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Annual BSDDNN (Massachusetts) Report April 2006 to April 2007

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We welcome Carol as liaison replacing Brenda Zolli, RN, CDDN who many of you know for all her efforts on behalf of BSDDNN and the wonderful articles she contributed to the DDNA newsletter and the Exceptional Parent Magazine. Brenda has retired and is now pursuing a different path in her journey through life. We extend our most sincere thanks to Brenda for all she has done for BSDDNN and DDNA and wish her the very best in her latest endeavors.

NOMINATIONS are still open for First and Second Vice President and Treasurer

MEMBERSHIP:

We currently have 81 members, including one honorary member, Bruce Kickery. Many of the BSDDNN nurses have their certification (CDDN or DDC).

The membership fee of \$20.00, has remained the same and is due by the time of the annual conference in the fall (BSDDNN members receive a discounted registration fee).

CONFERENCES:

8th ANNUAL BSDDNN CONFERENCE

October 20, 2006: Title – *Join Us in Our Universe – Using Creativity While Working with People with Developmental Disabilities*

Over 100 nurses attended, several from out of state. This was a memorable and enjoyable day. Our main speaker was Warren Dahlin, Jr., MS, OTR/L, LSW, a professor in Health Care Administration at Stonehill College, who has worked with people with DD. His lively presentation included lecture, as well as case studies and activities, motivating everyone to move, talk, participate and learn.

The keynote speaker was our very own Sharon Oxx, RN, CDDN, Director of Health Services, Office of Quality Management in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Mental Retardation. She explored how DD nurses have been catalysts for change in the past and how we continue an essential innovative role using our inventive and creative ideas. She brought her usual wisdom, humor and vast experience to the presentation.

UPCOMING 9TH ANNUAL BSDDNN CONFERENCE – SAVE THE DATE

October 5, 2007: Title – *Sexuality and People with Developmental Disabilities*

We are delighted that **Dave Hingsburger**, well known internationally for his presentations and publications on sexuality and people with developmental disabilities, will be presenting a day-long educational program on an issue that is of utmost importance to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Dave Hingsburger will address the issue of sexuality of a wide range of people with intellectual disabilities, including persons who are more cognitively involved. He will also cover information on sexual victimization. Using case examples, the conference sessions will convey information regarding the needs of both individuals with disabilities and professionals in dealing with this explosive area, and will highlight the effect fears and attitudes have on the sexuality of people with developmental disabilities.

We are also honored that Terry Broda, RN, BScN, PHCNP, CDDN, President of DDNA will be doing an introductory presentation. Please plan to join us for a very stimulating and thought-provoking day!

The conference will be held at the Holiday Inn in Marlboro, Massachusetts. A block of rooms have been reserved at a discounted rate for the night before and the night of the conference. It will not only be a great educational experience, but it is also a wonderful opportunity for you to stay for the weekend and enjoy the Massachusetts fall foliage. Please save the date and join us on October 5th

MEETINGS

Some meetings are held during the daytime and some in the evening to accommodate the various nursing schedules and responsibilities. The daytime meetings have been held at the Norwood, MA library and the evening meetings are held at various sites throughout the state to allow more nurses to attend. Arrangements are made to have speakers cover various topics of interest and to offer contact hours. The meetings have also been a way to network and share resources. Refreshments are provided. Non-members are welcome as a means of encouraging participation on the national (D.D.N.A.), as well as state (BSDDNN) level, and certification is strongly promoted.

Several additional conference planning meetings have taken place in between the regular meetings.

May 2006

We were very fortunate to have Sharon Oxx, RN, CDDN present at our May meeting on *The Home and Community Services Information System (HCSIS) and Its' Benefits to the DD Nurse*. Sharon's presentation, and the discussion that followed, helped the nurses better understand how to implement this system.

June 2006

Our speaker was Dr John Julian, Psychiatrist from Massachusetts General Hospital, who also consults with many DD programs in the state. His talk on *Psychopharmacological Approaches to the Autistic Spectrum* was very informative and well attended by nurses at the BSDDNN meeting co-sponsored with New England Residential Services at the Hogan Regional Center in Danvers, MA.

November 2006

Janet Roxborough, NP, who is always willing to share her expertise, provided an interactive presentation on *Autoimmune Disorders in People with Developmental Disabilities*, an area that is often overlooked in people with DD.

March 2007

Gina Hunt, RN shared with the group the method she uses to teach direct support staff the Massachusetts' revised Medication Administration Program (MAP), using techniques that she gained from Michelle Deck, who many of you know from her presentation not only at our network conference, but at one of DDNA's annual conferences and New York's annual network conference.

June 7, 2007

Our April meeting had to be rescheduled to June due to the usual unpredictable snowy weather that is known to occur even in the New England springtime. We are extremely privileged to have as speaker Randy Frost, PhD, a renowned expert on obsessive compulsive disorders, from Smith College, Northampton, MA. His presentation will be about *Treating Compulsive Hoarding in People with DD*. The meeting will be hosted by The Association For Community Living, Family Support Division in Northampton MA

June 14, 2007

Jim Barribeault continues to arrange an annual meeting, which is co-sponsored with New England Residential Services at the Hogan Regional Center in Danvers, MA. This time he has arranged for Linda Molchan RN, MSN to present an *Overview of the Sexual Assault Exam Addressing Issues with Patients Who Have Developmental Disabilities*. Linda is the Trauma Nurse Coordinator at Lawrence General Hospital and the Northeast Regional Coordinator for the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE) Program in Massachusetts.