

January 2011

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The Rehab Council Connection



A Quarterly e-Newsletter

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Martin McCallum
Olympia

Leandro Razo
Grandview



Hudson to Chair Council in 2011



Mike Hudson, Council Chair

On January 21, Mike Hudson was elected to serve as the 2011 Chair of the Washington State Rehabilitation Council. Hudson, of Bellingham, has represented business and industry on the Council for a year and a half. He brings a depth of experience, enthusiasm and a fresh perspective to the role of Council Chair.

Mike Hudson was born and raised in Longview. He joined the Washington Army National Guard straight out of high school. While serving in the Army he had an assignment with an artillery unit before working as a radio and TV officer. He also worked in radio in civilian life and later marketing. Hudson entered the next phase of his career working with credit unions. This work took him from Washington State to Michigan and then Wisconsin. He developed marketing materials used widely by various credit unions before moving into a management role. Mike Hudson returned to Washington to be President CEO of North Coast Credit Union.

Hudson now works for the Association of Washington Business Institute. The institute is a non-profit organization affiliated with the Association of Washington Business (AWB) which is our state's chamber of commerce. AWB is a membership driven organization representing 2,500 employers that range in size from Weyerhaeuser to the mom and pop shop down the street. The non-profit institute that Mike Hudson works for cultivates partnerships and focuses on workforce development issues. Hudson is knowledgeable about workforce development issues that extend beyond DVR's scope. Since being appointed to the WSRC he has invested a great deal of time and personal energy to thinking about employment for people with disabilities. Some of his interest in the topic may be attributed to his firsthand experience with Bipolar Disorder, but it is also fueled by an ongoing interest in helping employers access untapped talent. Outside of work Mike and his wife Fran have two daughters, Emily and Kate.

Hudson brings a curiosity about how social media might be used by people with disabilities to bolster contemporary job searches, to his Council service. We look forward to Mike Hudson's leadership in 2011.



SAVE THE DATES

Next Quarterly Meeting

April 28-29, 2011

All activities are open to the public and will be held at:

Best Western Lakeway Inn & Conference Center

714 Lakeway Dr.
Bellingham, WA 98229

Customer Forum

April 28th

3:00-5:00pm

ASL Interpretation provided

Reasonable accommodation will be happily provided upon request by contacting JoAnne Lang at: lanjkk@dshs.wa.gov

or

by calling 360-725-3692.

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- Developing a shared understanding with DVR about which data points and other information will guide our dialogue about program evaluation and improvement for 12-18 months;
- Educating decision makers about the important role of comparable benefits, particularly community-based mental health services, play in achieving rehabilitation;
- Conducting a survey to obtain customer input about how to improve VR services and;
- Advocating for the budgetary and programmatic integrity of DVR.

WSRC members and staff thank Paul Dzedzic of the Center for Continuing Education in Rehabilitation for facilitating a process that led us to identify these priorities. Funding from the TACE grant paid for the constructive facilitation.



National Disability Rights Network's Board President-Elect, Addresses WSRC



Michael T. Bailey of Portland Oregon is the President-Elect of NDRN. He is the author of *Special Education: a Parent's Guide for Children's Success*

Michael T. Bailey is the first to admit he knew next to nothing about disability before the birth of his first daughter, Eleanor, 21 years ago. That changed as he navigated a maze of service systems to support her success. Bailey, then a practicing defense attorney began to notice that the biggest barriers people with disabilities face are not created by their health. It's discrimination that poses the biggest barrier.

Michael Bailey is no stranger to political activism or to struggles for civil rights. He was involved with the American Indian Movement at Pine Ridge in the 1970s. The barriers facing people with disabilities that Bailey finds most troubling are not the ones that many people are comfortable acknowledging. For example: social isolation and segregation, the way that the potential of people with disabilities is often underestimated, and the pervasive policy and social presumption that disability is unnatural and ought to be fixed. These barriers reveal more about the dominant view of people with disabilities than about the people themselves.

Now a veteran of disability systems advocacy, Michael Bailey was recently elected to serve as the next Board President of the National Disability Rights Network (NDRN). NDRN is the national arm of the *Protection and Advocacy System* which has a presence in each state and the territories. NDRN pursues litigation to secure remedies for instances when the civil rights of people with disabilities are violated. It also lobbies at a federal level for more progressive policies regarding housing, education, and employment for people with disabilities.

The WSRC invited Michael Bailey to help us achieve a key objective during our January quarterly meeting. We wanted to assess how well our work links to core values. Listening to Bailey explore how he arrived at the principles that guide his policy advocacy invited us to reflect on our own experiences and values. Bailey's moral compass regarding disability advocacy is centered on breaking down social isolation and segregation, challenging low expectations, and the notion that disability is unnatural. He doesn't mince words. Bailey stated, "If a policy does any of those three things, it should be condemned."

Although Michael Bailey possesses high ideals he is not idealistic. He understands that the nation's budget crisis is not easily solved and recognizes that it drives decision making at the federal and state level. Still, he argued in favor of projecting a progressive vision for what we hope to accomplish in the next phase of the movement for civil rights for people with disabilities. The WSRC appreciates Michael Bailey's insights and the gift of his time.

SUGGESTED READING:



The National Disability Rights Network just released a report entitled *Segregated & Exploited: the Failure of the Disability Service System to Provide Quality Work*. The report calls for: an end to segregated and subminimum wage employment; increased labor protection and enforcement, and; the promotion and facilitation of integrated employment.

To read the full report visit:

<http://www.ndrn.org/images/Documents/Resources/Publications/Reports/Segregated-and-Exploited.pdf>

WELCOME TO OUR RECENTLY APPOINTED MEMBERS

Please join continuing members and staff to the WSRC as we welcome our recently appointed colleagues:

Jana Finkbonner
Of Bellingham
Representing Tribal
Vocational
Rehabilitation

Leandro Razo
Of Grandview
Representing current
or former customers of
Vocational
Rehabilitation

Learn more about our work
in 2010 by visiting:
<http://wastrehabcouncil.org/annualReports.html>

Offer of coffee
from WSRC staff
still available to
1st DVR Area 2
staffer who
comments on
annual report



Washington Access Fund Makes Independence More Affordable

Unfortunately some DVR customers are living on next to nothing. And nothing is shrinking all the time. If DVR is unable to purchase equipment for a customer, there may be an alternative. The Washington Access Fund may be a support to acquire what is needed.

Washington Access Fund (WAF) is a non-profit organization promoting access to technology and economic opportunity for Washingtonians with disabilities. They offer a range of services including: low interest loans for home or vehicle modifications; low interest loans for equipment needed to start or expand a business or to work from

home, and; matched savings or individual development accounts or purchase assistive technology to facilitate work or education intended to lead to work. WAF also makes long-term, low cost loans of Closed Circuit TV Magnifiers available to people with vision loss.

WAF is recognized by the U.S. Department of Treasury as a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI). CDFI's provide loans and other financing services to low income individuals and communities. WAF has made over 270 loans since its inception-- lending approximately \$975,000. Most WAF clients are low income. Nearly 70% fall below 80% of the statewide median income. WAF nevertheless, 98% of the money lent is repaid.

**TO LEARN MORE
ABOUT
WASHINGTON
ACCESS FUND :**

visit:

<http://www.washingtonaccessfund.org>

Voice: 206.328.5116

**Toll Free:
877-428-5116**

TTY: 1.888.808.8942

info@washingtonaccessfund.org

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FROM CYBERSPACE**