

i2i Receives DD Council Grant

We are pleased to announce that the North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities (NCCDD) approved i2i as the applicant selected for its initiative entitled *Cross-System Navigation in a Managed Care Environment*. This renewable multi-year initiative will focus on identifying how individuals with I/DD and families can best be supported to effectively navigate across various service systems (cross-system navigation). To accomplish that goal requires examination of North Carolina's existing I/DD system of navigation services by a broad stakeholder base and recommendations for adjustments to be more effective in meeting identified outcomes that individuals with I/DD desire. In its announcement, NCCDD stated, "These recommendations are necessary as the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) moves toward implementation of managed care to address mental health, developmental disabilities, substance use, and physical healthcare services."

To meet the initiative objectives, i2i will create a collaborative to serve as an advisory workgroup with broad representation including individuals with I/DD, family members, and guardians; NC DHHS and LME-MCO staff; medical providers and patient navigators; and organizations involved in the social determinants of health. Membership will also address cultural diversity. The collaborative will be convened in various locations across the state, and i2i will provide dedicated website space to disseminate information. In addition to the collaborative, i2i will offer several webinars and large trainings over the course of the year. Mary Hooper, i2i Executive Director, says of the initiative, "We are very excited that the DD Council chose i2i to take on the work of *Cross-System Navigation in a Managed Care Environment*. Two elements of the grant – system navigation and managed care – are right in our wheelhouse, and the use of the collaborative as the vehicle to get the job done is exactly what i2i offers. To make the fit perfect, I felt like we needed someone with experience and expertise in the I/DD field leading the effort, and for that we turned to Kelly Friedlander, MSW. Her work in support of individuals with I/DD and their families is well-known and respected, and I am so pleased to bring her on board. I'm looking forward to a busy, challenging, and productive first year as we address these important issues."

The *Cross-System Navigation in a Managed Care Environment* initiative will begin on July 1st. Check the [i2i website](#) at that time for updates.