



Self Advocacy in Massachusetts

Envisioning the Future

*Allies in Self-Advocacy Summit
Providence Rhode Island
May 16, 17 2011*



Self-Advocacy in Massachusetts



Department of
Developmental Services



Self Advocacy in Massachusetts

- Massachusetts Advocates Standing Strong (MASS)
- Act Today Influence Tomorrow Youth Advocacy
- Autistic Self-Advocacy Network
- MA Youth Leadership Network
- Disability Policy Consortium
- Powerhouse Self-Advocacy
- Greater Haverhill Self-Advocates
- Many, many more...



Self-Advocacy in Massachusetts

MASS ADVOCATES STANDING STRONG

- Largest Statewide Self-Advocacy Group
- Formed and run entirely by self-advocates
- 501 (c) 3 non-profit
- Statewide Board of self-advocate directors
- Over 60 local self-advocacy groups
- 5 regional groups meet monthly
- MASS Legislative Days
- Annual Conference

Self Advocacy in Massachusetts

- Act Today Influence Tomorrow Youth Advocacy
 - Annual Youth Leadership Forum (YLF)
- Autistic Self-Advocacy Network
 - Asperger's Association
 - Advocates for Autism of MA
- National Youth Leadership Network
 - Resources and training to promote youth leadership and education
- Powerhouse Self-Advocacy Group
 - Helping self-advocates gain knowledge and self-awareness
- And many, many more groups across the state...

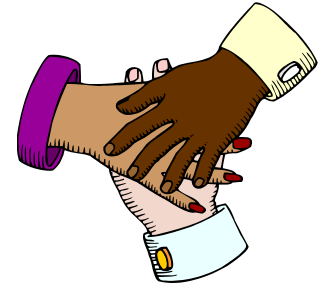
Self Advocacy in Massachusetts

DD Act Programs Support Self-Advocacy Through:

- Self-Advocacy Leadership Series (SALS)
- Gopen Fellowship
- Emergency Preparedness Training
- Massachusetts Focus Academy
- Cross-Disability Self-Advocacy Coalition – New!
- Self-Advocates as Leaders in our Organizations



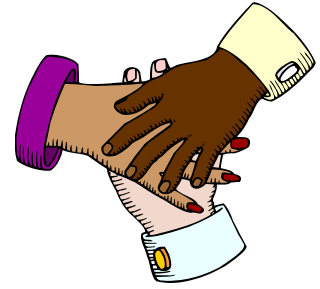
Self-Advocacy Partnerships



- DDS Funders Group
- MASS Northeast Region Partnership
- Awareness and Action – Recognize, Report and Respond to Abuse
- Self-Advocacy Leadership Series (SALS)
- Youth Leadership Forum
- Work Without Limits
- Cross-Disability Self-Advocacy Coalition



Self-Advocacy Partnerships



- DDS Citizen Advisory Boards and Committees
- Rainbow Support Groups
- MA 21st Century Disability Policy Alliance
- Project Vote
- Portfolio Building Initiative



Who Provides the Resources?



- Department of Developmental Services
- MA Developmental Disabilities Council
- Institute for Community Inclusion
- Disability Law Center
- Shriver Center
- Easter Seals
- Department of Public Health
- Disabled Persons Protection Commission
- Brandeis University, Babson College, Stonehill College
- Providers, Foundations and Memberships



Self Advocacy in Massachusetts

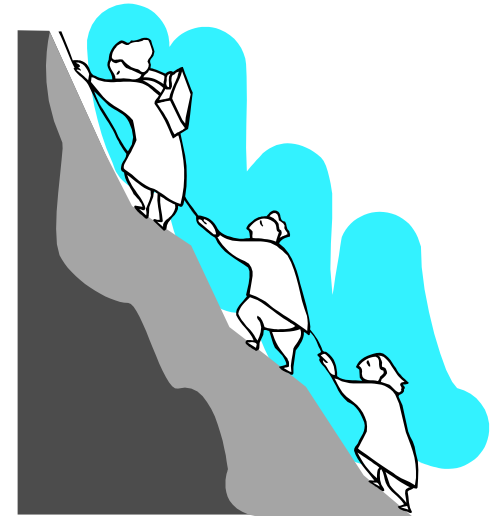
What Works

- Partnerships!
- Strong Self-Advocate Leaders
- Coordinated Advocacy
- Keeping our Focus
- Having Good Support People
- Leadership and Self-Advocacy Training
- Being Listened to and Respected



Challenges

- Not everyone has our values or believes in self-advocacy
- Limiting outside pressure on self-advocates
- Listening and hearing what self-advocates have to say
- Eliminate stereotypes and discrimination
- Transportation and support
- Preparing youth for self-advocacy
- Linking so many diverse self-advocacy groups (geographical/age/disability)
- Keeping self-advocates informed
- Always working for funding
- Finding and training supporters with the right values and commitment
- Leadership succession



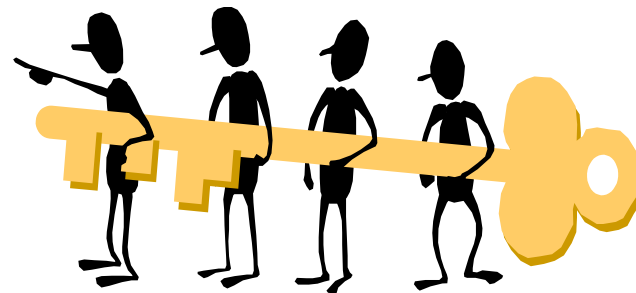
Self Advocacy in Massachusetts

We Take Pride In:

- Changing the name!
- Working hard
- Making progress every day
- Our commitment and spirit
- Making the most of what we have
- Working with all of our partners



Massachusetts State Team



Anne Fracht

Self-Advocate - Team Co-Chair, Chair, MA Advocates Standing Strong

John Anton

Self-Advocate - Board Member, Disability Law Center

Colleen Flanagan

Self-Advocate - Easter Seals Youth Advocacy

Stelios Gragoudas

Self-Advocate - Institute for Community Inclusion UCEDD

Sandy Houghton

Self-Advocate - Leadership Trainer, Massachusetts DD Council

Patty Quatieri

Self-Advocate - MASS NE Leader, DDS Citizen Advisory Board Member

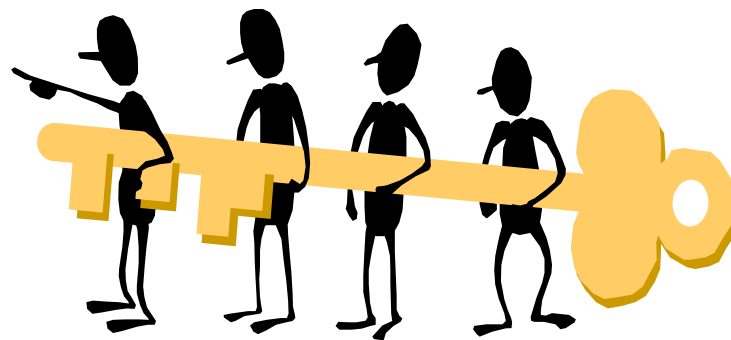
Nate Trull

Self-Advocate – Powerhouse, Trainer - Shriver Center UCEDD

Michael Wilcox

Self-Advocate - Advocates for Autism of Massachusetts

Massachusetts State Team



Dan Shannon

Team Co-Chair - Director, Massachusetts DD Council

Ed Bielecki

State Coordinator - Mass Advocates Standing Strong

Amy Doherty

Board Member - National Youth Leadership Network

Ralph Edwards

Office of Citizen Leadership - Dept of Developmental Services (DDS)

Jim Gleason

Associate Director - Shriver Center (UCEED)

Alan Kerzin

Director - Disability Law Center

Bill Kiernan

Director - Institute for Community Inclusion (UCEDD)

Self Advocacy in Massachusetts



Nothing about us without us !

THANK YOU!

