

Self Advocacy Making a Difference!

DDS Self Advocate Coordinators
Fiscal Year 12' Report
August 2012



Self Advocate Coordinators At Work

- Who are we?
 - Nine SACs
- What do we Do?
 - Promote Self Advocacy
 - Consumer involvement
 - Develop leaders
 - Regional and State Activities
 - Spread the Word!



SAC Focus Areas



- Focus Areas for 2012
 - **Effective Self Advocacy**- Spread the word, increase knowledge and presence in government/legislation, promote People First Language, and increase the numbers of individuals attending meetings. Advocating throughout life:
 - **Youth Self Advocacy and Transition** – Transition of School Days to Pay Days – Supporting youth with intellectual disabilities to know their options as they transition into adult services and know how to speak up and speak out
 - **Sibling Advocacy** -Promoting more involvement with siblings of people with intellectual disabilities and supporting them to advocate together to make a difference



SAC Focus Areas

Effective Self Advocacy-

- **Spreading the Word at STS** – supporting consumers living at STS to understand their rights and how to advocate for the life they want.
- **Aging Issues** – Promoting healthy aging and advocating for services as we age
- **Women's Issues** – Addressing women's issues and advocating for healthy supports and services



SAC Focus Areas

- **Promoting employment** for all- promoting employment goals in IP, do more employment activities and interviews, look at benefits and refer questions to BRS.
- **Healthy Relationships-** continue with relationship series and propose healthy relationship policy to DDS.
- **Leadership** through committees, conference presentations, general presentations to consumers and staff.
- **Take charge of my Life** through hiring and managing my own staff.



Effective Self Advocacy

- Spreading the Word about Self Advocacy Through:
 - Increasing our knowledge and presence in government/legislation – The People First Language Bill was signed 8/11 and the SACs were there during the history making!.

Effective Self Advocacy

Spreading the Word – New Consumer Website launched 7/11!



*Welcome to
Consumer Corner!*



Effective Self Advocacy

- Spreading the Word
 - Promoting People First Language - SACs continue to work on promoting people first language in all publications and documents provided by DDS
 - Increasing the number of Individuals attending Self Advocacy Groups
 - Promoting Advocacy of women issues and sharing health information
 - Promoting Advocacy for Aging Issues

Effective Self Advocacy



- Spreading the Word
 - Aging Conference – Elder Ready Communities and Aging in Place
 - Conferences – Healthy Living, People First, Employment First, and Benefits
 - Special Olympics - winter and summer games
 - Regional Resource Fairs
 - On Board Training – New DDS Employees
 - Keeping informed on local, state, and federal laws

Effective Self Advocacy



- Spreading the Word
 - Human Rights Trainings
 - One on one meetings with Private Providers to promote Self Advocacy
 - SACs are DAC Committee members – local and state and are represented on the DAC State Board
 - STS – Spreading the Word and learning the 10 Steps to be a Good Self Advocate

Effective Self Advocacy



- Spreading the Word

- Regional Trainings – Case Managers in all Divisions, Resource Management and Provider Training
- Meetings with CM Supervisors and Case Managers
- One to One Advocacy Meetings
- Create and Update Bulletin Boards
- Share FAB topics with SA Groups around the state
- SAC provided Professional Judgment Training for STS Staff
- Spreading the word through email and social networks

Effective Self Advocacy



- Connected with RIOT, Disability Scoop, and other websites to keep informed
- Regional Family Forums
- SABE National Conference Calls
- Monthly SAC Statewide Meetings
- Share the 10 Steps with everyone!
- Sharing with school students how to speak up and advocate!
- Speaking and sharing information at School Transition Fairs

Effective Self Advocacy



- Self Advocacy DDS Groups
 - North Region
 - FY'11 -11 groups with over100 participants including 1 Hispanic group to FY'12 – 5 strong groups with over 70 people including 1 Hispanic group
 - South Region
 - FY'11 – 5 groups with 85 people to FY'12 – 5 groups with 94 people
 - West Region
 - FY'11 – 5 groups with 80 people to FY'12 – 10 groups with 136 people
 - All the groups follow the FAB topics calendar

Effective Self Advocacy



- Connecting with the 178 Private Providers to Promote SA Groups
 - North Region: Contacted 26 Total
 - South Region: Contacted 13 Total
 - West Region: Contacted 13 Total
- Private Providers that started groups once SAC met with them:
 - North Region: 2 started, 4 *in Progress*
 - South Region: 10 Started, 11 *in Progress*, 2 *NO*
 - West Region: 2 Started, 3 *in Progress*, 1 *NO*
- 30% of the 178 Agencies were contacted by SAC's



Promoting Employment For ALL!

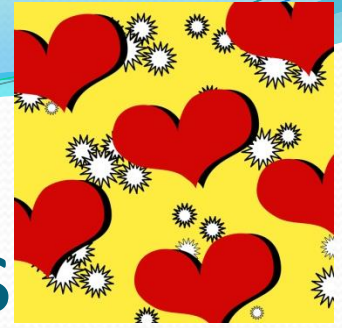
- Promoted Employment First DDS Policy
- Provider Training on Why Work?
- Mentoring Day
- Promoting REAL WORK FOR REAL PAY! – trainings, conferences, IP meetings, On Board Training and Private Providers
- 4th Employment Idol Contest
- Employment Idol Video 1, 2, 3 and 4



Promoting Employment For ALL!

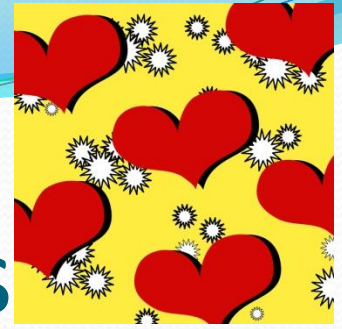
- Transition Fairs – booths and speaking out!
- SAC on APSE Board of Directors
- One to One with consumers
- Viewing of the Employment Idol in libraries and public places – “Popcorn Showings”
- Promoting Employment Goals in IP
- Employment Highlights on Consumer Corner and DDS Websites
- Benefits Booklet Developed and Shared Success Stories

Building Healthy Relationships



- Developed a Healthy Relationship Credo
- Training for all the SACs in Healthy Relationships with Planned Parenthood
- Coordinated a training series to promote Healthy Relationships for consumers
- Promoted Parents with Intellectual Disabilities to speak up and have more supports to be a parent

Building Healthy Relationships



- Healthy Relationship Series For DDS Consumers
 - Collaboration with Planned Parenthood of Southern New England
 - SAC and PPSNE Staff team teaching
 - 6 session series in each region – provided at least 2 series in each region
 - Up to 25 participants in each region
 - Provided training for staff and family members the first session of each series

LEADERSHIP



- Consult and provide guidance to the DDS Commissioner on all areas of DDS Supports and Services
- Provide training and guidance to DDS Management
- Self Advocacy Groups – DDS and People First
- Regional Committees – Diversity, Abuse and Neglect, Human Rights, Employment Initiative, Interview
- Statewide Committees including Rate Setting
- APSE Board
- DDS Vision and Mission Development
- Special Olympics
- Participated in the National Core Indicators as Interviewers

LEADERSHIP



- Leadership Responsibilities – SAC Focus Areas:
 - Genna – Employment
 - Carlos – Leadership
 - Jossie – Healthy Relationships
 - Jamie – Self Advocacy within DDS and Special Olympics
 - Varian – Sibling Advocacy and Government/Legislation
 - Carol – Women’s Issues
 - Sarah – Aging
 - Jeff – Spreading the Word at STS
 - Jamar – Youth Advocacy and Transition

TAKE CHARGE OF MY LIFE

- Teaching, learning, and living by example to hire and manage my own staff



TAKE CHARGE OF MY LIFE



- ALL SACs share Hiring and Managing Own Staff Information
- 7 of the 9 SACs hire and manage their own staff
- All developed personal work goals and identified their support needs – to be clear with support staff and be a better boss
- All work on being a great boss!

Coming in FY 13!



- Self Advocacy Groups and Employment Champions in Private Provider Agencies
- Family Support Network Collaboration
- Healthy Relationship Training for DDS Staff
- Abuse and Neglect Consumer Stakeholder Groups
- Anti- Bullying Collaboration
- Promoting the New Vision and Mission – Help Move the Mission
- Promote the DDS Five Year Plan

