



SABE BOARD MEETING
Holiday Inn and Conference Center
Decatur, GA

Friday October 30, 2009

Board Members: Tia Nelis (region 5), Max Barrow (region 8), Hope Finley (region 3), Vicki Wray (region 3), Jason Billehus (region 1), Bill Story (region 4), Bryon Murray (region 3), Ryan Duncanwood (region 2), John Britton (region 2), Nancy Ward (region 9), Erik Treat (region 9), Bernard Baker (region 6), Carol Robinson (region 5) and Cathy Enfield (region 4).

National Advisors: Vicki Hicks Turnage, Essie Pederson, and Hannah Bowen

Other: Frank Latham, Karen Topper, Laura Jackson, Vicki Clayson, Juliana Huerena, Richard Enfield, Cheri Mitchell, Rhonda Dodson, and Jedidiah Ames.

Tia called the meeting to order and asked everyone to introduce themselves

PRESIDENT REPORT



- Chester is going to be on a Justice For All employment call. They are developing a whitepaper on employment.
- ADA celebration was in July. Chester was invited to the Whitehouse for the ADA celebration and for the signing of the UN Human Rights Convention. They are putting some provisions in the Convention to make sure it lines up with other US treaties. It will cover things like employment, institutions, and other areas effecting people with disabilities.
- Talked with Attorney General Eric Holder about the institutions in Texas and what the Justice Department can do to help close institutions across the country. He also talked to him about employment and civil rights issues.
- Hate Crimes: The hate crimes legislation passed as an attachment to another bill. Violence against people with disabilities is now a hate crime.
- The Class Act and Community Choice option with Nancy Ann Shapiro (the president's advisor on healthcare).
- Healthcare: Working with Senator Schumer on healthcare issues for people with disabilities. The overall impact for people with disabilities changes daily as the healthcare bill changes.

- Employment and Social Security: Chester was at a meeting with the department of labor and Social Security to talk about what happens with benefits when someone with a disability goes to work.
- Grants: We did not get the grant that SABE applied for. We did get really good feedback from ADD and a letter saying “thank you for applying” and how we can improve our applications for future grants. We did get the grant that SABE applied for with Easter Seals. We will need to put together a committee to work on this grant. They will be responsible for organizing conference calls about families, kids, and transition. If anyone is interested in this grant then they can give their name to Tia.

MINUTES

Cathy handed out copies of the minutes.



Erick Treat made a motion to accept the minutes, John seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously. In the future we are going to send the minutes out before the meeting so that the board members have a chance to read the minutes before the meeting and we do not have to take time during the meeting to read the minutes. People were reminded to keep their region reports short.

REGION REPORTS

Jason gave the region 1 report.

- **Montana:** People First of Montana has 15 local chapters and 350 members. They just got their 501(c)3 status. They are fighting to get rid of the “marriage penalty”. They have a youtube video and an online petition on Disability Rights Montana’s website. They picketed the local US Senators office to show support for the Community Choice Act.
- **Washington:** Washington People First has 9 high school clubs and 33 adult clubs. They just held their annual state convention and 150 people attended. They held a seminar on jobs and leadership.
- **Idaho:** They are working on getting their 501(c)3 status. They are moving from being a project under the DD Council to being their own organization. They are getting a bookkeeper and are writing a policy for their organization so they can hire staff. They have 4 local chapters. They have 4 board meetings a year.
- **Oregon:** Self-Advocates As Leaders is working on getting their 501(c)3 status. The last ICFMR in Oregon is closing this month.
- **Alaska:** Alaska People First is up and running part time because of transportation problems.

Erick and Nancy gave the region 9 report.

- **Arkansas:** Passed a law that the provider board must have a person with a disability on each board.
- **Louisiana:** No report
- **Oklahoma:** had 227 people attend their state conference. Helped 200 people at the conference and in state institutions to register to vote.
- **Texas:** Texas help their state conference and 500 people attended. They are training people to talk with their legislators.

Ryan and John gave the region 2 report

- **California:** California has had big cuts in healthcare. Medi-cal has dropped dental and vision insurance. Supported living had an 11% cut. Local people first chapters are having a hard time fundraising. There is talk of cutting the 2010 state conference because local chapters do not have money.
- **Arizona:** They hosted a panel and spoke to the Independent Living Centers about their own disabilities. Zak, the new People First of Arizona president and Trisha met with the Governors policy advisor and spoke about Self Advocacy involvement with state disability issues. Arizona had an A D A 19 celebration at the capitol. Self advocates all over the state have been called and visited with legislators about saving services and testified at the sunset hearing for our D D council. The agency was eventually shut down at the beginning of the month and have since formed a new member body. People First of Arizona and the Self Advocacy Coalition of Arizona have worked outreaching to people with disabilities to become Americorps members. They trained the staff on Arizona Disability Law on the go voter website and spoke about issues that others have told us about problems at the poling sites. They hosted a panel at the ARC conference.
- **Hawaii:** Hawaii does not have a statewide self-advocacy group
- **Nevada:** No report

Hope gave the region 7 report

- **New Jersey:** They are working on a campaign to remove the “R” word and other hateful words like the R word.
- **Delaware:** No report
- **Washington D.C.:** No report

Bernard gave the region 6 report

- **Alabama:** They are forming a cross disability coalition and working on a grant to help people get connected to the internet. People First of

Alabama held it's annual State conference on August 25th and 26th. It was the largest conference in People First of Alabama history with almost 300 people attending. The DD Council provided funding for their conference. Just settled the Waiting List Lawsuit". The settlement of this lawsuit was very unsatisfactory since it called for no increased supports for people who needed them. We suffered a 60% budget reduction for 2009.

- **Georgia:** They had 450 people attended an ADAPT action. Working on passing a bill called the Community Choice Act that will help people live in their own homes. Had a one day conference and 100 people attended. New issues on Public transit and people dieing in state facilities. A grant from gcdd to do leadership training and advocacy projects.
- **Florida:** They are working on their statewide network. They have been funded for another year by the DD Council. Statewide meeting held 10/4-5 2008. formalizing plans for statewide Network.
- **Kentucky:** No report.
- **Mississippi:** No report.
- **North Carolina:** No report.
- **South Carolina:** No report.
- **Tennessee:** No report.

Bryon and Vicki gave the region 3 report

- **Utah:** Utah People First just finished two videos, "how to have a people first meeting" and "what it takes to be a good advisor". They have a transition aged chapter at South Valley school.
- **Wyoming:** 107 people attended the People First of Wyoming annual conference on September 18th-20th. The main topics of the conference were employment, self-advocacy, leadership, and self-determination. They attended an emergency preparedness conference, assisted with the state megaconference, and participated in the RIOT teleconferences.
- **Colorado:** They hosted a pancake breakfast fundraiser.
- **New Mexico:** No report

Tia and Carol gave the region 5 report

- **Illinois:** last week Tia hosted an advanced leadership academy. Catharine does sexuality training and has a very good training manual.
- **Indiana:** No report
- **Iowa:** No report
- **Michigan:** No report
- **Minnesota:** No report
- **Ohio:** No report

- **Wisconsin:** No report

Max gave the region 8 report

- **Vermont:** Shared materials on how to make meetings more accessible. GMSA's state coordinator lost her position due to budget cuts. We met with the lieutenant governor are advocating to get funding back fro this position.
- **Rhode Island:** Shared video about speaking up about state budget cuts.
- **New York:** The have a speaker's bureau of over 40 self-advocates. Officers went to the United Nations and were a part of the celebration for the signing of the UN Charter of rights for people with disabilities.
- **New Hampshire:** They have been working on closing institutions across the country.
- **Massachusetts:** Teaching workshops on abuse prevention and response
- **Maine:** Doing emergency preparedness trainings.
- **Connecticut:** Have 10 self-advocates working for the state to promote self-advocacy

Bill and Cathy gave the region 4 report

- **Kansas:** Brad has moved into his house. He is videotaping the whole process and will turn his experience into a training to help other people who want to buy their own home. SAC had their statewide conference on October 11th. 230 people attended and Julie Petty was the Key Note speaker.
- **Missouri:** Missouri People First is hosting the 2010 National Self-Advocacy conference. They have 2 people on their Disability Vote Project. They sponsored their annual retreat and training at Camp Wonderland.
- **Nebraska:** No report
- **South Dakota:** No report
- **North Dakota:** No report

WEBSITE

The board reviewed the new SABE website. The website is being created so that multiple people can easily update it. This way several people within SABE can add information onto the website. We also want to have a lot of pictures on the website. If you are going to any SABE sponsored events then try to take lots of pictures and send them to the PR committee to get them added to the website.



NATIONAL CONFERENCE



Cathy gave the board updates about the National Conference. It will take place on September 16th to September 19th 2010 at the Crown Center hotel in Kansas City Missouri. The cost will be \$375 if before June 30th and \$425 after July 1st. There is going to be a “save-the-date” coming out in the next two weeks. It will have the website to register for the conference.

PROJECT VOTE GRANT

Tia and Hannah talked about the Project Vote grant. SABE is the management and oversight group for Project Vote. We need one person to be the SABE representative on the grant. They need to attend team meetings on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of every month, they would attend an annual in person meeting, they would help organize filming with the SABE board, and they would bring recommendations from the board back to the project vote team.



SELF DETERMINATION GRANT

Laura gave a report about the self-determination grant. They are doing filming right now with board members. The self-determination grant includes Tia, Bryon, Chester, Nancy, with support from Essie and Laura. We are in year 2 of the 5 year grant.

EASTERSEALS GRANT



Essie talked about the Easter Seals grant. This grant is about family support training. SABE will host 12 conference calls about how families can support their kids to get involved in self-advocacy. The coordinator is Leslie Jackson from Chicago. The team coordination call will be the 3rd Wednesday at 3pm EST. Essie asked for ideas for the 12 conference calls that SABE is going to host. Ideas included: marriage penalty, being a part of your

community, supporting people to make their own opinions about guardianship and alternatives to guardianship, living independently, transition, self-employment, high school transition, self-confidence, nothing about use without us, resource networking, no more “R” word. A support person will be hired to help with this project.

REMOVING THE “R” WORD

Cheri from People First of Georgia led a conversation about legislation for removing the words retarded, idiot, moron, and imbecile from the Georgia state documents and organizations. They are working on introducing a bill in the next legislative session to remove this hurtful language.

Tia shared information about what SABE has done to remove the “R” word. This includes a committee who is working specifically on removing the “R” word, protests against movies that use the “R” word, and meetings with DreamWorks to remove the “R” word from their movies.

Board members reported on what their states are doing to remove the “R” word, **Missouri:** Took 10 years to get the Department of MR changed. Last year the governor signed a resolution to take the MR word out of the title of the Department of MR. They are still working on getting respectful language bills introduced. This is the 4th year that they will introduce this kind of respectful language bill in the hopes of getting better language all over Missouri.

New Jersey: They are running a public campaign on getting ride of the “R” word. They have t-shirts, bumper stickers, and legislative pins. They are getting people to sign a paper saying that they will not use the “R” word and will teach other people that the “R” word is hurtful. Two years ago they passed a bill removing the “R” word from the state constitution and are working to get it removed from all state legislation. They are going into schools to teach kids about how hurtful the “R” word is. The DD Council funds 99% of the cost to do these activities. They are working on language to use instead of the “R” word. They have settles on Developmental and Intellectual Disability.

Minnesota: They created a video called “offense taken” which talks about how hurtful the “R” word is even if people don’t intend for the word to be mean.

Utah: Got the R word removed from their state agency.

Oklahoma: They have 50 private ICFMR’s and work to create self-advocacy groups within the Institutions.

Arizona: For DD Services they have changed the word to Cognitive Disabilities. They have developed a statement page to educate legislators about the “R” word and the need to remove the word.

Arkansas: They have a respectful language bill which was only 1 ½ pages.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Close the Doors & R-Word Committee: Tia Nelis (Chair), Carol Robinson, Jim McNamara, and Frank Latham (support).



Grassroots Committee: Ricky Broussard (Chair), Gayle Gardner, Bernard Baker, and Hannah Bowen (support).

PR Committee: Chester Finn (Chair), Max Barrow, Jeff Ridgeway, Vicki Hicks Turnage (support) and Laura Walker (support).

Bylaws Committee: Vicki Wray (Chair) and Bryon Murray

Policy Committee: Bryon Murray (Chair), Vicki Wray, Hope Finley, and Karen Topper (support)

Legislative Committee: Nancy Ward (Chair), Cathy Enfield, Bill Story, and Richard Enfield (support) and Laura Walker (support).

Finance & Membership Committee: Victor Robinson (Chair), Ryan Duncanwood, Monica Cooper and Essie Pederson (support).

SABE Board Meeting Saturday October 31, 2009

Tia called the meeting to order at 9am

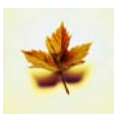
NEXT MEETINGS



Winter/Spring Meeting: The Board meeting will be in Phoenix Arizona February 25th - 28th.



Summer Meeting: The Board meeting will be in Kansas City Missouri, June 24th – June 27th.



Fall Meeting: National Conference will be in Kansas City Missouri, September 16th – 19th.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Grassroots Committee: Jason and Eric read the grassroots committee report. The grassroots committee wrote an article about the employment for the Alliance on Full Participants newsletter. They are also working on a brochure called SABE Connections that explains how communication between SABE, region reps, state groups, and local groups should work. The brochure will also include the responsibilities of SABE reps.



Ryan made a motion to accept the grassroots committee report with the change. Nancy seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Finance Committee: John, Ryan, and Essie presented the finance committee report. They presented the final 2009 budget, the 2010 proposed budget, and information gathered on the membership survey.



Bernard made a motion that we add a \$15 SABE membership fee to the cost of registering for the national conference. Eric seconded the motion and the motion carried with 12 in favor and 1 opposed.

SABE Membership Survey: SABE has 143 members (113 self-advocates and 30 professionals and organizations). 39 states are represented in our membership. 53% are men and 47% are women. 61% are new members who joined at the Indianapolis conference. 59% of professionals and Organizations are new and joined at the Indiana conference.

- **Employment:** 56% of members work in the community, 4% of members work in sheltered workshops, 14% of members have other jobs, and 26% said not applicable.
- **Education:** 40% of members went to high school, 19% attended post secondary school, 8% attended another kind of school, 29% said not applicable, and 4% said no education.
- **Age:** 2% of members are under 18, 3% are between the age of 18-22, 16% are between the age of 23-35, 52% are between the age of 36-50, 19% are between age 51-62, 6% are over age 63, and 2% said age is not applicable.
- **Self-advocacy:** 91% said that they belong to a self-advocacy group, 9% said they don't belong to a self-advocacy group, and 1% said not

applicable. 89% said that belonging to a self-advocacy group has helped them live the life they want, 4% said that belonging to a self-advocacy group has not helped them live the life they want to live, and 7% said that it was not applicable.

- Top concerns: Relationships (2.2), Transportation (2.1), Community Living (2.1), Labels (2.0), Community Employment (1.9), Housing (1.9), Housing (1.9), Finance (1.8), Close Institutions (1.7), Inclusive Education (1.7), Guardianship (1.7), Guardianship (1.7), Sheltered Workshops (1.6), and Social Recreation (1.4).



Eric made a motion and Bill seconded the motion carried unanimously.

Close the doors committee:

A few years ago they did a “yellow ribbon campaign” to show that they support closing institutions. They want to bring this back. They also want to help Texas do something about their institutions. They are going to contact the P&A, DD Council, and SA group to see what kind of support they need to close the institutions. They want to offer some training to people who live in the institutions. They also plan to check in with the law suite in Texas to see if anything has changed in the last 6 months.



They worked on removing the “R word”. They want to create a position statement about the “R word” including some of the tool box materials from NJ. They will recruit Michele Obama to get support getting rid of the “R” word and invite her to the national conference.



John made a motion to approve the close the doors committee report. Bryon seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

PR Committee:

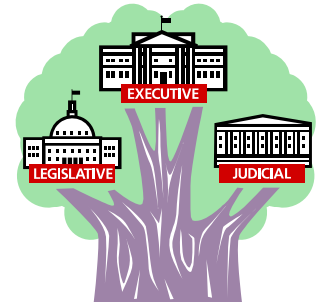
Max gave the PR Committee report. They had two conference calls since the last meeting. They finished the SABE Self-Advocacy Nation Newsletter and plan to have another newsletter done before the National Self-Advocacy Conference. They are working on the SABE website and it will be done by December 15th.



Jason made a motion to approve the PR Committee Report. Carol seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Legislative Committee:

Nancy and Bill gave the Legislative Committee report. They wrote a letter of appreciation to three senate and house of representative members who were key in passing the hate crimes bill. They will also find the sponsors of this bill and write letters of appreciation to them as well. They also wrote a letter to state self-advocacy groups asking state self-advocacy groups to contact their legislators saying to



support the Community Choice Act.

Eric made a motion to accept the legislative committee report. Jason seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Policy Committee:

Bryon gave the Policy committee report. They created a statement on employment. Eric made a motion to approve the statement with changes. Max seconded the motion and the motion passed with one abstention.



Bylaws Committee:

Vicki gave the bylaws committee report. The report included some suggested amendments to the bylaws. The committee would like to remove the word “consecutive” from Article 4: 3.7 and Article 5 Section 1. This is the 30 day notice that the board will vote on this change to the bylaws at the next meeting.

Tia adjourned the meeting at 3:30pm