



Kentucky – Where Bluegrass, Basketball, and Self-Advocacy Reign Supreme!





KENTUCKY SELF-ADVOCATES FOR FREEDOM, INC.

... moving forward into a brighter future!

Our Key Statewide Organization

We are very much a part of this Self-Advocacy Summit. Established as a non-profit in 2004 as a statewide organization of self-advocates

- Currently *11* Chapters with *2,189* dues paying members
- Focused both on local community issues and at the state level on legislative issues with the KY DD Council and KY Protection & Advocacy (P & A)



KY Self-Advocacy Initiatives: Examples

- **FIND of Louisville** – Youth advocacy trainings for Latino youth
- **Arc of Kentucky** – Self-advocate training and participation as part of the *Futures is Now Project*
- **KY Youth Advisory Council**– educates service providers and society about issues important to youth with special health care needs; assists in creating educational materials and programs for youth and their families (KY CSHCN)
- **Training by Self-Advocates in Voter Registration and Accessibility** (with KY P & A, PADD Board, and KSAFF)
- **Training by Self-Advocates for Individuals Living in ICF-IDs** (with KY P & A and PADD Board)
- **Consumer Directed Option within our State Medicaid Waivers** – and the work of the KY Commission on Long-term Supports for Persons with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities



Resources for Self-Advocacy Organizations in Kentucky – Some Examples

Name of self- advocacy organization	Who provides the resource(s)?	What resource(s) is provided?
KY Self-Advocates for Freedom (KSAFF)	Commonwealth Council on Developmental Disabilities; KSAFF Membership dues	Fiscal support. Also volunteer support through KSAFF Board & Local Chapters
KY Youth Advisory Council - CSHCN	KY Commission for Children with Special Health Care Needs	Fiscal and staff support
Arc of Kentucky	Commonwealth Council on Developmental Disabilities; Grant funding and membership dues	Fiscal support



What Has Worked in KY for Self-Advocacy Organizations?

DD Network in KY Has Provided Strong, Integrated Support for Self-Advocacy – Examples...

- **KY P & A:** Voter Registration Training provided by Self-Advocates, KY P & A, and KSAFF
- **Self-Advocate Training for Individuals in ICF-IDs** (e.g., rights under Olmstead) conducted by PADD Board Members and P & A staff
- **KSAFF** receives ongoing support through our DD Council
- **Student Directed IEP Initiative** through KY UCEDD, P & A, and KY Department of Education
- **KY Youth Advocacy Project** – funded through KY DD Council to KY UCEDD. www.kyap.org



Kentucky's Challenges in Self-Advocacy

Transportation Barriers are Huge!

- KY is a largely rural state with 120 counties (2nd most counties of any state in the US!)
- Many transportation providers do not cross county lines or regions
- Some counties have no accessible public transportation at all
- Especially difficult in isolated parts of state (e.g., Appalachia)



Kentucky's Challenges in Self-Advocacy

Employment Needs

- Our State DD Waivers have recently increased fiscal incentives for providers of supported employment
- Still very low employment rates for individuals with ID/DD, along with high rates of participation in adult day programs
- Low rate of employment *most* pronounced for individuals on our state's Residential DD Waiver
- We are working to form an Employment First Initiative as part of our KY Team's Work as a part of the *Alliance for Full Participation*



Kentucky's Challenges in Self-Advocacy

Needs of Specific Populations

- Ensuring that Self-Advocacy Starts Early – Involving Youth *Throughout* Their Education
- Ensuring Opportunities for Self-Advocacy for All Individuals with DD in our State- Including Culturally and Ethnically Diverse Individuals, and Underserved Groups (e.g., persons living in Appalachia, individuals with ASD)



Self-Advocacy in KY: What We Are Most Proud of....

- 1) The Ways in Which We Have Worked Together to Create and Sustain Change
- 2) The Growing Presence of Youth Self-Advocacy in our State – Beginning While Students Are Still in School:
 - *KY Youth Advocacy Summit to be held August 2012*
 - *KY Youth Advocacy Project*
 - *Self-Directed IEP Initiative*



Dreams for Self-Advocacy in KY

Opportunities for Self-Advocacy for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities Across the Age Span:

- Strong Youth Initiatives in the Schools – Beginning Even in Elementary School (e.g., KYAP)
- Opportunities to Attend College – e.g., Supported Higher Education in KY (KY UCEDD Project)
- Opportunities for *True* Careers, Including Career Advancement
- Choices About Where One Wants to Live, Choices in Community Involvement and Being Able to Get There!



Our Members

Stephanie Sharp, Self-Advocate Co-Lead, Chair Commonwealth Developmental Disabilities Council

Harold Kleinert, Co-Lead, KY UCEDD

Cathy Jo Edwards, President, KY Self-Advocates for Freedom and member, KY Commission on Long Terms Supports for Persons with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Megan Baker, Vice President KY Self-Advocates for Freedom and UCEDD Consumer Advisory Council Member

Mark Newton, KY Protection & Advocacy PADD Board Member and KSAFF Member

Bev Harp – ASD Self-Advocate Leader

Claudia Johnson –Director, KY Division of Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities

Pat Seybold – Executive Director, Commonwealth Developmental Disabilities Council

Jeff Edwards – Staff Lead for KY Protection & Advocacy PADD Board

Adrienne Grizzell – State-Wide Staff Support Person for KSAFF

Sara Boyd – KY UCEDD Trainee and Doctoral Student

