



FAIR SHAKE NETWORK

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Quarterly Newsletter

Fall 2013

Board

Chairperson:
Jeannie Elkins

Vice Chairperson
Bob Waybright

Treasurer
Nancy Tyler

Secretary
James Qualls

At Large
Cathy Hutchinson
Kelly Simpson
Cindy Spinks

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“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has.”

–Margaret Mead



It is time to renew your Fair Shake Network Membership. Our new fiscal year (FY2014) began on October 1, 2013 and ends on September 30, 2014. Please complete the membership application on page 9 and return it with your dues to the FSN office, so that you will continue to receive valuable information from FSN.

The FSN Board and Staff thanks you for your continued commitment and work in assuring that individuals with disabilities throughout the state of West Virginia get a "Fair Shake".

As you know, FSN is a grassroots, advocacy association of West Virginians dedicated to a “fair shake” for people with disabilities and to the belief that diversity makes our communities stronger. The purpose of the Network is to:

- Provide information to policymakers and the public on issues that pertain to people with disabilities
- Support people with disabilities and their families in participating in the legislative process
- Provides relevant information to the disability Community
- Provides meaningful trainings on issues of interest to the disability community.

The FSN is incorporated as a non-profit agency and is governed by a 7 member board elected by the members. Members play a significant role in defining FSN’s programs/activities/events and carrying out the vision, mission, and purpose of the organization.

Re-Join the FSN today and continue to be a part of an organization working to protect and improve the civil rights of West Virginians with disabilities and promoting best practices in public policies.



From the Fair Shake Network’s

Staff and Board

Meet Our 2013-2014 Board Members

During our September FSN Membership Meeting FSN members elected new Board Members for our 2014 fiscal year. Continuing on the board this year is:



Jeannie Elkins was elected as Chairperson. Jeannie resides in Boone County with her husband Bryan. They are the parents of Alan Elkins (pictured in this addition of the FSN Newsletter) Jeannie is a graduate of Partners in Policymaking (PIP), Past Chair of the WV DD Council, and serves on numerous other disability organizations.



Bob Waybright was re-elected Vice Chair. Bob resides in Nicholas County. Bob is a person with a disability is a graduate of PIP and a member of the WV Statewide Independent Living Council (WVSILC).



James Qualls was re-elected as Secretary. James resides in Cabell County with his family. James is a person with a developmental disability and is a graduate of PIP, a member of the WVSILC, and member People First of WV.



Nancy Tyler was elected as Treasure. Nancy resides in Kanawha County with her husband Paul. Nancy has many years of public policy experience including working with the WV Legislature. While working for Delegate Don Perdue Nancy worked closely with the disability community on legislation and public policy issues important to the disability community.



Kelly Simpson was elected and will serve as a member at large. Kelly resides in Cabell County with her husband Everett and they are the parents of two adult children Eric and Brooke. Kelly is employed at the Mt. State Center for Independent Living (MTSTCIL), Huntington

Office. Kelly is a graduate of PIP, and serves on many committees in her community and statewide working on disability issues.

Newly elected members at large for this year are:



Cathy Hutchinson is a person with a disability and resides in Cabell County. Cathy is a graduate of Marshall University and is employed with the MTSTCIL, Huntington Office. She has been involved with numerous 5k and 10k walks/runs for Multiple Sclerosis, Cancer, and the Heart Association. Cathy is a member of WVSILC, liaison for the Huntington area WVATS (West Virginia Assisted Technology) Program and the Nursing Home Transition Specialist for the Huntington Office.



Cindy Spinks is a person with a disability and resides in Summers County. Cindy is a graduate of Marshall University. She is a graduate of PIP, a member of the WVSILC, and has been involved with various groups and committees that strive to enhance the lives of people with disabilities.

The FSN staff, and membership send our thanks to Donald Carson and Tiffany Farley, for their previous service on the board and their dedication to the Fair Shake Network.

Upcoming FSN Meetings

FSN Board Meetings will be held at the WVSILC/FSN Office and/or by Conference Call. Meetings will begin at 1:30 pm. on November 13 and December 11.

Membership Meeting will be held at the Kanawha City WVDRS District Office and will begin at 10:00 am on November 20.



Responding to Sexual Victimization of Persons with Disabilities

On September 10-11, 2013 the Fair Shake Network, the Northern WV Center for Independent Living, the State Rehabilitation Council, and the WV Statewide Independent Living Council sponsored the Responding to Sexual Victimization of Persons with Disabilities Training at the John XXIII Pastoral Center in Charleston WV.

The Presenters were **Nancy Hoffman**, State Coordinator for the WV Foundation for Rape Information and Services (FRIS), and Project Coordinator for the WV S.A.F.E. Project. **Debra Lopez-Bonasso**, Education Coordinator, WV FRIS, and **Suzanne E. Messenger**, WV State Long-term Care Ombudsman.

The interactive training provided a general overview of the issue of sexual violence for disability service providers. Participants gained a general understanding of the following:

- Prevalence of sexual violence experienced by people with disabilities
- Risk factors
- Identifying barriers that perpetuate risk factors and prevent reporting
- Knowledge of relevant laws
- Mandatory reporting requirements
- Indicators to look for
- How to respond if victimization is disclosed
- Referral resources for victims

Fifty-seven people attended the workshop. Participants received resources, specific to working with people with disabilities who have been assaulted. FSN staff and board were pleased about the number of attendees at the workshop and plan to have trainings in other parts of the state in the future.

The FSN has a toolkit to assist others in understanding and providing trainings on Responding to Sexual Victimization of Persons with Disabilities in the FSN Library. It can be reviewed at the FSN offices and checked out for a 2 week period.

A big thanks to every one that made this workshop a big success.

For more information about working with victims with disabilities or about sponsoring a training in your area contact Jan Derry, Executive Director of the Northern WV Center for Independent Living at 304-296-6091 or jderry@nwvcil.org

SAVE
The
DATE

Fair Shake Network's
Annual Training Day
and
Disability Advocacy Day

February 18-19, 2014



Mark Your Calendars Today!!!

National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM)

October was National Disability Employment Awareness Month. The purpose of National Disability Employment Awareness Month is to educate about disability employment issues and celebrate the many and varied contributions of America's workers with disabilities. Held annually, National Disability Employment Awareness Month is led by the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy, but its true spirit lies in the many observances held at the grassroots level across the nation every year. Employers of all sizes and in all industries are encouraged to participate in NDEAM.

NDEM plays an important part in fostering a more inclusive workforce, one where every person is recognized for his or her abilities — every day of every month. "Because We Are EQUAL to the Task" Article is from: www.dol.gov/odep

**20th Annual People First of WV Conference**

FSN was an exhibitor at the 20th Anniversary of the Annual People First of WV Self-Advocacy Conference on September 4-6, 2013

The Conference included many firsts. This was the first conference to have:

- Two keynote speakers
- A time capsule
- Chinese Lanterns from all People First chapters floating over Jackson's Mill
- A Lifetime Achievement Award
- Plus the first time a documentary was videoed about the lives of self-advocates in West Virginia.

Kevin Smith received the first Lifetime Achievement Award! Congratulations Kevin for your commitment to the disability community in WV.

Excerpts of the article reprinted from the Arc of WV Alerts and Updates.



FSN Member Alan Elkins as he receives his 10 Year Pen from Tommy Mullins, Hospital Administrator at Boone Memorial Hospital.

NOTICE

The Fair Shake Network reserves the right to edit articles or not print content that does not reflect the mission and values of the Fair Shake Network. —Thank you.

Disability History Week

"If you believe people have no history worth mentioning, it's easy to believe they have no humanity worth defending" --William Loren Katz

What is it? States are taking an important step in the promotion of further understanding and awareness of disability history and the disability rights movement by designating a week (or more) to acknowledge the role and contributions of individuals with disabilities in our society. During an established Disability History Week, states will require their public schools to infuse instruction and activities related to disability history into the existing school curriculum.

Why? It is important that our youth understand history in order to appreciate how individuals with disabilities were once viewed and treated. During Disability History Week, students will be provided with the opportunity to learn how people with disabilities were instrumental in changing history, and how they became active participants in changing societal attitudes about their needs, desires and capabilities. By teaching disability history in schools, we are taking the necessary steps to ensure that history is not repeated and that there continues to be movement towards an even more accessible society in future generations.



When? Many states are following the precedent set by West Virginia in establishing the third week of October as Disability History Week. Thus far, all states are targeting the month of October, which is also National Disability Employment Awareness Month. Article form: <http://disabilityhistoryweek.org/>



National Preparedness Month

September was National Preparedness Month. Emergencies can happen at a moment's notice. Mobility problems and hearing, learning, or seeing disabilities can add complication. It is important to plan ahead so you are better prepared for any urgent situation. The booklet from the Red Cross Preparing for Disaster for People with Disabilities and other Special Needs gives tips on getting informed, making a plan, assembling a kit, and keeping your plans up to date.

These tips provide people with disabilities and their caregivers with guidance in managing communications, equipment, pets and home hazards. The materials were co-authored by the American Red Cross and Department of Homeland Security and FEMA. You can contact your local Red Cross office or go to <http://www.redcross.org/prepare/location/home-family/disabilities> to download this booklet.



Affordable Care Act: Myths and Realities for People with Disabilities Workshop

The Myths and Realities for People with Disabilities Workshop was held on September 27, 2013 and was sponsored by FSN and co-sponsored by the Family 2 Family Program at WVU CED and to the WV Parent Training and Information. The purpose of the workshop was to update and inform people with disabilities and their family members on the impact of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) will have on their health coverage. The one-day workshop was held at the Schoenbaum Family Enrichment Center in Charleston, WV. There were 29 people in attendance.

Speakers for the workshop were Perry Bryant, Executive Director of West Virginians for Affordable Health Care (WVAHC). Perry is the Founder of WVAHC, former member of the PEIA Finance Board and former Chair of the Self-Management Committee of the West Virginia Health Improvement Institute. Perry presented on How the ACA Impacts People with Disabilities, Outreach & Enrollment, and the Insurance Exchange. Perry answered many questions that the attendees had about the ACA. In the afternoon Penney Hall presented on the Medicaid Expansion in WV. Penney is the Communications Manager for DHHR, Bureau for Medical Services. Prior to becoming the Communications Manager she was the Program Manager for the AD Waiver & Personal Care. Penney's previous employment included State ADA Coordinator working for the WV Division of Rehabilitation

Some important reforms highlighted at the workshop include:

- Not all People with disabilities are currently covered by insurance; through ACA they can be covered by insurance
- Discrimination against kids with pre-existing conditions has ended and will end for adults in 2014
- There will be no more caps on benefits
- As an adult you can stay on your parent's policies until age 26
- Health Plans will cover habilitation and rehabilitation services
- Medicaid Expansion up to 138% of poverty level will be available in 2014
- ACA Provides states with the options to make improvements in home and community-based programs services through two programs (1) State Balancing Incentive Program and (2) Community First Option Program (Advocates need to advocate for the State of WV to adopt these two programs)

A big thanks to everyone that made this workshop a big success

For more information contact Perry Bryant at perrybryant@suddenlink.net or visit the WV for Affordable Health Care website at www.wvahc.org

Appalachian Center for Independent Living Partners up for People with Disabilities

The Appalachian Center for Independent Living (ACIL) an organizational member of the Fair Shake Network, has been very active in promoting the independence of people with disabilities for over 30 years. More recently ACIL has been very active in working with emergency management, first responders, and other non-profits to assure that services are available to the disability community in times of disaster and other emergencies.

On June 29th 2012 a derecho hit WV. This was a weather event that had never been seen before in the Mountain State and 53 of our 55 counties were affected and without electricity. This brought to light the great dependence that everyone has for electricity and especially so for the disability

community. There were many calls from people who needed to recharge wheelchair batteries, power generators and respirators, who were dependent on many other medical/ communication devices to maintain their independence.

From this incident, conversations and partnerships that had been ongoing for some time moved into action and the American Red Cross's Central WV Chapter working with ACIL has chosen to forward deploy a generator at our Big Chimney office. Together, we can help anyone with a disability that is dependent on electronic devices to maintain their independence and quality of life even in times of disaster. In addition, through a grant from B.B. & T.'s Lighthouse Project, we have obtained a second generator, several manual wheelchairs (both adult and children sizes) and portable ramps. ACIL is very grateful to the American Red Cross's Central WV Chapter and the B.B. & T. Lighthouse Project for their willingness to see that needs and

services for everyone can be met in times of a disaster.

ACIL is also working with the Kanawha Putnam Emergency Planning Committee (KPEPC), and the WVU Center for Excellence in Disabilities to develop a communication program for adults with communications disorders that will allow for better communications with First Responders. This program will then be available for use in each ambulance, fire truck and police car in Kanawha and Putnam Counties. This program was rolled out on September 25th 2013 at the KPEPC general membership meeting in Charleston WV.



(L to R) Bill Gordon American Red Cross and Eric Tissenbaum ACIL



Items from the B.B. & T. Lighthouse Project And American Red Cross

Northern West Virginia Center for Independent Living



phone/TTY: 304-296-6091 or 1-800-834-6408

Testing for Housing Discrimination

The Northern WV Center for Independent Living (NWVCIL) has been given a second HUD grant to test for housing discrimination in WV. Testing is a way to find out if a person did not get housing because he/she is a member of a protected class. The protected classes under HUD are race, religion, color, sex, familial status, national origin or a disability. The first grant NWVCIL received found some people with disabilities were not given the same chance to rent housing as people without disabilities.

This year's grant will focus on the cities of Wheeling, Huntington, Charleston, Fairmont, and Elkins. If you live in one of these areas and are a person with a disability you can help with this project by becoming a tester. A NWVCIL partner, WV Assistive Technology Systems (at WVUCED) will be providing training for the testers. A small stipend is provided to testers who take the training and help with a testing activity.

The grant also helps pay for Fair Housing education and outreach in these communities. If you would like to assist in the planning of an activity for Fair Housing Month (April 2014) please contact Claire Chantler at NWVCIL.

For more information about the testing training schedule or other information about the grant contact Claire Chantler, Housing Advocate at 304-296-6091 or at cchantler@nwvcil.org

Excerpts Reprinted from WVATS Quarterly Newsletter Fall 2014

WVATS Exchange System

The WVATS Exchange System is a listing of used assistive technology. The system uses an online database in which people can post used and no longer needed assistive technology for giveaway, trade or sale. People can also post an assistive technology item that they need. WVATS will exchange your used equipment back out into the community to West Virginians who need them but cannot afford them.

A few Examples of equipment include:

- Manual and power wheelchairs
- Alternative keyboards and mice
- Communication devices
- Standers and gait trainers
- Shower chairs
- Personal digital assistants (PDA)
- Hearing devices Low vision devices



You can donate items directly to WVATS. The program lists the donated items in the system, they give the items away free of charge on a first come, first serve basis. If you need assistance using the WVATS Exchange System or want more information about the program you can call 1-800-841-8436.

Excerpts Reprinted from WVATS Quarterly Newsletter Fall 2014

Join Us or Make a Donation to the FSN
FAIR SHAKE NETWORK Membership Application

Please complete all sections of this form.

Name: _____

Address: _____

County: _____ Phone# _____

E-mail Address: _____

How did you hear about the Fair Shake Network?

Due to the time sensitivity of some information will be sent by e-mail unless you prefer another method. If you cannot receive information by email please fill out the information below.

- ___ Fax #:
___ I do not have a fax machine, but can receive faxes at Fax #:
___ I do not have access to a fax, please mail me the information.

I need materials in the following alternative format:

This section is optional and is for grant and statistical data purposes only. Please mark all that apply:

- ___ I am a person with a developmental disability (DD)
___ I am a person with a disability (Not DD)
___ I am a parent/family member of person with a developmental disability (DD)
___ I am a parent/family member of a person with a disability (Not DD)
___ I am from an agency/a friend/an advocate/an interested person (Circle one)

DUES/CONTRIBUTIONS:

- ___ Advocate Membership: \$20 per year ___ Independence Membership: \$250 per year
___ Assembly Membership: \$50 per year ___ Freedom Membership: \$750 per year
___ Alliance Membership: \$150 per year ___ Justice Membership: \$1,500 per year
___ Liberty Lifetime Membership: \$5,000 One-time Lifetime payment

** I would like to set up an installment plan – please contact me

I am not interested in joining at this time but would like to make a donation to support the Mission and goal activities.

Your contribution supports the important work/activities the FSN engages in to protect and improve the civil rights of West Virginians with disabilities and to promote best practices in public policies.



Fair Shake Network
PO Box 354
Institute, WV 25112

Funds for the Fair Shake Network and their activities is provided by grants from the WV Developmental Disabilities Council, WV University Center for Excellence in Disabilities, WV Division of Rehabilitation Services and from membership dues, and other contributions.

FSN

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