

“Nothing about us, without us”



The Centennial State

Organizations presented by Self-Advocates

- **People First:** is a group of adults, with an intellectual or developmental disability



Speaking for Ourselves (SFO) is comprised of the Colorado People First Chapters

Other Organizations presented by Self-Advocates

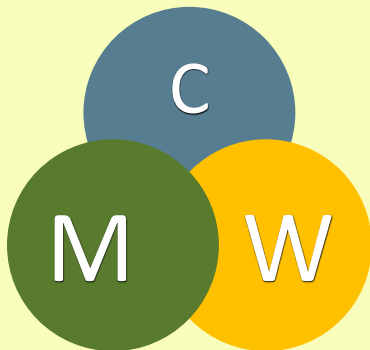
Organization

Speaker



**CILA or Council for Inclusion Leadership and
advocacy**

Priscilla Carlson



Mental Wellness Network:

Ed George

Organizations presented by Self-Advocates

Organization

Speaker

- **Youth Voice:**

Ty Smith

- **Project SEARCH:**

Tom Trhlik

What are some of your States self-advocacy organizations and their major activities or functions?

- **The Colorado Cross- Disability Coalition (CCDC):** is a statewide organization run by and for people with all types of disabilities who work together with their non-disabled coworkers, employers, family members, and neighbors to support disability rights.
- **Watch Our Words (WOW):** is comprised of a group of individuals who use augmentative communication (AAC) and use their skills to support and train other self-advocates on the advantages of AAC

What are your organizations needs and how are those needs met?

Name of organization	Resource Provider	Resource Provided
People First Chapters	<p>State Arc Chapters</p> <p>SFO</p>	<p>Advocacy Denver (Arc) provides \$1,500.00 annually. Information about money donations from other Arc chapters has not yet been obtained.</p> <p>SFO provides meeting space and funds to their People First Chapter members.</p>
Speaking for Ourselves	<p>People First</p> <p>SFO</p> <p>State Arc Chapters</p>	<p>People First and SFO contribute Dues and fundraise.</p> <p>Local Arc Chapters have provided meeting space. Information about money donations from other Arc chapters has not yet been obtained. space and minimal funding.</p>
Watch our Words	<p>Colorado Developmental Disabilities Council</p>	
Youth Voice		
Project SEARCH	<p>Colorado Mental Wellness Network</p>	

What has worked in your state for self-advocacy organizations?

- **Colorado has many non-profits, community organizations and Public agencies that promote and support self-advocacy through in-kind and financial donations. For example:**
- **Self-advocates are encouraged to make independent choices and participate in self-directed services**
- **Using Social Media to include more Individuals to participate in meetings**

What are you most proud of in regards to self-advocacy currently in your state?

SFO members witness Colorado Governor Bill Ritter as he signed **HB 10-1137**. The group spent many hours meeting with community members and law makers to tell them how important this Bill is!



The signing of Colorado's People First Language law in 2010 (HB 10-1137). The law states that all new legislation and changes to existing legislation must use language that emphasizes the person rather than the disability.

What are you most proud of in regards to self-advocacy in your state?

- **Having the 2011 Arc national conference in Denver**
- **Self-Advocates talk with middle and high school students during their schools Diversity week**
- **The active participation of self-advocates in the legislative process**
- **Self-advocates have welcome access to legislators, policy makers, and the Governor**

What are some challenges or struggles self-advocacy organizations have faced

- **Organizations duplicating efforts and activities**
- **Transportation!!!**
- **Not enough public awareness about self-advocacy**
- **Colorado also has a fragmented self-advocacy system. During Summit member meeting discussions it was noted that a lot of agencies and organizations' were involved in some type of advocacy that other members had no knowledge of**
- **Lack of financial support for People First and SFO**
- **Difficulty for people living in rural areas to participate in Statewide activities**
- **Self-advocates often believe they are not really listened to because their concerns are not implemented.**

How did self-advocacy start in Colorado?

"WE WILL RIDE"

- On July 5 and 6 1978 nineteen members of the Atlantis Community held their first demonstration for wheelchair accessible public transportation. They blocked the movement of public buses with their wheelchairs, stayed in the streets all night and chanted "We Will Ride."
- Twelve years later the Americans with Disabilities Act was passed by the United States Congress and signed by the President on July 26, 1990 ordering all public buses wheelchair accessible.
- The demonstrating members are now known as:

"The Gang of Nineteen"

How did self-advocacy start in Colorado?

- The Atlantis Community became ADAPT
- ADAPT has continued to improve the bus system's accessibility
- ADAPT works on moving people out of Institutions and Nursing Homes and into their own independent living situation