

# All About The Alliance!

Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance (The Alliance)



The Alliance is proud to be an initiative of the  
Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities

# Meet the Presenters

## **Adam Wiser**

(He/Him Pronouns)

Ambassador  
Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance

Center for Independent  
Futures, Young Professional  
Board, Advocacy Awareness  
Club Member



# Meet the Presenters

## **Tara Ahern**

(She/Her Pronouns)

Project Director, Illinois  
Self-Advocacy Alliance

2020 Paul G Hearne Leadership  
Awardee



# What Self-Advocates Want You To Know

- Nothing about us without us.
- We have a mouth.
- We can speak for ourselves.
- We can make our own choices.



# Meet The Alliance's NEW Board of Directors!

- Matt Palmore
- Nestor Gonzalez
- Leanne Kenworthy
- Jada Thompson
- Dave Thompson
- Ralph Hastie
- Sue Bower

# Our History - 1

- 2006 - Project called Illinois Self-Advocates in the Lead (I-SAIL) began to strengthen the self-advocacy movement in Illinois
- 2008 - Project became the Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance (The Alliance) and formed a network of self-advocacy groups
- 2009 - The Alliance began working to create an independent coalition of self-advocacy groups across Illinois.

## Our History - 2

- 2013 - Received funding for 5 years and expanded reach with a focus on providing resources
- 2018 - Received funding for 3 years and will focus on training and education
- 2021 - Asked for a no cost extension to continue work through end of December 2021
- 2022- The Alliance will be refunded for an additional 5 years!

## **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 to empower people to speak up and speak out about what they want/need, don't want/don't need, action plan their goals and participate in advocacy at the personal, community and statewide levels.
- We do this through education, trainings and individualized mentoring.



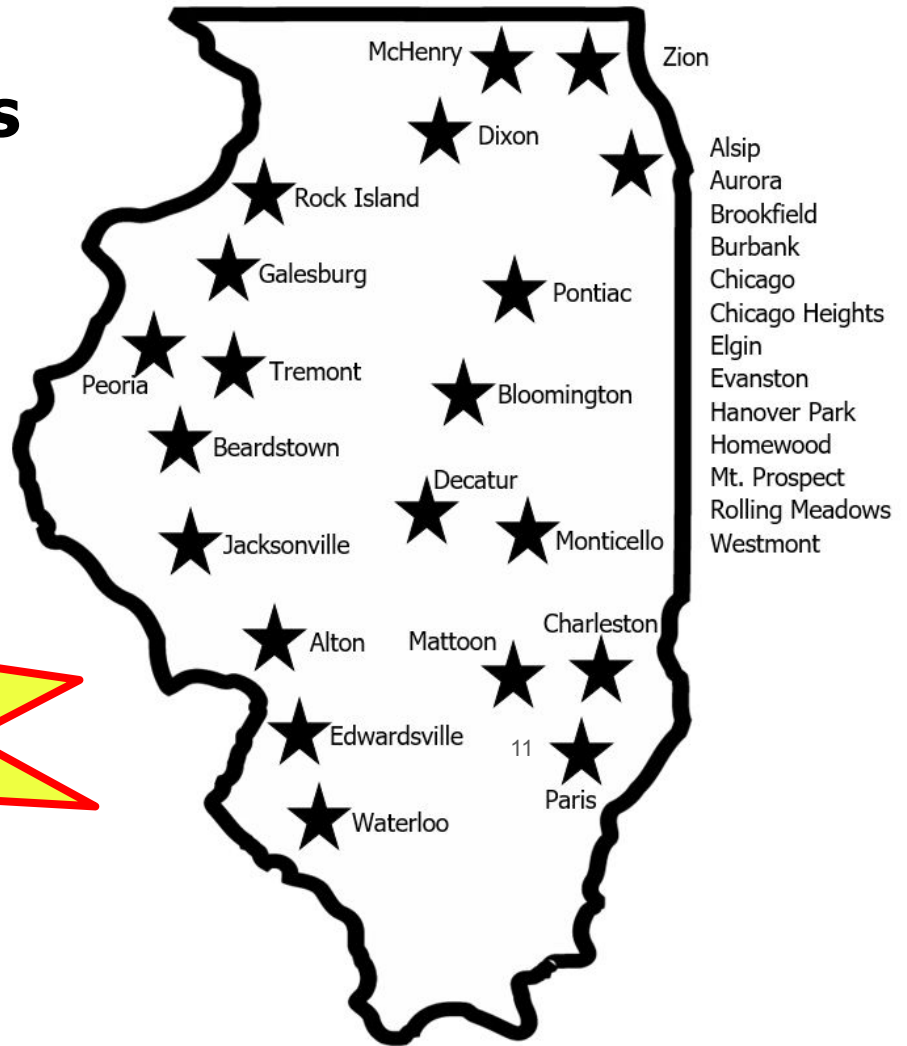
# What We Do

- Support member chapters
- Support those in transition
- Support those that identify as LGBTQIA
- Advocate around important issues
  - Policy agenda
- Offer networking, advocacy and learning opportunities
  - Monthly newsletters
  - Webinars
  - Alliance Ambassador Leadership Program
  - Training Institute
  - Regional trainings



# Member Group Chapters by City

**41 Member  
Group  
Chapters**



# The Alliance is a Resource - Advocate Bureau!

**Self-Advocate Leadership Listing**



Developed by the Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance, Inc. (The Alliance) © February 2020  
Updated August 2021



Illinois Self-Advocacy  
Alliance



### Southern Illinois

Name/Contact Information	Accomplishments/Achievements	Area(s) of Interest	Participation Accommodations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Past Member, Alliance BOD</li> <li>● President, Network self-advocacy group BOD</li> <li>● Member, Impact CIL BOD</li> <li>● Associates Degree in General Studies from LCCC (Lewis &amp; Clark Community College)</li> <li>● Salvation Army bell ringer 20+ years</li> <li>● Involved in faith community</li> <li>● Kitchen Worker at community hospital for 17+ years</li> <li>● Local and statewide presenter</li> <li>● Going Home Rally speaker and chant-leader</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Community Living</li> <li>● Advocacy</li> <li>● Rights</li> <li>● Employment</li> <li>● Disability Awareness</li> <li>● Healthy Relationships/Sexuality</li> <li>● Legislative Advocacy</li> </ul> <p>“People with disabilities should be educated on having rights equal to everybody else. They have the right to work, to drive, to live, and to get out into the community.”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● One (1) month advance notice of meetings/activities</li> <li>● Can do phone or computer based meetings</li> <li>● Travel reimbursement includes hotel, train ticket, mileage, food, etc.</li> </ul>

# Monthly Spotlight Presentations

- Women's History Month
- Autism Awareness Month
- AAPI (Asian American Pacific Islander) Awareness Month
- Disability History Month
- LGBTQIA Pride Month
- Ableism
- Bullying

# Leadership Trainings Over the Years

- Statewide issues
- Leadership
- Community organizing
- Sexual self advocacy
- Employment
- Housing



# The Alliance is a Collaborator

- Arc of Illinois
- University of Illinois at Chicago
- Equip for Equality
- Illinois Imagines
- Envision Illinois
- Planned Parenthood
- Division of Developmental Disabilities
- Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities
- Proud and Included
- Southern Illinois Transition Project
- SABE (Self Advocates Becoming Empowered) Governor's Project
- John Wood Community College's College for Life Program





# Committee, Workgroup and Task Force Participation

- Intellectual and Developmental Disability Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Task Force
- DDD's Innovative Flexible Day Services Workgroup
- Illinois Task Force on Employment and Economic Opportunity for People with Disabilities (EEOPD)
- Partners in Policymaking
- Support Employment Action Team (SEAT)
- Illinois Assistive Technology Workgroup
- DHS's DSP Dual Employment Pilot
- DRS Career Counseling Review
- DDD Quality Committee
- DHS DDD's Life Choice Project
- DHS's Moving Forward with Transparency and Accountability
- Going Home Coalition
- Illinois Waits
- They Deserve More
- Subminimum Wage
- Direct Support Professional Recruitment Tool workgroup
- DDD Regulatory Advisory Board
- Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities (MOPD) vaccine team

# “Nothing About Us Without Us!”



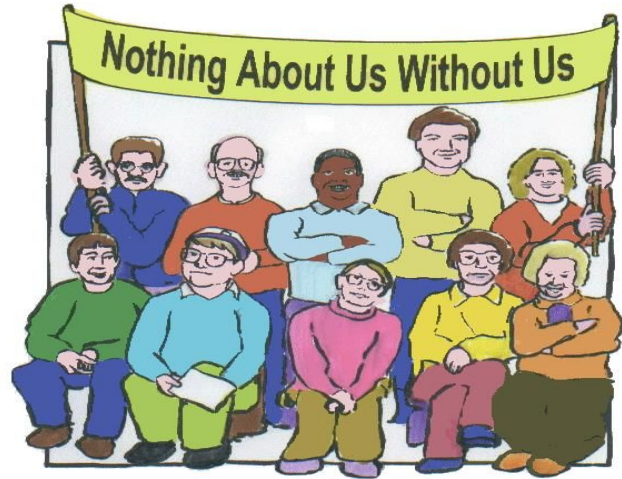
# Nothing About us Without Us!

- Participating in state meetings, committees, work groups & boards
- Included in meetings
- Presenting & doing trainings
- Being seen as the experts



# Advocates in the Lead!

- The Alliance has focused on working with agencies to provide MORE opportunities for individuals to participate in self advocacy
- We feel that self advocates should be in the lead whenever possible!



# 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 Puzzle

- What
- How
- Who
- **When and Where**
- Why



# You have rights!

I have the right to:

- Feel safe
- Get information
- Speak up for myself
- Have choices



**What other rights do you have?**



# Advocacy Power!



# Alliance Ambassador Leadership Program (AALP)

The AALP is a leadership training program that focuses on the development of self-advocacy, leadership and public speaking skills.

- Self-Advocacy
- Research and Using Technology
- Leadership and Teamwork
- Public Speaking
- Community, State and Federal Advocacy





# AALP Success

## AALP Graduates

Since the beginning of the program, 47 participants have completed the program



## AALP Facilitator Training

Since beginning in March 2021, 35 participants have completed training

- Self-Advocates
- Disability organization staff
- SODC staff
- Family members
- Community members

**47 AALP  
Graduates!**



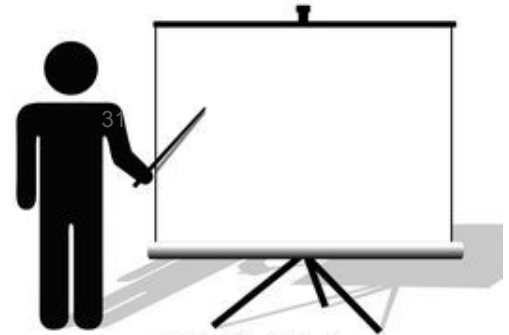
# 2019 Class!



# Adam Wiser

I am an Alliance Ambassador! During the program my goals were to:

- Speak to other groups about disabilities.
- Talk to senators about how important benefits are.
- Talk to transition group about advocacy.



# What I Have Learned in the Ambassador Program

I have learned how to speak for my needs and figure out what is important to me. It helped me build confidence.

Being an Ambassador led to paid advocacy work!

Recently, I spoke to my local legislators about benefits and the importance of paid internships and job opportunities for people with disabilities.

I now present on topics like healthy sexuality. I have learned a lot!





# Self-Advocates Speak Up and Speak Out

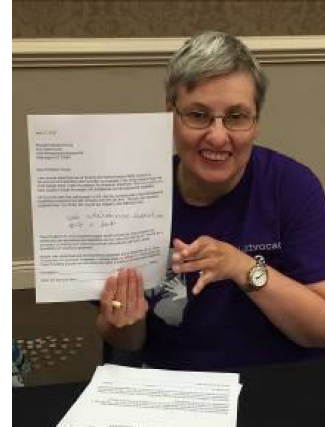
- Connecting with legislators
- Participating on agency/organization committees and boards
- Giving input into rules and resources that impact the lives of others



# Self-Advocate Accomplishments

Alliance advocates are leaders

- In their homes
- At their agencies
- In their communities
- At the state level
- On committees and boards
- Creating presentations
- Giving presentations



# Self Advocacy Presentations

Self advocates have presented to thousands of their peers who attend Community Day Services and Sheltered Workshops in compliance with WIOA (Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act).

(Including SODC's!)



# Person Centered Planning Forum

In early 2017, seven self-advocates shared their personal messages at the Person Centered Practice Forums hosted by DDD's Statewide Quality Committee in seven locations around the state. Self-advocates spoke of their accomplishments, hopes, dreams, and what person centered practices mean to them.



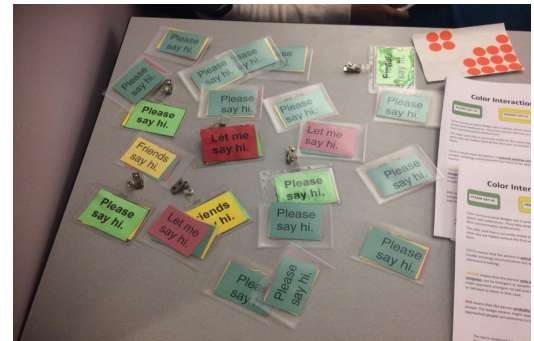
# Going Home Coalition

- Support since 2012
- Registration
- Planning and logistics
- Securing advocate speakers



# Gubernatorial and Attorney General Forums

- The forum provided candidates the opportunity to learn about the issues that are important to self-advocates.
- It helped advocates learn about where candidates stand on those issues.



# ARC of Illinois Convention

Self advocates and Alliance staff have presented at the Arc Convention for general sessions and as keynote speakers.



# SABE (Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered) Conference

Alliance board chair Tavarus, vice chair James and past board member Adam presented about the Alliance Ambassador Leadership Program (AALP) at the Self Advocates Becoming Empowered conference in Birmingham, Alabama.

There were 40 people in attendance!





# Speak Up and Speak Out Summit

- Steering Committee membership
- Outreach and support to potential presenters
- Secure room monitors
- Facilitate lunchtime Speak Out
- Support presenters

**SPEAK UP** AND  
**SPEAK OUT**  
**summit**



# Local Group Accomplishments

We are a lot stronger  
when we work together!



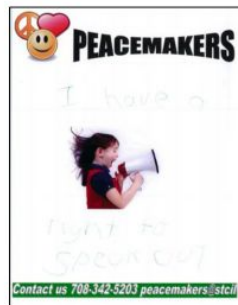
# Disability History

The Advocacy Awareness Club at Center for Independent Futures held a training for the community about disability history. The group created their presentation and even designed tee shirts for the event.

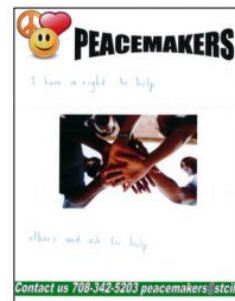


# Rights Posters

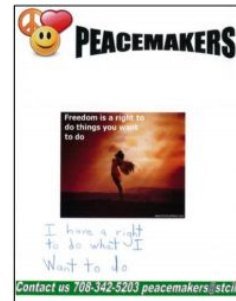
Peacemakers at St. Coletta's of Illinois created posters on different subjects and shared them throughout their agency as their way to teaching advocacy to others.



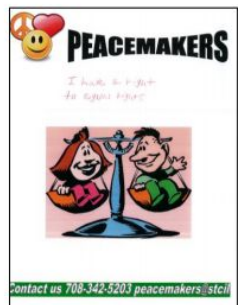
"I have a right to speak out."



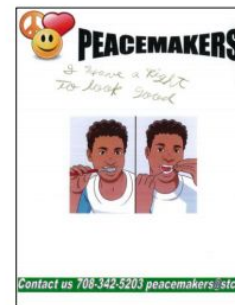
"I have a right to help and ask for help."



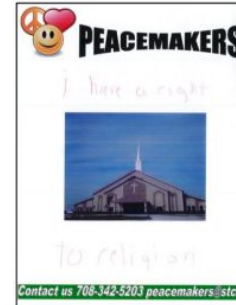
"I have a right to do what I want to do."



"I have a right to equal rights."



"I have a right to look good."



"I have a right to religion."

# Transition Fair

Self-advocates from Livingston County Advocates in Action (LCAA) presented to 50+ high school transition students at the Livingston County Transition Fair Livingston County Transition Fair. Sessions included

- “Welcome to the Self Advocacy Jungle”
- “Respect ~ It’s something to Roar About!”
- “On the Hunt! for Relationships”
- “Caught in the Web! Social Media Safety”



# Disability Pride Week



Self-Advocates from CIA (Change to Independence Altogether) celebrated the week by recognizing:

- Monday - Advocacy- Wear RED! "We speak up to keep control our lives!"
- Tuesday - Independent Living- Wear YELLOW! "More independence, more happiness!"
- Wednesday - Employment- Wear PINK! "Having a job is not just about the money, but also more social opportunities!"
- Thursday - Community- Wear GREEN! "When the community supports us, we can do anything!"
- Friday - Celebration! - Wear PURPLE! - "Celebrating the past, changing the future!"

# “Expect The BEST” Training

Self-advocates from Developing Social Connections presented "Expect The Best: How to Get the Most Out of Your Support Staff" to DDD staff at their all-staff training. The training shared what self-advocates should expect ~ and get ~ from the staff they work with! Self-advocates have also presented to DDD staff at a lunch and learn and a webinar.



# The “R” Word Campaign

Alliance member groups have raised awareness about ending the use of the “R” word at Eastern Illinois University, Lewis and Clark Community College, and Chicago State University.





# Spotlight on Alliance Projects



- SABE GoVoter Project
- AAPD (American Association of People with Disabilities) Award Project
- Alliance Ambassador Leadership Program
- Disability Responsiveness
- Summer 2021 Empowerment Rally: Activating Advocacy for All



# SABE GoVoter Project - 1

- Part of a collaborative effort titled "Advocacy, Voting, and YOU!" between The Arc of Illinois, Equip for Equality, and the Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance, Inc.
- Planning began for 7 locations centered near State Operated Developmental Centers (SODC's)
- Pivoted to virtual training June 16 – 19, 2020
- Accessibility included real-time captioning, ASL (American Sign Language) interpreting, and Spanish interpreting

# SABE GoVoter Project - 2



## Day 1 Focus

- Welcome to Spring 2020 Virtual Training
- Self-Advocacy 101

## Day 2 Focus

- How Voting Fits Into Your Life
- How Do You Vote?

## Day 3 Focus

- Ways to Learn About Candidates and Issues
- 2020 Census

## Day 4 Focus

- Voter Rights and Responsibilities
- Ways to Get Around Voting Problems



# SABE GoVoter Project - 3

## Day 5 Focus

- How a Bill Becomes a Law
- Civic Engagement

# Sex Education and Healthy Relationships

Translate easier to understand materials into other languages

- Simplified Chinese
- Polish
- Spanish

Work with the Division of Developmental Disabilities and the Illinois Guardianship & Advocacy Commission to inform information into easier-to-understand formats.



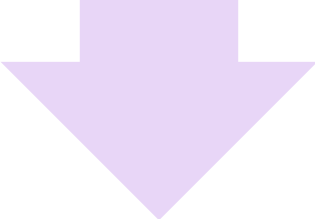
# History of Illinois House Bill 3299 / Public Act 101-0506

- Voice of advocates
- Guardianship and Advocacy
- Regional town hall meetings
- Legislative process including Witness Slips and committee hearings
- Pushback

**View the bill [here](#)**

# Illinois HB3299-Public Act 101-0506

Applies to persons in developmental disability facilities and receiving habilitation (CILAs, state-operated facilities, day training programs, ICFDDs)



# Illinois HB3299-Public Act 101-0506

Grants individuals access to sex education,  
resources and treatment planning that  
supports:

The right to sexual  
health and sexual  
healthy practices

The right to be free  
from sexual  
exploitation and abuse



# Sexual Rights Statements

People with disabilities have the right to have body integrity, privacy and personal choice respected, including the right to know how to protect oneself.

**“I have the right to say what happens to and with my body.  
I have the right to privacy in showing and sharing my sexuality.  
I have the right to make my own choices about my sexuality.  
I have the right to learn how to keep myself safe from someone hurting me sexually and to use what I learned to help keep me safe.”**

People with disabilities have the right to choose one's own sexual partners and have privacy and dignity related to dating and sexual intimacy.

**“I have a right to choose who I want to date, where I go on dates, and to have privacy when I go on dates. I also have a right to not go on dates and not have sexual intimacy. I have a right to have my choices on who I date, where I go, and my sexual intimacy respected. Sexual intimacy can include hugging, touching, and kissing.”**

People with disabilities have the right to decide whether and when to be sexually active.

**“I have the right to decide if I do or don’t want to have sex or sexual activity. I have a right to change my mind.”**

Check out Easier to Understand Statement [here](#)



## SEXUAL RIGHTS STATEMENT

People with disabilities have the right to:

**1. Have body integrity, privacy and personal choice respected, including the right to know how to protect oneself.**

"I have the right to say what happens to and with my body. I have the right to privacy in showing and sharing my sexuality. I have the right to make my own choices about my sexuality. I have the right to learn how to keep myself safe from someone hurting me sexually and to use what I learned to help keep me safe."

**2. Be free from sexual harassment, abuse, assault and other forms of sexual violence.**

"I have a right to be safe and feel safe. It is wrong for anybody to hurt my body or my mind. Some things that hurt my body or mind are

- looking at or touching my private parts without permission
- making me touch someone else's private parts
- making me have sex without my permission
- saying things about my private parts
- showing me sexual pictures that I don't want to see

**3. Explore and define one's own sexuality, sexual orientation, gender identity and sexual expression without judgement or discrimination.**

"I have the right explore and to say if I am a man, a woman, a combination of both, or neither. I have the right to choose who I want to have a sexual relationship with. I have a right to choose how I define my sexuality and sexual expression, and have those choices respected."

**4. Decide whether and when to be sexually active.**

"I have the right to decide if I do or don't want to have sex or sexual activity. I have a right to change my mind."

**5. Choose one's own sexual partners and have privacy and dignity related to dating and sexual intimacy.**

"I have a right to choose who I want to date, where I go on dates, and to have privacy when I go on dates. I also have a right to not go on dates and not have sexual intimacy. I have a right to have my choices on who I date, where I go, and my sexual intimacy respected. Sexual intimacy can include hugging, touching, and kissing."

**6. Have safe and pleasurable sexual experiences.**

"I have the right to be safe and feel good when having sex or sexual activities."

**7. Decide whether, when and whom to marry and then having equality in any marriage.**

"I can decide if I want to get married, when I want to marry, and who I want to marry. My marriage will be equal to anyone else's marriage."

**8. Decide whether, when and by what means to have a child or children, how many children to have and the spacing of one's children.**

"I have the right to decide if I want to have children or not. I can also decide when and how many children I want to have. I can decide how I want to have children whether it be by myself, naturally, adoption, surrogacy, or a with medical help."

**9. Have readily available and equal access to education and information about sex, safe/healthy sexual relationships and reproductive health including but not limited to: resources, services, counseling, family planning, contraceptive services, sex therapy services, and sexual equipment as well as resources specific to the prevention of, investigation of and trauma-informed response to sexual abuse.**

"I have a right to learn about sex, safe and healthy sexual relationships, and reproductive health. I have to learn about condoms, birth control, and other ways of preventing pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases to keep both myself and my partner safe. I have a right to learn about ways to help prevent sexual abuse. If I have experienced sexual abuse, I also have a right to ask for and get help and services in a way that works best for me. Help and services can include counseling and support from a sexual assault center.

**10. The right to receive that education, information, services and resources in a way that is free from discrimination, recognizes and supports one's own choices and interests, and promotes trauma-informed practices.**

"I have a right to get information and learn in a way that I can best understand through videos, large print, audio, pictures, easy-to-understand language, or a combination of all. I can choose what education, information, services and resources I want, and a right to have those choices respected."

**11. Have the highest attainable standard of sexual health.**

"Sexual health is a state of physical, emotional, mental and social well-being in relation to sexuality. It is not just about being free of sexually transmitted diseases or not being able to have sexual activity in a way that works best for a person. I have a right to a positive and respectful approach to my sexuality and sexual relationships. I have the right to pleasurable and safe sexual experiences, free of coercion, discrimination and violence. I have a right to my sexual health being respected, protected, and fulfilled.

**12. Have an effective remedy for violations of fundamental rights.**

"I have a right speak up and speak out if someone has hurt my body or my mind. I have a right to tell someone if my rights have been violated. Some of the places or people I can tell include

- Family or friends
- Staff at my agency
- Doctor, nurse, counselor or therapist
- The Human Rights Committee at my agency
- The Illinois Department of Human Services
- Illinois Guardianship and Advocacy Commission
- Equip for Equality

**References:**

- World Health Organization. "A Time to Lead: A Roadmap for Progress on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Worldwide" (2006; Updated 2010)
- The National Disability Authority. <http://www.nda.ie/>. Item 18.9.
- Illinois Imagines: Sexual Rights of Women with Disabilities
- Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Code (405 ILCS 5/2-100, 101.1, 102, 103, 112 and 5/4-211)

Revised January 2020  
Revised February 7, 2020  
Revised April 15, 2020

# Sexuality Education Resources



- Websites
- Curriculum
- Books and Articles
- Videos
- Podcasts
- YouTube Channels
- Resources in Spanish



If you see the green thumbs up sign next to a resource, it means the resource is accessible, user-friendly, and contains plain language. **Click [here](#) to access the list.**

# What Self-Advocates Want You To Know - 1

"I want to know more so I can decide what is right for me."

"My body, my choice."

"I didn't receive any information in school or from my provider. I learned by the 'school of hard knocks'. I am still trying to work through the trauma of learning the hard way."

# What Self-Advocates Want You To Know - 2

“We had classes at the group home in the past, but it’s been a long while. I can’t remember what I learned.”

“We learn best from people like us.”

Click [here](#) to view the document in full



## What Self-Advocates Want You To Know

June 1, 2020

Dear Service Providers,

**As you work through the review, selection and implementation of sex education curriculum to use at your agency/organization, we want you to hear our voices and keep these words with you during the process:**

**"I want to know more so I can decide what is right for me."  
"My body, my choice."**

Relationships are important to our well-being and survival. No one really talks with us about healthy sexuality or relationships. We want to learn about healthy relationships and sexuality, and that information includes relationship and sexual rights; identity; boundaries; safety; violence prevention; communication; giving and getting consent; names for body parts; the physical and emotional aspects of relationships; and what are healthy relationships vs unhealthy relationships. Advocacy has to be part of these conversations; we need to know how to advocate for what we want and what we don't want. We want to be part of conversations to change policies and procedures so that we can have more freedom to date, hang out with friends or romantic partners.

**"I didn't receive any information in school or from my provider.  
I learned by the 'school of hard knocks'.  
I am still trying to work through the trauma of learning the hard way."**

Many of us didn't receive any information about healthy relationships and sexuality growing up or as adults. We may have received some information but it wasn't always in a way we could really understand. We want to learn using educational resources and materials that include music, discussions, books, activities, videos, worksheets, and visuals. We want information that is in plain language and easy to understand. We want resources that are written by people with disabilities for people with disabilities. We want the information presented in a few different ways because not everyone learns the same way.

**"We had classes at the group home in the past,  
but it's been a long while. I can't remember what I learned."**

We have lots of ideas on how classes should happen. Depending on the topic, it may be best to have all women in a class or all men in a class instead of being mixed. There may be times it would work to have mixed gender classes - ask us what would be most comfortable for us! Classes can be either once a week, twice a month, or once a month. They shouldn't be longer than an hour and half. Have a table or place/space at the classes where all kinds of brochures and information can be placed for us to check out and take - advocacy, food pantries, sexual assault centers, transportation, mental health, etc. Instructors should be flexible as discussions and disclosures occur. All classes must include time for discussion and for people to share their stories if they want. Include information on where to go to get help because we have scars and the scars take time to heal. Classes should create safe spaces each and every time for people to share, learn, disclose.

**"We learn best from people like us."**

We want to help teach the classes. We can go through the classes and then help teach the next set of self-advocates. There are also self-advocates in the community that can help teach the classes.


### **A Message of Thanks from the Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance, Inc.**

Thank you to the many self-advocates who participated in focus groups, sharing experiences and speaking up about healthy relationships and sexuality. Your voices started the process that led to HB3299 being passed, and they continue to inform and guide as providers comply with the rule. We honor your voices, your experiences, and your stories. Continue to speak up and speak out!




The Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance, Inc. (The Alliance) is proud to be an initiative of the Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities. In partnership with the Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities. This project was supported, in part by grant numbers 19/2001ILSCDD-02, from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201. Grantees undertaking projects with government sponsorship are encouraged to express freely their findings and conclusions. Points of view or opinions do not, therefore, necessarily represent official ACL policy.

# Frequently Asked Questions - 1

<b>Question</b>	<b>Answer</b>
<p>The law says I am to receive developmentally appropriate sex education. What does that mean?</p> 	<p>Developmentally Appropriate sex education is sex education that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Respects your needs, abilities and interests</li><li>• Takes into account how you best learn and understand things</li><li>• Considers how the sex education might make you feel</li><li>• Considers any physical or emotional concerns or needs that you have</li><li>• Considers your personal values, religious beliefs, and faith-based perspectives</li></ul>

# Frequently Asked Questions - 2

<b>Question</b>	<b>Answer</b>
<p data-bbox="202 354 598 540">What will the sex education be about and who will provide it?</p> 	<p data-bbox="656 354 1671 442">Sex education will be set up or provided by an agency staff person and may include:</p> <ul data-bbox="666 453 1439 758" style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Written information</li><li>• Pictures</li><li>• Webinars or videos</li><li>• Discussion and talking</li><li>• Asking questions and getting answers</li><li>• Stories and examples</li></ul> <p data-bbox="666 813 1690 1010">If an agency staff person provides the training, he/she will receive education on how to conduct the training as well as being sensitive to and supportive of your needs.</p>

# American Association of People with Disabilities Hearne Leadership Award Project

Mobilizing Support for Survivors with Disabilities  
who Have Experienced Sexual Violence

Considerations for Rape Crisis Centers

Considerations for Disability Service Providers

Considerations for People with Disabilities

Continuing the Journey

Healthy Relationships Discussion

Art & Trauma Recovery Event

Disability & Bisexuality

Healthy Sexuality & Sexual Expression

**You can view all power points &  
recordings [here](#)**



# American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) Award Project - 1

- Introduction to Mobilizing Support for People with Disabilities Who Have Experienced Sexual Violence
- Considerations for Self-Advocates
- Considerations for Rape Crisis Centers
- Considerations for Disability Service Agencies
- Considerations for Family Members and Guardians
- Mobilizing Support for People with Disabilities Who Have Experienced Sexual Violence: The Journey Continues
- Healthy Relationship Talk
- Art and Trauma Recovery Event
- Disability and Bisexuality
- Healthy Sexuality and Sexual Expression Discussion

# American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) Award Project - 2

- Over the ten (10) webinars, there were 357 participants which included self-advocates, family members, disability service agency staff, and victim services staff.
- While the majority of the registrants and participants were from Illinois (including State Operated Facilities) there were also participants and registrants from Virginia, Arizona, Wisconsin, and Oregon.

# American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) Award Project - 3

- The Alliance worked with the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) on providing continuing education credits for six (6) of the ten (10) webinars.
- All webinars had ASL (American Sign Language) interpretation and Real Time Captioning.
- All presentations were co presented by people with disabilities, twenty (20) in total.
- All presentations can be found on The Alliance's website.

# Disability Responsiveness Review - 1

- Worked with Resilience, a Chicago area rape crisis center to conduct a disability responsiveness review of their organization. The following goals were created:
  - Reviewing intake forms for readability and make sure to include inclusive language on forms, website, etc.
  - Making sure all events are accessible (formalizing a process for asking what accommodations are needed and securing those accommodations)



# Disability Responsiveness Review - 2

- Resilience staff co-presented at many of the trainings.
- A counselor was available to support audience members who needed support.



**RESILIENCE**  
EMPOWERING  
SURVIVORS  
ENDING SEXUAL  
VIOLENCE

# Planned Parenthood of Illinois - Disability Responsiveness

- We are currently supporting the organization to
  - Develop and execute a staff survey regarding disability responsiveness & accessibility.
  - Develop a small working group to identify goals & action plan.
  - Provide technical assistance regarding updating policies & procedures
  - Provide assistance in making documents more readable

# The Alliance's Summer 2021 Empowerment Rally: Activating Advocacy for All

**Monday, July 19 - Friday, July 23, 2021**



# Rally Topics:

- Advocacy and Leadership
- Rights and Empowerment
- Legislative Advocacy
- Wellness
- Call to Action: The Future of Self-Advocacy

**Sample Action Plan  
Alliance Rally 2021**

**Goal:** Finding a community job!

WHAT TO DO	WHO WILL DO THIS TASK	BY WHEN (DATE)	NOTES
Think about what kinds of job you want			<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What do I like to do?</li><li>• What am I good at?</li><li>• What job could I do to earn money?</li></ul>
Think about where the jobs are and how you would get there			<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Will staff provide transportation?</li><li>• Is public transportation available?</li><li>• How much does it cost?</li><li>• When/where does it run?</li><li>• Is it available in the evenings and on weekends?</li></ul>
Look on different websites and check advertisements			<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Newspapers</li><li>• Internet</li><li>• Word of mouth</li><li>• Flyers at businesses</li></ul>

# The Alliance Makes a Difference

Since 2018...

- 725+ people with developmental disabilities have participated in Alliance activities designed to increase their knowledge of how to take part in decisions that affect their lives, the lives of others, and/or systems
- 85+ family members have participated in Alliance activities designed to increase their knowledge of how to take part in decisions that affect their lives, the lives of others, and/or systems
- 775+ professionals educated through Alliance activities

# Expanding Our Reach

- National self-advocacy presence
- Reach new advocates, agencies & organizations
  - Those in transition, congregate settings, in the LGBTQ+ community, Spanish communities
- Increase number of advocates in leadership positions
- Increase number of advocate experts around state
- Strengthen connection with statewide partners
- Provide resources in universally designed, accessible formats
- YouTube channel with our recorded webinars
- Diversity of Board of Directors



**"We want to learn skills;  
we want to make  
changes; and  
we want to help others."**





Illinois Self-Advocacy  
**Alliance**



[Person with pink skin, short brown hair, raising right hand in fist. Person is wearing purple shirt with the words 'Ask Me About The Alliance' written in white.]

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