

Self Advocates Becoming Empowered

Developing Strategies and Building Partnerships: How can our DD Partners help us?



OOCCSS

Our Community Standing Strong

'when self advocacy gets started it is like Kutzu you can't stop it!
Gail Bottoms "Kutzu Summit":2001

Alabama Arkansas Florida Georgia North Carolina Oklahoma South Carolina Tennessee



WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Presenters

- Tia Nelis, Illinois
- Gatha Mann, Tennessee
- Jennifer Austin, Tennessee
- Bill Gage, Tennessee
- Patrick Hackney, Alabama
- Carol Rabideau, Tennessee

Purpose of this Webinar

- What are partnerships?
- Who are your partners?
- **How To Develop Good Relationships with DD Partners**
- **How Can DD Partners Help Us?**

Bill Gage

TENNESSEE

How To Develop Good Relationships with DD Partners

Get in touch and visit each other to see what each other is doing

- Self Advocates visit DD Partner agencies
- Invite DD partners to People First Meetings



How To Develop Good Relationships with DD Partners

Meeting Agenda Items

- Introduce each other
- Determine what you can offer each other

How To Develop Good Relationships with DD Partners

Keep in contact

- Get to know each other
- Build trust

Gatha Mann

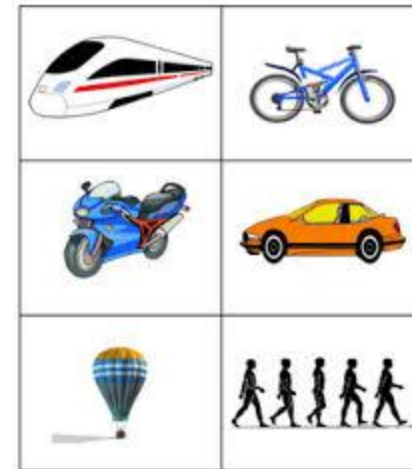
How To Develop Good Relationships with DD Partners

- DD Partners sometime have difficulties within the network itself
- DD Partners can work at having open communication within the network, with input from self advocates
- DD Partners and self advocates can determine what goals they all share

How To Develop Good Relationships with DD Partners

Do Self Advocates have access to transportation to go to meetings?

- What's available?
- Bus
- Taxi
- Para-transit
- Family member
- Friends



How To Develop Good Relationships with DD Partners

Do Self-Advocates have long distance access for calls or conference calls?

- Is an 800 number available?
- Instructions on how to use the 800 number



How To Develop Good Relationships with DD Partners

Do Self Advocates know how to use the technology?

- Do Self Advocates have computer access

for



GoToWebinar

by **CITRIX**

- Identify technology obstacles in order to facilitate good communication between DD Partners and Self Advocates.

Jennifer Austin

How To Develop Good Relationships with DD Partners

Help identify possible statewide host sites that offer technology access to self advocates.

- Protection & Advocacy offices?
- Vocational Rehabilitation offices?

How Can DD Partners Help Us?

Help Self Advocates connect with community agencies & universities by

- inviting Self Advocates to meetings with other disability organizations that are hosted by DD partners
- inviting Self Advocates to speak and be on panels for presentations at meetings hosted by partners
- introducing Self Advocates to campus disability offices so that Self-Advocates can meet and share information about People First

How Can DD Partners Help Us?

Help Self Advocates connect with agencies that serve people across the life span

- Elementary schools through High Schools
- Hospitals
- Nursing homes

How Can DD Partners Help Us?

- Jennifer met with staff of the disability office at MTSU who were very happy to learn about People First and share the information with students.
- Jennifer presented at a job club at TRC. The 18 and 19 year olds were excited to learn about People First.

Bill Gage

How Can DD Partners Help Us?

Create opportunities for Self Advocates

- Volunteerism: To give back to the public
- To show that they have a lot to give and **CHANGE** the perception of others that self advocates are a drain on resources.

How Can DD Partners Help Us?

Join together to spread the Word about People First Chapters

- DD Partners can tell callers to their agencies about People First Chapters
- Self Advocates can provide DD Partners with a list of People First Chapters and get them posted on their state website

How Can DD Partners Help Us?

Assist with collection of Needs Assessment surveys for OCSS.

- Send out the OCSS survey to their list serves
- Recruit students/interns to assist with collection of surveys

Gatha Mann

How Can DD Partners Help Us?

Host trainings co-facilitated by self advocates, perhaps quarterly

- Add self advocates to DD Network speaker panels

How Can DD Partners Help Us?

Host trainings co-facilitated by self advocates, perhaps quarterly

- Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program has found the most popular trainings to be Guardianship and Medicaid Waiver
- Tennessee P&A has found that the most popular requests for trainings are related to employment rights and general disability discrimination/ADA

How Can DD Partners Help Us?

Provide leadership training such as

- Partners in Policy Making
- The Tennessee Employment First Leadership Academy

Jennifer Austin

How Can DD Partners Help Us?

Provide technology support

- Website
- Facebook
- Blog and Vlogs posts



How Can DD Partners Help Us?

Financial Support

- Let Self Advocates know about grant opportunities and how to apply
- Provide assistance in writing grants that assist self-advocacy organization with funding to do their work
- Look for ways to include the organization in grants you may currently have or plan in the future that would provide support and/or develop strategies for face to face contact in local areas

How Can DD Partners Help Us?

Consider hosting a retreat facilitated by a self advocate with:

- Self Advocate leadership in the state
- DD Network partners

How Can DD Partners Help Us?

Address employment, housing, and transportation

- Hire a person or persons with intellectual disability to work on projects
- People with disabilities who work are often in dead end jobs with no chance for promotion.
- Jobs often don't come with benefits like insurance

How Can DD Partners Help Us?

Gatha reports that he has had three jobs – washing windows, making coffee & cleaning, and being a hospital volunteer “*gopher.*”

He liked them all, but “*there is more to this man.*”

How Can DD Partners Help Us?

Provide recreational opportunities

- Engage and network
- Get to know each other
- where abled and disabled people enjoy time together
- Develop relationships
- Have FUN!!!!

QUESTIONS



IMPORTANT DATES



Next OCSS Webinars

Webinar dates	Topic
Tuesday June 24, 2014	Funding Strategies
Tuesday July 22, 2014	Writing Grants
Tuesday August 26, 2014	Keeping Grants
Date to be determined	How to Use Blogs