

Self-Advocacy Committee

Chair, Tom Uno

Committee Members: Monica Cooper, David Copins, Susie Cannata, William Kirwan, and Tim Martin

The Self-Advocacy Committee has met four times since the Council's retreat. The following items have been discussed and/or action taken:

1. The committee has reviewed the Self-Advocacy Goal and Objectives. Committee members support the Council's goal and objectives and provided no changes at this time.
2. The committee reviewed and supported the policy brief created by the Morrison Institute on Arizona's efforts to address the use of Restraints and Seclusions in K-12 schools. As a result of the policy brief and recommendations from the 2009 Task Force on Best Practices in Special Education and Behavior Management, the ADDPC and NAU/IHD have entered into a two year Interagency Service Agreement (ISA) to expand PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support) using a structured support. NAU will take the lead in the project working with the Arizona Department of Education, and DD Network partners to develop an advisory council that will design the training and instruction to be provided in the second year of the project. Specific tasks include needs assessment, development of curriculum, completion of an action plan, outreach to specific LEA's and identifying school districts and charter schools that will participate in the training.
3. The committee was provided an overview of the ADDPC's Grants and Procurement Management Policies and Procedures by the Council's Contract Manager. The Manual guides the Council in how to properly award funds in accordance with both state and federal laws. The committee made recommendations and were incorporated.
4. The committee reviewed and made a recommendation for funding to the Executive Committee the following projects:
 - a. Pilot Parents of Southern Arizona for Partners in Policy Making. This will be the final year of supporting the Partners program. Pilot Parents will receive \$45,000 for a one year contract. The ADDPC has funded the Partners program for 2 years with a total of 29 graduates to date. This is a national best practice program for parents to learn how to become effective advocates. Pilot Parents has made a concerted effort to reach participants from around the state, in rural and underserved communities. Participants attend the training/workshop for 2 days, once a month for six months total. Graduates of the Partners program then utilize the knowledge and skills they learned to become better advocates for their families, serve on local and community boards, and push for system change in services for persons with developmental disabilities.
 - b. Pilot Parents of Southern Arizona for Project LEAP. Their Year 2 renewal proposal was approved for \$50,000. Project LEAP provides persons with developmental disabilities and their families with a registry of educational training events around the state and nationally. Scholarships are awarded based on need and through an application process. During year 1, Pilot Parents received over 52 requests for scholarships and awarded 30. This year, additional funding was allocated in their budget to support additional requests (approximately \$30,000). This project will be a 9 month contract.
 - c. Southwest Institute for Families for Project SPEAK! Their Year 2 renewal proposal was approved for \$82,575 supporting small to mid-size local self-advocacy organizations in Maricopa and Pima counties and on the Navajo Tribe. To date they have worked with five self-advocacy groups, providing one-on-one training and facilitation skills on how to build and sustain a local self-advocacy group and increase their network of partners. Their trainings are now available on SWI's website for self-advocates, www.yakkit.org. During year 2, SWI will hire two additional staff to work with a local self-advocacy group in Kayenta, Arizona.