

Ready, Willing and Able

by Anne Browne

When asked, "What is the ACYCP stand on disabilities?" the most succinct answer would be total inclusion of all individuals in all areas of life; not merely included, but embraced as assets.

I am in the process of developing and implementing goals for the ACYCP Disabilities Committee to work on, to establish the truth of the following inclusion statement:



"The Association of Child and Youth Care Practice (ACYCP) resolutely affirms the inherent worth of all people. We are grateful for the strengths and gifts within the disabled community. Together we are abled. ACYCP, in all of its initiatives and activities, strives to be both accessible and inclusive of persons from disabled communities. We seek to strengthen and honor the many varied identities of the children, youth, and families we serve. We honor and support the identities of child and youth care colleagues, who engage as members and leaders of the disabled communities. ACYCP welcomes, embraces, and supports the disabled in their many forms, including but in no way limited to:

Blindness

Deafness

Mutism

Birth defects

Trauma, violence, and abuse survivors

Learning Disorders

Intelligence Factor

Crippling injuries

Physical illness, i.e. multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy

Mental Health, i.e. depression, autism

We recognize that society continues to need change, health, and transcendence.

We work to face the challenges of inclusion, collaborate to solve problems of accessibility, and embrace the opportunities for advocacy and active engagement."

My goal is to see the inclusion of all people in every walk of life, regardless of any disability, whether perceived or real."

It is my desire to develop a board-based committee, which is able to impact the future of every person, and to advocate for individuals with disabilities internationally, utilizing the knowledge and individual expertise of people who work on the frontline, such as physical therapists, lawyers, occupational therapists, physicians and child and youth care professionals.

My approach is three pronged: 1) to create a platform for an open conversation about current changes in thought and methodology surrounding disabilities fields, which presents a new approach to disabilities as a whole, 2) to develop a committee, whose members both provide and receive information that increases a "best practices" approach by child and youth care (CYC) professionals, for the individual persons they serve, and 3) to challenge the thinking of each human being, based on the expertise and knowledge of the population, who daily interact with the disabled - from the disabled person, to his/her family, neighbors, community, and individual care provider(s).

How can this be accomplished? We can enter the conversation that is presently happening on [CYC Net](#) . We can encourage each person we know to learn more about the current practices, thoughts, and approaches concerning care for the disabled person. And we can communicate the accurate information we receive, thereby empowering each of us to advocate for the equality of every man, woman, and child.

We on the Disabilities Committee have exciting, challenging and rewarding work to do! I look forward to hearing from you. You can email me at ebrow14@yahoo.com or call me at (225) 772-6002.

We're ready, willing and able. Join us today!