



Partners in Policymaking

Training Advocates to Step Up to Leadership Roles!

Announcing...

Recruitment for the PARTNERS IN POLICYMAKING Class of 2009 is under way!

Partners in Policymaking participants are people with developmental disabilities or parents of young children with developmental disabilities.

Individuals participating in the program will attend advocacy training, resource development and skill building workshops with training provided by state and national level speakers, presenters and specialists in a variety of fields.

Topics covered include the history of the disability movement, self advocacy, independent living, supported employment, inclusive community building, natural supports, legislative advocacy, assistive technology, communication and team building and much more!

Program participants will attend and participate in 8 two-day sessions between September and May in Richmond, VA.

Application and subsequent selection for the Partners in Policymaking program requires a substantial commitment of time, motivation, and energy. Participants understand that if accepted, the Partners in Policymaking Program requires attendance and participation in ALL eight two-day sessions.

Each session begins Friday afternoon and concludes late Saturday afternoon. Participants agree to complete all homework, class assignments and one major project designed to meet competencies.

Expenses for training, lodging, meals, and travel are provided through the program.

Applicants are required to complete a formal written application and provide three letters of recommendation.

Application is open to adult consumers or parents statewide.

*Completed applications must be received at the Board office no later than 5:00 PM
Thursday, April 30, 2009.*

For further information, please contact Erin Hickey by email: Erin.Hickey@vbpd.virginia.gov or Teri Barker Morgan at Teri.Barker@vbpd.virginia.gov or call 1-800-846-4464 (voice/TTY).

Fall 2009-Spring 2010 Class Schedule will take place on one Friday and Saturday in each of the following months: September, October, November 2009 January, February, March, April, May 2010.

The exact dates will be posted soon.



Partners in Policymaking

Testimonials and Achievements

Dana Yarbrough, Class of 1997:

"My daughter, Brooke, was just 2 years old when I participated in PIP. Brooke was born 11½ weeks premature and has multiple physical, intellectual, and sensory disabilities. When I participated in PIP, I set a vision for where Brooke would be in ten years but had not envisioned where I would be in ten years. Thanks to the advocacy skills I learned, I have had awesome opportunities to direct our state Parent to Parent office, coordinate projects at the Partnership for People with Disabilities at VCU, present at conferences all over the country, and participate on over ten local and state committees and task forces."

Mark Russell, Class of 1997:

"As I became more involved in local volunteer efforts through my involvement as a parent, I needed the knowledge and confidence to become a more effective advocate in disability policy and community supports. Partners in Policymaking was exactly what I needed. After PIP, I switched careers to work in disability nonprofits, and I have never looked back."

Penny Altizer, Class of 1998:

"I am the mother of a thirteen year old with cerebral palsy. Partners gave me the knowledge and strength to go to college to help others and make a difference. I have received three A.A.S. degrees, two B.S. degrees, and am working on my M.S. Degree in Counseling. I am on the Tazewell County Disability Services Board as a Mental

"Partners can strengthen their advocacy effectiveness by actively engaging in the political process. If all Partners received and responded to action alerts, and got others to respond as well, they could significantly impact the potential for systems change."

Robert Silverstein, attorney and nationally recognized disability policy analyst

Health Social Worker. If it had not been for Partners, I would have not set goals for myself, accomplished them and then went on to set new goals. I want to make a difference in the lives of others."

Vicki Beatty, Class of 2002:

"Partners changed my life. It gave me the information and ammunition I needed to go out and make a difference in the state. Partners opened up a new career for me. When I graduated from PIP, I made a proposal to the Infant and Toddler Connection of Richmond for a family representative position (not volunteer but paid). They accepted, and I currently work 24 hours a week helping families whose children age birth to three have a developmental delay.

Jennifer Peers, Class of 2002:

"Partners is a life changing experience. Are you ready?"

Ed Zeigler, Class of 2004:

"I've always known that actions speak louder than words, and that's what Partners taught me, how to take action and not just complain, to make a difference. As a person with a disability, Partners made a difference in my life, and as a result I'm making a difference in the lives of others."