

UNDERSTANDING ADVOCACY

through the DD Council Lens



INFORMATIONAL WEBINAR



AGENDA

- Background on the NACDD Self-Advocacy Committee and the NACDD/ITACC Self-Advocacy Work Group
- WHY and HOW was the Understanding Advocacy through the DD Council Lens resource developed
- Identify each section of the resource
- Identify ways to use the resource in your state or territory
- Questions, Answers and Idea Sharing...

SAC & ITACC SA WORK GROUP

NACDD Self-Advocacy Committee (SAC)

- Originally formed in 2014
- Council Staff, Executive Directors and advocate leaders
- Provides opportunities for the DD Council network to enhance their advocacy work and share feedback on SA initiatives and activities

ITACC Self-Advocacy Work Group

- Part of the 2017-2021 ITACC Contract with AIDD
- Members are from SAC and DD Council network
- Develops SA contract deliverables to support DD Councils

SAC members consist of Council Staff, Executive Directors and advocate leaders who work along side DD Councils to support advocacy in their states and territories.

WHY WAS THIS RESOURCE DEVELOPED?

- Follow-up to the [“Nothing About Us Without Us”](#) Best Practices for Supporting Statewide Self-Advocacy Organizations
- DD Councils wanted support with explaining advocacy and advocacy activities from the Council’s perspective
- AIDD input on the SA mandated elements
- Resources and supports around self-advocacy work remains a high need for DD Councils

Nothing About Us Without Us - http://nacdd.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/2015_SAC_BEST_PRACTICES_PDF_VERSION.pdf - many Councils have shared that it can be difficult to express the meaning of advocacy and advocacy related activities as it pertains to the DD Act and the role of Councils. Councils were asking for a resource or tool that could do just that...as the resource states, this is not a definition OF advocacy, rather, a resource for what it means to Councils.

HOW WAS IT DEVELOPED?

A true collaborative effort

- SAC, ITACC SA Work Group
- AIDD staff
- Advocacy leaders



Research of DD Council state plan information

Gathering of key definitions and resources

Formatting and accessibility

The Understanding Advocacy through the DD Council Lens resource can be found on multiple websites and if you need it in an alternative format please contact acastillo-epps@nacdd.org . On the Itacchelp.org website it is under Other Resources, subtitle Self-Advocacy. On the NACDD.org website it is under the Advocates tab. The SAC and work group thought it was very important to use examples directly from DD Councils so research of the 2012-2016 state plans was conducted to develop each example/activity.

EXPLORING THE RESOURCE

- Letter from Donna Meltzer
- Introduction page
- PDF and Word versions



Understanding Advocacy through the DD Council Lens

NACDD/TACC, in collaboration with AIDE, and NACDD's Self-Advocacy
Committee (SAC) developed a resource designed to enhance the
understanding of advocacy from the unique perspective of DD Councils.



The resource starts with a letter from Donna Meltzer describing the resource and thanking its contributors. An introductory page follows with information on how the resource is laid out. The resource is completely customizable and will come in accessible PDF and editable Word versions. The electronic version is hyperlinked throughout so users can gain access to more detailed information. The hyperlinks take you directly to definitions within the document or to websites related to those links.

SELF-ADVOCACY MANDATED ELEMENTS

At a minimum, all Councils are mandated by the DD Act to support self-advocacy with the following three requirements:

- (1) Establish or strengthen a program for the direct funding of a State self-advocacy organization led by individuals with developmental disabilities;

For states/territories that already have an established State self-advocacy organization, Councils can strengthen State self-advocacy organizations in a variety of ways, including but not limited to funding, in-kind support, training and technical assistance, or other supports. It is expected that the state self-advocacy organizations be developmental disability focused.

- (2) Support opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities who are considered leaders to provide leadership training to individuals with developmental disabilities who may become leaders; and

For this mandate to be met, people with developmental disabilities must provide the training to an audience of people with developmental disabilities. Opportunities may include, but are not limited to, conferences, workshops, leadership programs or other grant related activities/events.

- (3) Support and expand participation of individuals with developmental disabilities in cross-disability and culturally diverse leadership coalitions.

DD ACT, SECTION 124 (C)(4)(K)(I-III)

Identify cross-disability and culturally diverse leadership coalitions and inform people with developmental disabilities of the opportunities to participate. Support for participation may include, but is not limited to, information about transportation resources, mentorship and training, public speaking resources, etc.

Cross-disability coalition = representation of individuals with multiple disabilities, not just developmental disabilities. Primary focus should not deter self-advocates from participating in other coalitions. Refer to the [Administration for Community Living](#) for other programs in your state.

Culturally diverse coalition = participants who represent a variety of ethnicities, nationalities or geographic region.

Leadership coalitions may include advocacy and/or policy boards, advisory committees, and other governing bodies.

Starting on page 3, we have a list of the 3 mandated SA requirements from the DD Act that you are all familiar with... the resource takes the mandates a step further by providing key definitions and plain language descriptions of each requirement.

EXAMPLES, EXAMPLES, EXAMPLES...

Examples of Council Support, Activities & Results
State SA Org. | Leadership Training | Coalitions



The next section includes examples. As you may know, the leading request we receive with regard to TA is examples – starting on page 6, we have examples of Council support, activities and results for all 3 SA mandates. This section was not meant to be a replica of the five year state plan with regard to detail... it was to streamline the state plan content and make it easier to understand and share with others.

“OTHER WAYS THAT DD COUNCILS IMPACT ADVOCACY”

Examples of Council Support, Activities & Results
Individual Advocacy | Family Advocacy
Capacity Building | Systems Change



The next section of the resource includes some examples of the many “other” ways that Councils impact advocacy in their states and territories. We thought this would be useful since we know that advocacy and advocacy related activities are embedded in all the work of the Councils. The other examples highlight Individual advocacy (self-determination/leadership), Family Advocacy (targeted disparity/unserved/underserved), advocacy through capacity building and advocacy through systems change that impacts policies and systems. In this particular example, we used the concept of developing a policy agenda and participating in a Take Your Legislator to Work Campaign.

DEFINITIONS & RESOURCES

DEFINITIONS

- Developmental disability
- Culturally competent
- Cross-disability coalition
- Culturally diverse coalition
- Inclusion
- Advocacy, Self-determination, Capacity building, and Systems Change activities
- Unserved/underserved

RESOURCES

- [Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000](#)
- [Administration for Community Living](#)
- [National Association for Councils on Developmental Disabilities \(NACDD.org\)](#)
 - [Advocacy, self-advocacy and leadership page](#)
- [The Art of Impact](#) (startyourjourney.org)
- "Nothing About Us Without Us" Best Practices for Supporting Statewide Self-Advocacy Organizations was developed by NACDD's Self-Advocacy Committee and numerous self-advocate leaders from advocacy organizations around the country. [Accessible PDF](#)
- [Take Your Legislator to Work Day](#) (ASPE.org)
- [Information and Technical Assistance Center for Councils on Developmental Disabilities](#) (ITACHELP.org)
- [Association of University Centers on Disabilities \(AUCD\)](#) (AUCD.org)
- [National Disability Rights Network](#) (NDRN.org)
- [Self-Advocacy Resource and Technical Assistance Center \(SARTAC\)](#) (selfadvocacyinfo.org)

The definitions and resources lists were not meant to be exhaustive lists of all the SA information that is available. It is a targeted list specific to the publication itself. Developmental disability, Culturally competent, Cross-disability coalition, Culturally diverse coalition, Inclusion, Adv., Self-determination, Capacity building, and Systems Change activities and Unserved and underserved populations. Please note, all of the definitions are from the DD Act, the final rule and were clarified by AIDD staff.



HOW CAN IT BE USED?

- Orientation of Council Members
- Collaboration with statewide SA and local SA organizations
- Staff development (new hires)
- During state plan implementation reviews to re-emphasize SA and advocacy activities
- As a reminder for DD Council committee members as they review SA proposals

HOW CAN IT BE USED, CONTINUED...

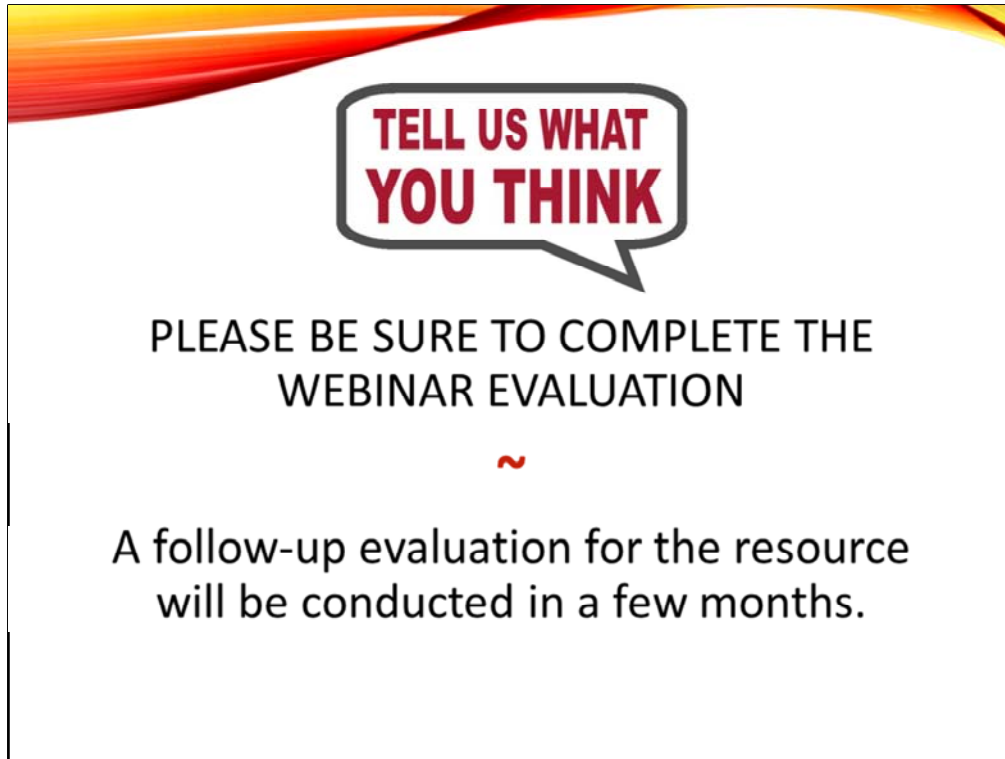
- Use the editable Word version to add in your own “current” SA state plan activities
- Translate the content into prominent languages within your state/territory
- Add images/pictures and icons to support different modes of communication
- Use it as a template to generate a “Youth Friendly” version for SA and leadership trainings
- **OTHER IDEAS??**

We strongly encourage all of you to give this resource a try – see how it can fit in to your orientation materials, collaborations with advocacy organizations and overall public education.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS



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Please see the weblinks 2 box for a very brief webinar evaluation. Your feedback is crucial to the services that we provide. The link will also pop up automatically after the webinar ends. If you need the survey in an alternative format, please let me know. I am happy to help. Again, please use this resource, share it, encourage others to use it and look for a follow up survey in a few months on the usefulness/effectiveness of the resource itself.