SARTAC Fellows: Advancing Self Advocacy through LEADERSHIP AND POLICY
As someone who advocates for myself, I learned to present myself in a certain way to be a successful professional advocate and succeed in my social media brand. However, I had not seen any specific programs focused primarily on this topic for intellectually disabled people. This knowledge could help empower more self-advocate leaders around the world. Since I already had a large social media following, I set out to Develop a course that teaches people with intellectual disabilities basic leadership skills, etiquette in communicating with influential people (such as legislators), and how to behave in a professional setting through the use of monthly recorded webinars.
WHAT I LEARNED AS A FELLOW

► How to manage my monthly SSI benefits
► How to make accessible PowerPoint and surveys
► Not everyone likes to do prep work before webinars. (we had to eliminate our pre-recorded videos due to lack of views)
► Learned a new way to embed captions!
In March I recorded a video that covered tips and tricks to help advocates evaluate leadership opportunities and deciding if it’s right for them!

a) What are you promising to do?

b) Demo on how to think through the resources you have to do the leadership role using Charting Life Course support star!

c) Thinking about do you actual want to do this opportunity
In April I recorded a role-play video of different things you shouldn’t do in a meeting with an explanation as to why.

During the webinar we answered questions and played how to conduct yourself in meeting jeepney.

We hope these resources can be used as a perception training before joining a group.
Every 3 month we offered a checkpoint for our participants.

The purpose of these webinars were to let participants ask questions, voice feedback, talk about what they learned.

You can find the slide on the website as well as the webinar recording.
In this webinar, we discussed the importance of not overbooking.

Organizational tips for planning (meeting agendas, calendar invites, color coding)

I demonstrated how to make meeting agendas with a premade template and make calendar invites.
In July we had Public Policy and Advocacy Manager at Paraquad Jeanette Mott Oxford and retired legislators come talk to us and role play.

- we crafted elevator pitches about important disability issues and demonstrated how to make appointment.
- We talked about Capital Hill dress code

We then gave participants a chance to work on their skills with retired legislators
August check-in

- Every 3 month we offered a checkpoint for our participants.
- The purpose of these webinars were to let participants ask questions, voice feedback, talk about what they learned.
- You can find the slide on the website as well as the webinar recording.
In September we talked about when you make a commitment how do you get your needed accommodations to be successful in your engagements and being sure you're not just a pun for diversity.

A. Tips and tricks for asking for advance accommodations (email, phone call)

B. Be away of your schedule maybe don’t say yes to last minute offers

C. Make sure you are knowable about a subject before saying yes
October leadership options

In anticipation for my fellowship to end we educated participants on upcoming leadership options.

a. Joining a coalition
b. Missouri Disability Rights Legislative Day
c. SARTAC
November - Check-in

► Every 3 month we offered a checkpoint for our participants.

► The purpose of these webinars were to let participants ask questions, voice feedback, talk about what they learned.

► You can find the slide on the website
Following my fellowship I have accepted a position as the executive director of Community Power Project, and I hope to find more funding to continue leadership webinars.

I also have suggested that the Community Power Project bring on a SARTAC Fellow and I hope to be the supporting host for that!
What Was The Role Of The Host?

- Technical Support
  - invoicing, contracts and professional guidance
- Transcription and Clarifications
  - Helped support accessibility of webinars through clarifications to attendees and transcription of presentation
- Edits of Materials
- Marketing
- Implemented Mid-Year Check-In
- General Sounding Board/ Idea Generation
This fellowship has been instrumental in enhancing my leadership and advocacy skills. Specifically, it has equipped me with the knowledge to create more accessible content and disability awareness resources tailored to diverse communities. I’ve gained expertise in embedding video capturing, employing alt text, and crafting materials in easy-to-read and plain language formats.

In my upcoming role with the new nonprofit organization, Community Power Project (CPP), dedicated to empowering adults with disabilities, I plan to apply the skills acquired during this fellowship. At CPP, our vision is to enable every individual with disabilities to lead a fulfilling and independent life. I am committed to integrating the skills learned to contribute to the success of my role and the organization’s mission.