



FISCAL YEAR 2011

June 30 2010-July 1 2011

# ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE REPORT

YOUR POLICY TRAINING AND TECHNICAL RESOURCE

## Upcoming Initiatives

- Working with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to identify and promote the accessibility features at our Minnesota State Parks.
- Working with the Mixed Blood Theater on submitting a grant to the National Endowment of the Arts to ensure physical and programmatic accessibility to its shows.
- Partnering with state agencies to improve their Affirmative Actions recruitment for people with disabilities.

## MSCOD Contacts

FY	CONTACTS
2005	15,925
2006	10,832
2007	16,628
2008	11,505
2009	12,712
2010	18,008
2011	17,920

# Our work isn't done



MSCOD staff and council members partake in Advocacy Day at the Capitol

Much progress has been made on removing barriers for people with disabilities. Despite that progress, we continue to live in a Minnesota that has barriers for people with disabilities. People with disabilities continue to experience disparity with lack of adequate accessible transportation, housing, as well as physical and

programmatic access to public and private facilities. People with disabilities experience disproportionate unemployment and underemployment. Because barriers still exist, the Minnesota State Council on Disability's work is not done. MSCOD's work is critical to advance Minnesota toward removing all barriers for people with disabilities.

# Our Mission

The Minnesota State Council on Disability is a state agency providing leadership to empower and strengthen the rights of Minnesotans with disabilities. We collaborate with the public and private sectors as a policy, training and technical resource advisor.

# What we do

**POLICY:** MSCOD advises the Governor, state legislature, state agencies and local units of government on issues affecting Minnesotans with disabilities. We analyze legislative initiatives and advise how proposed policies will impact the disability community. Our goal is to ensure all policymakers understand the effects of their decisions on Minnesotans with disabilities.

**TRAINING:** MSCOD provides customized training on a variety of issues, including: disability awareness, emergency preparedness, building access, advancing the rights of people with disabilities and more.

**TECHNICAL:** MSCOD is a technical expert on numerous disability matters, including disability parking, transportation access, compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, building codes, assistive technology, accessibility and employment rights.

## Message from MSCOD Council Chair

Next year MSCOD will celebrate its 40th anniversary. The world has seen many changes over the years such as personal computers, internet and cell phones. MSCOD has always had the ability to adjust and have the forethought to do what is best for all people with disabilities. We continue to utilize our strategic planning process to ensure we are meeting the needs of Minnesota.



In recent years we have prevailed through significant budget reductions and staffing reductions of over 50%. Not long ago our very existence was in question. It was only due to the commitment of MSCOD staff, council members and citizens of Minnesota that we still exist.

I am extremely proud to be part of MSCOD, and you can be assured that you can treat us as an extension of your staff on disability issues — that's why we exist.

— **David Schwartzkopf**

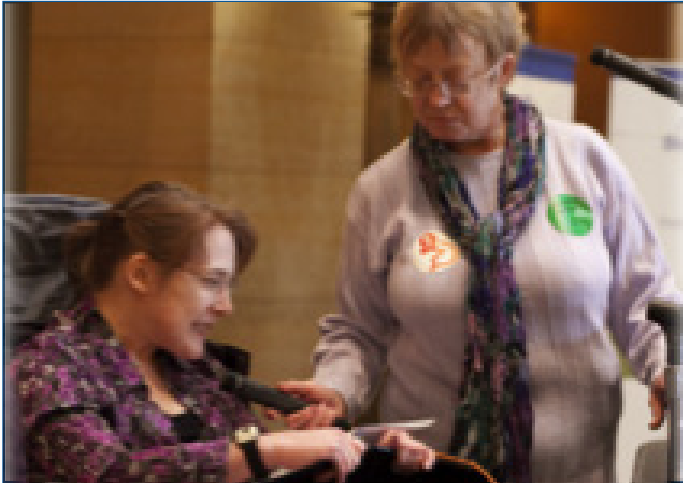
## Message from MSCOD Executive Director



2011 has been a year focused on delivering government services more effectively and MSCOD is no exception. Throughout 2011 we have spent time re-evaluating what services we provide and how. As we move into 2012 we move to refocus on employment for people with disabilities. As the baby boomers begin to retire, Minnesota needs to be positioned to fill the needs of this new 21st century workforce. After 21 years of implementation of the Americans with Disabilities Act, people with disabilities still face physical and programmatic barriers in the labor market. People with disabilities are one of the largest minority groups in the state and still are unemployed at a rate of 13%. Despite all this, I am still optimistic for progress. People with disabilities are in a unique situation to fill our workforce gap in Minnesota and MSCOD is eager to lead that charge.

— **Joan Willshire**

# MSCOD's 2011 HIGHLIGHTS



Worked with the City of Minneapolis to pass a disability parking bill that did two things. First, allows for use of new technologies in displaying disability parking tags. Second, allows for greater enforcement of disability parking misuse.

Hosted our annual legislative forum which was available via video-conference and web streaming to all corners of the state. We were joined by Representatives Hosch and Huntley who talked about public policy affecting the disability community.

Held our annual awards event attended by 145 people to recognize Minnesota employers who are hiring individuals with disabilities. The event featured Richard Devylder, Senior Advisor for Accessible Transportation at the U.S. Department of Transportation, as the keynote speaker.

Hosted our annual Disability Day on the Hill where constituents were able to meet with legislators and express opinions on legislative issues affecting the disability community.

## Who We Are

### STAFF

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### COUNCIL MEMBERS

**Council Chair**

Dave Schwartzkopf, Rochester

**Vice Chair**

Kathy Peterson, Warren

**Executive Committee Members**

Barb Stensland, Bemidji

Dave Sams, Redwood Falls

Kathy Wingen, Saint Cloud

**Members at Large**

Robert Johns, Fergus Falls

Erwin Rud, Fosston

Ed Butterfass, Clearwater

Judy Friesen, New Ulm

Laurie Hassett, Red Wing

Mark Hughes, Shoreview

John Schumacher, Red Wing

Joani Werner, Saint Paul

Kim Tyler, Hibbing

Carlos Vasquez, Minneapolis

