

Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance

The Alliance News

Issue #89

August 2019



Check Out the Newest Feature to The Alliance Newsletter... Community Connections!



In Community Connections, we will share awareness, information, and celebrations relating to the disability community.

Hats off to Tracey Wyant, Project Specialist with The Alliance, for “speaking up and speaking out” about the idea and turning it into a reality. We are much stronger when we are working together!

Check out Community Connections on pages 6 and 7 of the newsletter.

Our Vision

Our vision is for self-advocates to work together to get the support we need and to live the life we want in the community.

Our Mission

Our mission is to speak up for ourselves and each other while working together to make changes in our communities and in Illinois.



This newsletter was developed under an investment by the Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities

Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance

P.O. Box 666 Park Forest, Illinois 60466

Email: info@selfadvocacyalliance.org

Website: www.selfadvocacyalliance.org

Find us on Facebook at Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance

Welcome New Member Group...Super Fighters!

The Alliance is comprised of self-advocates and self-advocacy groups in Illinois. Let's welcome the newest member group, Super Fighters at AID (Association for Individual Development) (Aurora)!

The goal of Super Fighters is to learn about their rights and how to advocate for them; learn what advocacy is; and learn who to advocate to. Super Fighters meets one Wednesday a month.

Welcome Super Fighters; we are excited to learn with and from you!

Supported decision-making (SDM) is an alternative to guardianship that allows an individual to make decisions about his or her own life with a team of chosen supporters. SDM enhances people's lives and maximizes their independence.

After months of work and support from our participants and partners, we are excited to announce that Center for Public Representation's re-designed Supported Decision-Making Website is live. We hope the site will help you learn about SDM, understand how SDM transforms lives, and inspire you to become a participant, supporter, or advocate.

Learn more at <https://supporteddecisions.org/>

CSH's newest Supportive Housing Video is on Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities' YouTube Channel! This video is a resource for allies and professionals to teach special education students as well as self-advocates about preparing for adulthood and the possibility of living alone and managing one's own apartment. This is the classroom lesson before they go on a field trip out to see a supportive housing building. Check it out at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jkMmVqdpRzk&feature=share&fbclid=IwAR3lxw0YdUe6BH9Du1xtg8pIQzkIZnovE2T2plfHmuRcjQiZChw1ZFANmtM>

"I've Got a Job...Yes! Now What?" Webinar

Tuesday, September 24, 2019 at 10am CDT

Register at

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4813282975579454477>

You just got a job which is awesome, but you did not talk about the support you need to be successful at your job. This webinar will help you think through as well as to speak up and speak out in asking for what you need to be successful.

"Let's Learn About Illinois' University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD)" Webinar Recording

Recorded Live on Tuesday, July 23, 2019

View the recording at

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/recording/3430110541649553153>

Join us to learn about the UCEDD for the state of Illinois. The Institute on Disability and Human Development (IDHD) at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) is Illinois' University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD). Information about the national UCEDD network will be shared as well as our partners in Illinois. This webinar will share the scope of work being done at IDHD along with specific examples and resources that can be used by people with disabilities and their families, service providers and professionals working in the field, businesses and non-profits as well as policymakers.

Financial Inclusion 101 Webinar

September 12, 2019 at 11am Eastern Time

This webinar will introduce you to the concepts and importance of financial inclusion and financial wellness for people with disabilities. Understanding one's finances and the importance of financial wellness is the first step in developing a pathway to a better quality of life.

Learn more and register at https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_YAB-u3dmSOWfAPbUVAnyTQ

Registration is now open for Speak Up and Speak Out Summit 2019!

October 28 – 30, 2019
Wyndham City Centre (formerly Hilton Hotel)
700 East Adams St.
Springfield, IL 62701



To learn more or to register, please visit
<https://www.speakupspeakoutsummit.org/>

KCCDD's Client Advocacy Board (CAB) is a group of self-advocates whose mission is "to educate and showcase abilities and skills we can bring to our community, while moving beyond past barriers that came with being labeled as having an intellectual or developmental disability."

CAB strives to create relationships with new people, seek opportunities for personal growth, educate their community about their abilities, and continue to build volunteer opportunities.

CAB is also proud to be a member of The Alliance, a statewide team of self-advocacy groups in Illinois.

Read the very first edition of "Ride with CAB," the official newsletter of KCCDD's Client Advocacy Board at
https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/68d35d_67a80f36f22e423183d9bd010042d73b.pdf

Are you interested in self-advocacy??? JOIN DCAFE TODAY!

DeKalb County Access for Everyone (DCAFE) is a self-advocacy group for individuals with development disabilities who want to make new friends and improve their self-advocacy skills!

If you are interested in learning more, please call Katie Lee from RAMP at 779-221-2356.





The Alliance and The Arc of Illinois Fall 2019 Regional Training

**“Speaking Up and
Speaking Out for
Yourself, Your
Friends, and Your
Community!”**

Join the Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance (The Alliance) and The Arc of Illinois for a day of learning and advocacy.

Trainings are free and will begin promptly at 10am and end at 2pm; lunch is included!

Register at <https://thearcofillinois.salsalabs.org/alliancetrainings/index.html> or contact Krescene Beck at the Alliance at krescenebeck@gmail.com or 618-806-9431.

August 28, 2019
Memorial Center for Learning and Innovation
228 West Miller Street
Springfield, IL
Registration Limit – 70

September 11, 2019
John Wood Community College
1301 South 48th Street
Quincy, IL
Registration Limit - 70

September 25, 2019
Rockford Mass Transit District
725 N. Lyford Road
Rockford, IL
Registration Limit – 45

September 26, 2019
Access Living
115 W Chicago Avenue
Chicago, IL
Registration Limit – 70

Just Added!

October 9, 2019
Effingham Public Library
200 N 3rd Street
Effingham, IL
Registration Limit - 35

October 10, 2019
Kaskaskia College
27210 College Road
Centralia, IL
Registration Limit – 70

This regional training was developed under an investment by the Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities (ICDD).





Welcome to Community Connections, where we share awareness, information, and celebrations relating to the disability community.

Famous People with Disabilities Born in September



Lester T. Pritchard (September 25) – Lester Pritchard graduated from the University of Illinois and was a disability rights activist on the local, state and federal levels. He was appointed by the governor to chair the Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities, and he was on the board of Champaign County Healthcare Consumers. Lester was co-founder of the Campaign For Real Choice in Illinois, and in 2005, actively planned and led Freedom Quest. Freedom Quest was a 700-mile trek around the state of Illinois that brought media attention to the issue of community supports and energized the disability community. This event included eight press events that culminated with a rally in Springfield in which Lester presented the Governor's office with more than 5,000 signatures of advocates from across the state in support of community services.

Disability Inclusion Awareness in September

Deaf Awareness Month

National Service Dog Month

International Day of Sign Languages - September 23

"Believe you can and you're halfway there."

~ Theodore Roosevelt

Community Connections (continued)

Disability Inclusion Awareness Ideas for September

- Learn 10 signs in sign language
<http://www.signlanguage101.com/>
- Contact IAD (Illinois Association of the Deaf) to ask if a guest speaker can come share about Deafness and Deaf culture
<https://iadeaf.org/>
- Do you have a local school for the Deaf in your community? Contact the school to request a guest speaker.
- Connect with service dog agency for a guest speaker.

Don't be afraid to "think outside of the box" and come up with your own Disability Inclusion Awareness Ideas for the month. Let The Alliance know what you did by emailing us at info@selfadvocacyalliance.org.

WE NEED YOU!
TO MAKE IT HAPPEN

WE NEED YOU... to contribute to The Alliance newsletter each month. Share your ideas, hopes, dreams, success stories and challenges with The Alliance.

You can submit an article, a poem, a piece of artwork, photography, write a column, or ask a question.

Let us know if you have any questions. Submit your content to info@selfadvocacyalliance.org.

The Alliance Staff Contact Information

Tara Ahern, Project Director
tara.advocacy@gmail.com

Krescene Beck, Organization Director
krescenebeck@gmail.com

Jae Jin Pak, Project Specialist
jaejinadvocacy@gmail.com

Tracey Wyant, Project Specialist
traceyalliance@gmail.com

Robyn Carpenter, Regional Self-Advocacy Specialist
robynadvocacy@gmail.com