

Georgia



Allies in Self Advocacy Summit

Atlanta, GA

March 10 and 11, 2011

Team Members

- Cheri Mitchell, People First of Georgia and Self Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE)
- Cody Bosclair, Autistic Self Advocacy Network
- Catherine Jordan, Autistic Self Advocacy Network
- Tracy Rackensperger, Institute on Human Development and Disability (IHDD)
- Bethany Stevens, Center for Leadership in Disability (CLD)
- Jeff Corbett, National Youth Leadership Network

Team Members (Continued)

- Doris Johnson, Division of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD)
- Caitlin Childs, Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities (GCDD)
- Jenny Puestow, Georgia Advocacy Office (GAO)
- Marian Jackson, People First of Georgia
- Bernard Baker, People First of Georgia and Self Advocates Becoming Empowered
- Ryan Mercer, ADAPT, disABILITY Link, Center for Leadership in Disability

Self Advocacy Organizations in Georgia

- People First of Georgia, and 22 local chapters
- Atlanta ADAPT
- Autistic Self Advocacy Network
- National Youth Leadership Network
- Statewide Independent Living Council and Centers for Independent Living
- National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)
- Partnerships for Success Clubs and Alumni groups
- Georgia Mental Health Consumer Network

Self Advocacy Resources

Organization	Resources
People First of Georgia	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Funding: GCDD•Independent fundraising: People First•Advisement: GAO, disABILITY Link, CLD•Host and fiscal agent: GAO•Personal, professional and organizational development support: DD Network•Support Vice President to serve as SABE Southeastern Representative: GAO, GCDD
Atlanta ADAPT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Independent fundraising by ADAPT members•disABILITY Link
Autistic Self Advocacy Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•The ARC grant•The Dan Marino Foundation grant
National Youth Leadership Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•ADD grant•W.K. Kellogg Foundation grant•Private donations

Self Advocacy Resources (continued)

National Alliance on Mental Illness, Georgia chapter	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•DBHDD•Private donations
Partnerships for Success Clubs and Alumni groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•GCDD•Department of Education
Georgia Mental Health Consumer Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Grants•Contracts•Donations•Membership fees
Statewide Independent Living Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Vocational Rehabilitation•Private donations

What is working?

- Welcome Home Committee
- Long Road Home
- Project Vote
- Peer Support
- Leadership training and mentoring
- Empowering people to find their voices!
- Collaboration with other agencies and self advocacy coalitions

What is working? (Continued)

- Participation on the Olmstead Planning Committee
- Transportation initiatives
- People First of Georgia mini-grants
- Great attendance at People First of Georgia Statewide Conference
- Waddie Welcome and the Beloved Community readings across the State

Challenges and Barriers

- Developing Autism-specific self advocacy organizations, particularly outside of Metro Atlanta
- Encouraging participation of self advocates on statewide advocacy coalitions, such as Unlock the Waiting List
- Increasing the number of mini-grant applications submitted

Challenges and Barriers

- Expanding self advocacy beyond People First
- Expanding self advocacy beyond Metro Atlanta
- Finding meaningful ways to engage youth and develop youth-led advocacy work
- Accessing transportation so self advocates can travel the state

What are Georgia's self advocates most proud of?

- Empowering self advocates
- Building Georgia's self advocacy network
- Representing self advocates on national self advocacy committees
- Operating effectively on a minimal budget with no paid staff
- Utilizing social media to spread the word
- Being the Olmstead State!

What are Georgia's self advocates most proud of? (Continued)

- Organizing annual Long Road Home events
- Bringing self advocacy to the forefront of conversations
- Supporting Waddie Welcome and the Beloved Community readings across the State
- Obtaining a commitment from the State to move people with disabilities out of state hospitals

Goals and Dreams

- Develop and support youth-led self advocacy coalitions
- Connect cross-disability self advocacy coalitions to partner on projects
- Host study tours led and organized by people with disabilities
- Inform more legislators about disability issues
- Shift the institutional mindset
- Advance the idea of neurological diversity

Goals and Dreams (Continued)

- Create and hold a seat on a Disability Caucus of the Republican Committee of Georgia
- Continue to grow the leadership and membership of People First of Georgia
- Reach beyond Metro Atlanta
- Welcome people of all disability to the self advocacy community
- Advance the principles of the disability rights movement in the world of autism

Goals and Dreams (continued)

- Reach out to people leaving state hospitals through the *U.S. v. GA* settlement agreement
- Continue to advocate for the full inclusion of all Georgians with disabilities
- Continue to bridge the gap between the disability community and larger communities
- Increase funding for the Long Road Home
- Realize the promise of Olmstead!
- Host statewide “Conversations that Matter”