



Self Advocates in Leadership

SAIL UPDATE

September 2011



SAIL Helps SABE Send A Message To Washington DC

At the meeting the pre-arranged agenda was scrapped in favor of a focus group opportunity that Self Advocates Becoming Empowered sent out. The group spent about 2 hours answering questions for a report to be given to policy makers in Washington DC. Everyone did a fantastic job answering the questions and making their voices heard!

Many Thanks To:

- George
- Barbara
- Ken
- Heather
- Jessica
- Ken L.
- Susan
- Shawn
- Eric
- Jennifer
- Jim
- Kenny M.
- Ken M.
- Cheryl

In the end the completed document was 14 pages. There will be a couple of copies to look over at the October meeting. The document has been received by SABE. Well done everybody!

Legislative Hotline: 1-800-562-6000



A Note from the Chair



September 2011

Hi Everyone!

Thank you for coming to the September meeting. We had a great conversation on different questions that were asked. Please plan on coming to the next SAIL meeting because we will be starting SAIL's 100 Message Challenge!

Sincerely,

Heather Harper

Chair, Self Advocates in Leadership (SAIL)

Session Will Get Rolling Early This Year!

The recent revenue forecast is down. Which means that the state does not have the money to run programs and services through June 2012. Governor Gregoire required all agencies to submit proposals with a 10% cut to their agencies. Those proposals have now been submitted. Just a couple of days ago the Governor announced that a special session will begin on November 28th. During the special session Legislators will decide whether to implement these drastic cuts or try something different.

WE NEED TO START ADVOCATING NOW!

Three PROPOSED CUTS that are particularly concerning:

- Core Medicaid programs will be changed so that only people with higher levels of physical and/or developmental disabilities will be served. Those currently receiving services who do not meet those higher thresholds will lose them and only persons with higher level of need will enter remaining services. (This means that many SAIL members could be affected! Our VOICES are more important than ever!)
 - Suspension of Individual and Family Services and all contracts associated with it. (This is where some of the money to fund People First of Washington and Self-Advocates of Washington comes from.)
 - Suspend the Adult Pharmacy Benefit. (This means that Medicaid would no longer pay for prescription medications.)
 - Termination of all non-emergency dental coverage for adults (Advocacy is needed here!)
- Please stay tuned for more information!**

Self-Advocates in Leadership Introduces SAIL'S 100 MESSAGE CHALLENGE!!

SAIL wants to give YOU the opportunity to make your voice heard! Over the next six weeks ending on November 15, SAIL will be collecting your messages to help make sure that the legislators know how the proposed cuts affect you. You could also write a message about why the services you receive are critical for your life. Tell your story! Include a picture if you have one!

Guidelines about YOUR MESSAGE:

- Write clearly or ask someone to help you.
- Keep your message short and to the point.
- If you are e-mailing your message please write "100 Message Challenge" in the Subject Line and e-mail emily@arcwa.org
- Please take the time to gather as a group and send your messages to Emily at

We want to gather 100 messages to give to Legislators during the special session and the 2012 Regular Session!