SARTAC Fellows:
Advancing Self Advocacy through Leadership and Policy
About the Fellow

Jeff Johnson
Missouri
Segregated Education and the School to Prison Pipeline

Host: Mark Satterwhite
MY PROJECT:

• I wanted students with disabilities, students of color and their parents to know their rights and to know where to turn for help.

• We formed a steering committee to make a plan. We held focus groups and did research.

• The project went as planned except one part: the school would not let us in to do surveys.
NATIONAL RESEARCH SHOWS:

• Black students with disabilities are nearly four times more likely to receive multiple out-of-school suspensions and almost two times more likely to be expelled than white students with disabilities.

• Students with disabilities as a whole are more than twice as likely to receive out-of-school suspensions compared to students with no disabilities.
FOCUS GROUP INVITE

Nationwide, students of color and students with disabilities are suspended, expelled, separated from regular classrooms, and referred to legal authorities at much higher rates than their peers.

If you are concerned about your child for these reasons, come join our conversation in the library Friends Room.

We are looking for solutions!

Focus Group for Parents
Working to end the school to prison pipeline

When: Saturday, October 26, 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Where: Columbia Public Library, 100 W. Broadway, Columbia

Who: Families, professional advocates, friends

More info?: Jeff Johnson, People First, 573-424-1744 or Mark Satterwhite, Boone County Family Resources, 573-874-1995

SARTAC
Self Advocacy and Beyond

BOONE COUNTY
Family RESOURCES

THRIVE | CONNECT | ACHIEVE

Supporting individuals with developmental disabilities since 1976.
FOCUS GROUP # 1

Held on October 26, 2019 at the Columbia Public Library (Parents, Grandparents, a student, and representatives from Mid-Missouri Legal Services, SEPTA, Race Matters Friends, ACLU, and People First of Boone County participated.)
Some who were at the first focus group wanted to continue the discussion – we met again in November at host site Boone County Family Resources.
FOCUS GROUP FINDINGS

- Parents need to know where to turn for support.
- Students and their parents need to know their rights.
- Teachers need special training and support in order to handle behavior differently.
- School policy needs to change so it isn’t so easy to kick students out of school or refer them to juvenile authorities. These should be last resorts.
WHAT I LEARNED AS A FELLOW

► I learned the problem is real in our community in our schools.
► I got to know others who are concerned about the problem and want to help.
► I learned students and parents need support, and teachers need training.
► I got to meet with other local groups like the Special Education Parent Teacher Association who are willing to partner.
► I built on my leadership skills.
The School to Prison Pipeline
Know Your Rights and Resource Guide for Parents and Advocates
HELPFUL PARTNERS

Michelle Ribaudo, SEPTA (Special Education Parent/Teachers Association)

Francine Pratt, Community Partnership of the Ozarks
HELPFUL PARTNERS

William Linzie, Foster Parent
Nicole Seamon, Mom
(Also part of the original steering committee)

Emilly Hanson, American Civil Liberties Union
Networking at MoDE (Missouri Disability Empowerment) Event
I am interested in working with legislators to file bills to stop restraint and seclusion, and limit out of school suspension.

I want to be sure and have a voice with the School Board.

This spring I used my leadership skills to help MC Disability Rights Legislative Day at the state capitol building.
My wife and son and some People First members, met with David Seamon, candidate for the school board. He is now on the School Board.
Representative Dottie Bailey talks about her Restraint and Seclusion bill – Disability Rights Legislative Day 2020 at the Missouri State Capitol. Tracy Bono – mom – supports the bill because her son experienced restraint and seclusion in school.
As host, Boone County Family Resources provided meeting space, use of equipment and paper;

Host (Mark Satterwhite) took meeting minutes so Jeff could focus on leading or facilitating meetings;

Host and other steering committee members (Christina Devine and Cheryl Miller) helped develop the Resource Guide;

Boone County Family Resources supports people with I/DD including public school students who may be experiencing the issues Jeff focused on. His project helped bring us into better touch with the issues.
I have a goal to be self-employed as a consultant and advocate for student rights. My research during this project has helped me prepare.

I am currently the co-chair for the Real Voices Real Choices conference.
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The Self Advocacy Resource and Technical Assistance Center (SARTAC) seeks to strengthen the self-advocacy movement by supporting self advocacy organizations to grow in diversity and leadership. The resource center is a project of Self Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE), the oldest national self-advocacy organization in the country. SARTAC is a Developmental Disabilities Project of National Significance, funded by the Administration For Community Living – Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD). The information in this product was written to provide guidance for self advocates and their allies to assist in understanding policy issues affecting their lives. It is not to be used to determine a person’s legal rights or an organization’s legal responsibilities under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; the Americans with Disability Act of 1990, as amended or any other federal, state or local laws written to protect the rights of people with disabilities.