GETTING YOUR MESSAGE OUT

What is a Position Statement and How do you Write One?
PRESENTERS

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WHAT IS SARTAC?

• Self Advocacy Resource and Technical Assistance Center

• Online clearinghouse for information

• A partnership between regional technical assistance centers

• Funded by Administration for Community Living
POSITION STATEMENT TOOLKIT

• What is a Position Statement
• Identify the Issue
• Gathering Information and Facts
• Sharing Your Paper

GETTING YOUR MESSAGE OUT
What is a position paper and how do you write one?
WHAT IS A POSITION STATEMENT

• It is a great way to speak up for yourself and others!

• The public needs to know and we need to educate on how issues or problems affect us!

• A position statement is a way to make your position clear and provide facts that support your position.

YOU are the experts!!
IDENTIFYING THE ISSUE

• Find a disability issue your group can agree to work on

• Self advocacy groups are most affective when we write on issues that we are experts on
GATHERING INFORMATION AND FACTS

• You need to get information about the issue
• Identify the benefits and challenges about the issue
• Facts and information can come from
  • Numbers of people affected
  • Graphs
  • Charts
  • Stories
  • Polls
  • Surveys
THE POSITION OF THE SELF ADVOCACY GROUP

• A position statement need to be the official position of the self advocacy group
• The group needs to decided what their position is on a issue
• Take a vote to confirm the position
• Before voting you need to consider
  • Beliefs and principles
  • How people feel

The position statement reflects who you are as a self advocacy group
SHARING YOUR PAPER

Identify your audience – who needs to get the statement

• How do they get their information
  • Written – hard copy or electronic
  • Social media - Videos and Stories
  • Make sure it is accessible

Who else need it?

• Individuals or general public
SUCCESS IN ADVOCACY!
SMALL GROUP SESSIONS QUESTION:
WHO HAS DONE A POSITION STATEMENT ABOUT AN IMPORTANT ISSUE?

Yes
• Why did your group choose that issue?
• How did it go?

No
• What are some issues that you face in your community that you could work on?
SMALL GROUP SESSIONS QUESTION: FINDING INFORMATION

Yes

• Where did you find information about the topic or issue?

No

• Where can you find information about the topic or issue?
SMALL GROUP SESSIONS QUESTIONS: WORKING ON AN ISSUE

Yes

• How do you decide to work on that issue?
• What other organizations worked with you?
• Was there any disagreement?
• How did you come to an agreement?

No

• How do you decide to work on issues?
• Who can work with you on the issue?
SMALL GROUP SESSIONS QUESTION: SHARING YOUR STATEMENT

Yes
• How have you shared your position statement?
• What would an accessible document look like to you?

No
• If you have not, who would you share the statement with?
RESOURCES

Resources for self advocacy groups can be found at [www.selfadvocacyinfo.org](http://www.selfadvocacyinfo.org)