

Tuesday, 10:00 – 11:30, A7

The State of Self-Advocacy in Michigan: A statewide coalition of self-advocates and leaders

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Sarah Frisch

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Objective:

Identify effective methods for the practical application of concepts related to improving the delivery of services for persons with developmental disabilities

Identify and emphasize attitudes that enhance the opportunities for persons with DD to achieve their optimal potential

Develop strategies to promote community inclusion in meeting the needs of persons with developmental disabilities

Advance the movement of self-advocacy of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Notes:

Self-Advocates of Michigan S.A.M

**SAM – Public Policy Committee
(SAM-PPC)**

Presented by:

Acting Chair- Blake Perry

Overarching Principles of the SAM-PPC

- Advocating for people with disabilities (PWD)
- Promote inclusive communities
- Encourage diversity
- Endorse self-direction
- Support self-determination

SAM-PPC Statement of Work: Improving the lives of PWD

- Advocate for public policy that is responsive to the needs of PWD
- Positions of advocacy that affect:
 - Self-direction
 - Self-determination
 - Diversity

SAM-PPC at Work: Improving the lives of PWD continued

- Helping PWD to become strong advocates
- Advocate to legislators on the state and federal level on disability related issues
- Work with policy makers to have our voices heard in policy discussions

SAM-PPC Mission

- “Advocate for public policy that is responsive to the needs of persons with disabilities and that will enhance individual choice.”

SAM-PPC Goals

- Build relationships with policy makers, state, and federal lawmakers
- Work with PWDs to become strong advocates
- Educate legislators on disability issues
- Promote policy / legislation / rules that enhance the lives of PWDs
- Strong advocacy outreach on issues that negatively impact PWDs

SAM-PPC Working to improve the lives of PWDs

- How the SAM-PPC work affects PWDs. Examples include:
 - ABLE
 - Employment
 - Legislative Day – 2017
 - Intellectual disability legislation

SAM-PPC Washington DC

- Attended the Disability Policy Seminar
- Focused on federal policy issues that would impact PWDs
- Visited Capitol Hill to meet with Congressional leaders
- Met with many congress persons that included elected officials and staff

SAM-PPC Washington DC continued.

- Shared personal stories
- Discussed how Medicaid helps PWDs
- Explained how cuts to Medicaid would negatively impact PWDs
- Opened the lines of communication with congressional offices
- Shared SAM-PPC information and contact information

SAM-PPC moving forward

- Recommend policy positions to the SAM board
- Work to have legislation introduced that will help PWDs
- Work to protect or expand Medicaid benefits for PWD

Thank you!

The State of Self-Advocacy in Michigan:

A Statewide coalition of Self-Advocates and Leaders



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What is Self-Advocacy?



- Self-advocacy is about speaking up for you. *It teaches you how to make decisions and choices that affect your life so you can be more independent.*

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Why Self-Advocacy?



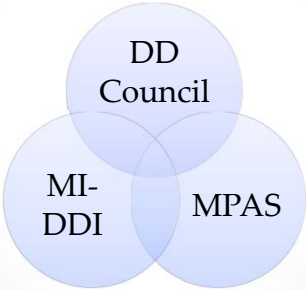
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In It's First Year

- Recruited Board Members
- Wrote By-Laws
- Established its Organizational Structure
- Elected Interim Officers

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DD Network Support



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Membership Committee

Barb Valliere
Chair of Membership Committee

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SAM Voting Member

- a. identifies as a person with an intellectual and/or a developmental disability,
- b. lives in Michigan, and
- c. is 18 years or older.



Membership Committee: Responsibilities

- Manage the annual list of SAM members
- Develop and implement an annual membership plan
- Support SAM regional representatives to engage membership in organization
- Coordinate issues of members in "good-standing" when necessary

Membership Committee

Mission: To recruit, support, and maintain the membership of Self-Advocates of Michigan (SAM).

Overarching Principle: The SAM membership will represent the rich diversity of Michigan and its membership will include individuals from all regions of the state, different ethnicities, gender and gender identities with adults who experience a variety of intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Membership Committee: Current Work Plan

- Develop a SAM membership form
- Conduct membership recruitment activities
- Develop a membership database
- Host an in-person or virtual membership recruitment event.

Membership Form



Membership Recruitment



Board of Directors Elections

June 2017: Elections

- Will elect new Board members and Board officers
- New Board begins in July 2017

Submit applications

- by email *or* US Mail *or* the online (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SAMBoard2017>)
- Due April 30, 2017

Election process

- Membership Committee will review
- Individuals will be contacted for an interview in May-June 2017

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Public Policy Committee

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David Taylor
Committee Member

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Public Relations Committee

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Sarah Frisch
Committee Member

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How can you support Self-Advocates of Michigan?

- Partner with SAM in advocacy
- Host a membership recruitment event
- Distribute the membership application
- Encourage leaders to serve on the Board
- Share information about SAM

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