Partnerships Outside the Disability Community

July 23, 2015
Hello and welcome
Reminders:

• Please mute your device once you join the call

• Remember to raise your hands for questions or write a message in text box

• We will give everyone a chance to ask questions at the end of the presentation
Reminders:

• If you are using more than one device for this webinar, please do not place next to each other, to reduce echoing or feedback.
• Make sure your speakers are turned on.
PRESENTERS

• Brittney Gore, People First of Alabama

• Patrick Hackney, ADAP

• Judy Roy, DRR

• Kaiya Andrews
  Green Mountain Self-Advocates
THE PURPOSE OF THIS WEBINAR

Participants will learn about how other self-advocacy groups have reached out to their communities for support and the different types of organizations they have ongoing relationships.
POLL QUESTION #1

Has your self advocacy group partnered with other groups outside the disability community?
What Groups have you partnered with?
1. Human Rights
2. Labor
3. LGBTQ
4. Business
5. Other
ALABAMA
PARTNERSHIPS OUTSIDE THE DISABILITY COMMUNITY
People First of Alabama

People with disabilities need to be involved in all aspects of our communities. We represent an important force in society!
Organizations with which we have relationships
Alabama ARISE

People First of Alabama is a member organization of Alabama Arise Citizen’s Policy Project.
Alabama ARISE

Arise Citizens' Policy Project (ACPP), founded in 1994, is a statewide nonprofit, nonpartisan coalition of 150 congregations and community groups and hundreds of individuals united in their belief that low-income people are suffering because of state policy decisions.
Through ACPP, groups and individuals join together to promote state policies to improve the lives of low-income Alabamians.

In a state that by many measures is the worst place for poor people to live in the United States, ACPP believes acts of charity are vital, but they are not enough; we must work to improve harmful state policies.
ACPP provides a structure in which Alabamians can engage in public debates with the goal of improving the welfare of all Alabamians.

Donations to ACPP, a 501(c)(3) organization, are tax-deductible.
People First participates in many of the policy initiatives of ACPP.
ADAP gathered sister advocacy organizations: National Association on Mental Illness (NAMI); Family Ties; SABE; Alabama Parent Education Center; and People First to discuss success in advocacy issues. PFLAG shared their experience in growing members, lobbying for policy change, and community support.
Americans with Disabilities Act 25th Celebration

People First of Alabama participated in a coalition of community and disability organizations to celebrate.
Americans with Disabilities Act
25th Celebration

Organizations like Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind, Disability Rights and Resources, Arc, Governor’s Office On Disabilities, as well as the city of Birmingham, Birmingham Museum of Art, the Birmingham MAX transit system, Regions Bank, and many more community organizations worked as a team to coordinate a week of activities.
Citizens campaign to send a message to each state representative and state senator to prepare a budget that meet the needs of our citizens.
“Without $300 million in new revenue, Alabama will experience budget cuts that endanger the lives of the most vulnerable and will threaten the well-being of even the most independent of our citizens. Through two legislative sessions, lawmakers have failed to produce a budget that meets the needs of our children, working mothers and our senior citizens. Now, a second special session will be required. What will happen if our legislators fail once again to vote Yes for new revenue?”
Stand Tall Alabama

People First members and supporters wrote personal messages to each state legislator and more.
Connecting with our Alabama Civil and Human Rights Heritage

People First of Alabama has organized educational opportunities in the historic civil rights district the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute (BCRI) and accessed speakers from the Greater Birmingham Ministries, celebrated the 50th anniversary of the March from Selma to Montgomery, and hosted events at the BCRI and more.
Connecting with our Alabama Civil and Human Rights Heritage
Low Income Housing Coalition of Alabama

Staff and members participated in LICA strategic planning meeting to determine community needs and priorities. Housing is a critical issue for people with disabilities.
Transportation initiatives

People First members participate in community education and surveys of needs in our community for accessible transportation. PF members advocate for access to diverse and new transportation solutions like UBER.
People First educates public and members on fair wages and minimum wage increase.
Fair wages and increase minimum wage

Alabama Needs A Raise $10.10

RALLY
Tuesday, September 15
5:00 PM
2738 Cahaba Road
Mountain Brook 35223
(Just outside of Birmingham)

State Attempts to Ban Cities From Raising Minimum Wage

- Birmingham just raised its Minimum Wage to $10.10; benefiting 40,000 low wage workers.
- A State Assembly Bill - just passed in Committee - will stop all cities from raising the minimum wage
- A Mountain Brook legislator fronts for the bill (one of richest cities in the Country).
- Birmingham poverty rates are 30% overall and 47% for children

Don’t Let The State Take Away Local Control

For more information: 334-587-0507
People First participates in community education for prevention of bullying. President, Brittany Gore, speaks on panel.
League of Women Voters

People First and Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program (ADAP) partnered with the League of Women Voters to educate on voting access, registration and informed voting.
Alliances with many organizations

People First members are part of Alabama Youth Leadership Forum, legislative alliances and coalitions, and recently 25th anniversary of the ADA celebrations! All bringing community awareness of self-advocacy and community participation in important issues.
Alliances with many organizations
Young Emerging Leaders grant: It’s All About Human and Civil Rights

The project is funded by our DD partner, Alabama Council on Developmental Disabilities and will create a group of youth ages 14-26 with developmental disabilities who will be prepared to be community leaders…joining leadership bodies of community organizations for disability rights and other groups supporting human and civil rights.
Community organizations
Project partners

- University of AI at Birmingham School of Business and UAB Civitan’s Center
- Alabama Arise Citizen’s Policy Project
- Southern Poverty Law Center
- Low Income Housing Coalition
- Church of the Reconciler
- National Voting Rights Museum in Selma, AL
- **The Well House**, The Well House is a nonprofit, faith-based organization devoted to the rescue and recovery of women who are being sexually exploited. Based in Birmingham, Alabama.
Coalition Building
Judy Roy, DRR
Civil Rights Are Disability Rights
President Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act 1964--landmark legislation that broadly outlawed discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex or national origin.
Disability Rights Are Civil Rights
“I now lift my pen to sign this Americans with Disabilities Act and say: Let the shameful wall of exclusion finally come tumbling down. God bless you all.”

Pres. George Bush
July 26, 1990
Disability Rights Are Human Rights
The United Nations, in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the International Covenants on Human Rights, has proclaimed and agreed that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth therein, without distinction of any kind

2008
Coalition Building

• Include people with disabilities in poverty reduction.

• Disability is both a cause and a consequence of poverty.

• “Nothing about us, without us!”
Kaiya Andrews and Karen Topper
Green Mountain Self-Advocates in Action with Allies
Vermont …
More dirt roads than paved roads!

Population 624,000
Montpelier (capital) 7,500
We are part of an unified movement for human rights and dignity in Vermont working with…

- VT Workers Center
- Migrant Justice
- 350 VT & Rising Tide
- VT Interfaith Action
- Pride Center of Vermont
- Anti-Defamation League
- Public Assets
GMSA is part of the leadership team of the Vermont Human Rights Council
Sharing Information and Organizing Strategies

Media Institute, Fundraising Training, Anti-Racism for Collective Liberation, People's University for Learning & Liberation, Put People First Campaign, Healthcare as a Human Right Campaign …

Organizers interweave relationships, understanding, and action so that each contributes to each other. — Marshall Ganz
Nothing About Us
Without US
Together we meet with public officials and hold press conferences

Max Barrows (GMSA) lead speaker at press conference following the Governor’s Budget address

Nicole (GMSA) and Sheila (VWC) meeting with Bernie Sanders
Just one example of the many rallies we have organized together over the years. April 2015, Nicole LeBlanc, self-advocate speaks at a Vermont rally to end budget cuts.
One successful strategy has been to jointly organize candidate forums in each county. Speakers from each of our organizations ask questions.

Raymond Gordon, Think College Student makes his case for employment services at a candidate forum. He teamed-up with a fellow college student who was there to speak up about college debt.
PUT PEOPLE FIRST

Adapted from Tracy Thresher’s Blog 8/2/2012 (GMSA Peer Leader)

Yesterday I had the opportunity to meet with young representatives from the Vermont Workers’ Center. Sitting amongst us and having dialogue on topics that affect our lives, these young makers of positive change not only listened to our issues but pledged to continue to rise to walking the walk to ensure that all Vermonters have a voice. The Vermont Workers’ Center’s vision is to “Put People First.” To do so they have begun to canvas the state to open up dialogue with ALL Vermonters. The dialogue we are now having is a launch pad for change. Paramount to making change is including the stakeholders when inquiring what issues need to be addressed.

The young twenty-something leaders are a force of inclusive political change in Vermont. Quietly building momentum to push through heavy political obstacles, making democracy a reality for all people.

Let’s continue to be in partnership with grassroots organizations to communicate the need for the supports for people to live lives of their choosing.
New Ways of Connecting With Youth

...On campus ... Rallies and direct action... Organizing a Youth Congress
Campaigns:

- Building a Moral Economy
- Universal Healthcare Campaign
There is no climate justice without migrant justice, no workers rights without disability rights.
DATES TO REMEMBER
DATES TO REMEMBER

Final 2014-2015 invoice **due now**

September 30, 2015 Supplemental Invoice due.

October 10-11, 2015 Face to Face meeting in Decatur, Georgia
Next OCSS Webinars
3:30 p.m. EST
2:30 p.m. CST

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Webinar dates</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 22, 2015</td>
<td>Closing Institutions</td>
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THANK YOU!

Regional Self Advocacy Technical Assistance Center Funded by the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.