

Illinois Self Advocacy Alliance

The Alliance News

Issue #80

November 2018



Happy 10th Birthday to the Illinois Self Advocacy Alliance!



In 2006, a project called Illinois Self-Advocates in the Lead (I-SAIL) began to strengthen the self-advocacy movement in Illinois. In 2008, the project became the Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance (The Alliance) and formed a network of self-advocacy groups.

In the past 10 years, thousands of self-advocates have spoken up and spoken out for themselves and others while working to make changes in their communities and in Illinois. Self-advocates have led presentations, participated on committees and workgroups, helped develop training, and much more.

We are stronger because we are working together!

Our 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.

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.

Our Focus

Our focus is on empowering people to speak up about what they want and need, don't want and don't need, action plan their goals and participate in advocacy at the personal, agency, community and statewide levels.



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

Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance

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Find us on Facebook at Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance

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.

Let's Talk About Supportive Housing



If you think you may want to live in your own apartment or home someday, or help someone achieve that goal, do you know what you need to do? CSH (Corporation for Supportive Housing) is here to help answer any questions!

Join our Conference Call to learn more about supportive housing! Supportive housing is affordable housing with services that help each person meet their goals.

Click here for some basic information about supportive housing:

<https://www.csh.org/supportive-housing-101/>

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.

Join One of Our Calls

Tuesday, November 13

12:00 PM to 1:00 PM

Thursday, November 15

7:00 PM to 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#



A site for parents of young children with special needs.
Forming critical early goals in the family, school, and community
will build a child's best life.



Interested in being in a video or writing a blog post to share your wisdom as adult self-advocate living with a disability?

Contact Cori Mohr at cori.mohr@gmail.com if you are interested in doing a blog or video to be posted on Dreams For Goals, a website for parents of young children with special needs. Forming critical early goals in the family, school, and community will build a child's best life.

Check out Dreams Form Goals at www.dreamsformgoals.com.

Do you receive Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services through a Developmental Disability Waiver?

Learn about your rights!

Check out the accessible version of Rights of Individuals in Medicaid Home and Community Based Developmental Disability Waivers. It was developed with input from self-advocates in Illinois and support from The Alliance. The Accessible Version is meant to support greater understanding and advocacy of the rights of individuals receiving services in the Medicaid Home and Community-Based Developmental Disability Waivers programs.

<http://selfadvocacyalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/04/Its-My-Right-DHS-Rights-Accessible-Version-June-2017.pdf>

Keep up with all the exciting news in between monthly newsletters by finding and liking The Alliance on Facebook at Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance.





Congratulations to the Graduating Class of Partners in Policymaking!

Graduates included Brian A. from Livingston County Advocates in Action (Pontiac); John B. from Livingston County Advocates in Action (Pontiac); Melissa J. from CTF Advocacy Center (Charleston); and Tavarus W., from PossAbility Partners (Chicago Heights).

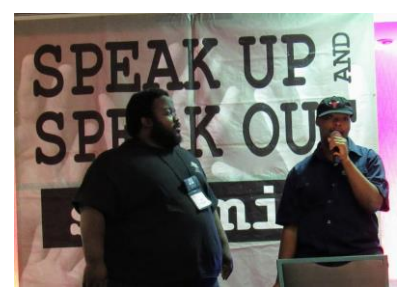
About Partners in Policymaking

PARTNERS IN POLICYMAKING® is a leadership training program designed for parents of school age children with developmental disabilities and adults with disabilities. Partners teaches leadership skills, and the process of developing positive partnerships with elected officials and other policymakers who make decisions about the services that you and your family use. Partners is accessible, informative and empowering. The graduates of Partners often become members of boards, councils, task forces and advisory committees; some run for elected office.

PARTNERS is about systems change – creating, working towards, and achieving a vision of shared values about people with disabilities. It is based on the belief that the most effective and enduring public policy decisions are made by the people who need and use services in partnership with elected officials and other policymakers. It is about becoming confident in oneself, competent in the knowledge and information received, and comfortable in sharing the life experiences and expertise one brings to the program.



In the words of a wise woman, "We are all students and we are all teachers". Thanks to Terry, Judy, and John (self-advocates from CTF Advocacy Center – Charleston) for teaching DSP's (Direct Support Professionals) at CTF Illinois - Charleston and at CTF Illinois – Olney about rights and the power of self-advocacy.



The Alliance Staff Contact Information

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Applications Now Open for 6 PAID Fellowships for Self-Advocates!

What is a Fellowship? A fellowship is a one-year project. You design a project that

- is about self-advocacy
- helps solve problems that many people have.

Fellows work on their projects about 6 hours each week. SARTAC pays Fellows \$5,000 to complete their projects. Find an organization near you to work with you on your project. Your project must end with a report or products others can use. Six Fellows will be chosen this year. This is the 3rd year we have had Fellowships.

Deadline to Apply: Thursday, December 20, 2018, 5 pm (Pacific time)

How To Apply: Fill out the online form at
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SARTAC_Fellows19

Want to Learn More Before You Decide if You Want to Apply?

- Check out other self-advocates who are SARTAC Fellows at <http://selfadvocacyinfo.org/fellows/>
- Join this webinar - "How To Apply for a SARTAC Fellowship"
Monday, November 26, 2018
2:00 pm Central Standard Time
 - Meeting Link:
<https://umkc.webex.com/umkc/j.php?MTID=m347f580e70aa027f417a39b1a73ae07e>
 - Or Join by phone:
1-855-282-6330 US Toll Free
1-415-655-0003 US Toll

We look forward to learning about your project idea!

The SARTAC Fellowship Team