**SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT COVER SHEET**

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| 1 | **Grant Number** | 90DN0301-02-00 |
| 2 | **Project Title** | “Our Community Standing Strong” (OCSS)  A Regional Technical Assistance Center for the Southern Collaborative |
| 3 | **Grantee Name & Address** | 4401 West Northwood Lake Dr.  Northport, Al. 35473 |
| 4 | **Telephone number** | 205-310-4839 |
| 5 | **Project Period** | October 1, 2015-September 30, 2016 |
| 6 | **Reporting Period** | October 1, 2015- March 31, 2016 |
| 7 | **Project Director/Principal Investigator** | Vicki Hicks Turnage |
| 8 | **Report Author** | Chaqueta Stuckey  Vicki Hicks Turnage |
| 9 | **Telephone** | Chaqueta Stuckey: 843-472-7473  Vicki Hicks Turnage: 205-310-4839 |
| 10 | **Date of Report** | April 30, 2016 |
| 11 | **ACL Program Officer** | Katherine Cargill-Willis |
| 12 | **ACL Grants Specialist** | LaDeva Harris |

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**SECTION 1**

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| **Goal 1**    To provide regional technical assistance to strengthen the participating states capacity to increase and support self advocacy through relationships and partnerships at the community level. | |
| Objectives  C:\Documents and Settings\Katherine.CargillWi\Local Settings\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\HYWMHL8B\MM900234700[1].gif | Identify capacity of SABE and participating states to provide peer advocacy and mentoring.  SABE and participating states identify resources and provide opportunities for training and leadership development for and by participating states.  SABE supports states in providing education and outreach to their local groups and community. |
| Activities  C:\Documents and Settings\Katherine.CargillWi\Local Settings\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\UOH8537N\MC900440201[1].wmf | As of March 31, 2016 seven of nine states have completed their state plans and are reporting progress.  Mississippi is still in process of working on a state plan as their group is very small. Their focus has been on outreach to youth. They have been engaged and are now participation in SABE’s Voter Project and will be working on the Regional Project to record VLOG’s for the SABE Technology Handbook.  Current survey count for OCSS states is 1343.  We have collaborated with the Southwest Alliance Self Advocacy TA Center and they are using the survey developed during the first year of the project. This Center has completed 762.  Total surveys with results: 2116: Completed: 1860  Link to survey results: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-KYNYNS67/>  A face to face meeting was held in Decatur, Georgia for October 10-11, 2015. The event was hosted by People First of Georgia and the Georgia Advocacy Office. It was held in conjunction with the SABE Board Meeting. Our final face to face will be held in Orlando, Florida July 5-6, 2016. This will be prior to the SABE Board Meeting. We are encouraging states to include more participants in this meeting and to bring at least one partner. The focus of the meeting will be on sustainability and our regional projects and initiatives.  The Advisory Committee has met by Go To Meeting   * January 14, 2016 * February 19, 2016.   Our next Go To Meeting is scheduled for May 19, 2016. All meetings have focused on sustainability and state progress reports.  Webinars for period included:   * October 22, 2015 Closing Institutions, click on the link to view recording <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/8235221515823499522> * November 19, 2015 Youth Leadership Training, Youth Summits and other ways to engage youth, click on the link to view the recording <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/4799922779784498690> * January 21, 2016 Long Road Home and Olmstead: How do we expand our efforts beyond Institutions and Nursing Homes, click on the link to view the recording <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/918811661871304450> * March 17, 2016 How can our Partners help to sustain our Peer to Peer Efforts, click on the link to view the recording <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/7391761960155383810>   Summer webinars will include the SALT Leadership series and Promoting Diversity within our organizations.  **C:\Users\ADM01\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\Y60YF16C\YouTube-1[1].png** Vlog Series:  46 Videos- 5 added since October  <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLHe4SX3HJvyt8jUw4e5BzvfquH-2M1rXg>  <http://www.sabeusa.org/projects/our-community-standing-strong/>  Posted events and program reports on SABE Facebook page.  Evaluation of project was conducted at our Face to Face meeting in Decatur, Georgia in October, 2015. |
| Outcomes  C:\Documents and Settings\Katherine.CargillWi\Local Settings\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\1DMY56TI\MC910217623[1].wmf | Advisory Committee: 3 meeting during the period.  2 by Go To Meeting and 1 face to face. All meetings focused on our sustainability plan and state plan activities.  Peer to Peer Technical Assistance: provided by representatives from all state organizations and their allies in advisory meetings, state team meetings, and webinars.  Webinars: 4 during the period.  Our Community Standing Strong page on SABE website: Continues to be updated with project reports.  Google Analytics:  Question 1 Returning vs. New visitors  253 users and 265 sessions from January 1 to March 31, 2016  4.9% returning  95.1% new visitors  300 Sessions  Question 2 Which countries have visited the website?  USA 62 visitors, 62 new visitors (New York, Boston, Chicago, Minneapolis, Arlington)  Russia 9 visitors, 1 new visitors  China 14 visitors, 14 new visitors  Germany 8 visitors, 7 new visitors  Japan 10 visitors, 10 new visitors  South Korea 5 visitors, 5 new visitors  Brazil 6 visitors, 6 new visitors  United Kingdom 10 visitors, 10 new visitors  India 6 visitors, 6 new visitors    Question 3 What device did they use to connect?  238 users used a Mac  7 users used Windows 7, 10, 8.1, VISTA  5 iPhone users  Question 4 What pages did they view?  Homepage 237 views  2016 had 11 views  Facebook likes ( Attachment 1) :   * 76 Facebook Blogs posted during period. * 459 people were reached * 65 Likes on Community Standing Strong Page to date. * 411 Likes on Self Advocacy Technical Assistance * 1545 Members Self Advocates Becoming Empowered   You Tube Self Advocates Becoming Empowered: Our Community Standing Strong Series   * 5 vlogs posted during period (46 over the project period) 1209 views on You Tube to date. * See Self Advocates Becoming Empowered Station-Our Community Standing Strong Video Series: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLHe4SX3HJvyt8jUw4e5BzvfquH-2M1rXg>   Designed evaluation survey and collected responses.   * Results from our evaluation is attached and may also be accessed at : <https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-Y8PPSB2C/> * 26 people have responded   Sustainability Plan has been developed |

**SECTION 2:**

**Collaborations**

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* Met by conference call with AIDD and other SA Regional Technical Assistance projects on calls: 12/3/15, 3/1/16.
* Collaboration with NEAT and Southwest Alliance on the production of Technology videos as supplements to the SABE Technology Handbooks. Impact South Carolina and Mississippi Self Advocacy will also collaborate with SABE on the VOTE Project.
* Collaboration with SABE, NEAT and Southwest Alliance on a survey of self advocacy members in the US and territories (Attachment 2)
* Collaborated with states on their plan implementation
* Continued to encourage partner participation in advisory committee meetings and webinars.
* Partners from UCEDD’s (Vanderbilt University, University of South Carolina, and University of Arkansas), Tennessee and Arkansas DD Councils, P and A’s from Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama and Arkansas have been active participants in webinars, advisory committee meetings and state meetings

**SECTION 3**

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**Problems**

Arkansas is still experiencing problems with the leadership of their self advocacy groups. Tom Masseau from the Arkansas P and A attended our face to face meeting in Georgia in October, plans were made for a conference call with David Deere, UCEDD, Julie Petty, UCEDD, Eric Treat, and Alan Plumee of Arkansas People First on December 17, 2015 to plan for additional support. As a results of these meetings there were plans made for a possible on-site TA visit to the state. In addition, to these meetings and follow up, Bernard Baker, OCSS Advisory Member and I met with Tom Masseau (P and A), David Deere (UCEDD) and Eric Munson, DD Council on April 11, 2016 to discuss additional follow up. Plans had been made for Tia Nelis, SABE President to visit the state in August with the possibility of Chaqueta Stuckey and Glenda Singletary accompanying her to meet with members of the newly formed self advocates as leaders group to support the group in moving forward. We also discussed the terms of the contract. Additional follow up will occur within the next month and participation will continue to be encouraged on webinars and final face to face to meeting.

Oklahoma and Florida has had some difficulty with project deliverables during this period. We renegotiated with the groups and they are currently up to date with their reports. This was the result of illness and changes or staff support in one or more of these states. Mississippi is somewhat behind with their deliverables and reports. We are in process of working with their representatives to address the issues.

The sustainability plan developed is dependent on the partners and state organizations and groups for its success. This could be an issue as the plan at this point is primarily dependent on the participants in the project for its success. We have identified a grant that may be helpful in the continuation of the project.

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**SECTION 4**

**PRODUCTS THAT HAVE BEEN DISSIMINATEDIN THE LAST SIX MONTHS**

* Financial report for period to SABE Board and for grant reporting
* Sustainability Plan (Attachment 3: PowerPoint attached that was used in March 17, 2016 webinar)
* Webinars Recordings and presentation material:
  + October 22, 2015-Closing Institutions
  + November 19, 2015-Youth Leadership Training, Youth Summits and other ways to engage youth
  + January 21, 2016-Long Road Home and Olmstead: How do we expand our efforts beyond Institutions and Nursing Homes
  + March 17, 2016-How can our Partners Help to sustain our Peer to Peer Efforts
* 7 State Plans Updates
* 5 Vlogs posted on You Tube during period: 46 total Vlogs for two year period: 1209 views to date
* Facebook Posts-76 Facebook Posts
* Advisory Committee Meetings Minutes -Go To Meeting
* Completion of a survey of self advocacy members
* Evaluation Survey

**Attachment 1 Summary of Facebook Posts**

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| **Facebook Posts** | **October 1, 2015-March 31, 2016** |  |  |
| **Date** | **Title** | **Reaches** | **Like or share** |
| Oct 9 | OCSS picture of Vicki, Bill and I preparing for meeting in Georgia | 31 | 1 share |
| Oct 10 | ABLE Act in Maryland, Department of Disability webinar announcement | 11 |  |
| Oct 10 | OCSS Face to Face meeting pictures | 69 | 1 share |
| Oct 15 | 2 pictures of Tim Shriver story about sister, Rosemary | 15 | 2 likes |
| Oct 15 | Removable seat on in Airplane in Europe | 14 |  |
| Oct 16 | Amazon agrees to caption Amazon videos by December 2016 | 10 |  |
| Oct 21 | Deaf Starbucks worker in Arizona alleges discrimination lawsuit | 11 |  |
| Oct 23 | $20 mil Grant Power Game | 9 |  |
| Oct 23 | Man in wheelchair force off of airplane | 18 |  |
| Oct 23 | Positive Attitudes, Positive Impact | 5 |  |
| Oct 23 | Study: workers with disabilities struggle more in New York than other states | 13 |  |
| Oct 23 | Vermonter can now register to vote online and check status | 7 |  |
| Oct 23 | G3ict is dedicated to promote the digital accessibility agenda | 4 |  |
| Oct 26 | Applebee to pay employee with Autism who worked 100 hours for free | 12 |  |
| Oct 27 | Federal Disability Employment hits records | 6 |  |
| Oct 28 | Sue Swenson speaking about the role NIDRR played in developing the technology used by Smart phones | 3 |  |
| Nov 2 | 6 Alarming Millennials Trends | 11 |  |
| Nov 2 | Home and Employment First | 13 |  |
| Nov 6 | Soft skills job Gap problems | 10 |  |
| Nov 11 | Senator Harkins and Sesame street: Healthy minutes | 7 |  |
| Nov 12 | How to tell if your child’s IEP Goals are SMART | 14 |  |
| Nov 19 | Lawsuit Challenges Discriminating Change for Wheelchair Accessible Taxi services | 11 |  |
| Nov 19 | Disability rights of Ohio files complain on behalf of Shelter workshop employees | 3 |  |
| Dec 8 | A Captioner tells you what it really takes to get Closed Captions on your TV | 19 |  |
| Dec 9 | Technology for all: the need for a more accessible workplace | 10 |  |
| Dec 15 | Segregated Farmstead in Arizona aren’t community based | 6 |  |
| Dec 16 | 2014 Elections Survey Report | 9 |  |
| Dec 18 | First Lady Highlights Mental Health First Aid | 6 |  |
| Dec 21 | Apple Stores to feature accessibility products in early 2016 report | 7 |  |
| Dec 29 | The benefits of Special Needs employees: New York Business | 6 |  |
| Jan 2 | Federal law alleges Ohio denies disability voters equal opportunity to cast their ballot | 18 |  |
| Jan 6 | 2015 Best and Worst Cities for People with disabilities | 17 |  |
| Jan 7 | YAC-AZ Transition to college video | 17 |  |
| Jan 11 | Disability Day at the Hill | 16 |  |
| Jan 12 | Fighting for Accessible websites under ADA: Daniel Goldstein, Brown Goldstein Levy Baltimore | 13 |  |
| Jan 14 | Rooted in Rights: Do you have an assistant? | 11 |  |
| Jan 15 | National Goals 2015 for AIDD | 13 |  |
| Jan 19 | Tuesday with Liz: Tia Nelis | 14 |  |
| Jan 21 | Rollouts as states try Medicaid-managed long-term care | 19 |  |
| Jan 21 | Supreme court seeks input on Special Education matters | 19 |  |
| Jan 22 | Wounded Vets help neighbors by Plowing snow in his wheelchair | 18 | 1 |
| Jan 22 | Oregon judge approves Lane v. Brown settlement agreement | 17 |  |
| Jan 22 | Breaking: Deaf nurse student requesting ASL wins court case | 25 |  |
| Jan 22 | Unworthy: Down Syndrome project | 19 |  |
| Jan 22 | ADA Claims reach into Cyberspace: ADA | 14 |  |
| Jan 25 | Diversity: Huge groups of people we are leaving out | 18 |  |
| Jan 25 | Celebrating the spirit of resilience: 12th annual American Indian Disability Summit | 17 |  |
| Jan 27 | Disability Policy Seminar announcement | 21 |  |
| Feb 1 | 10 books to empower dis to start up and speak out | 12 |  |
| Feb 3 | Intel discloses divert data challenge technology industry to follow suit | 6 |  |
| Feb 4 | Caroline’s cart is rolling into Target stores nationwide | 12 |  |
| Feb 4 | Judge orders back pay for disability workers | 6 |  |
| Feb 5 | Disability community protest accessibility legislation | 23 |  |
| Feb 5 | Montana: Lawmakers treat disability quickly… as bad | 17 |  |
| Feb 7 | Regal: Assistive technology | 9 |  |
| Feb 8 | OCSS South Carolina video | 9 |  |
| Feb 9 | Upworthy: Albuquerque homeless work for city | 18 |  |
| Feb 11 | ACDL: file lawsuit about 911 emergency calls | 4 |  |
| Feb 12 | Newsbeat: Professional dancer with down Syndrome video | 24 |  |
| Feb 15 | Register to Vote announcement | 4 |  |
| Feb 15 | Stevie Wonder: speech about including people with disabilities when he received music award | 18 |  |
| Feb 17 | Barista class teaches job skills to young adults with disabilities | 34 |  |
| Feb 17 | First time buyer’s guide for wheelchair vehicles | 5 |  |
| Feb 18 | Business Insider: How important making your bed every morning, set goals | 23 |  |
| Feb 18 | There is a movement underway to update the universal symbol for disability access | 16 |  |
| Feb 19 | Information video on a lift to place motorcycle in back of a truck | 17 |  |
| Feb 19 | #cripthevote update twitter chat | 13 |  |
| Feb 22 | Engineering and Architecture: a store manual electric ramp transferring customer | 12 |  |
| Feb 27 | Picture of Alabama Vote training | 12 |  |
| Mar 2 | Super Tuesday: Entrance at a voting site not accessible | 11 |  |
| Mar 11 | People First of Tennessee: Charles Hall and April Meredith video | 11 | 1 like |
| Mar 11 | Chit Chat with Taylor part 1 and part 2 | 12 |  |
| Mar 11 | Marriage Penalty | 8 |  |
| Mar 11 | Legislators eliminates legal counsel requirements for disability adult if parents seeking guardianship | 13 |  |
| Mar 12 | Phoenix start up employs diverse workers with disabilities | 13 |  |
| Mar 15 | Rooted in Rights: Do you have an assistant? | 8 |  |
| **TOTAL** | **76 posts** | **459** |  |

Attachment 2 Self Advocacy Survey

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| Self Advocacy Groups and Members  Groups were defined as self advocates who meet together and work on their issues. In addition, the groups in most cases identify with a statewide organization.  Methodology  This data was gathered by SABE and the Regional Self Advocacy Technical Assistance Projects- NEAT, OCSS and Southwest Alliance from 2010-2016. The partners in this process used one or more of the following methods to gather this data: self report by state organizations: numbers reflected on organizations website: survey of state organizations. Data collected included the number of local groups and when available and the numbers of self advocates who were involved in these groups.  States reported a total of 1167 local groups. States that report number of members estimate averages of 10 to 15 members per group. For the purpose of this analysis we utilized 12 members per group.  Based on this data, estimates of self advocates involved in local organizations range from 8772-14,316. If territories are included, the range is: 9632-15,727. WE have extrapolated from these numbers that we can conservatively make the statement that it is estimated that 12,626 self advocates are involved in grassroots self advocacy organizations in the US and its territories. |

Data Collected by Self Advocates Becoming Empowered and the following Regional Self Advocacy Technical Assistance Centers: Northeast Advocates Together, Our Community Standing Strong, and Southwest Alliance. Data Collected from 2010-2016 April 21, 2016

The group will also be continuing our efforts to obtain more accurate numbers relating to self advocacy groups and members.