



POSITIVE ABILITIES

Department of Administration

April 2022

Office of Executive Policy and Programs

MISSION: *The mission of the South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council is to provide leadership in planning, funding, and implementing initiatives that lead to improved quality of life for people with developmental disabilities and their families through advocacy, capacity building, and systemic change.*

GET READY for.....!



Beginning September 2022



The South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council is gearing up for 2022-2023 Partners in Policymaking Class®!

We are excited about being back in person and getting ready for an amazing year. We will be following the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) safety guidelines.

**William "Will" Farrior,
Program Assistant
Self-Advocate**



SOUTH CAROLINA DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL

Partners in Policymaking® provides a solid foundation for advocacy. Many of our graduates are serving on boards and commissions. We are pleased to share that several graduates serve on the SC Developmental Disabilities Council. Advocacy is essential in advancing the mission of improving the quality-of-life for people with disabilities and their families and removing barriers.





South Carolina **PARTNERS in POLICYMAKING**



Partners in Policymaking® is a leadership training program that teaches adults with disabilities and parents how to be community leaders and how to advocate for themselves and others.

Participants come to Columbia once a month for five months to receive information, training and resources about local, state, and national issues that affect people with disabilities.

Participants in the Partners in Policymaking® program are expected to attend:

- five two-day sessions, one weekend per month
- sessions begin at 12:00 p.m. on Friday and conclude by 4:30 p.m. on Saturday.

Sessions:
September 30 -
October 1
November 4-5
January 20-21
February 17-18
March 17-18

For more information, go to
<https://www.sccdc.state.sc.us/resources.html>
or call 803-734-0465

PARTICIPANTS ARE
REIMBURSED FOR
TRAVEL COSTS TO
AND FROM
COLUMBIA.

LODGING & MEALS
PROVIDED.
PARTICIPANTS
RECEIVE DINNER
FRIDAY AND
BREAKFAST AND
LUNCH ON
SATURDAY.

ATTENDANT
SUPPORT AND
RESPIRE
REIMBURSEMENT
PROVIDED.

NO COST TO
PARTICIPANTS





Register Now!

Independence: My Choices, My Life Conference

Keynote Speaker: James Cox

May 26, 2022

Registration: 9:00am-
10:00am

Sessions:
10:00am-3:00pm

To register: [https://
bit.ly/3EEkGqr](https://bit.ly/3EEkGqr)



Breakout Sessions:

Assistive Technology

Relationships

Employment

Rights



I.M.P.A.C.T. S.C. establishes a statewide leadership network of self-advocates. I.M.P.A.C.T. S.C. secures and implements competency skills training for the leadership network focusing on issues affecting people with intellectual disabilities/developmental disabilities and their families; as well as agencies/organizations providing services. I.M.P.A.C.T. S.C. makes amazing utilization of self-advocates as presenters and consultants, by identifying and implementing replicable strategies in areas which support self-advocacy skills for individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities.

I.M.P.A.C.T. S.C. participants give and share information, tools, and other resources for self-advocates around the state, including those in rural areas. Overall, they are leaving a strong footprint for future generations to follow. Self-advocates, working together has had a significant "Impact" around the state.

ADVOACACY DAY

FOR ACCESS & INDEPENDENCE



Advocacy Day for Access and Independence was held on April 13, 2022. The event highlighted the need for **Employment, Transportation, Housing and ADA Coordinators**. Speakers from the legislature, self-advocates, disability organizations and service agencies stood together in fighting for access and removing barriers. More than 40 partner organizations supported the event.





Employment:

The State of South Carolina should be a model employer for people with and without disabilities! People with disabilities are two times more likely to experience job loss and unemployment than those without disabilities. Additionally, nearly 1,000 South Carolinians with disabilities are limited to settings where they may make less than one dollar per hour!





Transportation:

Transportation is the key to independence and community participation. People with disabilities are twice as likely not to have dependable transportation. This makes it difficult to :

- ^ Find and keep jobs
- ^ Take care of health needs
- ^ Build Connections
- ^ Take Part in community & economy



Housing

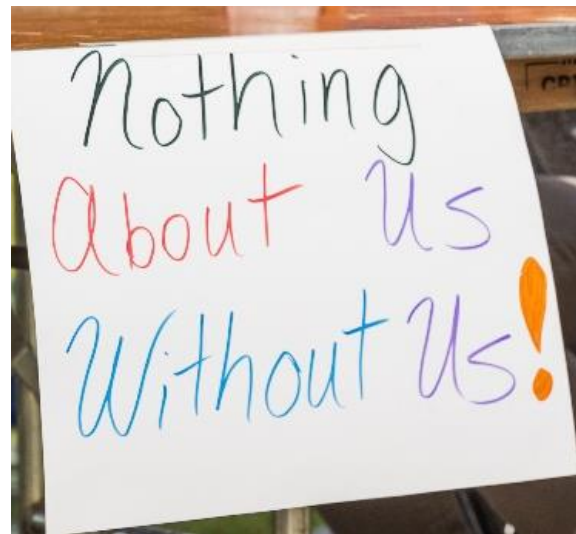
Housing is key to independence. People with disabilities deserve access to affordable, accessible housing, in accessible neighborhoods, with neighbors who are non-disabled. Accessible means something is usable by everyone.





ADA Coordinators:

The Americans with Disabilities Act became law nearly 32 years ago. Yet, South Carolina still has a long way to go to follow the law. The state has faced ADA lawsuits and Department of Justice complaints. South Carolina needs to take action to protect the rights of children and adults with disabilities.



SUMMER equip SERIES

June 14 & 16, June 21 & 23

10 am- 4 pm

In-Person

Greenville & Columbia



SOUTH CAROLINA
Developmental Disabilities Council

Register for Equip Summer Series Now!

REGISTER NOW

Equip Summer Series

A week-long self-advocacy, disability pride, and skill-building opportunity for young adults with disabilities ages 13-28. Summer Series meets in person in Greenville and Columbia to build skills that assist young adult leaders with increasing their independence.

TOTALLY FREE

Summer Series costs you nothing and lunch will be provided each week; please bring own food if needed for special dietary concerns.

REGISTRATION

Every young adult interested in participating will need to complete this registration form, regardless of previous participation.

PLEASE NOTE:

Registration is accepted first come, first served.

WHO?

Young adults ages 13-28 with ANY type of disability.

WHEN?

June 14, 16, 21, and 23 from 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM daily.

WHERE?

Columbia & Greenville (details coming soon).

WHY?

- Empower Yourself
- Learn Self-Advocacy Skills
- Build on Communication Skills
- Set Short-Term and Long-Term Goals
- Explore Independent Living Skills
- Promote Activism in the Community

The Association of University Centers on Disability Leadership Academy



The Association of University Centers on Disability (AUCD) is a week-long intensive experience, paired with a year of pre and post interaction designed to enhance the skills of current and emerging leaders from disability networks to build coalitions to improve systems of supports and services. William “Will” Farris was among twenty-four participants from across the United States and Territories who were accepted. The program will continue to help self-advocates strive and grow in their career and continue their education outside of the classroom. Overall, this opportunity will influence self-advocates and their future work by challenging them to look at the bigger picture and think outside the box. The program is designed for a cohort of individuals across the country

who in turn will assist one another in being a part of a broader network. Will shares that he is excited to be chosen and looking forward to working with other self-advocates across the United States and Territories.

MASK GIVEAWAY

Mr. Robert “Rob” Burrell, Director of Disaster Services Emergency Management ESF-6 (Mass Care) Lead for South Carolina, with the Department of Social Services has been working with Food Lion on KN95 Mask donations. There were over 823,000 KN95 masks and 390,000 cloth masks donated. The SC DD Council along with 19 other service agencies were provided free masks.



Image: A red and white tractor trailer

A special, “**Thank You!**” to Food Lion for their support of the community and working with the disability community in keeping individuals safe. Thank you Rob, to you and your team for all you do, year around, keeping the residents of SC safe and prepared!



Image above: Four people wearing masks holding thank you messages to Food Lion for their donation.

Image below: Several pallets of boxes of masks.



Image above: A box of KN95 masks.

Image below: A man in a red shirt pulls a pallet of masks, while a man in a black hoodie points off camera



SC DD Council Program Manager

Lori Rodgers



It has been almost a year since I joined the DD Council. It is exciting to see the work that is coming to fruition and the efforts that are being made to effect change for people with disabilities in this state. Since starting here, many of my interactions with people have been limited to Zoom, but in-person events are starting to pick back up and it has been great to get to meet people face-to-face and interact outside of the virtual world! Both events at the state house, Disability Advocacy Day and Advocacy Day for Access and Independence, had a great turn out, showing the motivation and desire to improve the quality of life for people with developmental disabilities and their families.

Current grant programs are doing great things, and later this year, many will continue, and there will be an addition of some new employment grants.

As we navigate this new normal, it is important that I express our gratitude to all of our grantees, partners, agencies and organizations for their diligence in making sure programs continued. The flexibility to adapt to an ever-changing landscape of guidelines for safety and accommodations for personal choices is admirable.

www.scdde.sc.gov

We are also excited to continue to share our social media links on Facebook and Twitter.



[SC DD Council Facebook](#)



[SC DD Council Twitter](#)



SOUTH CAROLINA DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL

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Ms. Margaret Alewine
Mrs. Carol Anderson
Mr. Joseph “Joey” Barefoot
Mrs. Michelle Barefoot
Ms. Anna Bleasdale
Mrs. Trayci Brazell
Ms. Jerri Davison**

**Ms. Beth Franco
Mr. Gerald Frazier
Mrs. Connie Gallman
Mr. John Green
Mr. Demetrius Henderson
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Mr. Bernard Johnson
Ms. Megan Johnson**

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