





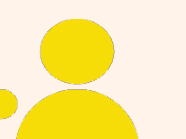

# The meaningful inclusion of self-advocates as mentors and colleagues in a LEND program

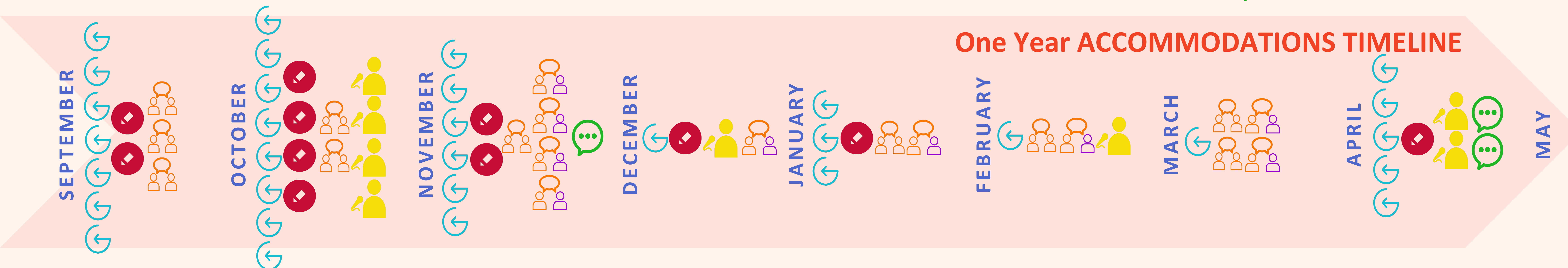
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The Georgia LEND (GaLEND) Program intentionally includes self-advocates (SA) with disabilities as trainees. This poster describes a few of the processes developed and lessons learned in accommodating SA trainees in our one of our GaLEND cohorts.

- Accommodations provided by program faculty and staff were tracked monthly by one GaLEND evaluation team member.
- Accommodations were coded into categories, as described in the Legend to the right.

## LEGEND

-  = Content provided in advance
-  = Content modified
-  = Support provided by Peer
-  = Support provided by Faculty/Staff
-  = Materials requested from guest speakers
-  = Feedback received from SA trainees



## Incorporating Trainee Feedback

- Receiving feedback from trainees is critical in this process. One trainee made it clear in her first week of GaLEND that we needed to be intentional and systematic in seeking it.
- Our trainee requested modified content in advance and peer support

## Peer and Faculty Support

- We realized midyear that peer support was not enough for SA trainees because Learning Partners were not adequately trained and oriented to the process and to the advanced content

## Requests for Guest Speakers

- GaLEND hosts many notable guest speakers throughout the training year. Requests for advance content were sent to all speakers but compliance with these requests was inconsistent.

## Consistency

- Accommodations are needed throughout the year in each of our four LEND courses. We provided modified content in advance at the beginning of the year, but, as shown in the visual timeline, this diminished as the year progressed.

## Next Steps

- The GaLEND program has received funding from the Interdisciplinary Technical Assistance Center on Autism and Developmental Disabilities to align the curriculum with a Universal Design for Learning framework.
- We are working with a consultant from national center on Universal Design for Learning to align the curriculum



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