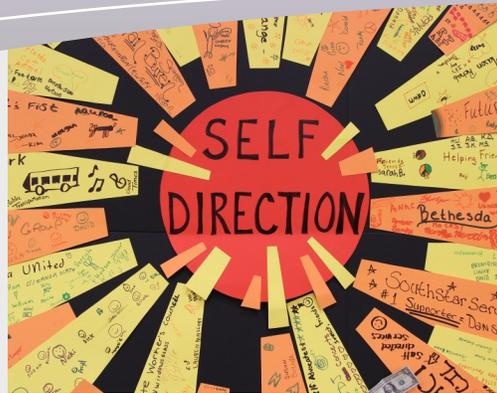




Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance



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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

Self-Advocates Meet with Kevin Casey, DHS DDD Director

~ Tara Wickey, Community Organizer



On October 29th (the day before Speak Up Speak Out Summit began), self-advocates and the staff of The Alliance had the opportunity to present DHS DDD Director Kevin Casey with feedback from self-advocates that we gathered at our fall trainings.

Director Casey said that he has been talking with the Governor’s Office about better pay for staff so there isn’t turnover (staff quitting so often). He feels that better pay for staff is one of the most important things in the DDD system. He also said that he would greatly enjoy the opportunity to travel around the state and meet with self-advocates on the issues that are important to them. Director Casey would be open to regular communication between self-advocates of The Alliance and DDD through monthly or bi-monthly face-to-face meetings.

The Alliance will be looking for advocates to help the state adjust the waiver to improve support to self-advocates wanting to get jobs as well as making sure more self-advocates get jobs.

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The Alliance News

Local Group Updates

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The Alliance and DDD are also looking to begin taking steps toward becoming an Employment First state. Let me know if you are interested in participating in this process ~ we need your help!

In other news, The Alliance has requested that DDD begin to explore QIDP being changed back to QSP now that the waiver has been approved. We will keep you posted on our progress.

Hoping you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving and enjoy the holiday season!

"The way I see it, we are all on the spectrum...the human spectrum. And that's what makes life so great!"

~ Krescene Beck

Local Group Updates

The Network in Alton has been doing some advocacy work by going to the 2012 Speak Up and Speak Out Summit in October. Officer elections will be held March 2013.

SACNI in McHenry County held a Christmas party on December 1st.

Sertoma United in Alsip will continue to work on the election process in the New Year after taking a break from it to work on special holiday projects such as setting up the food drive and getting our Christmas cards decorated for the troops. The group is also considering the creating a new healthy boundaries/personal space class/workshop. Tara Wickey recently attended a meeting and shared worksheets on the character qualities of being a good leader. As Sertoma United prepares to celebrate the holidays together, they extend happy holidays to all other self-advocacy groups in Illinois!

"Telling Your Story" iPad App Available Now

"Telling Your Story" is a free tool that persons with disabilities, family members, and other advocates can use to compose and practice the personal story they'll present to elected public officials or other policy makers at all levels of government when seeking policy changes or increasing awareness about disability issues. The app guides users through the steps, from introducing yourself to identifying the specific issue to the best methods for presenting a compelling personal story. After entering the text of their story, an audio recording feature allows the user to rehearse their story. Users can also select and preview a photo they may wish to include.



To learn more, log on to <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/telling-your-story/id541403749>



The Alliance News

Alliance Board Meeting Notes

So...What Happened at the October 2012 Alliance Board Meeting?

Happy December Self-Advocates! I know I say this a lot, but I seriously can't believe that 2012 is already almost over. While the seasons were changing, so too were some things on the Alliance Board. At our last meeting on October 29th, we geared up for SUSO, which I am happy to report was a rousing success. We've also had two new board members join us: Michael Johnson from Speak Out Rock Island, and Robert Jones from CAPS in Decatur. Both were voted on to the board unanimously. Welcome Michael and Robert...so glad to have you with us.

We also had our elections during this October meeting. Our Bylaws (the set of rules for the Alliance's board) say that the term for each person elected to the board is two years long. When those two years are up, each person can choose to run for a second term, or step down and let someone else run. This year, Beth Davis from The Network in Alton ran for re-election as Vice-President and won, and Brian Dixon was elected our new Secretary. Last but certainly not least, our Alliance board president Courtney Buchanan chose to step down as president after two years of service. Don't worry ~ Courtney will still be involved with the Alliance as she is also president of Speak Out of Rock Island. She is certainly a wonderful leader, and we are all very lucky to have worked with her on the Alliance board. Thank you for all your wonderful work Courtney! We will miss you! One of our newest board members, Robert Jones, was elected to take her place as President. John Gosgusky of People 1st of Illinois Valley in LaSalle-Peru will continue to serve as Treasurer.

Congratulations everybody!

In 2013, Brian Dixon, Tia Nelis, Beth Davis, Eric Forst, and John Gosgusky will all be up for re-election. We will let you know how that goes. Our next board meeting will be held February 13, 2013. You'll be able to read about it in our March newsletter.

See you next time everybody, and happy holidays!

Megan Norlin, Local Group Coordinator



The Alliance News

JDC Is Closed

Governor Quinn Announces Successful Community Transition for Jacksonville Developmental Center Residents

On November 29, 2012, Governor Pat Quinn announced that the remaining residents at the Jacksonville Developmental Center (JDC) have transitioned to community care. The moves are part of the governor's rebalancing initiative to increase community care options for people with developmental disabilities and mental health challenges while reducing the number of outdated institutions in Illinois.

"Today is a historic step forward in our effort to improve the quality of life for citizens with developmental disabilities and mental health challenges in Illinois," Governor Quinn said. "I thank all of the family members and committed advocates who worked together to make this transition safe and responsible. I am committed to strengthening community care in Illinois and helping to ensure that all people have an opportunity to reach their full potential."

"Numerous studies show that individuals living in the community have a better quality of life than those living in institutions," said Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) Secretary Michelle R.B. Saddler. "The closure of JDC is major progress for Illinois and how our state cares for people with developmental disabilities. I would like to commend the governor for his extraordinary leadership and thank our many advocates for their continued support on this important issue."

Each JDC resident went through a thorough, person-centered planning process, including assessment, consultation with families and guardians, and planning sessions with providers to determine needs and ensure safe transitions. Community settings allow individuals to receive the care they need, including 24-hour care. Community care is also significantly less costly than institution-based care. The average cost for JDC was \$200,000 per year per resident while the average cost for a JDC resident living in the community is \$84,000 per year.

In 2011, Governor Quinn announced his commitment to rebalance Illinois' use of institutionalization for the care of people with developmental disabilities and provide more community care options. Illinois has lagged behind the rest of the nation in the utilization of person-centered, community-based care. Community-based care has been proven to empower people with developmental disabilities to lead more active, dynamic lives. The governor's Rebalancing Initiative dovetails with the administration's recent settlement of a series of court cases related to the Americans with Disabilities Act, requiring the expansion of community care settings.



The Alliance News

Advocating Change Together



WHEN THE SELF-ADVOCATES GO MARCHING IN

[SARN Memo for November 28, 2012]

Last summer, Advocating Change Together (ACT) had a song-writing contest: make up new self-advocacy words to the tune "When the Saints Go Marching In." We got a lot of great responses.

We selected four winners and put them together to make one song, which everyone sang together at the SABE Conference. We hope you can find a place to sing this song in and around your community.

When the Self-Advocates Go Marching In Tune: When the Saints Go Marching In

V1. When the self-advocates go marching in
When the self-advocates go marching in
Oh, how they want to be treated equally
When the self-advocates go marching in

V2. Oh, with one voice... may our message be
Oh, with one voice... may our message be
We have rights just like any other
And have our own abilities!

V3. We have the right, the right to vote
So let's go use it while we can
We know self-advocacy makes an impact
On the way we vote today

V4. When we demand they shred the R word
When we demand they shred the R word
We all will stand a little taller
When we demand they remove the R word

Verses 1 and 4: © 2012 Self-Advocates Minnesota Central Verse 2: © 2012 By Tim & The Tie Dye's
Verse 3: © 2012 Music for Social Change Participant (Minnesota)



The Alliance News

Managed Care

Managed Care

~ Megan Norlin, Local Group Coordinator

A lot of people seem to be talking about Managed Care these days. But what does it mean, and how is it going to work? Managed care is new to us in Illinois, so many of the questions we have are unanswered. I've been researching managed care for a while, and although I'm still not an expert, I think I can answer a few of them for you.

What is Managed Care? Managed Care has to do with the way services are organized, and the way that they are funded. The aim of managed care is to make the process of getting people the services they need more efficient. People behind managed care hope that it will save the state some money while it gives those who receive services more freedom of choice and easier access to the services they need.

How will the change to Managed Care occur? So far, the transition to managed care has been broken up into three pieces. The first piece requires Medicaid recipients with intellectual and developmental disabilities from DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, and Will counties to get healthcare through either one of two designated insurance companies (Aetna or IlliniCare). This piece of the managed care puzzle has already been put into place. Piece number two involves including people who receive both Medicare and Medicaid. It also involves providing long-term services for people with different types of disabilities other than intellectual and developmental. Piece three is supposed to eliminate the need for providers to contract with the Department of Human Services (DHS). When this is done, managed care organizations will contract with the state who will subcontract with providers to deliver services through the Community Integrated Living Arrangement (CILA) and Home-Based programs.

This third and final piece is the one that most people really don't like because they are worried removing DHS will result in a lower quality of services. Let me assure you now that phase three is on hold; in fact, the state is still working on piece number two. The Alliance is right there with you when it comes to confusion. We don't have all the answers, but we are learning and we know you are too. **As always, the best thing to do is speak up and speak out.**

Do you have other questions you have about managed care and how it works? Please let The Alliance know, so that we can help you find the answers. Krescene always says, "We're stronger when we work together." I'm pretty sure she's right!

See you next month with more on Managed Care.



The Alliance News

Alliance Member Groups

Wanting to learn more about self-advocacy? Looking to join a self-advocacy group? Look no further than your friendly neighborhood self-advocacy group! No self-advocacy group in your neighborhood? No problem...The Alliance can help you start one! Does your self-advocacy group want to be part of The Alliance? Let us know! Just contact Tara Wickey, Community Organizer at tara.advocacy@gmail.com.

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The Network	Alton	Missy Kichline, Advisor 618-462-1411 kichline@impactcil.org
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Self-Advocacy Council of Northern Illinois (SACNI)	McHenry County	Cathy Christensen, Advisor 815-382-1530 clchristensen100@aol.com
Personal Power Players	Monticello	Amy McDermith, Advisor 217-762-8546 amcdermith@hotmail.com
Speak Out of Rock Island	Rock Island	Sue Gadiant, Advisor 309-764-6353 GadiantS@arcqca.org
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The Alliance News

Alliance Member Groups

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Ray of Hope Self-Advocates (ROHSA)	Chicago Heights	Leanne Roth, Advisor 708-259-7609 ljessie@southstarservices.org
People 1 st of the Illinois Valley	LaSalle-Peru	Dan Fitzgerald, Supporter 815-223-4488 x16 dfitzgerald@horizonhouseperu.org
Strike for Better Change	LaSalle-Peru	Beth Mangold, Advisor 815-434-0737 bethmangold@hotmail.com
Self-Advocates of Lake County	Lake County	Pam Labellarte, Advisor 847-749-5005 spedadvocate@earthlink.net
Change to Independence Altogether (CIA)	Bloomington -Normal	Jason Pasley, Advisor 309-829-2614 jasonpasley@marcfirst.org
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The Alliance News

Alliance Member Groups

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Capitol Advocacy Group	Springfield	Mary Hettel, Advisor 815-252-2809 mhett2@gmail.com
CTF Tigers	Homewood	Niema Allahdem, Advisor 708-829-4597 nallahdem@ctfillinois.org Jessica Delgado 708-922-1532 jessicadelgado@ctfillinois.org

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