

# Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance

## The Alliance News

Issue #121

May 2022



**Adam Wiser  
2022**

### **Arc of Illinois Self-Advocate of the Year**

Adam is a phenomenal self-advocate, presenter and employee! After completing the Alliance Ambassador Leader Program (AALP), he took a tremendous amount of initiative to work with The Alliance in any way that was needed.

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### **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.



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Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance

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Find us on Facebook at Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance

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Even when he was intimidated or scared, he always tried to improve and asks great questions. Adam is responsive, engaging, eager to learn and talks often about wanting other people with disabilities to have opportunities to SPEAK UP AND SPEAK OUT! Adam regularly works with entities, disability service providers and state agencies to encourage self-advocate inclusion in the philosophy of “nothing about us without us”. He has done hundreds of presentations for people with disabilities, their loved ones, disability support agencies, allies, rape crisis centers, and legislators.

A few of Adam’s accomplishments include

- Member, Center for Independent Futures Young Professionals Board
- Member, Center for Independent Futures Awareness Club
- Self-Advocate Leader, The Alliance
- Planning Team Member/Presenter, Division of Rehabilitation Services Career Counseling Review Team
- Winner, 2021 Jane Doyle Awesome Award
- Graduate, PACE Path to Academics, Community and Employment Program at National Louis University
- Guest Speaker and COVID Storyboard Review Team Member, Chicago Mayor’s Office for People with Disabilities

Congratulations Adam!

**WE NEED YOU!**  
**TO MAKE IT HAPPEN**

Contribute to The Alliance newsletter each month. Share your ideas, hopes, dreams, success stories and challenges with The Alliance. You can send an article, a poem, a piece of artwork, photography, write a column, or ask a question. Send your content to

[info@selfadvocacyalliance.org](mailto:info@selfadvocacyalliance.org).



## **The Alliance - Where Are We Going: 2022 and Beyond**

The Alliance is excited to announce that we have been funded for 5 more years by the Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities! Over the next 5 years, The Alliance will:

- build capacity resulting in self-advocates being in the lead of the organization and related activities, and
- support self-advocates in achieving their “next”.

The Alliance will achieve these through the following new and enhanced areas:

- New Areas
  - Advocate Bureau
  - LGBTQ+ Empowerment
  - Youth and Transition
- Enhanced Areas
  - Member Group Chapters
  - Learning and Advocacy Opportunities
  - Engagement in Collaborations

Stay tuned and join us as we journey through the next 5 years.

**Strengthening our self-advocacy muscles.**

**Stretching our self-advocacy wings.**



SARTAC Zoom Meetings are run by Self-Advocates from across the country for our peers and allies.

**Meetings Every Thursday!**

## **SARTAC Zoom Meetings**

12noon Central Time (in Illinois)

Join on computer, tablet or smartphone

<https://zoom.us/j/324815633> or call 1-929-436-2866

Meeting ID: 324 815 633

[Click Here](#) for handouts shared during Meetings

### **May 12 Meeting – Intersectionality: What Does That Mean?**



It is about all the different ways a person experiences discrimination. So, for Tiffany, she might face discrimination because she:

- Has a disability
- Is Black
- Is gay
- Is a woman

### **May 19 Meeting – SARTAC Annual Poetry Slam**



Come on self-advocates time to Step Up! We want to hear your poems, rants, raps, chants.

### **May 26 Meeting - Leadership Training: Find Out What the Other States Do**



State and local groups spend many hours teaching how to advocate and be a leader. Several states will share resources and explain how they make their leaders stronger.



**Spring and Summer Training  
For Self-Advocates**

Join on computer, tablet or smartphone

<https://zoom.us/j/324815633> or call 1-929-436-2866  
Meeting ID: 324 815 633

[Click Here](#) for handouts shared during trainings



**Tuesday, May 24 – Easy Read Text  
2.30 – 4pm Central Time**

Writing in Easy Read is different than writing in plain language. Learn what makes Easy Read unique and important -- and how to write in Easy Read -- in this webinar!



**Monday, June 13 - Easy Read Icons  
2.30 – 4pm Central Time**

You don't need to be able to draw to make great icons for Easy Read documents. Learn how in this webinar!



pays one time



pays for hospital visit



states pay a lot

**Tuesday, June 21 - How To Format or Arrange  
Pictures and Text on a Page  
2.30 – 4pm Central Time**

Learn how to use a computer program like InDesign or Illustrator to format plain language and Easy Read documents.

**Sign up and get money wellness tips delivered right to your phone!**

National Disability Institute, in collaboration with the Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities, is proud to launch a text message campaign: Illinois Money Wellness.

Do you want to learn more about money? How you get it? How you can save it and how you can spend it? If so, sign up to get weekly positive messages about your money!

This text message campaign delivers financial wellness information and tips for people with disabilities and the people who support them by encouraging good money habits.

Please note: When you sign up for Illinois Money Wellness, your personal information will not be shared with anyone. You will receive one text per week.

Use the sign-up form [HERE](#) or text MONEY to 833-313-0298 to sign up for #ILMoneyWellness text messages.