

NEVADA



“The Sagebrush State”

A Few of Our Self-Advocacy Organizations

People First of Nevada is a self-advocacy group run by people with developmental differences throughout Nevada. There are 8 chapters state wide with monthly meetings to encourage self advocacy, self determination, leadership skills and raising disability awareness.

Nevada Disability and Advocacy Law Center is a private, statewide non-profit organization that serves as Nevada's federally-mandated protection and advocacy system for human, legal, and service rights for individuals with disabilities.

Nevada Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities engages in advocacy, systems change, and capacity building activities for people with developmental disabilities and their families in order to promote equal opportunity, self-determination, and community inclusion.

Resources

Name of self- advocacy organization	Who provides the resource(s)?	What resource(s) is provided?
People First of Nevada	Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities Matley Foundation Americorps VISTA	Grant Money, Advocacy Support, Participant Support Grant Money Grant Money, VISTAs to help facilitate meetings
Nevada Disability and Advocacy Law Center	ADD - Federal Grant Money	Legal information and support for individuals with disabilities
Nevada Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities	ADD – Federal Grant Money	Advocacy information, support

What Has Worked

- Americorps VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) provides VISTAs to facilitate People First chapters.
- Statewide collaboration between all agencies regarding employment for people with disabilities.
- Regularly scheduled meetings and conferences, websites, mailing lists.

Challenges and Struggles

- Sustainability
- Funding
- Rural geography
- Lack of transportation - especially Rural areas
- Recruiting and maintaining membership

Accomplishments

- Passing the Signature Stamp Law
- Passing the People First Respectful Language Law
- Three Employment Summits with 24 obtainable outcomes
- Youth are stepping up to become involved in advocacy
- Statewide People First conference
- Teaching Self-Advocacy and Self-Determination in the schools.
- Americorps VISTA program employing people with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities.

Goals and Dreams

- More youth will become rising self-advocates.
- Reliable transportation throughout the state.
- Increase collaboration among self-advocacy organizations and state agencies.
- For People First to become self sustainable.
- Equality for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in their everyday lives (work, leisure, housing, transportation)

The Team

- Kari Horn.....Nevada Center for Excellence in Disabilities (UCEDD)
- Santa Perez.....Self Advocate/People First
- Sherry Manning..Nevada Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities
- Cheryl Katzmark.....Nevada Disability and Advocacy Law Center
- Kenny Taycher.....Youth Advocate/People First
- Owen Erquiaga.....Youth Advocate/People First/FamilyTies
- Bradley Anderson.....Youth Advocate/People First/Family Ties
- Rosie Malarkey.....Sierra Regional Center (State DD Services)