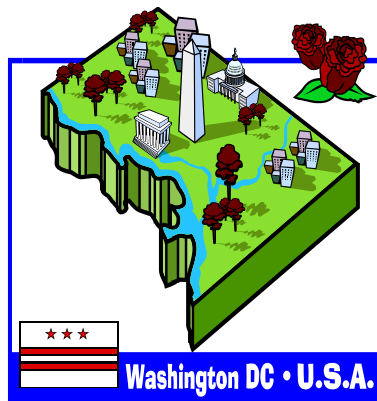




District of Columbia

Allies in Self-Advocacy Presentation

March 19-20, 2012



*SELF-ADVOCACY ORGANIZATIONS
IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
AND THEIR MAJOR ACTIVITIES OR FUNCTIONS*

Project ACTION! – DC’s state-wide self-advocacy coalition for people with developmental disabilities, which works with over 20 partner organizations to improve the opportunities that are available to people with developmental disabilities in DC

Some allied organizations in which self-advocates play a major role:

- Consumer Advisory Council of Georgetown University UCEDD** – self-advocates and allies plan the goals and support the work of the UCEDD
- DC Developmental Disabilities State Planning Council** – self-advocates and allies collaborate on plans and support the work of the DD Council
- Department on Disability Services (DDS) Advisory Council & DDS’s Health Advisory Council** – self-advocates and allies collaborate on plans to improve service quality and the availability of services and supports
- DC Advocacy Partners** – a new training initiative in DC, based on Partners in Policy Making, for self-advocates and family members

WHAT ARE THE RESOURCES FOR THE SELF-ADVOCACY ORGANIZATION?

Name of self- advocacy organization	Who provides the resources?	What resources are provided?
Project ACTION!	Volunteers	Advising, staff support, assistance with preparation for meetings, grant writing, assistance with testimony preparation, support in the planning and execution of an annual conference, providing and supporting training, assistance with fund-raising, assistance with letter-writing , support for inviting guests/speakers, transportation support, conference support, etc.
	DD Council	Provide testimony-writing assistance and funding for conference attendance and expenses
	UCEDD	Funding for members to attend local and national conferences; training
	Quality Trust	Fiduciary agent, mailings, copying, staff support, training, meeting space; funding for conference attendance
	Kennedy Institute	Meeting space on weekends and evenings, copying support, etc.
	American University Washington College of Law	Legal clinic students and supervisors who assist with 501(c)3 issues

What has worked in DC for Project ACTION!?

- Project ACTION!'s members serve on over 20 Boards and committees that make decisions about their lives**
- Project ACTION!'s conference has been effective for building membership and leadership**
- They have had a consistent network of support**
- They are active and visible, with name recognition as a group and through many individual members**
- They are able to get people in leadership positions in DC to come to their meetings to address issues**
- They have lots of partnerships**
- They are an independent 501(c)3**
- They have been meeting consistently for over 20 years, and have been a coalition for most of that time**

***What are challenges or struggles that
DC's Project ACTION! has faced?***

- ❑ Project ACTION! has no funding base**
- ❑ All of Project ACTION!'s staff support is voluntary and, therefore, limited by the time people can free up, making their activities vulnerable**
- ❑ Project ACTION! members have very limited access to technology, including e-mail and the internet**
- ❑ There are critical issues that Project ACTION! cannot address without consistent staff support**

What is DC most proud of in regards to self-advocacy currently in DC?

- Being an independent 501(c)3
- Having monthly meetings attended by 70 to 100 members
- Having strong active leaders and working on training new leaders
- Getting grants for special projects – with all of our funding to date from non-disability funding sources
- Making a difference on so many of the boards on which our members serve and through our advocacy activities/initiatives

WHAT GOALS OR DREAMS DOES DC HAVE FOR SELF-ADVOCACY?

- Full-time or even part-time staff support to assist with all of our activities, including leadership development**
- Substantially increasing leaders who have experience and confidence, and continuing to grow our membership**
- Project ACTION! leading the passage of a DD Reform Act**
- Project ACTION! members active on every Board of Directors and Human Rights Committee of every DD agency in DC – and more**
- Really having “nothing about us without us,” where things that affect our lives (e.g., changes to laws and policies, recommendations to the Court and DDS administration) aren’t put forward until we have reviewed them and agree with what is being proposed**
- Making real progress on our goals of employment/careers, relationships/friendships, and people exercising their rights**

DC TEAM MEMBERS AND THEIR AFFILIATIONS

- RICARDO THORNTON, PROJECT ACTION!**
- DONNA THORNTON, PROJECT ACTION!**
- WILLIAM O. JACKSON, PROJECT ACTION!**
- DIANDRA GARNETT, DC ADVOCACY PARTNERS**
- VANDER CHERRY, US DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**
- LAURA NUSS, DC DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY SERVICES (DDS)**
- TONI FISHER, GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY-UCEDD**
- MAT MCCOLLOUGH, DC DD STATE PLANNING COUNCIL**
- AMY BROOKS, RCM OF WASHINGTON**
- RYAN EASTERLY, HSC FOUNDATION**
- SANDY BERNSTEIN, UNIVERSITY LEGAL SERVICES (ULS) (DC's P&A)**
- REBECCA SALON, PROJECT ACTION! (ADVISOR) & DDS**