

Background:

TCDD’s mission statement expresses the Council’s belief that that all people with disabilities should be fully included in their communities. The FY 2012-2016 State Plan follows up on this belief with action: two of the Council’s seven goals focus on working with others to develop inclusive communities that welcome and support people with developmental disabilities.

One of the strategies that other DD Councils have been exploring as a way of creating inclusive communities is Asset Based Community Development (ABCD). ABCD is a model that allows people to uncover and use the strengths that already exist within communities as a means of sustainable development.

The Georgia DD Council has been using principles of ABCD to connect people with developmental disabilities and their organizations to other citizens and their associations to act collectively on community issues. The goals of their “Real Communities” initiative are:

- **Create real, positive changes** that improve life in the community for all, based on a thoughtful and well informed answer to the question, *What does our community need from us?*
- **Build strong bridges** to community associations, leaders, and alliances that reach outside the boundaries of disability so that a wider network benefits from the energy and gifts of people with developmental disabilities and their families, so that people with disabilities will have more people to count on.
- **Create a sustainable model of community-based family support** that is based on collaboration and ABCD which appropriately addresses the needs of unserved or underserved families with developmental disabilities inclusive with their community partners who do not have a disability.
- **Learn about how to make real changes** in a way that moves from “me” to “we” and creates a great awakening to the assets that every community has.

At the Committee of the Whole meeting, Eric Jacobson, Executive Director of the Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities, will present information about how their Council evolved into using this model to develop Real Communities and the results they have achieved.

Eric will also be available throughout the TCDD quarterly meeting.

If you are interested in reading more about Asset Based Community Development, the following websites are suggested:

<http://www.abundantcommunity.com/>

<http://www.gcdd.org/real-communities.html>

<http://www.abcdinstitute.org/>

Committee of the Whole

Expected Action:

Agenda Item 3.

The Committee will receive the presentation.

Project Development Committee

Expected Action:

Agenda Item 7.

The Committee will have further discussion on this topic.

Public Policy Committee

Expected Action:

Agenda Item 6.

The Committee will have further discussion on this topic.