Tennessee Allies in Self-Advocacy (TASA)

What is TASA?
- A statewide network of individuals with disabilities and agencies committed to strengthening and enhancing self-advocacy among people with disabilities.
- A forum for members to discuss the successes and challenges experienced in efforts to become self-advocates.

What is the history of TASA?
- TASA was created in March 2011 based on a national initiative, Allies in Self-Advocacy, led by the federal agency, Administration on Developmental Disabilities (ADD).
- ADD invited states to regional summits to discuss achievements, challenges, and goals centered on self-advocacy.
- A group of self-advocates and agency representatives represented Tennessee at the Southeast Summit, and many of them are still involved in TASA.

Why is TASA necessary and important?
- It is often difficult for individuals with disabilities to learn to speak up for themselves and become their own self-advocates.
- Often, individuals and agencies that support people with disabilities assume that they know what is best for people with disabilities without allowing them to have their own voice to express their personal interests, needs, and desires.

TASA aims to provide individuals with disabilities the tools, resources, and support they need to increase their ability to become self-advocates for themselves and the disability community.

Who belongs to TASA?
- Individuals with disabilities
- Family members
- Representatives from various state and community agencies

What are the primary goals for TASA?
TASA is focusing its efforts on developing Self-Advocacy Resource Center(s) that will support individuals with disabilities in becoming self-advocates. The Resource Center(s) will
- Offer informational resources, trainings, and peer support.
- Be accessible online and at physical locations throughout the state
- Be led by self-advocates.

What are the responsibilities of TASA members?
- Attend meetings via videoconference in Memphis, Nashville or Knoxville or via teleconference
- Serve on a TASA subcommittee that helps develop the goals of TASA
- Act as a resource and liaison between TASA and self-advocates in the community
- Facilitate collaboration with community programs that promote self-advocacy
- Link TASA with self-advocacy resources in the community

How can I be a member of TASA?
Contact Megan Hart, statewide TASA Coordinator for more information. New members are always welcome.

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