The Developmental Disabilities Planning Council, the Arizona Center for Disability Law, Sonoran UCEDD and the Institute for Human Development are partner organizations that together form the Arizona Developmental Disabilities Network. The four organizations are authorized under the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (Public Law 106-402) and receive funding from the US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Developmental Disabilities. The Arizona DD Network partners work collectively and collaboratively to foster the independence, advocacy and community integration of individuals with developmental disabilities.

The Sonoran University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD), located in the Department of Family and Community Medicine at the University of Arizona, works in partnership with the community to create and expand opportunities for people with developmental disabilities as they navigate life’s transitions. The goal of the Sonoran UCEDD is to ensure full community participation by individuals with developmental disabilities by advancing policy and practice in the areas of research, education, information dissemination and service.

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The Institute for Human Development (IHD) is a federal and state funded Interdisciplinary University Center for Excellence in Education, Research and Service in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD). IHD is mainly located at the Flagstaff campus of Northern Arizona University but also operates sites in Phoenix and Tucson. As a UCEDD, IHD’s area of emphasis is attitude-access-inclusion. In conducting the UCEDD core functions of interdisciplinary university training, community services, research and dissemination, the work of the Institute broadly impacts constituents and audiences concerned with disability policy and practice. IHD’s work is guided by an advisory group of consumers, self advocates, service providers and professionals of various disciplines.

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The Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council is a 23 member Council appointed by the Governor of Arizona. Members are represented by developmentally disabled consumers, family members of persons with developmental disabilities, professionals working alongside persons with developmental disabilities, and other stakeholders. The Council works to support advocacy, bring about systems change and create increased capacity to support persons with developmental disabilities in the community. Through its efforts the Council seeks to become a usable resource in the community addressing important issues such as education, employment, housing, self-advocacy, transportation and health care.

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The Arizona Center for Disability Law serves as the state’s designated protection and advocacy system for persons with disabilities. ACDL advocates for the legal rights of persons with disabilities to be free from abuse, neglect and discrimination and to gain access to services, maximizing independence and achieving equality. ACDL’s vision is a society that focuses on people’s abilities rather than disabilities. ACDL offers individuals information and referrals, brief self-advocacy assistance, educational workshops on legal rights, investigates abuse and neglect, and in select cases provides direct legal representation to resolve systemic issues. ACDL’s work is statewide and focuses on priority areas such as special education, access to health and mental health care, abuse and neglect, employment, access to vocational rehabilitation services and assistive technology.

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