Let's Learn About The Alliance and Self-Advocacy!

Illinois Life Span Program Lunchtime Webinar
The Arc of Illinois
Tuesday, June 9, 2020
Speak Up and Speak Out!

Have you heard of the Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance (The Alliance)?

- Yes
- No

[logo for Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance - a drawing of two white hands and two purple hands coming together over the state of Illinois]
The Alliance is a network of advocates and self-advocacy groups around Illinois.

[15 people, some standing and some sitting, all holding white pieces of paper]
Our Vision
Our vision is for self-advocates to work together to get the support we need and to live the life we want in the community.

Our Mission
Our mission is to speak up for ourselves and each other while working together to make changes in our communities and in Illinois.
Our Focus
Our focus is on empowering people to speak up about
• what they want and need
• don’t want and don’t need
• action plan their goals
• participate in advocacy at the personal, agency, community and statewide levels
What We Do

• Support local groups
• Work together on important issues
• Offer networking, advocacy and learning opportunities
  • Monthly newsletters
  • Webinars
  • Alliance Ambassador Leadership Program
  • Training Institute

[person with pink skin, short brown hair, wearing glasses and holding papers]
Alsip, Aurora, Brookfield, Chicago, Chicago Heights, Elgin, Evanston, Evergreen Park, Hanover Park, Homewood, Mt. Prospect, Rolling Meadows, Westmont

37 Member Groups!
Meet the Presenters - 1

Adam Cooper
Illinois TASH Co-President
Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities Board Member
Alliance Ambassador Leadership Training Program Graduate
Illinois Partners in Policymaking Graduate
Edwardsville School District Equity Task Force
Meet the Presenters - 2

Krescene Beck
She/Her/Hers pronouns
Organizational Director, The Alliance
Co-Director, Blue Tower Solutions

[smiling woman with pink skin and short brown hair, wearing a purple shirt]
Speak Up and Speak Out!

What does self-advocacy mean to YOU?
Self Advocacy is...

Speaking **UP** and speaking **OUT** for yourself and for other people who can’t or don’t know how to speak up for themselves.
Pieces of the Self-Advocacy Puzzle

• What
• How
• Who
• When and Where
• Why

[five interlocking puzzle pieces with the words "who, what, when, where, how, why" written on them]
What are some things you can ADVOCATE (speak up and speak out) for?

[person with pink skin, moustache and beard, wearing black clothing demonstrating sign for ‘idea’ in American Sign Language – right hand pinky touching side of forehead and pulling away from forehead]
• Things you want or don’t want  
• Things you need  
• Something fun you want to do  
• Hopes, dreams and goals  
• Where or how you want to live  
• Where or how you want to work  
• If you are unhappy, being hurt or feel unsafe
How Can You ADVOCATE (speak up and speak out)?

[person with pink skin, moustache and beard, wearing black clothing demonstrating sign for ‘idea” in American Sign Language – right hand pinky touching side of forehead and pulling away from forehead]
• Using your voice
• Writing down what you want to say
• Asking for a meeting (teacher, boss, family, guardian, case manager, administration, legislator)
• Writing a letter
• Making a phone call
• Sending an email
• Using a communication device
Who Can You ADVOCATE (speak up and speak out) for?

[person with pink skin, moustache and beard, wearing black clothing demonstrating sign for ‘idea’ in American Sign Language – right hand pinky touching side of forehead and pulling away from forehead]
• YOURSELF!
• Other people with disabilities
• Your friends
• Your school
• Your employer
• The disability service agency where you get services
• Your family
• Something that is important to you
Who Can You ADVOCATE (speak up and speak out) to?

[Person with pink skin, moustache and beard, wearing black clothing demonstrating sign for ‘idea” in American Sign Language – right hand pinky touching side of forehead and pulling away from forehead]
• Case manager
• Social Worker
• Teacher
• Family, Parents or Guardians
• Friends
• Doctor or Nurse
• Counselor
• Legislator
When and Where Can You ADVOCATE (speak up and speak out)?

[person with pink skin, moustache and beard, wearing black clothing demonstrating sign for ‘idea’ in American Sign Language – right hand pinky touching side of forehead and pulling away from forehead]
• Home, School, and Work
• IEP (Individualized Education Program), Discovery, and Person-Centered Planning meetings
• Community Day Services
• Wherever you receive services
• In the community – restaurants, bowling alley, etc.
• Appointments – doctors, hair salon, etc.
• The capitol and legislator’s offices
Why should you ADVOCATE (speak up and speak out)?

[Person with pink skin, moustache and beard, wearing black clothing demonstrating sign for ‘idea’ in American Sign Language – right hand pinky touching side of forehead and pulling away from forehead]
• It is good to ask for something *you* want or need
• It is good to ask for something *someone else* may want or need
• Put a stop to what you don’t like or want
• To get better services and supports
• To show we are equal

It is my right to speak up for myself!
Where Do We Go From Here?

[Pole that has street signs pointing in various directions. Signs have the following words written on them: ‘who, what, where, when, why, how, questions, answers’]
Advocacy is Everywhere!

• Let people know what is important to you – at work, home, and in the community

• Speak UP and Speak OUT!

• Check out the Culture of Self-Advocacy: An Illinois Voices Environmental Checklist

• Think of topics you want to learn about and ask others to present or research and invite guest speakers

• Start a self advocacy group, consumer council, or leadership group

• Start a suggestion box
Speak Up and Speak Out!

What are *your* next advocacy steps?
Email:
info@selfadvocacyalliance.org

Website
http://selfadvocacyalliance.org/

Facebook
www.facebook.com/IllinoisSelfAdvocacyAlliance/?ref=bookmarks

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