

Partners in Policymaking

Training Advocates to Step Up to Leadership Roles

Partners in Policymaking participants are people who live in Virginia, have a developmental disability or are parents of young children with developmental disabilities. Individuals

attending the program will participate in advocacy skill workshops, resource development, and leadership training.

Application and selection as a participant for the program requires a substantial commitment of time, motivation and energy. If accepted, the Partners in Policymaking program requires attendance and participation in eight two day sessions between September and May. Each session begins on Friday afternoon and concludes Saturday afternoon. Participants meet competencies by agreeing to complete homework, class assignments and one

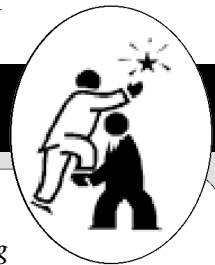
major project.

The group of selected participants will build networks with state and national leaders as well as one another. Participants will be educated on current issues, state-of-the-art approaches and best practices in many areas including:

- History of Disability Movements
- Self-Advocacy
- Independent Living
- Inclusive Education
- Supported Employment
- Personal Futures Planning
- Building Inclusive Communities
- Natural Supports
- Assistive Technology
- Communication & Team Building
- Legislative Process and Strategies

For more information please contact the Virginia Board for People with Disabilities at www.vaboard.org

News from Partner Graduates



Jim Hines (Class of 2005) has been elected to the board of directors of the Arc of the Peninsula. The Arc sponsors group homes and a sheltered workshop. He's an active member of the Holiday House of Portsmouth parents committee..

Jennifer Moore (Class of 2004) was appointed to the Greenville County School Board earlier this year. Project is still going strong! Jennifer has "adopted" all of the self-contained classes in Greenville County. Some classes, for the first time, have been fully included on two field trips with the regular education 5th and 6th grades including a trip to the Wilson, NC Imagination Station and a trip to a play at Swift Creek Playhouse in Colonial Heights. Jennifer's School Board position has taken a lot of hard work, time and dedication, but, more importantly, it has given her the opportunity to advocate for the students who receive Special Education services. Her school, for the first time, has implemented a change in the school day for the Special Education students. These students before Oct. 1st were arriving to school later and leaving earlier than the regular education students. As of October 1, their school day is now the same length as regular education students.

Sue Murray (Class of 2003) gave presentations to local parents' groups on tips for obtaining insurance coverage for behavioral therapy for children with autism. - Provided written testimony to the Special Advisory Commission on Mandated Health Insurance Benefits to support VA SB1049 for coverage for treatments for children with developmental delay. - Assisted several families in obtaining insurance coverage for their children's treatment. - Attended meetings for the FCPS Advisory Committee for Students with Disabilities as well as local parent groups and training seminars on topics related to autistic spectrum disorders.

For more information

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