



EFFECTIVE HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGNS

Pacific Rim International Conference on Disability & Diversity
March 2012

HUMAN RIGHTS

CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

ADVOCACY AND INFORMED DECISION MAKING

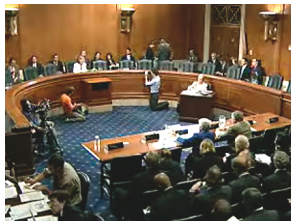
CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Board Resource Center

State Council on Developmental Disabilities



EFFECTIVE HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGNS



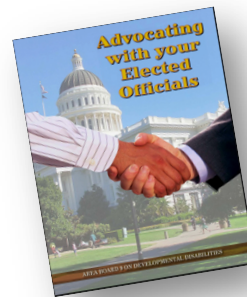
Effective rights campaigns involve the pursuit of legal, legislative and policy changes and call for the active voices of individuals who seek to assert their meaningful and rightful place in society.

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) strengthens obligations of countries to ensure persons with disabilities are included in society and supported to build their capacities. An important belief underlying self and peer advocacy is that informed decision-making and civic engagement real equality.

Plain language and accessible formats open doors to increase knowledge, rights and engagement.

This workshop describes three projects that expand opportunities for persons with developmental disabilities to be informed decision makers and contribute to policy making.

Advocating with Your Elected Officials,]Self Advocacy Network and Boards for All provide a framework and tools that that open doors for effective leadership, positions on decision making governance boards and successful ways to advocate with elected officials.



Using plain language materials and designs, these tools were developed by and persons with developmental disabilities to strengthen collective advocacy and rights based outcomes.

The tools are public domain, sustainable and applicable in any state or region for individuals or agencies to provide self advocates with the means to be in leadership positions and influence policies that impact their lives.



Part #1: Rights

Human rights
CRPD Articles
Human Rights video

Group activity – Interrelated Rights

Part #2: Advocacy – Exercising Rights

Civic engagement
Advocating with Elected Officials

Group activity – Advocating for CRPD

Part #3: Informed Decision Making

Informed decision making
Strategy: Think-Plan-Do

Group activity – Civic Engagement

Part #4: Self and Peer Advocacy

Statewide Advocacy Network
Impact and replication

Part #5: Boards for All

Public policy and governance
Equal participation
Facilitation and mentoring

Group activity – Governance

Part #6: Wrap Up

Human and Civil Rights
Advocacy and policy making,



Rights we all have simply because we are human!





UNIVERSAL

They belong to everyone.

INALIENABLE

Can not be taken away.

INDIVISIBLE

Cannot be divided from each other.

INTERRELATED

All human rights affect each other.



BASIC RIGHTS INCLUDE

Equality The right to be treated equally – not different than anyone else.

Safety The right to be safe from disaster, abuse and violence.

Privacy The right to privacy – no matter where you live.



BASIC RIGHTS

Other Rights

Think what you want

Be included in the community

Have healthcare

Work in safe conditions

Be paid a wage you can live on



What is a Convention?



A convention is an agreement (treaty) between countries to obey the same law about a specific issue.

When a country signs and ratifies (approves) a convention, it is a legal promise and guides the government.

It often leads to adapting and changing laws to support the goals of the convention.



WHY A CONVENTION (TREATY)?

Over 650 million people with disabilities worldwide.

People with disabilities were sometimes treated as “invisible” in many countries.

Many people experience human rights violations.

Countries want to improve the quality of life for their citizens.

Countries agreed that a human rights treaty specifically for people with disabilities was the best solution!



- Freedom of choice and independence
- Equal opportunity
- Non-discrimination
- Full participation and inclusion in society
- Accept people with disabilities as part of human diversity
- Accessibility (transportation, places, information)
- Respect children with disabilities (respected for abilities)

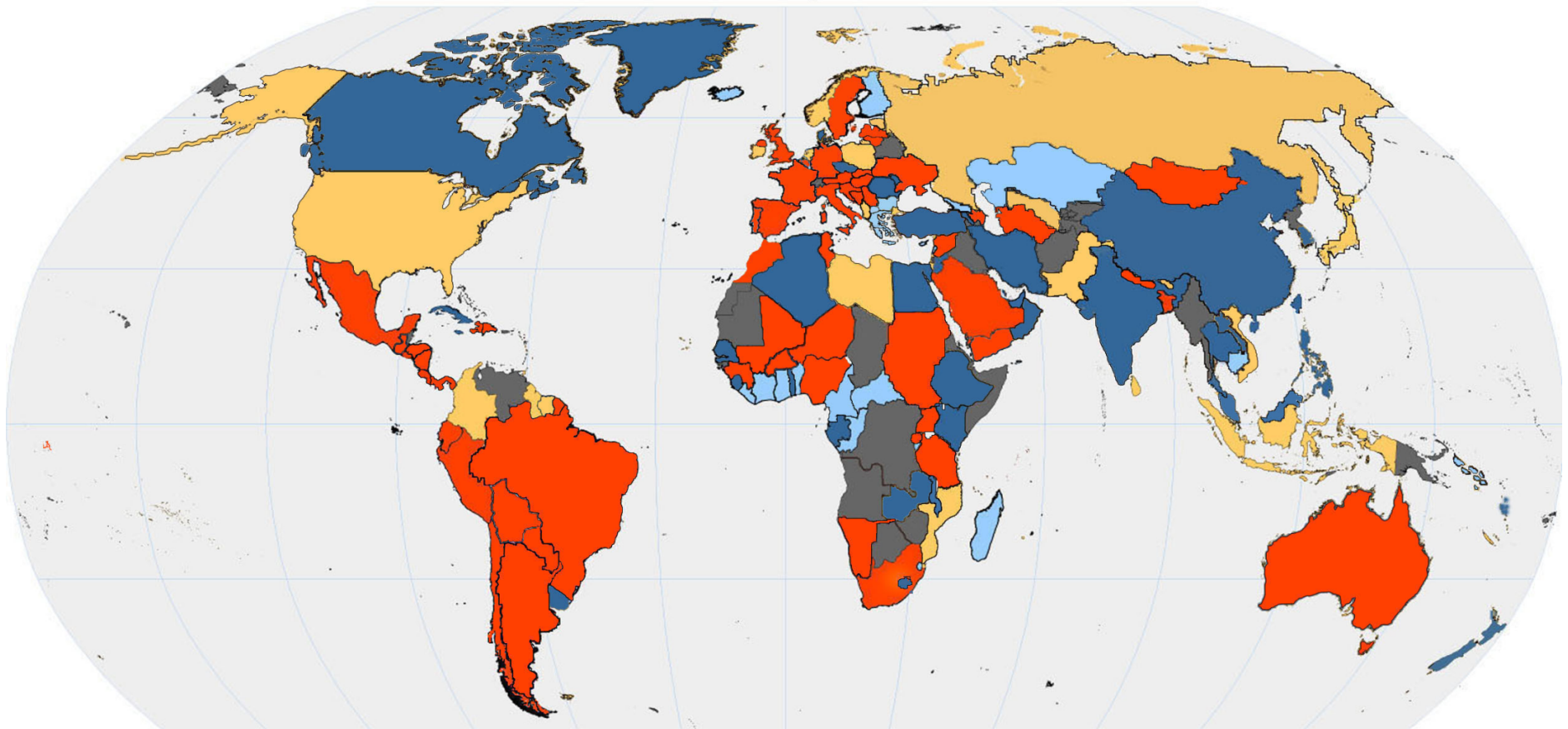


153 signatories

110 ratifications



■ Not Signed ■ Signed Convention ■ Signed Convention & Protocol ■ Ratified Convention ■ Ratified Convention & Protocol





"SIGNATORY"

President Obama ordered the treaty to be signed, July 2009.



Means:

United States agrees with the ideas in the treaty.

United States is interested in joining the treaty.



"RATIFICATION"



To become law, the Senate votes to accept the treaty
There needs to be a two-thirds majority vote for approval



LIVING THE TREATY - VIDEO



Focus on CRPD Articles



ARTICLE 7: CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES



Children with disabilities treated equally

Children with disabilities enjoy human rights and freedoms equally with other children.

- Children with disabilities have the same rights and freedoms as other children.
- Children with disabilities have the right to be heard about things that can affect them.
- Support will be given to help make this happen.



Accessibility - access to information,
New technology

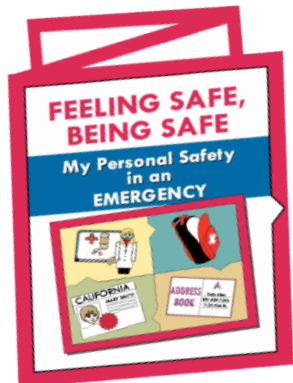


Better access to participate in communities.

- Better access to public buildings, schools and transport
- Signs in easy-read and Braille.
- Guides and sign language interpreters in public buildings.
- Access to new technology.
- People get support they need to important information.



ARTICLE 11: RISK AND EMERGENCIES



People are properly protected when there are risky situations



People are *properly protected* in risky situations and the right to be protected and safe during a war, emergency or atural disaster.

- Cannot legally be excluded from a shelter.
- Cannot be left alone while others are rescued due to disability.

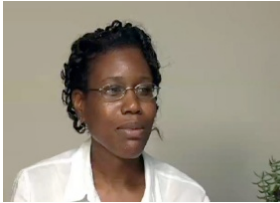
INTERRELATED ARTICLES



ACCESSIBILITY



INCLUSION



People have the same rights to make their own decisions



The right to enjoy 'legal capacity' in the same way as other people.

- Respected by the law like everyone else.
- Same right to make personal decisions.
- "Proper" support provided when making decisions.

If a person needs someone to speak for them there are rules to ensure it is done properly.



ARTICLE 19: INDEPENDENT LIVING



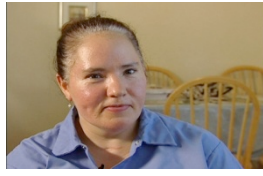
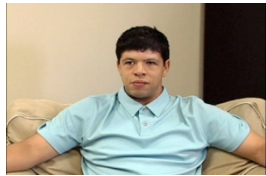
Independent living and being part of the community



People with disabilities have the right to make choices about where they live - like everyone else.

Live independently and be included in the community. Have access to support services if needed to live in the community.

- People have choices about *how* they live, *where* they live, *who* they live with and ways to be part of their community.
- Not have to live in a place don't want to.



People have a right to work, equal job rights, rules and pay

The right to work at a freely chosen job without discrimination, equal with others, that is open, inclusive and accessible.

- Equal job rights, rules and pay.
- Access to work training.
- Help is provided to set up businesses.
- Jobs available with government and other suitable places.
- Not forced to do unpaid work.



VIEW DVD: LIVING THE TREATY



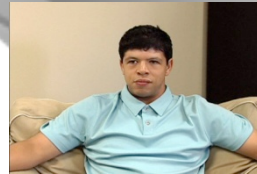
Children with disabilities treated equally



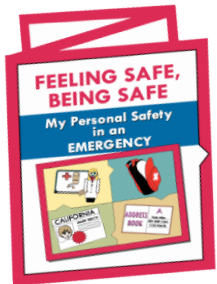
Independent living and being part of the community



Access to information, New technology



Work, equal job rights, rules and pay



People are properly protected when there are risky situations



PART 2: ADVOCACY

EXERCISING YOUR RIGHTS

Civic Engagement



Having a voice in the political process



Article 21

Freedom of expression and opinion, and access to information



Provide information intended for the public to persons with disabilities in accessible formats they can *understand and use*.



CRPD ARTICLE

Article 29

Participation in political and public life

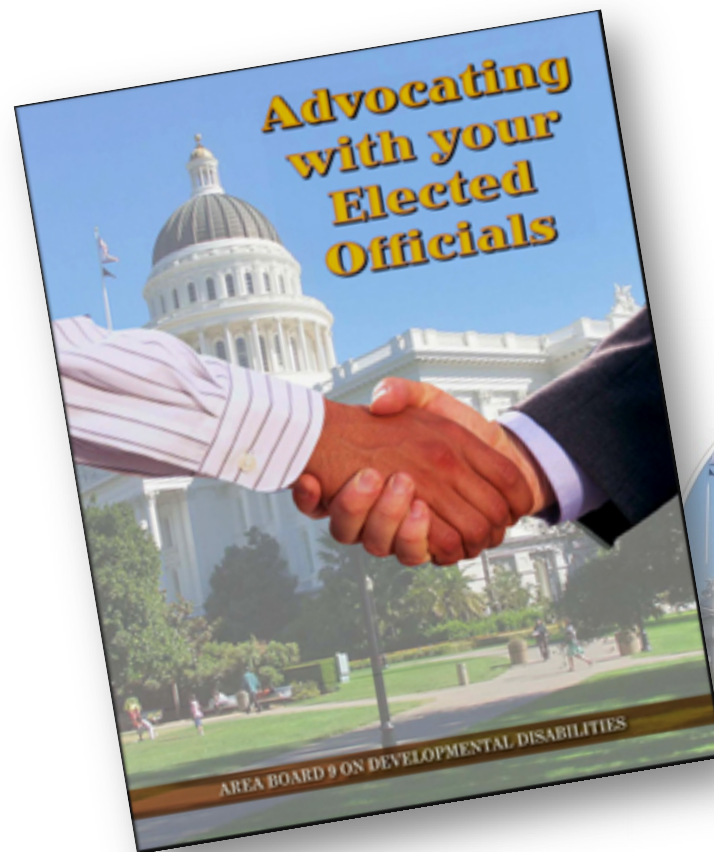


Political rights and opportunity to enjoy them on an equal basis with others.

... Ensure materials are appropriate, accessible, easy to understand and use.



Civic Engagement





CIVIC ENGAGEMENT/ADVOCACY



Legislative Advocacy

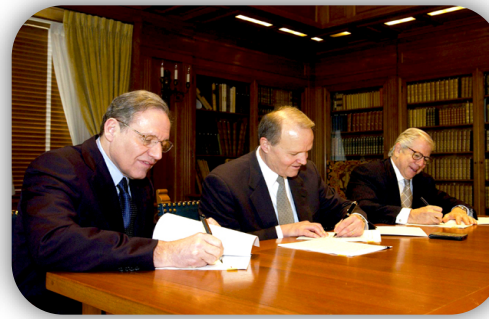
Increase the number of community members engaged in meaningful interaction with elected officials.



- Democracy requires active participation.
- “The people’s voice” is important in the political decision-making process.
- Advocacy with elected officials is one of the fundamentals of a democratic society.

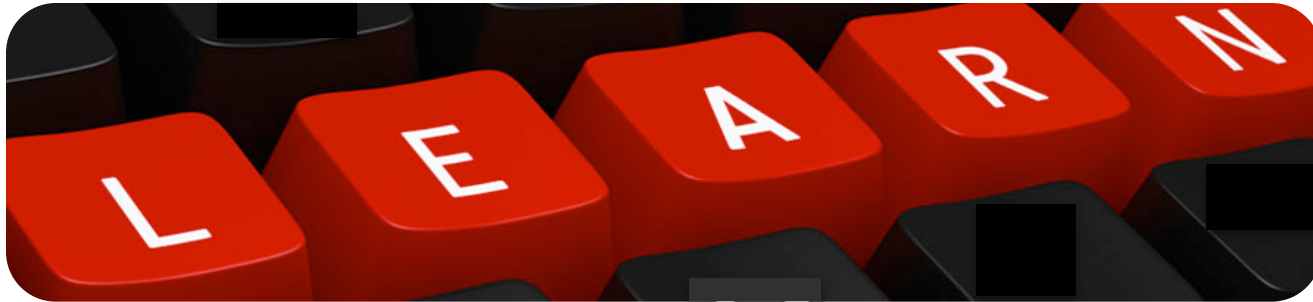


Become a
resource
for your
legislators.



People must advocate in the political process to:

- Avoid human rights abuses.
- Advance societies.
- Further inclusion and self-determination.



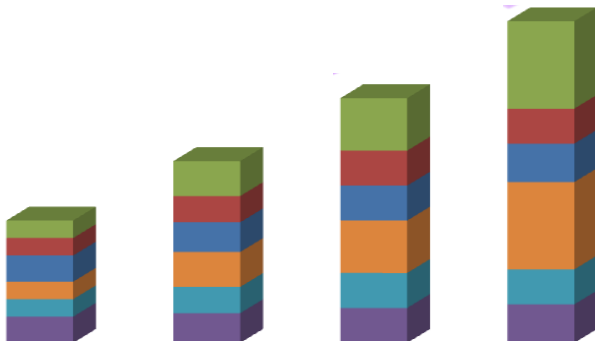
We need *knowledge and skills* to be effective and heard by our elected officials.

Many with intellectual disabilities are disenfranchised from the political system due to lack of access to –

- understandable information
- adequate support



CIVIC ENGAGEMENT/ADVOCACY



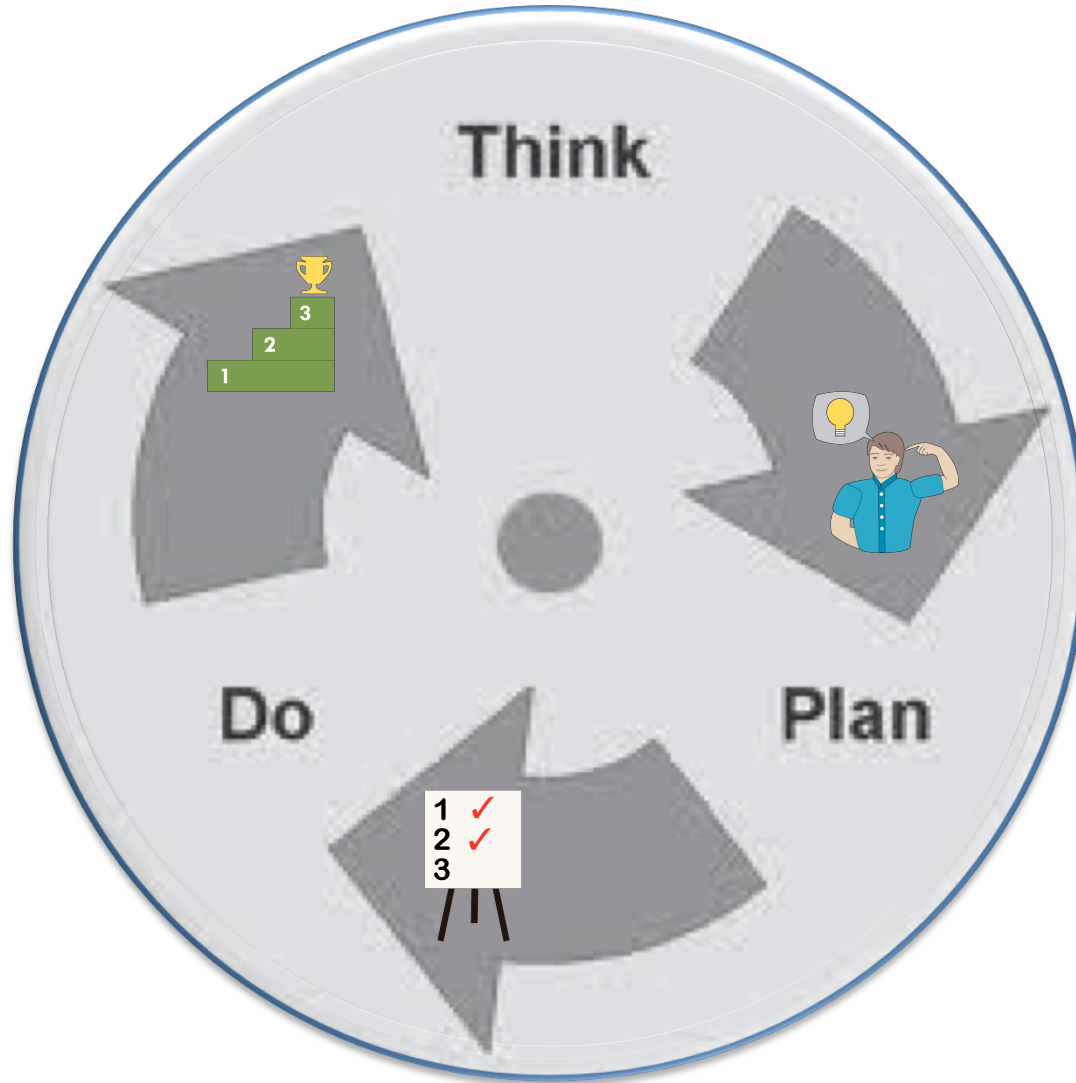
Objectives

- Increase advocacy
- Greater voice in civic affairs
- Easy-to-use tools
- Sustainable approach



Outcomes

- Respected by elected officials.
- Increase in communication with officials.
- Community trainings.





ACCESSIBLE STRATEGY

1 THINK

What's my issue?

Way to communicate with elected officials

2 PLAN

Learn about my issue (*ex: impact of new law*)

Learn about my elected officials

What do I share?

3 DO

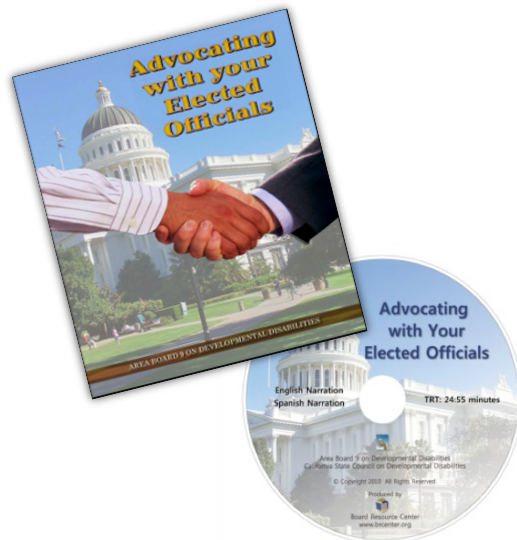
Prepare a draft or practice

Get support, if needed

Take action and follow up with official



ONLINE ADVOCACY TOOLS

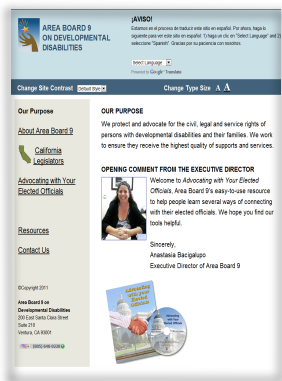


Instruction Booklet

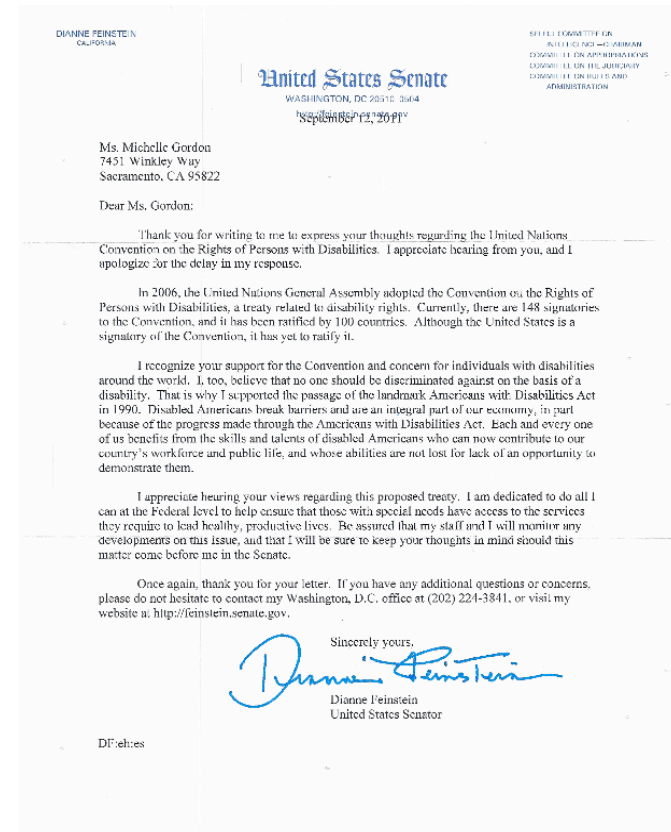
- Meeting with an elected official
- Calling an elected official
- Sending an email or letter

Companion Video

- Illustrate and narrate each step



Website and Community Training



- Introduction
- Sending an Email or Letter

EFFECTIVE STATEWIDE ADVOCACY





SELF-ADVOCACY VISION

... build a statewide peer advocacy network linking advocates, communities, regions and statewide leadership.

- Increase representation
- Build a collective voice for individuals with disabilities
- Personal and group leadership skill building
- Outcomes that increase quality of life



Persons with disabilities take the lead !

Link advocacy efforts across regions.

- Advocate with state policy-makers.

- Impact state and local policies.

- Measurable Outcomes!



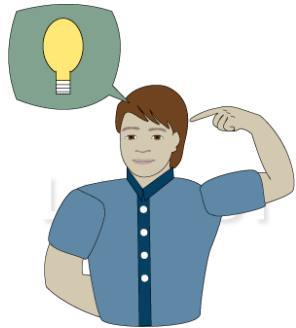
Regional Groups

Identify advocacy groups in region and include representatives in a regional network.

Purpose

- Develop multi-year advocacy plans
Address ongoing and evolving advocacy interests
- Identify outcomes
Initiate practical approaches





EXAMPLE

Demonstrating personal change that others can follow.

Sharing experiences to guide others.

Advocating for the rights of others.

Reaching out and respecting differences.



A training series using a plain language video webcast format to teach rules of governance for advocacy groups, government councils and non-profit organizations.



CRPD ARTICLE 29

Ensure materials are appropriate, accessible, easy to understand and use.



"People with developmental disabilities and community members can be valuable members of governing groups and informed decision-makers".



ONLINE TRAINING



5 part video series, worksheets, webpage

- Each video illustrates a specific area.
- Each video includes a worksheet.
- Volunteer Mission Statement

Mesas Directivas para todos

服務大眾董事會

English,

Closed caption all languages

Text version



BOARDS FOR ALL SERIES TOPICS



Video #1 – Board of Directors


Video #2 – Role of Board Members

Video #3 – Purpose of Committees

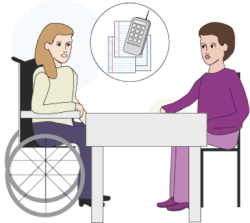
Video #4 – Board development

Video #5 – Facilitation and Mentoring



 State Council on Developmental Disabilities

FACILITATION



PURPOSE – PLANNING – PRACTICE

Facilitation Worksheet

Facilitator and Member to complete.

Agreement

As partners we will communicate openly and honestly with each other.

As the member, I agree to:

- a. Work as a partner with my facilitator.
- b. Communicate when I have questions or concerns about facilitation.
- c. Be prepared and professional.
- d. Communicate when I need to change my plan.
- e. Respect confidentiality of the facilitator.
- f. Other _____

As the facilitator, I agree to:


- a. Work as a partner with the member.
- b. Communicate when I have questions or concerns about facilitation.
- c. Be prepared and professional.
- d. Respect confidentiality of the member.
- e. Other _____

signature (member) _____ date

signature (facilitator) _____ date

signature (organization) _____ date

Make copies for facilitator and organization





Contact Information

ONLINE RESOURCES:

WWW.SCDDADVOCACY.ORG

Board Resource Center PO Box 60-1477 (916-574-1023)

Sacramento, CA 95860

www.brcenter.org

mark@brcenter.org

Area Board 9 200 East Santa Clara Street, Suite 210

Ventura, California 93001 Phone: (805) 648-0220

http://www.scdd.ca.gov/Area_Board/Area_Board_9.htm

CA State Council 1507 21st Street, Suite 210 (916) 322-8481

Sacramento, CA 95811

<http://www.scdd.ca.gov>

MAKING COMPLEX IDEAS SIMPLE

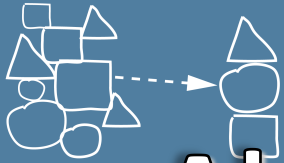
INCLUDE

CONNECT

TRANSFORM

RESOURCES

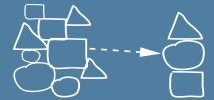
NEWS



About Board Resource Center

BRC creates effective solutions that increase inclusion of people with disabilities, deepen community connections and initiate effective organizational transformation.

MAKING COMPLEX IDEAS SIMPLE



Collaborative, flexible approaches that assist individuals, groups and organizations assure inclusive decision making, policy development and service delivery using plain language and accessible formats, person/user-centered commitment to make complex ideas simple.

INCLUDE



Training and technical tools to increase access to new ideas and resources that create natural community experience, relationships and collaborative partnerships.

RESOURCES



BRC provides a library of tools that assist individuals and organizations support people they serve to live quality self-determined lives and contribute to their communities. They are organized in three categories: Include, Connect, Transform and are free of charge.

CONNECT



Facilitation and tools that lead to greater connections and active membership for individuals and their families in neighborhood communities, agency-to-agency collaboration, public/private cooperation that enhance agency effectiveness.

NEWS



BRC produces periodic newsletters that feature new trends, strategies and our new public domain print and digital media tools. BRC advocate advisors share data they collect surveying community members about employment, community life and ways to access natural supports

TRANSFORM



Training and facilitation for organizations to assist with system transformation. BRC acts as a coach and support team to encourage new ways of thinking about mission fulfillment and service.

Mark Starford – www.brcenter.org