

NASDDDS Announces Key Staff Appointments

The National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS) announces the appointment of Barbara Brent as Director of State Policy and Tammie Amsbaugh as Program Specialist for the State Employment Leadership Network (SELN). These two appointments bring knowledge and skills that will significantly enhance the capacity of NASDDDS to support member state agencies.



Tammie Amsbaugh, SELN Program Specialist (left) and Barbara Brent, Director of State Policy (right)

Barbara Brent, Director of State Policy

Barbara Brent started as the Director of State Policy on December 5, 2011, and comes with more than 26 years of experience working to better the lives of people with developmental disabilities including 15 years in various state agencies. Brent has served for the past 10 years in the Arizona Department of Economic Security: the last five years as the Director of the Division of Developmental Disabilities and for the previous five years as the Deputy Director of the Division. From 1997-2001 Brent served in the state of Tennessee Division of Developmental Disabilities as the divisional Assistant Deputy Commissioner and ultimately as the Deputy Commissioner. Brent's previous experience includes serving as Executive Director of the Rocky Mountain Resource and Training Institute, University of Colorado Health Sciences Center; Director of the Oregon Supported Employment Initiative; director of a provider agency; a consultant in Europe and a Project Manager for People with Disabilities in Belize, Central America, for the Peace Corps. She has a master's degree in special education from Portland State University and a B.S. in psychology from the University of Idaho.

With experience managing the first comprehensive statewide managed care program for 25,000 people with developmental disabilities that includes acute care, behavioral health and DD services with over 86 percent of the people in service living with their families or homes of their own, Brent positions NASDDDS to provide assistance to states as they prepare for the future. As Director of State Policy, Brent will manage state information products such as *Community Services Reporter*, ListServ queries, training and conferences, special studies and reports, and the attorneys' group. She will also join the NASDDDS technical assistance team and be available to state agencies on topics such as administering a managed care system, developing services that support family care givers, and autism services.

Tammie Amsbaugh, SELN Program Specialist

Tammie Amsbaugh joined NASDDDS as the Program Specialist for the State Employment Leadership Network (SELN) in October. Amsbaugh comes with a strong background in human resource management, with more than 25 years of experience in the private sector. For the past six years Amsbaugh has worked in the public sector at the state level in Iowa on policy development and implementation for community inclusion, employment, and self-sufficiency for people impacted by disability. NASDDDS has engaged in a contractual relationship with the University of Iowa, Center for Disabilities and Development for Amsbaugh to work on SELN project.

A lifelong Iowan, Amsbaugh graduated from Drake University. Her early career was spent with an employment and training agency for disadvantaged youth and adults, moving into a human resources role in recruiting and staffing in a hospital setting, then salary and employee benefits management in the insurance industry. In 2004, Amsbaugh joined the University of Iowa's Center for Disabilities and Development. She started out working on financial literacy, asset building and employment for persons with disabilities. Presently Amsbaugh is working in a contract relationship with the Iowa Department of Human Services on the Medicaid Infrastructure Grant and Pre Admission Screening and Resident Review (PASRR). 