**. Ross was the Policy Director for OSAC where he was paid to be an advocate for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in many state leadership committees.

To Learn more about the Oregon Self Advocacy Coalition visit:
www.askosac.org



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