

*2011 Annual Report  
of the  
American Association on Intellectual  
and Developmental Disabilities*

April 2012

American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities  
501 Third Street, NW, Suite 200  
Washington DC 20001  
202-387-1968  
[www.aaid.org](http://www.aaid.org)



American Association  
on Intellectual and  
Developmental Disabilities

## **Mission**

AAIDD promotes progressive policies, sound research, effective practices, and universal human rights for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

## **Principles**

AAIDD has a 13-point set of principles (or *core values*) relative to its mission:

- Achieving full societal inclusion and participation of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- Advocating for equality, individual dignity, and other human rights.
- Expanding opportunities for choice and self-determination.
- Influencing positive attitudes and public awareness by recognizing the contributions of people with intellectual disabilities.
- Promoting genuine accommodations to expand participation in all aspects of life.
- Aiding families and other caregivers to provide support in the community.
- Increasing access to quality health, education, vocational, and other human services and supports.
- Advancing basic and applied research to prevent or minimize the effects of intellectual disability and to enhance quality of life.
- Cultivating and providing leadership in the field.
- Seeking a diversity of disciplines, cultures, and perspectives in our work.
- Enhancing skills, knowledge, rewards and conditions of people working in the field.
- Encouraging promising students to pursue careers in the field of disabilities.
- Establishing partnerships and strategic alliances with organizations that share our values and goals.

## **Goals**

AAIDD's goals are to

- Enhance the capacity of professionals who work with individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- Participate in the development of a society that fully includes individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- Build an effective, responsive, well-managed, responsibly-governed, and sustainable organization.



## Structure

AAIDD is a membership organization, governed by a Board of Directors elected by the membership and including four Officers, four Directors-at-Large, and the Immediate Past President. The components of the Association are the following:

- Regional, state, and provincial *Chapters*. Each region participates in the Assembly of Regions. The chairperson and delegates represent each region.
- *Divisions*, which typically represents disciplinary, profession-specific, or special interests. Members of each professional interest Division elect a president to a two-year term. The presidents of the divisions make up the Conference of Professional Interests.
- *Standing Committees*. The composition criteria and the charges for standing committees are articulated in the bylaws; standing committees currently consist of Awards & Fellowship and the Nominations and Elections Committees.
- *Action Networks and Special Interest Groups* are described in the bylaws as groups that represent interest areas of concern to AAIDD members.
- The *Assembly of Regions* represents the geographical regions of North America.
- The *Conference of Professional Interests* represents the many different professions represented in our multidisciplinary organization.
- Other groups—including task forces, ad hoc committees, etc.—deemed necessary by the Board.

The day-to-day activities needed to support and maintain the Association are carried out by the national office personnel.

## Functions

The major functions of the Association are to

- Support its members' leadership in activities that affect people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- Publish and promote cutting-edge research, tools, and materials that inform policy and practice.
- Develop and implement educational opportunities for professionals, policymakers, and others.
- Engage in activities that promote progressive public policy.

### AAIDD Staff

**Margaret A. Nygren, EdD**  
Executive Director

**Paul D. Aitken, CPA**  
Director, Finance & Administration

**Ravita Maharaj, PhD**  
Director, Supports Intensity Scale Program

**Lisa M. O'Hearn, MA**  
Director, Publications Program

**Danielle Webber, MSW**  
Manager, Educational Programs

**Saihanjula He, MA**  
SIS Training Manager

**Ajith Mathew**  
Contracts Manager

**Maria Alfaro**  
Meeting Planner/Web Manager

**Jason Epstein**  
Communications Coordinator

**Michelle Hart**  
Accountant

**Lisa Culp-Neikirk**  
Staff Editor

## Summary of 2011 Activities

### Membership

#### *Divisions, Special Interest, Action, and Other Groups*

AAIDD welcomed two new professional interest groups in 2011: the Research Division and the Student and Early Career Professionals Special Interest Group, bringing its total number of unique interest groups to 24.

#### *Chapters and Regions*

AAIDD is organized into 10 Regions, and further within these regions into state and provincial Chapters for members to share information, advocate for shared goals, and otherwise implement the mission of AAIDD. In 2011, Chapters and Regions hosted meetings, disseminated information, and educated stakeholders on issues important to people with disabilities and their families.

#### *Fellows*

AAIDD recognizes members who have made meritorious contributions to the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities with the status of Fellow; AAIDD bylaws limit eligibility to run for Vice President to those with Fellow status.

In 2011, AAIDD honored seven members with the designation of Fellow of the Association; these individuals joined the ranks of more than 250 FAAIDD.

#### *30-Year Members*

In 2011, AAIDD recognized 30 individuals for their 30 years of continuous membership in the Association.

### Communications

AAIDD routinely communicated with its members and others in 2011 through the following electronic vehicles:

- *Member Update*, a weekly update on time-sensitive professional development opportunities.
- *Field Notes*, a monthly survey of peer-reviewed articles to help promote the translation of research to practice.
- *FYI*, a monthly update on AAIDD resources, activities, and educational offerings.
- *Fellow Insider*, a quarterly communication to Fellows of the Association to support their continued engagement in the field and mentoring of the next generation of leaders.

### Board of Directors

In 2011, the Board fulfilled its ongoing governance functions. Activities included engaging in strategic planning; monitoring the financial status of the Association; securing an auditor; reaffirming socially responsible investment policies; securing and appointing a journal editor; and reviewing and acting on position statements, action plans, nominations.

### Annual Meeting

The 135th annual meeting of the Association was held in conjunction with the annual conference in June 2011 in St. Paul, Minnesota. Activities included an open membership meeting and meetings of the Assembly of Geographic Regions and the Conference of Professional Interests.

### Midwinter Leadership Meeting

Held in Orlando, Florida, in December 2011, the Midwinter Leadership meeting was a forum for the Board and leaders of Chapters, Regions, and Professional Interest Groups to address pressing issues in the Association.

## Summary of 2011 Activities

### Education

In 2011, the Association

- Held its annual conference, with the theme *Inclusive Communities: Pathways to Realizing the Vision*, for approximately 600 attendees.
- Co-sponsored four national conferences to advance the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities: *US–Nordic International Conference on Intellectual Disabilities*, *Alliance for Full Participation*, *11th Annual Coleman Institute Conference*, and *ANCOR Technology Leadership Summit*.
- Hosted or co-hosted webinars on environmental health, autism, inclusion, and promoting health for people with disabilities.
- Partnered with The Arc of the US on its Autism NOW project to make publicly available resources and information that promote community-based services and supports for people with autism spectrum disorders and other developmental disabilities.
- Led a research delegation of 24 members to Cuba.

### Supports Intensity Scale® (SIS®)

Published by AAIDD, the SIS® is a valid and reliable assessment tool that measures the practical support needs of adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. As of the close of 2011, the SIS® has been adopted by 23 US states and Canadian provinces and is in use in 22 countries.

In 2011, AAIDD activities related to the SIS® included the following:

- Supporting online data collection and storage.
- Training in the use of SIS® and assuring quality.
- Conducting SIS® assessments.
- Norming a new and related tool, SIS for Children.
- Developing a refreshed SIS for Adults.

### Public Policy

AAIDD promoted progressive public policies in 2011 by:

- Co-sponsoring the 2011 *Disability Policy Seminar* with five other national organizations on key policy issues important to people with disabilities and their families.
- Actively participating in the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities, a coalition of about 100 national disability organizations working together to advocate for national policies that ensure self-determination and inclusion of people with disabilities in society.
- Filing Amicus Curiae briefs with the Supreme Court of the United States on death penalty cases involving individuals with intellectual disability.
- Submitting comments on proposed federal regulations.
- Providing commentary in the public press on issues important to the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities.

### Publications

In 2011, the Board appointed Dr. Glenn Fujiura as Editor of one of the Association's journals, *Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities*. The *American Journal on Intellectual and Developmental Disability* continued under the Editorship of Dr. Len Abbeduto.

One new title was added to the Association's catalog in 2011: *Forging a Federal-State Partnership: A History of State and Federal Disability Policy*, a study of revolutionary changes in public policy in intellectual disability over the past 50 years.

Additional titles and assessment tools were under development in 2011 and scheduled for publication in 2012 and 2013.

At the close of 2011, the 11th edition of our flagship manual, *Intellectual Disability: Definition, Classification, and Systems of Support*, had been published in six languages.

**AAIDD Statement of Financial Activities for  
Years Ending December 31, 2011 and 2010**

|  | 2011               | 2010               |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>REVENUE, GAINS, AND OTHER SUPPORT</b>       |                    |                    |
| Product and Service Sales                      | \$2,054,893        | \$1,346,833        |
| Subscriptions                                  | \$733,852          | \$707,723          |
| Dues   | \$375,578          | \$497,262          |
| Fees   | \$714,983          | \$411,937          |
| Grants, Awards, and Donations                  | \$462,588          | \$245,117          |
| Reprints and Royalties                         | \$65,423           | \$62,144           |
| Investment Income                              | \$97,866           | \$122,737          |
| Miscellaneous                                  | \$34,636           | \$32,741           |
| Rental Income                                  | \$12,581           | \$6,000            |
| Advertising                                    | 2,320              | \$626              |
| <b>TOTAL REVENUE, GAINS, AND OTHER SUPPORT</b> | <b>\$4,554,720</b> | <b>\$3,433,120</b> |
|  |                    |                    |
| <b>EXPENSES</b>                                |                    |                    |
| Membership                                     | \$162,622          | \$300,546          |
| Education and Training                         | \$721,947          | \$386,867          |
| Products and Services                          | \$2,214,809        | \$2,110,590        |
| Management and Governance                      | \$420,441          | \$419,768          |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>                          | <b>\$3,519,819</b> | <b>\$3,217,741</b> |
|  |                    |                    |
| <b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>                    | <b>\$1,034,901</b> | <b>\$215,379</b>   |
|  |                    |                    |
| <b>NET ASSETS—Beginning of Year</b>            | <b>\$1,386,407</b> | <b>\$1,171,028</b> |
| <b>NET ASSETS—End of Year</b>                  | <b>\$2,421,308</b> | <b>\$1,386,407</b> |



## 2011–2012 AAIDD Board of Directors

***President: Sharon C. Gomez, FAAIDD***

Vice President–Operations, Central Region, Evergreen Presbyterian Ministries, Inc., Lake Charles, Louisiana

***President-Elect: Marc. J. Tassé, PhD, FAAIDD***

Professor, Departments of Psychology and Psychiatry, Ohio State University, Columbus  
Director, Nisonger Center at Ohio State University, a University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities

***Vice President: James R. Thompson, PhD, FAAIDD***

Professor, Department of Special Education, Illinois State University, Normal, Illinois

***Secretary-Treasurer: Patti N. Martin, MEd***

Executive Director, Montgomery 310 Board, Montgomery, Alabama

***Past President: Michael L. Wehmeyer, PhD, FAAIDD***

Professor, Department of Special Education, University of Kansas, Lawrence  
Director, Kansas University Center on Developmental Disabilities, a University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities  
Associate Director, Beach Center on Disability, University of Kansas

***At-Large Members***

***Sandra L. Friedman, MD, MPH, FAAIDD***

Section Head, Neurodevelopmental and Behavioral Pediatrics, The Children’s Hospital, Aurora, Colorado  
Associate Professor, University of Colorado School of Medicine, Aurora, Colorado

***Amy Hewitt, PhD, FAAIDD***

Director, Research and Training Center on Community Living, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis


***Denis W. Keyes, PhD, FAAIDD***

Professor of Special Education, Department of Teacher Education, College of Charleston, Charleston, South Carolina

***Peter J. Smith, MD, MA, FAAIDD***

Assistant Professor, Pediatrics, University of Chicago  
Associate Director, Illinois LEND training program, University of Illinois–Chicago





The American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) is the oldest and largest interdisciplinary organization of professionals and others concerned about intellectual and related disabilities.

Founded in 1876 to discuss all questions relating to the causes, conditions, and statistics of intellectual and developmental disabilities and to develop best practices in education and services, today AAIDD represents a wide variety of professionals and others in the United States, Canada, and more than 50 other countries.

AAIDD members are united by the ideal that each person with a disability has the right to develop personal potential to the maximum extent possible, to satisfy his or her individual needs and preferences, and to become an independent and useful member of the community.

