



DELAWARE

Self-Advocacy

Self-Advocacy Organizations

- ❖ Delaware People First – since 1989 - statewide
- ❖ Delaware Aspergers Support and Advocacy Group – since 2012 - NCC
- ❖ Turners Syndrome Society – since 2011 - NCC
- ❖ Diamond State Advocates – since 2000 - NCC

Center for Disabilities Studies (CDS)

Delaware's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities

Deeply committed to
SELF-ADVOCACY
And
SELF-DETERMINATION



CDS Promotes Self-Advocacy

- ❖ **Junior Partners in conjunction with Delaware Developmental Disabilities Council**
- ❖ **Community Connectors**
 - Builds leadership skills
 - Serves the community
 - Provides opportunities for socializing
- ❖ **Self-Determination Workshop (Fall 2011)**
 - Sue Swenson and Liz Weintraub – featured speakers
 - Local panel featured Drew Netta and others
- ❖ **Programs have person-centered orientation**
 - Career and Life Studies Certificate (CLSC) – post-secondary program at University of Delaware for individuals with intellectual disabilities
 - Employment Services
 - ✓ Competitive and supported employment services and supports
 - ✓ Emphasis on choice
 - ✓ Experience through internships

Disabilities Law Program (DLP)

- ❖ The Disabilities Law Program (“DLP”) is a special project of Community Legal Aid Society, Inc., which is designated by the Governor as the Protection and Advocacy agency in Delaware.
- ❖ The DLP provides advocacy services to Delaware residents with physical or mental disabilities. We prioritize our services based on federal agency guidance and needs identified by consumer and community groups.
- ❖ The Disabilities Law Program includes seven advocacy programs serving individuals with disabilities:
 1. Protection and Advocacy for persons with Developmental Disabilities Project (PADD);
 2. Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness Project (PAIMI);
 3. Protection and Advocacy for Individual Rights Project (PAIR);
 4. Protection and Advocacy for Assistive Technology Project (PAAT);
 5. Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security Project (PABSS);
 6. Protection and Advocacy for Traumatic Brain Injury Project (PATBI);
 7. Protection and Advocacy for Voter Access (PAVA).

Disabilities Law Program (DLP)

- ❖ DLP staff serve as presenters in Partners and Jr. Partners training of self advocates.
- ❖ DLP staff serve in leadership roles in consumer-based organizations (e.g. President of BIAD Board; member of EDTAC).
- ❖ DLP staff routinely provide technical assistance to the Delaware Consumer Recovery Coalition.
- ❖ DLP staff collaborate in advocacy with Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health peer support specialists.
- ❖ DLP staff provide technical assistance to Delawareans with Special Health Needs: Medicaid Managed Care Panel.
- ❖ DLP staff routinely provide technical assistance and participate in monthly calls with “Delaware Family Voices”.
- ❖ DLP presents training on substantive law, legal rights, and how to exercise rights (FY11 – 25 events with 2615 participants)



Delaware Self-Advocacy Resources

Partners in Policymaking



- ❖ Developed by the Minnesota Governor's Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities. The program has been offered in 40 states, as well as Great Britain, Scotland and the Virgin Islands. Over 5,000 people have been trained Nationwide.
- ❖ **The Delaware Developmental Disabilities Council** began its program in 1993. Over 200 Delawareans have taken the training program.
- ❖ An innovative Leadership Training Program that teaches people to be community leaders.
- ❖ Designed for parents raising young or school-aged children with a developmental disability or young adults with developmental disabilities.
- ❖ "Partners" provides up-to-date information, education and skill building activities about the legislative process and local, state and national issues that affect individuals with disabilities.
- ❖ Partners participants are people who are ready to work for change in public policy. The overall goal of the program is to foster a PARTNERship between people who need and use services for disabilities and those who make public policy.
- ❖ Partners graduates gain the abilities to teach policymakers a new way of thinking about people with disabilities.

Junior Partners in Policymaking

An innovative, competency based leadership and advocacy training program for youth with disabilities.



- ❖ In 2003, Junior Partners was developed by the **Delaware Developmental Disabilities Council** using the framework of Partners in Policymaking (developed by the Minnesota Developmental Disabilities Council).
- ❖ Training topics include: How to Run Your Own IEP meeting, MAPS, PATHS and Futures Planning, being an advocate, disability legislation and how to impact public policy.
- ❖ Sponsored by the **Delaware Developmental Disabilities Council**; Delaware Department of Education and the Administration on Developmental Disabilities.
- ❖ Training provided by the Center for Disabilities Studies and located at the University of Delaware.
- ❖ Week long live-in program.
- ❖ Teaches self-advocacy skills to students with disabilities ages 14 to 18.
- ❖ Program runs from Sunday afternoon to the following Friday afternoon.
- ❖ Students live in a supervised dormitory and eat in a university dining hall. Students have supervised social activities at night.
- ❖ All sessions are held on campus except the Friday session which is at Legislative Hall in Dover where students meet with legislators.
- ❖ Next class is scheduled for June 2013.

Junior Partners in Policymaking

Class of 2011



What has worked in Delaware for self-advocacy organizations?

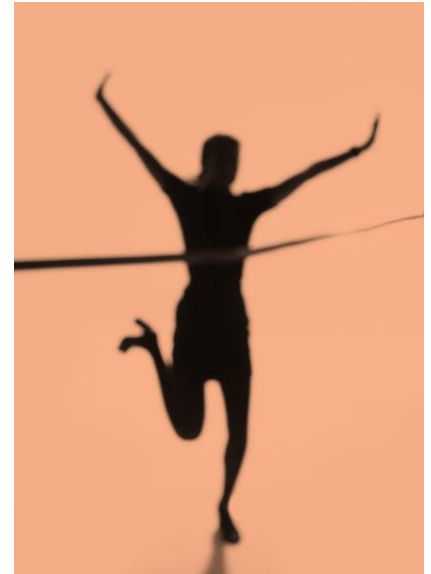
- ❖ Obtaining non-profit corporation status is relatively simple
- ❖ We are small
- ❖ Many quality resources
- ❖ We have access to legislators, policy makers, and the Governor
- ❖ Information sharing is easy
- ❖ Mobilization is easy
- ❖ County groups
- ❖ Statewide access

Challenges in Delaware

- ❖ Transportation system
- ❖ Service Silos
- ❖ Institutional Bias
- ❖ Community funding is lacking
- ❖ General Public Ignorance
- ❖ NIMBY
- ❖ Funding for the self advocacy organization
- ❖ Fear of losing what you've got
- ❖ Employment is not a priority
- ❖ Affordable, accessible, safe housing is lacking
- ❖ Access to higher education
- ❖ Waiting lists for services

What We Are Proud Of!

- ❖ Self Advocates have a history of advocating at the state level for services and supports
- ❖ Partners Graduates are our leaders
- ❖ Self Advocates are members of state councils, boards, and commissions
- ❖ Self Advocates drafted our first policy statement on self determination
- ❖ Self Advocates are more independent
- ❖ Self Advocates are teachers, mentors, and co-conspirators
- ❖ Self Advocates influence the state budget
- ❖ Self Advocates have moved out of institutions
- ❖ Self Advocates have influenced state legislation
- ❖ Jr. Partners graduates have established a mentor training program for self advocates in high school



Self-Advocacy Goals for Delaware



- ❖ Establish Sunday and evening accessible bus service
- ❖ Assure that a self advocate is at the transportation decision-making table every time
- ❖ Survey self advocates to determine ideas for goals
- ❖ Establish a peer to peer training program to build the knowledge base of self determination
- ❖ Recruit self advocates to mentor young people who need to be self determination
- ❖ Employment First for all ages
- ❖ Money Follows the Person for all people with disabilities

Delaware Team Members

Name	Organization Affiliation
Pat Maichle	Developmental Disabilities Council
Lisa Furber	DE Community Legal Aid Society, Inc. (P&A)
Jane Gallivan	Delaware Division of Developmental Disabilities Services
Carol Reid Hall	The Arc of DE/Delaware People First
Brigitte Hancharik	
Susannah Eaton-Ryan	Arc of Delaware
Beth Mineo	University of Delaware/ Center for Disabilities Studies (UCEDD)
Barbara Monaghan	Delaware People First
Bill Monaghan	Delaware People First
Andrew Netta	Student
Nancy Teel	Delaware People First
Jamie Wolfe	Partners in Policymaking Graduate