



# POSITIVE ABILITIES

Department of Administration

June 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.*





# INDIVIDUALS *MOTIVATING PEOPLE TO ACHIEVE* CHANGE *TOGETHER IN SOUTH CAROLINA*

THE I.M.P.A.C.T. S.C. STATEWIDE CONFERENCE WAS HELD MAY 26-27, 2022, AT THE COOPERATIVE CONFERENCE CENTER IN COLUMBIA. MEMBERS WERE SO EXCITED TO BE ABLE TO SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN, AFTER DEALING WITH COVID-19 THE PAST TWO YEARS.







The Center for Disability Resources continues its work with I.M.P.A.C.T. S.C. The grant provides statewide assistance in advocacy strengthening organizational goals for persons with intellectual/developmental disabilities. The mission of I.M.P.A.C.T. S.C. is to encourage positive change for people with disabilities through working together to enhance lives while taking a stand for change. On May 26, 2022, I.M.P.A.C.T. S.C. held their annual self-advocacy conference. The conference provided self-advocates with information, training, and leadership opportunities, along with ways to participate in their communities by increasing awareness of the values, rights, and abilities of people with disabilities. The Keynote speaker this year was James Cox, who is the business owner of a Pod Cast, “When Words Fail... Music Speaks”. He has lived with cerebral palsy all of his life. He has lived independently for 5 years and advocates for people to help them understand their disability does not define who they are.

The conference was a much-needed break to get back to “normalcy”. You often hear the saying, “the feeling you get is like something out of a movie”. That same feeling was captured at the “2022 My Choices, My Life Conference”. After, being virtual for the last 3 years since COVID-19 began, the feeling of togetherness and being in person brought back a host of nostalgic feelings that could not be put into words.

Self-Advocates, participants, support staff members, and presenters were able to reconnect and express how they felt while sharing personal experiences going through COVID-19. While it was good seeing one another on social media, there is absolutely no replacement for the heartfelt comradery of being in person. – **William Farrior, Self-Advocate**



Danielle Sartin, Self-Advocate; Valarie Bishop, DD Council Executive Director; Tammy S. Keller, Long Term Care Ombudsman; and Melissa Snyder, Lead Community Work Incentive Coordinator, show their joy for being back in person.

*Dori Tempo is elated receiving the I.M.P.A.C.T. S.C. Self-Advocate of the Year Award. She tearfully shared, coming from her peers the award means so much to her.*







*July 22, 2022*

SOUTH  
CAROLINA  
STATEHOUSE  
COLUMBIA, SC

# *Fragile X Awareness Day Ceremony*

SC Governor Henry McMaster is declaring July 22 National Fragile X Awareness Day in SC. Join parents, families, self-advocates, state officials and researchers as we bring awareness to Fragile X Syndrome and Fragile X Associated Disorders.

*July 22, 2022*

*10:30 - 12:00*

*SC Statehouse Lobby*



THE SOUTH CAROLINA  
FRAGILE X RESOURCE GROUP

For more information, contact Roger Kuperman at [southcarolina@fragilex.org](mailto:southcarolina@fragilex.org).



# State of South Carolina

## Governor's Proclamation

- WHEREAS,** fragile X syndrome is the most common cause of inherited intellectual disability and the most common known genetic cause of autism or autism spectrum disorders; and
- WHEREAS,** over 1.5 million Americans are carriers of a fragile X mutation and thus have, or are at risk for developing, a fragile X-associated disorder, and over 100,000 Americans have fragile X syndrome; and
- WHEREAS,** fragile X disorders are also associated with tremor/ataxia syndrome, causing tremors, balance deficiencies, and memory problems, ovarian insufficiency, causing reduced fertility or infertility, menstrual deficiencies, and early menopause, and neuropsychological conditions; and
- WHEREAS,** fragile X is a powerful research model for neuropsychiatric disorders, such as autism, schizophrenia, pervasive developmental disorders, and similar conditions including Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, reproductive problems in women, and other genetically-based medical conditions; and
- WHEREAS,** although the genetic defect causing fragile X has been discovered and is easily identified by DNA testing, fragile X frequently goes undetected due to its rare nature and the lack of awareness about the syndrome, even within the medical community; and
- WHEREAS,** raising awareness of fragile X with the public and the medical community will help patients with the fragile X gene make better-informed medical decisions and help those living with fragile X syndrome to adapt into society and provide significant contributions towards better understanding autism and other fragile X-associated conditions.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I,** Henry McMaster, Governor of the great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim July 22, 2022, as

### FRAGILE X AWARENESS DAY

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to work together to raise awareness of the need for early diagnosis and treatment for the disorder as well as continued research to find a cure.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Henry McMaster".

**HENRY McMASTER**  
**GOVERNOR**  
**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA**



*SUB-MINIMUM WAGE BILL*



On May 23, 2022 (S.533), a bill to end subminimum wage in South Carolina, was signed into law by Governor Henry McMaster following years of grassroots advocacy. South Carolina is the third state in the Southeast and the twelfth in the nation to pass legislation, breaking from federal law by ending subminimum wage.

An amendment combined S.533 with the Employment First Initiative Act (H.3244). South Carolina has one of the highest unemployment rates for people with disabilities. Dated policies and lack of coordination have withheld opportunities for individuals with disabilities to succeed in the workforce. The Employment First Initiative Act will help our state agencies become model employers by changing policies and procedures and increasing collaboration.

South Carolina's bill prioritizes the stability of individuals with disabilities who are currently subject to subminimum wage by developing a task force to create a two-year transition plan to phase out subminimum wage by August 1, 2024, ensuring that those currently working under subminimum wage can successfully transition to other types of employment.

We applaud the leadership of Senator Katrina Shealy, Senator Tom Davis, Representative Neal Collins, and Representative Bill Sandifer for ensuring overwhelming support.

S.533 was continuously supported by disability-led and supported organizations in South Carolina, including Able South Carolina, Disability Rights South Carolina, The Association of People Supporting Employment First, Winthrop Think College, Thrive Upstate, The Charles Lea Center, College of Charleston Reach Program, South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation, U of SC Carolina LIFE, U of SC College of Education, Family Connection of SC, Coastal Carolina LIFE, SOS Care, SC Commission for the Blind, SC Developmental Disabilities Council, The Arc of South Carolina and AccessAbility.



**Advocates met with SC Legislators garnering support for the Sub-Minimum Wage Bill**

**SOUTH CAROLINA DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL**

**CALANDER OF EVENTS....**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
19 	20	21 Summer Begins 	22	23	24 Department on Aging Conference	25
26	27	28	29 Employability Webinar	30	July 1	2
3	4 	5	6	7	8	9 Family Connection Support Parent Training
10	11	12	13	14	15 Partners in Policymaking Class for 2022-2023 close	16
17	18	19 20 21 NACDD CONFERENCE			22 Fragile X Awareness Day	23
24	25	26	27 2022 Day of Recovery SCEMD	28 29 SC Life with Brain Injury Conference		30
31	August 1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 DD Council Meeting	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 SOS Charity Golf Event





## Beginning September 2022

**Apply Now, Spaces are still Available**  
**2022-2023 Class applications end July 15, 2022**

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



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PARTICIPANTS ARE REIMBURSED FOR TRAVEL COSTS TO AND FROM COLUMBIA.

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

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ATTENDANT SUPPORT AND RESPITE REIMBURSEMENT PROVIDED.

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NO COST TO PARTICIPANTS

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**SC DD Council Program Manager  
Lori Rodgers**



We have seen some great accomplishments with the passage of the Subminimum Wage and Employment First legislation in May. This is an important piece of legislation ensuring employment equity for all South Carolinians and we are very proud and excited that Governor McMaster signed it into law.

I have recently had the opportunity to visit with grantees in person for the first time since joining the DD Council. It was a great experience to get out and see what grantees are doing. I have very much enjoyed meeting people face-to-face instead of through Zoom calls!

If you're like me, you are both excited and horrified that summer is rapidly approaching, and with it comes the "famously hot" temperatures! As we approach the heat of the summer, please make sure to hydrate while participating in outdoor activities and take adequate breaks when outdoors!

Please remember that viruses do not care what season it is and remember to wear masks and wash your hands frequently.



[SC DD Council Facebook](#)



[SC DD Council Twitter](#)



SOUTH CAROLINA  
Developmental Disabilities Council

**SOUTH CAROLINA DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL**

**Ms. Harriet Abner  
Ms. Margaret Alewine  
Mrs. Carol Anderson  
Mr. Joseph "Joey" Barefoot  
Mrs. Michelle Barefoot  
Ms. Anna Bleasdale  
Mrs. Trayci Brazell  
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For program funding details, please visit <https://www.scdde.state.sc.us/about.html>