



Self Advocates in Leadership

SAIL UPDATE

June 2010



Summer is here!

Take some time to relax and unwind, you deserve it!

David Lord from Disability Rights Washington Came to Talk to SAIL

David Lord from Disability Rights Washington came to SAIL to talk about several things. He brought the Minnesota House of Representatives Resolution to share with the group. It begins "A resolution apologizing on behalf of citizens of the state to all persons with mental illness and developmental and other disabilities who have been wrongfully committed to state institutions." The entire resolution is very long and the space here is limited. The group seemed to have a very mixed reaction to the resolution when it was read aloud.

A couple of questions came up:

- Does Minnesota have any institutions?
- What were they hoping to achieve?

Emily made a couple of phone calls and discovered that yes Minnesota has closed all of their institutions and that there really wasn't anything related to the resolution that they were hoping to do. Judging from the reaction of the group it seems that we will not choose this type of Resolution for the 2010 session.

David also began a conversation about the priorities of Disability Rights Washington. There were many comments from people about the abuse and neglect area. If you have a comment on the area that you believe DRW should focus on please call: 1-800-562-2702.

We were all a part of a big surprise during the meeting, Ken Larson was able to present David with a Certificate of Appreciation from all of us for all of his hard work on legislative advocacy and his willingness to work with us over the years.

Thanks a million David, we look forward to working with you for many years to come!



A Note from the Chair

June 2010

Hello Everyone!

Please be ready to begin work on our legislative agenda. Betty from Disability Rights Washington will be coming to the meeting to talk about abuse and neglect issues. Be sure and enjoy the summer, relax and get ready for a very challenging session!

Sincerely,

Ken Larson, Chair



Brian Dahl Helps SAIL Create a Values Document



SAIL has been working hard on the different trainings going on around the state for different groups of people including: parents, independent providers and residential providers. It has come to the subcommittees attention that really what is needed is a document that lists the most important values and why we feel that each of them is important. That way we also can give guidance on how to teach those values to the students. With this document we have a head start on letting others know what is particularly important to us. Brian had a draft document started and reviewed it with the group as well as adding additional values that members came up with. At the meeting in July we are going to continue that discussion and hopefully finish with a document that can be finalized. Thank you for all of your input and ideas!!

Nominate Someone for the Chris Purnell Advocacy Award



Chris Purnell was a member of SAIL who we honor with an Award in his name. He was positive, had no problem with speaking out and was willing to get in the middle of advocacy things. Do you know someone with these qualities? Who has worked particularly hard in advocacy this year? If you would like to let nominate someone please let Emily know at 1-888-754-8798. Thank You!

SAIL Is Moving To A New Location!

As many people know we are quickly outgrowing the space we currently have for our meetings. Our meeting location will be changing beginning in September! Please come to the next couple of meetings to be sure you know where to go! We currently have the new space from September 2010-June 2011. Yay!!!