



# CALIFORNIA

# SELF-ADVOCACY



# Some of our self-advocacy organizations

Many of these groups work together:

- More than 100 local people first and self-advocacy groups throughout the state
- People First of California
- Department of Developmental Services Consumer Advisory Committee (CAC)
- Association of Regional Center Agencies CAC and 21 local regional center CACs
- Autistic Self-Advocacy Network
- Opening Doors to Multi-Cultural Communities



# Some of our activities

- Outreach and trainings to start new groups, including youth
- Statewide, regional, and local conferences
- Many publications
- Leadership training
- Legislative advocacy
- Advise leaders about important issues



# Some of our activities (continued)

- Learning about rights
- Helping each other solve problems and make decisions
- Community service
- California Memorial Project
  - Dignity for our brothers and sisters who died at state hospitals
- Advocacy for United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities treaty
  - Urging US senators to ratify (approve) equal rights rules for people with disabilities world-wide

# Who provides resources for self-advocacy?

- Self-Advocates!
- State Council on Developmental Disabilities and 13 local area boards
- Disability Rights California
- People First of California
- Department of Developmental Services
- Regional centers
- University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDDs)
- Provider Agencies
- Supported Life Institute and others

# What resources are provided?

- Volunteering time, money, energy, and passion
- Peer support
- Information sharing
- Funding
- Trainings
- Outreach
- Helpers
- Travel expenses
- Meeting space
- Postage, supplies, printing, etc.
- Conference support



# What resources are provided (continued)?

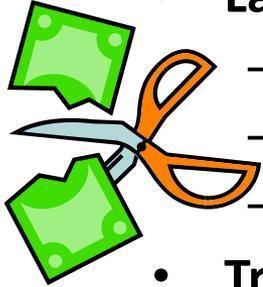
- Help with lawsuits
- Mentoring
- Teaching materials
- Youth development
- Grant-writing
- Bringing people together from different fields
- Research
- Translation services
- Improve how people with disabilities are portrayed in the media
- Donations

# What works?

- STRONG ADVOCATES WHO DON'T BACK DOWN!
- Focusing on one goal at a time
- Giving everyone in the group a task
- Materials that are easier to understand
- Learning from our peers
- Leadership training
- Good listening skills
- Helpers, support, and commitment from sponsoring organizations
- Sharing information so we feel connected to the movement
- Convenient meeting times and locations



# CHALLENGES



- **Lack of money:**
  - To plan and to have long-term goals
  - To train new consumer leaders
  - To network at conferences and other events
- **Transportation**
  - Not always running at night
- **California is a huge state**
  - Hard for self-advocates to get together
- **Poor relationships between agencies, groups, and individuals**
  - Lack of communication
  - Not everyone has shared values
- **Helpers not trained**
  - Some try to run the groups
- **Some programs don't think consumers should have a say in their lives**



# We are proud of ...



- Progress
  - Fifteen years ago, we would not have had a summit like this!
- Push for self-determination – being in charge of our lives
- Advocacy to stop our state budget cuts
- Work to pass a bill for an Employment First Committee
- Capitol People First lawsuit
  - Helping to get people out of institutions
- Statewide People First of California organization and local groups
- California Memorial Project
- Many training booklets we wrote
- Peer to peer training



## Our goals ...

- People should make their own decisions
- Save the Lanterman Act and entitlement to services
- Close institutions and segregated day programs
- Meaningful jobs with real wages and benefits
- Decent housing, transportation, and health care
- Start self-advocacy training before high school
- Inclusive education, including college
- Enforce existing laws to prevent discrimination
- Grow in numbers, unity, and power
- Change society's attitudes so that we are treated with respect



# California's Team

- Scott Barron Disability Rights California
- Lisa Cooley CEDD at UC Davis MIND Institute (UCEDD)
- Sam Durbin Department of Developmental Services CAC
- Melody Goodman State Council on Developmental Disabilities
- Steven Kapp UCLA UCEDD (Tarjan Center) /  
Autistic Self-Advocacy Network
- Esther Kelsey USC UCEDD CCAB
- Miguel Lugo Fiesta Educativa – employment rep.
- Irene Martinez Fiesta Educativa /  
Opening Doors to Multi-Cultural Communities
- Julia Mullen Department of Developmental Services
- Nicole Patterson Department of Developmental Services
- Olivia Raynor UCLA UCEDD (Tarjan Center) – representing 3 CA  
UCEDDs
- Carol Risley State Council on Developmental Disabilities
- Alvaro Rodriguez CEDD at UC Davis MIND Institute (UCEDD) – youth rep.
- Robert Taylor Department of Developmental Services CAC
- Jennifer Walsh State Council on Developmental Disabilities
- Kecia Weller People First of California