

Staying In Charge of Your Self Advocacy Group

**Pacific Leadership Academy 2016
Part I**

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Every movement, group or organization has allies!



WHAT IS AN ALLY?

An ally is a person who will support an individual or a group to accomplish their mission or goals. Allies can provide information, and they believe in the movement.

WHAT DO WE BELIEVE?

- Be in charge of our own lives
- Include everyone
- Be accessible, whether it's words you use, what you do, or the surroundings



WHAT ORGANIZATIONS ARE ALLIES IN THE SA MOVEMENT?

- AIDD Network Partners
- Developmental Disability Councils (“DD Council”)
- University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (“UCEDD”, pronounced “you-said”)
- Protection and Advocacy Organizations (“P and As”)

WHAT ORGANIZATIONS ARE ALLIES IN THE SA MOVEMENT?



**SELF
ADVOCATES
BECOMING
EMPOWERED**



NCIL
National Council
on Independent Living

WHAT ORGANIZATIONS ARE ALLIES IN THE SA MOVEMENT?

- Sibling Network

The logo for Sibling Leadership Network features the text "SIBLING LEADERSHIP NETWORK" in a bold, sans-serif font. The word "SIBLING" is on the top line, "LEADERSHIP" is on the second line, and "NETWORK" is on the third line. To the right of the word "SIBLING" is a blue icon consisting of four interlocking loops, resembling a stylized flower or a network node.

SIBLING 
LEADERSHIP
NETWORK

WHAT ORGANIZATIONS ARE ALLIES IN THE SA MOVEMENT?

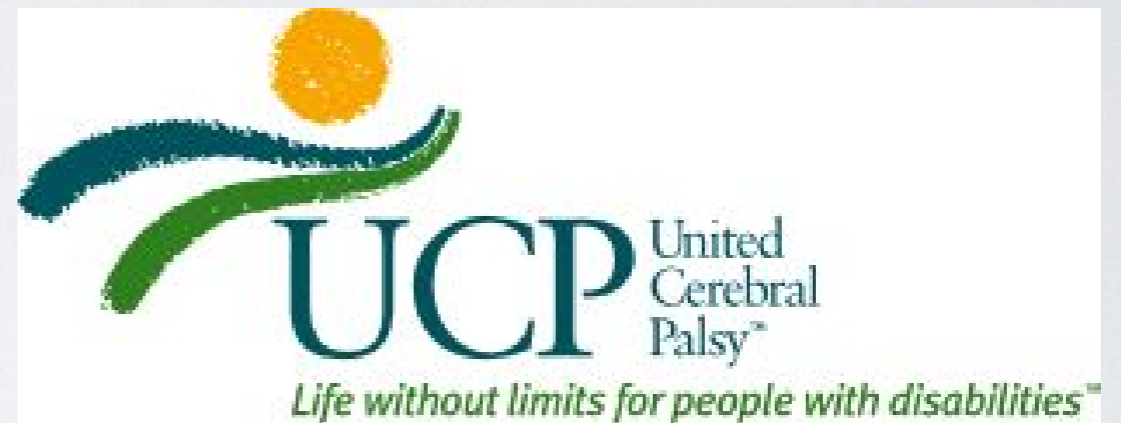


Family advocacy organizations



WHAT ORGANIZATIONS ARE ALLIES IN THE SA MOVEMENT?

- Service providers
- Other minority advocacy communities
- Others?



HOW DO YOU KNOW WHO YOUR ALLIES ARE?

- Do they truly believe in what the self-advocacy movement believes in?
- Are they open-minded and respectful?
- Do they have similar goals?

“I think that if you have a common goal you are working toward than someone that might not be a natural ally can be an ally for a specific area at times. A big part of it is developing relationships...and having people get to know you more and you being open to getting to know other people as well.

Katie - Sibling



A COMMON PURPOSE

- What's in it for me?
- What's in it for you?
- Do we have a common cause?
- Is there mutual respect?

“Respect goes both ways! I need to respect Joe and he needs to respect me.. And if I don't respect him. Why should he respect me?”

Liz – self-advocate



Staying In Charge of Your Self Advocacy Group

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ALLY, NOT!

- Don't try to control
- Don't pressure self-advocates
- Don't set the self-advocacy agenda



WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Get together with the other self-advocates in the group and tell them how you feel
- Stand up for yourself and your group
- Can agree to disagree, but the ally doesn't take over
- Calling them on it or using teaching strategies to help them understand when they are overstepping.

“...you have enough respect for each other that you stick together even when you don't always agree. I also think sometimes allies (support people) need training and mentoring.”

Joe - Ally



SCENARIO

- Your group works with an ally at a provider organization. Every time the ally sees you, they tell you how much they support you. They tell everyone you are the “future” of the movement. At the same time, you’re kind of confused because shady things keep happening. They take credit for the work you are doing. They talk about your project at conferences you don’t get to go to. They say it’s so more people can learn about it.
- You can’t figure it out: Is this person an ally?

SCENARIO

- You want to apply for a grant. The foundation that administers the grant funds exactly what you do. Their guidelines say you are eligible to apply.
- Your fiscal agent comes up with a legal reason you can't. You think they are wrong, but you don't know what to do because to question if they are wrong will bring up all kinds of relationship issues. You hear through the grapevine that they are applying for the same funding for one of their projects — they didn't even tell you.
- What do you do???

SCENARIO

You are doing a presentation on integrated employment with a co-facilitator who does not have a disability. The other person begins to speak about sheltered workshops and how they can be appropriate for some people. Your self advocacy group has a clear statement against sheltered workshops.

What do you do?

SCENARIO

An ally used members of a group for a project of theirs. When the project was over, they stopped talking to them and stopped being nice. This really hurt the members.

What would you do?

SCENARIO

The group was asked to write articles for a national magazine on disability issues with another organization who the group doesn't always agree with. They will pay \$500 an article.

What do you do?

“One reality is people/organizations are often competing for money and this can lead to conflict among allies. This can be a hard situation and happens often in the field. It can be risky, but sometimes giving up some money to go toward an ally can be beneficial in the long run if they reciprocate and then think of your organization for additional funding opportunities in the future.”

Katie - Sibling

QUESTIONS???