

SOUTH DAKOTA



Self-advocacy organizations in our state and their major activities or functions

- **South Dakota Advocates for Change (SDAC)** – statewide group run by a Leadership Team of people with DD. Goals are to promote self-advocacy, provide training to others with DD and to take action on issues important to self-advocates.
 - **Local People First Chapters** – local chapters of self-advocates supported by community support providers; these chapters vary from being active in community activities and self-advocacy issues to being more of a group for social activities.
 - **SD Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities** (cross-disability member organization with some grant funding, works on topics such as ADA training, Social Security and Benefits training, United We Ride transportation initiative, etc.)
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*Self-advocates are also part of other statewide groups,
boards and committees*

- SD Disability Advocacy Network
 - SD Division of Developmental Disabilities' Core Stakeholders Workgroup
 - SD Family Support Council
 - Dare to Dream Conference Planning Committee
 - SD Alliance for Full Participation State Team
 - Protection & Advocacy for people with DD program
 - Consumer Advisory Committee, Center for Disabilities
 - SD Council on Developmental Disabilities
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Resources for our Self-advocacy Organizations

Name of self-advocacy organization	Who provides the resource(s)?	What resource(s) is provided?
SD Advocates for Change	SD Council on Developmental Disabilities	Grant money for staff salaries, travel, fiscal agent support
	SD Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities	Fiscal agent and limited office support services
Local People First Chapters	Community support providers and local fundraising efforts	Staff support, funds for special events (picnics, etc.)

What's working in South Dakota

- Initial 3-year grant with HSRI (Human Services Research Institute) to train core group of self-advocates for the SD Advocates for Change Leadership Team.
 - Sponsoring a self-advocacy conference or being part of a larger conference but promoting to self-advocates.
 - Youth Leadership Forum and Partners in Policymaking
 - 13 self-advocates attended the National SABE Conference in September 2010.
 - 8 self-advocates are becoming trainers for the person-centered thinking curriculum – “People Planning Together”
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Challenges for South Dakota's self-advocates and self-advocacy organizations

- Getting information to self-advocates when only one or two may live in a small community
- Involving more self-advocates
- Availability of transportation and/or support for self-advocates to attend events or trainings
- Sustainability of self-advocacy activities and organizations without DD Council grant funds



We are PROUD of...

- Holding a self-advocacy conference for over 100 self-advocates and most presenters were self-advocates.
 - Having over 20 self-advocates attend the 2011 Legislative Budget Hearing for the Department of Human Services
 - Having 10 self-advocates provide public testimony to the Legislature's Joint Appropriations Committee.
 - Youth Leadership Forum and Partners in Policymaking
 - Having certified trainers for the "People Planning Together" curriculum.
 - Two self-advocates (Art & Steve) were featured in an award-winning documentary called "Breaking Shells" (Winner of the 2010 TASH Images In Media Award and the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities 2011 Media Award)
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Goals & Dreams for Self-Advocacy in South Dakota

- When we leave this Summit we will have a **plan** to further the involvement of self-advocates to Mobilize, Organize and Act .
- One day state agencies and other organizations will go to self-advocates first when needing advice or setting policy direction (not as an afterthought).
- Advocacy groups – whether for parents or self-advocates – work together.



SOUTH DAKOTA
Advocates for Change
Mobilize Organize Act

State Team Members:



Chuck Henrie	SD Advocates for Change
Kyle Hegge	SD Advocates for Change
Brad Konechne	Youth Leadership Forum
Derek Smith	People Planning Together trainer
Kati Seymour	Youth Leadership Forum
Nancy Saufley	Center for Disabilities (UCEDD)
Valorie Ahrendt	SD Advocacy Services (P&A)
KD Munson	Division of Developmental Disabilities
Arlene Poncelet	SD Council on Developmental Disabilities
