



The Self Advocate

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WINTER 2007

What's going on at CSA...

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NEWSLETTER STAFF

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Well, as most of you know by now, there have been quite a few changes at the CSA in the past few months. I started on January 29 as the Center Coordinator. I have worked in the Disability arena for the past 30 years in one capacity or another. I am also a parent of a son with a developmental disability. I am very honored and happy to have been selected by the Interview Committee for this position. My task is to coordinate the goals and direction the advocates have set for the Center.

This summer brought in additional staff changes. Theresa Priest, whom many of you know from Special Olympics, and Francisco Montoya, a student at UNM has joined the Center as Project Assistants. The Center had one additional position to fill, that of Advocate Trainer. The Interview Committee consisting of three Self-Advocates interviewed six very capable candidates and selected Laura Matthews to fill the position. Welcome aboard Laura, Theresa, and Francisco! And thanks to Philip With, Marilyn Martinez and Carolyn Delgado for their work on the Interview Committee.

It has been a busy winter, spring and summer. The Center for Self Advocacy Advisory Committee was formed, and has had two meetings thus far. Between January and August, the Advocates attended 8 conferences and classes around the state, and 16 training modules were presented. The fall schedule is just as busy as the Advocates will be presenting at the Steps to Success Conference in Farmington, the 3rd Annual Youth Conference in Las Cruces and at UNM in a Special Education Class.

In August, two Advisory Committee members attended Region 3 SABE meeting in Park City Utah. The focus of the meeting was how to get the word out in your community on any disability related issues and how to form action groups to lobby for any legislative bills affecting people with disabilities. The Abilities Center in Park City hosted the event and we were very impressed with this completely accessible outdoor recreational facility.

At the end of June, the Center took possession of the bus. She had her "maiden voyage" to Farmington in August. Plans are underway to have our Logo painted on the sides. It was somewhat of a quiet summer, as many the Advocates were away doing fun summer things such as vacations, summer camps and Special Olympics.

However, everyone is back now and our fall class with Dr. Copeland has begun. Welcome to the new advocates and best of luck!

Well, that's it for now.

Farewell to a Friend

On September 10, 2007 Vincent Chavez passed away quite suddenly.

We will all miss his quick wit and great sense of humor. Vincent was an important member of the Center and a great advocate. Vincent was a jewel that can never be replaced. We are all grateful to have been touched by Vincent's humor and passion. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family and his many friends.



Center for Self Advocacy Advisory Committee By Connie DeHerrera

The CSAAC committee has had two meetings. During the first meeting officers were elected, and by-laws were adopted. During the second meeting a strategic plan was developed by the committee members. The majority of the advocates were attending various conferences, seminars and preparing for the upcoming conference.

Northwest Region: Ted Clothier, Lionel Yazzie- Gallup, Lawrence Murphy-Farmington.

Northeast Region: Ramon Garcia-Santa Fe

Southwest Region: Sergio Resendiz- Chaparral, Lorena Saucedo- Santa Teresa, Clarence Montoya- Socorro, Andrea McRae- Chaparral

Southeast Region: Elizabeth Moore-Roswell

Central Region: Marilyn Martinez, Carolyn Delgado, Jon Peterson, Albuquerque

The Bus Rides like a Dream by Brian Blessing



During a recent trip to Las Cruces to attend the 2007 Youth Conference, I had the opportunity to ride the Center's bus for the first time. Let me tell you, it was quite an experience! In Socorro, we stopped for lunch and the alarm on the lift was tripped when Phil stepped on the yellow plate. Try as we might, we could not get the lift to go up or down. Connie finally had to resort to manually raising the lift to get me into the bus. We worried that the same thing would happen when we arrived in Las Cruces. But no, the rest of the trip went very smoothly. The bus is equipped with a DVD player and CD player. It also has a navigational system which we used to get to our hotel. The bus rides very smoothly, much more so than the Sun Van. All in all, it was a fun experience and I look forward to many more trips in the "Big Bus".



Safety Tip by Emily Hoffman



IF A FIRE BREAKS OUT in your home, you have to get out fast. Prepare for a fire emergency by sitting down with your family and agreeing on an escape plan. Be sure that everyone knows at least two unobstructed exits - doors and windows - from every room. (If you live in an apartment building, do not include elevators in your escape plan.) Decide on a meeting place outside where everyone will meet after they escape. Have your entire household practice your escape plan at least twice a year.

Remember **DO NOT PANIC** stay calm!

ADVOCATE ACTION

- ◆ Vincent Chavez taught computer classes to his fellow advocates during the summer.
- ◆ Vickie Stewart has been out of action all summer due to an extended illness. **WELCOME BACK VICKIE!**
- ◆ Daria Romero has been busy this summer presenting her training modules in Farmington. Daria also presented at The Summit on Equality. She is heading to Las Cruces to do her new module on employment.
- ◆ Emily Hoffman has had a busy summer with Special Olympics and summer camp. She presented at The Summit on Equality, in Anthony and Farmington.
- ◆ Dot Haugen was also out of action for a while this summer. Dot also presented at the Summit on Equality, in Anthony and Farmington.
- ◆ Carolyn Delgado presented in Gallup, Anthony, and Farmington. She also attended PASS training in Toronto.
- ◆ Brian Blessing presented his module on Self Advocacy 101 to an audience at VSA.
- ◆ Marilyn Martinez attended the Region 3 SABE meeting Utah along with fellow advocate Jon Peterson. Marilyn has been asked to present this fall at a conference in Wyoming.



These are just a few of the activities that have kept the Self- Advocates busy this summer.

Self Advocate Training Modules Featured This Quarter

Problem Solving on the Job

This module is created to help individuals who may be experiencing problems on the job. It talks about different problems you might face when working and what you can do about it.

It talks about what your rights are and also addresses what sexual harassment is.



Leadership

This module is designed to encourage leadership. It has information that helps individuals understand what a leader is and what a leader does. Includes tips and activities that encourage community leadership.



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