**Christopher Blake**

Chris Blake is a graduate of Partners in Policymaking and LEND trainings, and has put his leadership skills to good use. Chris is an extremely active advocate in the state, and also worked in an advisory capacity with other self-advocates as part of the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD). Chris sits on several Boards, including SARAH-Tuxis Inc. Board of Directors, the Cross Disability Alliance Steering Committee and the Board of Directors of Arc Connecticut. He is also on the Consumer Advisory Council of the University of Connecticut UCEDD, and past member and Vice Chair of the CT Council on Developmental Disabilities. He mentors young self-advocates, testifies at the legislature, and is active with People First of Connecticut. He is a frequent speaker at conferences and workshops. As a true leader, Chris is constantly seeking new opportunities to improve the lives of people with disabilities in our state. He was one of six self-advocates selected from a pool of over 40 applicants for a SARTAC fellowship in 2020. His chosen project was improving access to ABLE.