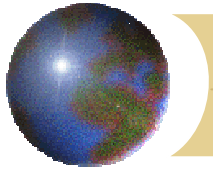



What You Should Know About the Self Advocate Coordinators

SELF ADVOCATES LEADING CHANGE IN CONNECTICUT





WHO WE ARE



The slide features a map of North Carolina divided into three regions: West (orange), North (purple), and South (green). Each region is associated with a stick figure icon and a list of coordinators with their respective photos. The West region includes Dawn Veretto, Ivan Villa, and Jossie Torres. The North region includes Carlos Colon, Chavis Chappell, and Varian Salters. The South region includes Genna Lewis, Carol Grabbe, and Joyce Rivers.

West

Dawn Veretto

Ivan Villa

Jossie Torres

North

Carlos Colon

Chavis Chappell

Varian Salters

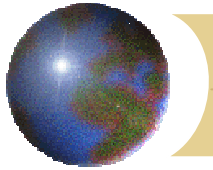
South

Genna Lewis

Carol Grabbe

Joyce Rivers

DMR SELF ADVOCATE COORDINATORS



OUR ROLE

Self Advocate Coordinator Goals:



the number of people involved in self advocacy



the number of consumers participating in DMR decision-making activities



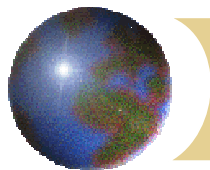
train more consumers as leaders



Create materials that are easy to read for consumers



Make sure consumers have an active role in all new initiatives started by the department-
Nothing about us without us!



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Self Advocacy

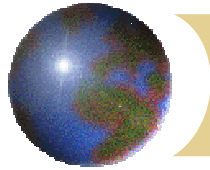
- Existing advocacy groups expanded: Willimantic, New London, Wallingford
- New self advocacy groups created: Waterbury, Farmington, New Haven
- With are working to change the name of the department and on legislation to mandate the use of People First language.



Partnership with CT People First and SABA has been enhanced.

**SELF
ADVOCATES
BECOMING
EMPOWERED**

We are now active members of NEAT
(New England Advocates Together)



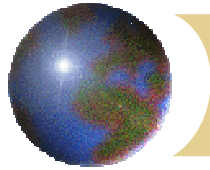
ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Consumer Participation in Decision-Making Activities

- ✦ **SAC's are participating in a variety of committees and other decision-making activities: Governor's MR Council, Deputy Commissioner's Self Advocacy Advisory Group, Regional Director Committees, C-PASS, Human Rights, Conference Planning, quality, cultural competence, CMS grant, MIG, DOE, Employment, etc.**
- ✦ **We are in process of drafting accommodation recommendations that will help expand additional consumer participation**



Carol Grabbe speaking as a Keynote panel member at the NASDDD Conference



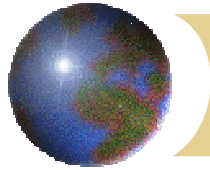
ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Leadership Development

- **15 consumers have been trained as public speakers and are now assisting with NET and other DMR trainings. We are partnering with Toastmasters to bring public speaking training to consumers in their local communities.**
- **We participated as assistant staff in the annual Youth Leadership Forum and are active members in regional Disability Advocacy Collaborative groups.**
- **We had a self advocacy training statewide event each year. We also sponsored other regional self advocacy training events and invite self advocates to participate in most DMR events.**



Kevin and Steven are proud graduates of the Willimantic Speaker's Bureau and now do NET Human Rights training



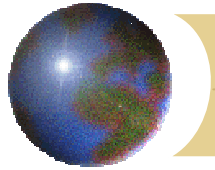
ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Easy to Read Materials

- ✦ **We participated in the development of the department's new Waiver Guides. We have also written articles, created self advocacy bulletin boards and have distributed information at display tables. We've also been advocating that all new materials are translated into Spanish.**
- ✦ **We are almost finished creating a portability video!**
- ✦ **We also created a new Self Advocacy website which is coming soon!**



Laura Kate and Chavis spreading the word at the NEAT Market Convention



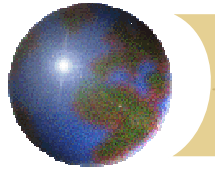
ACCOMPLISHMENTS

New Projects and Division Activities

- ✦ **We have participated in a variety of division activities such as completing core indicator surveys, participating in employee interviews, etc.**
- ✦ **We have also participated in new department initiatives: creation of the LON, SL Symposium, Health Pilot Project, CPASS Pilot, etc.**



Jossie hard at work getting her Core Indicator surveys completed



NEXT STEPS

Next Steps?



**What can we
do for you in
2007-2008?**

**Please let us know
your ideas on how
we can support
and promote
self-advocacy
in
CT!**