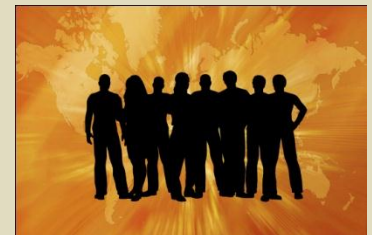




**Envisioning the Future: Arizona
Allies in Self-Advocacy
March 24-25, 2011**

**What are some of the self-advocacy organizations that currently exist in your state?
What are their major activities or functions?**

- Organized Advocates for Special Individuals in Society **(OASIS)**
- People First of Arizona **(PFAz)**
- Youth Action Council of Arizona **(YAC-AZ)**
- Arizona Autism Spectrum Support, Information and Strategies for Transition **(AZ ASSIST)**
- Self-Advocacy Coalition of Arizona **(SAC of AZ)**



Community Allies Acronyms List

- Division of Developmental Disabilities – **DDD**
- Arizona Bridge to Independent Living – **ABIL**
- Direct Center for Independence – **DIRECT**
- Southwest Institute for Families and Children – **SWI**
- Administration on Developmental Disabilities – **ADD**
- Arizona Department of Education – **ADE**
- Developmental Disabilities Planning Council – **DDPC**
- Northern Arizona University, Institute for Human Development – **IHD**
- Sonoran Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, Education, Research and Service – **Sonoran Center**
- Arizona Center for Disability Law – **ACDL**





OASIS

Our members: Adults with developmental disabilities- many from group residential settings

Our major activities:

- Social Events
- Summer Self-Advocacy Conference; Self-Advocacy presentations in partnership with PFAz, ABIL/DDD
- ABIL/DDD/SAC of AZ provide training about services





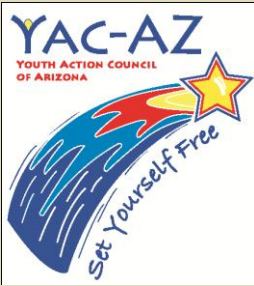
People First of Arizona

Our members: Adults with disabilities who live in the community-many on their own with or without services

Our major activities:

- Present about self-advocacy, AmeriCorps, Project VOTE, decision making, relationships and preserving services
- Support a Tucson chapter





YAC-AZ

Our members: Youth and young adults, but all are welcome

Our major activities:

- Invite presenters to talk about topics of concern such as post-secondary education, transportation and employment
- Participate in adaptive recreation
- Implementing a Youth Mentoring Program
- Managing a social and learning website, YAKKIT.org





AZ ASSIST

Our members: Autism specific community of youth, adults & families-most do not receive DDD services

Our major activities:

- Working together to lead productive lives through personal advocacy – focused on transition
- Meet about different topics like education, socialization and driving





Self Advocacy Coalition of Arizona

Our members: Coalition of 9 self-advocacy groups and individuals with a statewide 15 member board

Our major activities:

- Provide training to members and member groups
- Public policy education to members to testify
- Position papers in user friendly language
- Project VOTE! training to youth and adults
- Fiscal agent to Lake Havasu City self-advocacy group



What are the resources for the self-advocacy organizations?

Name of self-advocacy organization	Who provides the resource(s)?	What resource(s) is provided?
OASIS	In the past The ARC, provider agency, member driven fundraisers	Staff, meeting location and transportation, personal funds
PFAZ	In the past IHD and DDPC mini grants, ABIL, DIRECT, provider agency, ACDL (PAVA grant) and volunteers	Location, advisors, staff time, stipends, travel and support expenses
YAC-AZ	SWI, ABIL, ADD, ADE, Sonoran and family support	PNS grant, Yakkit.org website, meeting space, youth summit at conference and scholarships, volunteers and transportation
AZ ASSIST	Family support, other Autism groups and, Charter school	Office and meeting space, family donations, online revenue
SAC of AZ	DDPC, IHD, ACDL, ABIL, member driven fundraisers, DDD agencies for staff, and Sonoran Center	Coalition Staff, nonprofit development, office space, teleconferences, personal assistance services, mini grants

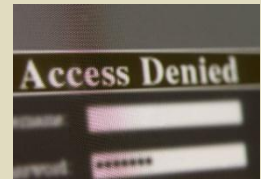
What has worked in your state for self-advocacy organizations?

- Community partnerships: self-advocacy groups, state agencies, businesses and allies
- Information about disabilities in user friendly format
- Dedicated funding to support self-advocacy
- Organization's reputation for respecting autonomy and providing information and training
- Fundraising and educating donors about disabilities



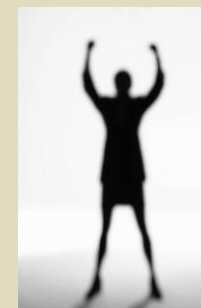
What are some challenges or struggles that your state self-advocacy organizations have faced?

- Funding subject to priorities of formal funding sources
- Support often based on an attitude of “charity”
- Lack of community awareness or “branding” about the potential of self-advocacy organizations
- Maintaining and recruiting new members
- Service providers and families fear self-advocacy challenges “traditional” thinking
- Burn out of leaders who organize self-advocacy groups
- Many look at self-advocacy as a “program” rather than a way of thinking as an organization



What are you most proud of in regards to self-advocacy currently in your state?

- Tremendous leadership in self-advocacy in Arizona, locally and nationally
- Obtaining non-profit status and central location for some groups
- Self-advocacy organizations embracing technology and fighting the “digital divide”
- Core value that self-advocacy results in people with disabilities in charge of their own lives
- Self-advocacy often evolves from the community itself



What goals or dreams does your state have for self-advocacy?

- Grow more self-advocates and champions
- A strong self-advocacy network
- Empower and connect to individuals-especially emerging self-advocate youth leaders
- Recognized as a political force
- Become the 4th prong of the DD Network in Arizona and nationally



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Self Advocates Becoming Empowered

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