



# Paige Librandi

**This is Paige Librandi, she serves as the Self-Advocate Coordinator for the South Region of the Connecticut Department of Developmental Services, based in the New Haven office.**

Paige started her role on October 11, 2019. Her father informed her about the job, and she expressed interest in the position. She applied, attended an interview, and was later invited back for two additional meetings.

**Soon after, she was offered the job.**

When talking with Paige, I asked her what success meant to her.

Paige stated that her dream job is to be a "Self-Advocate Coordinator," because people with disabilities are being treated poorly by people without disabilities. Paige said that when she was 16 years old, she and her friend went to the mall, and a guy came up to her, rested his hand on her head, and prayed for her. She stated that she didn't think much of it and laughed it off, but she also said that

Paige's biggest accomplishment was graduating college after attending for 10 years. She said her challenges were her homework and writing essays. Additionally, rushing through her work was an issue.

Paige reports that she was shy up to the age of 25 years old. She worked to overcome her shyness by reminding herself to stay patient and to treat herself with kindness. When she started at DDS, she worked in the office 100% of the time. Fast forward five months, she had to work from home due to the COVID pandemic, during which DDS had to lock down the office.

Paige stated that she didn't know being a Self-Advocate Coordinator would be so much work. Although she finds this position very rewarding, she states that there is not enough time in the day to advocate for community needs. A Self-Advocate Coordinator meets new people throughout their designated region. Paige would like to be known for her humor, her dedication to helping people, and her efforts to make a change.

***Paige said, "Do not to give up on your dreams and to be patient!"***