

The Alliance News



Operation: Community Access

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Vision

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

Mission

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

The Alliance is proud to be an Initiative of the Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities



The Alliance: The Self-Advocacy Movement Continues!

Friday, April 5, 2018 at 1pm CDT

Join self-advocates and Alliance staff as they celebrate the past 5 years of The Alliance and share exciting information about the next 3 years including the new Alliance application and member levels and benefits!

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1146770125968894979>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance

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Find us on Facebook at Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance



Welcome Dixon Delegates and Peacemakers, The Alliance's Newest Member Groups!

Dixon Delegates, located in Dixon (IL), has a mission of helping people live the life they want. Their goals include helping people learn what they want and showing America what it's all about.

Peacemakers is located in Tinley Park (IL). Their mission is "to get information from other people and share and teach what we know". Their vision is to make our world safe and help others. The goals of Peacemakers include helping others, teaching others, getting outside people to come in and talk to us, increasing personal safety, and increasing environmental awareness.

**"I can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot;
together we can do great things."**

— Mother Teresa

Living a Quality Life in Geneseo Webinar Recording Recorded Live on Wednesday, March 21, 2018

Join Tyson, an outspoken self-advocate from Geneseo (Illinois), as he shares about his PATH (Planning Alternative Tomorrows With Hope) journey and what it means to live a quality life.

Check out the recording at

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/recording/7326689579719989250?assets=true>



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Going Home 2018 Advocacy Days Have Started!

Activities for the Weeks of March 26 – April 6, 2018 It's Going Home 2018 District Days!

- If you haven't already, make your appointments to visit your legislators. Don't be discouraged if it takes more than one call or email to make the appointment. If you need some help, ask a friend!
- Before your appointment, review and practice the Appointment Script one more time
- Complete the Legislator Appointment Registration if you haven't already
- Print out Going Home Advocacy Days – Legislator Leave Behind, one for each visit you will make
- Complete your scheduled visits!

Join hundreds of self-advocates and allies all around Illinois in **speaking up** and **speaking out** in support of community living for people with disabilities. Instead of a large rally at the Capitol in Springfield, self-advocates and allies will participate in



March 26 – April 6, 2018 – District Days

Meet with your legislators in their home offices and ask them to support community living for people with disabilities



May 2, 2018 – Call In Day

Call Governor Rauner and ask him to support community living for people with disabilities

Hello and Welcome to the Advisor Corner!

Let me introduce myself. My name is Tracey Wyant. I was an advisor for the LCAA (Livingston County Advocates in Action) advocacy group for about 4 years and worked as a Direct Support Professional (DSP) for almost 10 years. I now work for the Alliance. Let's talk about what it takes to be a successful advisor. I have come up with the top 5 qualities you must have to be successful.

1. You Must NOT Know All the Answers

Resist the urge to always find answers to the questions. Instead look to the group. Engage advocates to come up with answers to their own questions. An advisor's main vocabulary words should be who, what, when, and where. You're there to ask those important questions to the group.

2. Curiosity

Ask the questions as to why something didn't work out as well as it should, or why was it a success? Never be afraid to ask questions.

3. Humor

This is a must! Humor allows us to laugh at ourselves and at life. Something we all need in our day to day lives. Nobody is perfect and for me finding humor in my mistakes make them more fun and easier to deal with.

4. Truth

If you don't know the answer to a question say I don't know, but I can help you find the answer to the question. Don't make false promises, but if you do commit to doing something make sure you follow through with it. Don't set up unrealistic expectations for yourself or the group.

5. Be Flexible

Know when to change things. It's okay to have a plan then realize that in the middle of that plan you need to change the plan a little or all together.

It takes a special person to take on the advisor role for an Advocacy group. You will find that you will learn so many things about yourself and the advocates. It was one of the most rewarding jobs I ever did.

Have an advisor question? Email me at traceyalliance@gmail.com.



Join CSH for a Supportive Housing Coffee Talk Conference Call!

If you think you might want to live in your own apartment or home someday, or help someone achieve that goal, do you know what you need to do? We are here to help answer any questions you may have!!

Join our Coffee Talk Conference Call to learn more about supportive housing!

We want to build a community where we can all learn together and support each other in making supportive housing an option for anyone who wants it. You can ask questions for yourself, or for someone else. Either is okay!

Julie Nelson or John Fallon from CSH will be on the phone call to answer questions or help you brainstorm about supportive housing. Grab yourself a cup of coffee, some water or your favorite soda to talk to CSH about supportive housing!

Join One of Our Calls:

Tuesday, April 3, 3:00-4:00 PM
Saturday, April 7, 10:00-11:00 AM
Tuesday, April 10, Noon-1:00 PM
Thursday, April 12, 7:00-8:00 PM

How to Call In

To join a session and ask questions, call 1-866-840-0048 any time listed above.
When you are asked for a conference code, please enter the number 2168105#.

The Alliance's Brochure is Now Available in Spanish!

Want to share about The Alliance with friends? Print out an Alliance brochure! The brochure is available in English and in Spanish. Many thanks to Sonia R., self-advocate and member of Advocates for Change (Joliet) for helping translate the brochure into Spanish!

English – <http://selfadvocacyalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/05/Brochure-2016.pdf>

Spanish - <http://selfadvocacyalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/05/Brochure-2016-Spanish.pdf>