

The Alliance News



Operation: Community Access

In This Issue

December Webinar Page 2

Advocacy & Learning Opportunities Page 3, 9

Operation: Community Access Campaign Information Pages 5-7

IL WARM Line Page 8

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



Welcome to RGA Council, The Alliance's newest member group!

At Speak Up and Speak Out, Cami S., a self-advocate from RGA Council, hand delivered RGA Council's Alliance Membership sign up form!

RGA Council is located Lisle, Illinois and meets the 2nd Wednesday of every other month. The mission/vision of RGA Council is to empower self-advocates to be agents of change. Their goals are to educate self-advocates on their rights; become involved in statewide advocacy efforts; host events that provide opportunities for empowering people with disabilities; and influencing culture change.

The Alliance looks forward to learning from and growing with RGA Council as we move forward on our self-advocacy journey TOGETHER!

Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance

PO Box 666 Park Forest, IL 60466 618.806.9431

Email: krescenebeck@gmail.com Website: www.selfadvocacyalliance.org

Find us on Facebook at Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance

Person Centered Planning and You! Webinar
Tuesday, December 8, 2015 10am CST



What do you want people who help and support you to know is most important to you so they can help you lead the life you want? Illinois is moving to a person-centered planning system where YOU tell people what you want. Join Kathy Carmody, Chair of the Life Choices Initiative's Team 4, to share what's most important to you and how people who support you can assist you to live the life you want.

To help you prepare to share during the webinar, think about your answers to these questions:

How can others support you to live the life you want?

What do staff who work with you need to learn to do better?

What is the most important thing to you?

What would you do differently if you were in charge?

Please register for Person Centered Planning and You! on Dec 8, 2015 10:00 AM CST at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/458314200370322945>

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



This year's Speak Up and Speak Out Summit celebrated its 10th anniversary with more than 500 self-advocates and allies! Members of The Alliance's Board of Directors and Alliance staff were excited to share the following with participants:

- "All About Operation: Community Access" session
- "Woo Hoo...I've Got a Job Interview! Now What?" session
- Open Mic Session
- Photo Booth

Until we meet for next year's summit...keep on Speaking Up and Speaking Out!



COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP SERIES December 2015 to May 2016

Have you ever wanted to help your community, organization or church better assist the people it serves but lack some of the confidence or leadership skills necessary? If so, JACIL (Jacksonville Area Center for Independent Living) is offering a series of workshops to help you overcome these concerns.

The Community Leadership Workshop Series has been designed to help people with disabilities gain the skills and confidence needed to better serve on boards, councils or commissions that guide the services or supports they provide.

The six-session series will cover topics such as:

- Developing effective communication skills
- Understanding characteristics of effective leadership
- The roles and responsibilities of boards, commissions and committees
- What is and how to organize grassroots advocacy
- Parliamentary procedures and Roberts Rules of Order

The series will also help participants identify boards, committees or commissions that may best meet their needs and interests. There will be four guest speakers who are experts in the many aspects of community leadership to present vital information. Participation in sessions and understanding the community leadership process does not require attending each session. However, it is recommended that participants attend as many sessions as possible to better understand community leadership skills.

All sessions will take place from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. A light meal will be provided at each session.

Scheduled class dates are:

- December 8, 2015
- January 11, 2016
- February 8, 2016
- March 7, 2016
- May 9, 2016

The series' closing session in May will focus on:

- Team and individual presentations
- Participants offering their reflections and experiences in becoming more involved community leadership
- Sharing perspectives on leadership skills and development

Contact JACIL one week in advance to reserve a place and meal. An ASL Interpreter will be available at each session and alternative formats of all printed materials are available. Requests must be made no later than one week prior to the session date.

Sertoma United members went to Moraine Valley Community College, located in Palos Hills, IL, for their second annual Community Learning Day on September 29, 2015. Moraine Valley faculty and staff volunteered at 24 off-campus sites in addition to helping 11 community organizations on campus to learn about community organizations that serve our students and our community. Sertoma Centre, Inc. was one of the lucky organizations to benefit from this amazing day. Seven members of Sertoma United went to the campus to participate in classes, while other Moraine Valley faculty and staff came to Sertoma Centre to help consumers with activities at both the 123rd Street and 127th Street locations. Last year, Sertoma United participated by giving a presentation about what Sertoma Centre does and what self-advocacy is. This year, we participated in a music, art, and nature walk/science classes. During the music class, we sang songs and played several different types of percussion instruments. While in the art class, we made collage projects and showed off our artistic sides. During the Nature Walk/Science groups, we learned about the history of the area. We learned about the leaves, animals and even helped to take samples of the pond water. It was an amazing day and we loved being out in the community.



Looking for a fundraising opportunity for your self-advocacy group? Look no further than SeedBallz, a division of Futures Unlimited, Inc. Livingston County Advocates in Action (LCAA) is an Alliance member group that is located at Futures Unlimited.

SeedBallz are born out of a native tradition. Traditionally Native Americans rolled seeds in clay to reseed barren lands. On December 31st, 2014, SeedBallz was purchased by an agency in Pontiac, Illinois. Futures Unlimited, Inc has been serving individuals with disabilities since 1970. This new venture for Futures Unlimited provides tremendous work opportunities for self-advocates. We are very excited to be the new owners of such a great product and look forward to keeping the ball rolling!

Check it out at <http://seedballz.com/>

If you have any fundraising questions or to schedule a presentation, please connect with Jackie Harms at 815.842.1122 or jharms@futuresunlimited.org.



Operation: Community Access

The Alliance's Operation: Community Access Petition

The Alliance is statewide collaboration between self-advocates, member groups, agencies, and organizations. We the self-advocates, have gathered together to work on a campaign called "Operation: Community Access"; we want flexible day services for people with disabilities so we can make more choices about what we want to do during the day.

We believe it is important for people with disabilities to

- be a part of our communities;
- use our voices to self-advocate; and
- to advocate for the rights of others.

I support self-advocates in having flexibility in making more choices in activities during the day.

Name (please print) _____

City/Town _____, Illinois



Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance
PO Box 666 Park Forest, IL 60466
Website: www.selfadvocacyalliance.org
Find us on Facebook at Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance



Operation: Community Access

Got Time? Advocating for Operation: Community Access!



Got 5 Minutes? You've Got Time To:

- Share about Operation: Community Access or anything having to do with self-advocacy with one other person. Find someone who hasn't heard about it before!
- Post about it on social media websites (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube).
- Make copies of Operation: Community Access information (like your postcards) and take them with you when you go out. While you are out, you can give them to people or you can hang them up on community bulletin boards.
- Send one e-mail about the campaign to your local legislators.
- Get one person to sign the Operation Community Access Petition.



Got 15 Minutes? You've Got Time To:

- Share about Operation: Community Access with management staff at your agency/organization
- Research a place in your community where you can share the message of Operation: Community Access (schools, disability service agencies, businesses)
- Practice talking about the campaign, so that you are always ready when you have the opportunity to advocate.
- Schedule a meeting with your local legislator to share about the campaign.
- Make campaign signs to put up in the lawn or post around your agency/organization.



Got 30 Minutes? You've Got Time To:

- Create your own information about the campaign (cards, brochures, flyers) for you to share around your community.
- Put information on windshields of cars in a parking lot
- Interview other self-advocates and allies about their self-advocacy journey.
- Write a letter about Operation: Community Access to the editor of your local newspaper.
- Ask a local radio station if you can be a guest on one of their radio programs to share the message of the campaign.
- Put information on your agency/organization website.



Got One Hour? You've Got Time To:

- Write up a blog post to use in your own or someone else's disability related blog.
- Make a video about Operation: Community Access or about self-advocacy, and put it up on YouTube.
- Build a Facebook page or website to share the message of the campaign.
- Host a Google Hangout about the campaign. It might give you a chance to spread the message in Illinois, across the country, and around the world! Learn about Google Hangouts at <https://hangouts.google.com/>.



Got a 1/2 Day (6 hours)? You've Got Time To:

- Plan a rally highlighting Operation: Community Access and invite the community.
- Have a booth at a community resource fair, and share information about the campaign and self-advocacy.
- Create pieces of art representing what this project means to you and put them on display, along with information about the campaign.
- Interview people about self-advocacy and what they think it means; share the footage at your agency/organization and/or on social media.



Operation: Community Access

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We believe it is important for us to

- be a part of our communities;
- use our voices to self-advocate; and
- to advocate for the rights of others.

Will you help support flexible day services for self-advocates in Illinois?

The Alliance has developed a postcard that can be used to help share the message of the Operation: Community Access campaign. To receive the template to print postcards, email Krescene Beck at krescenebeck@gmail.com and put Postcard Template in the subject line.

You can help make a difference by supporting flexible day services for self-advocates in Illinois!

- Learn more about Operation: Community Access at www.selfadvocacyalliance.org;
- sign the petition in support of flexible day services and check out more resources.
- Like and follow The Alliance on Facebook at Illinois Self Advocacy Alliance.
- Tell local agencies/organizations supporting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities that you support Operation: Community Access
- If you are a business owner, consider hiring someone with a disability; if you have volunteer openings, reach out to local disability service agencies for potential volunteers.
- Contact your local legislators and tell them you think Community Access is important for people with disabilities
- Learn more about the Americans with Disabilities Act at www.ADA.gov.
- Become more disability aware of customer service and employment; check out www.jjslist.com.
- Learn about Social Capital and how to use it to enhance opportunities for people with disabilities at www.c-q-l.org/resource-library/resource-library/social-capital.



Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance

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

IL WARM LINE

(866) 359-7953

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**ILLINOIS
MENTAL HEALTH COLLABORATIVE**
FOR ACCESS AND CHOICE



The Alliance Staff Contact Information

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Be a Part of Advocacy in Action by attending your local Advisory Council Meeting**North Suburban**

To Be Announced
Community Alternatives Unlimited
8765 W. Higgins Road
Chicago, IL

North Central

Tuesday, December 1, 2015
10am
Freedom Hall (Morton Park District building)
349 W. Birchwood
Morton, IL

Northwest

Tuesday, January 12, 2016
4.30pm
Milestone Training Center
4504 Shepherd Trail
Rockford, IL

City of Chicago

To Be Announced
UIC's Institute on Disabilities and Human Development (Auditorium)
1640 W. Roosevelt Road
Chicago, IL

Central Region

Thursday, February 12, 2016
12.30pm
DHS DDD - Centrum Building, 2nd Floor Conference Room
319 East Madison
Springfield, IL

Southern Region

To Be Announced
Bel-Air Bowl (downstairs meeting room)
200 South Belt West
Belleville, IL

South Suburban

Thursday, February 18, 2016
2pm
Suburban Access
900 Maplewood Avenue
Homewood, IL