



FAIR SHAKE NETWORK

Vol.: 3 Issue: 2

Quarterly Newsletter

Spring 2012

Board

Chairperson:
Kelly Simpson

Vice Chairperson
Bob Waybright

Treasurer
Donald Carson

Secretary
James Qualls

Darla Ervin
Christina Smith
Vanessa VanGilder

Staff

Director
Jan Lilly-Stewart

Admin. Assist.
Paul Smith

Fair Shake Network
PO Box 354
Institute, WV 25112

Phone:
304-766-0061
1-800-497-4746

Email
Wvfn@suddenlink
mail.com

Website:
Fairshake.org

And on Facebook

“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



Fair Shake Network Celebrates Twenty Years of Legislative Advocacy: Power in Unity

The Fair Shake Network (FSN) held its Annual Training Day at the Charleston Civic Center on January 17, 2012. Ninety-four people attended the training. The theme of this year’s training was “Power in Unity”.

The keynote speaker was Sarah Triano, Executive Director of the Silicon Valley Center for Independent Living in San Jose, CA. Sarah’s presentation focused on being “Disabled and Proud”. She informed, energized and entertained the crowd through personal life stories and music.

This year FSN offered breakout sessions for the attendees. The morning sessions included The Legislative Process 101 and The Legislative Process 102. The Legislative Process 101 was presented by Jan Lilly-Stewart, Director of FSN. It was geared to beginners to the legislative process. Legislative Process 102 was presented by Ann McDaniel, Executive Director of WV Statewide Independent Living Council and David Stewart, of Eastlake Derry & Associates. This session was geared

to those who have had basic experience with the legislative process.

After lunch a general session presented by Perry Bryant, Director of West Virginians for Affordable Health Care covered the Affordable Health Care guidelines and how the law affects people with disabilities.

Two breakout sessions were held in the afternoon. One on Leadership presented by Kathy Muscari, Executive Director of WV Mental Health Consumers Association and the other one on Voting Rights and Responsibilities presented by Bryan Hoylman, Former Protection and Advocacy for Voting Access (PAVA) Advocate, with WVA.

The training day ended with a panel of local disability advocates presenting the 2012 Disability Agenda. The presenters were; Jan Lilly-Stewart, FSN Director, Tina Maher, Olmstead Council Coordinator, and Ann McDaniel Executive Director, WV Statewide Independent Living Council.

Continued on the next page

Fair Shake Network Celebrates Continued from page 1

Thirty people attended a reception held that evening in celebration of the Fair Shake Network's twenty years of legislative advocacy. Highlights of the evening included a slideshow with pictures from 1992 through 2011 and a "Walk Down Memory Lane", hosted by Julie Pratt with speakers from the early days through present day who helped to make the Fair Shake Network what it is today. Speakers included Kelly Simpson, Jan Lilly-Stewart, Steve Wiseman, Linda Higgs, Vanessa VanGuilder, Jeannie Elkins, Ann McDaniel, Teresa Howard, and Ian Rudick

FSN would like to thank all of the speakers for the day and all the volunteers that helped to make the training a success. A big thank you for this year's co-sponsors, the WV Developmental Disabilities Council, the WV Division of Rehabilitation Services, the Olmstead Council, the Southern Partners Fund, the Appalachian Community Fund, the Statewide Independent Living, Council, and the WV Mental Health Consumers Association.

Fair Shake Network 2012 Disability Advocacy Day



FSN held its 2012 Disability Advocacy (DAD) at the State Capitol on January 18, 2012. This year marked 20 years of legislative advocacy at the Capitol. The day kicked off with a

rally and the release of the 2012 Disability Agenda. Sarah Triano, Executive Director of the Silicon Valley Center for Independent Living was the rally speaker. With over 150 individuals and 27 vendors present the disability community came out in force to let their voices be heard.

Disability Advocacy Day is a day set aside by the Fair Shake Network for the disability community to come together in unity. It gives attendees the chance to see how the legislative process works. Individuals are encouraged to set in on one of the floor sessions, to meet with their legislators and to visit the vendors that come from all over the state of WV to show what their organizations have to offer.

FSN Annual Ice Cream Social 2012

On March 7, 2012 the Fair Shake Network held its annual Ice Cream Social at the State Capitol. It was a great success and we had a wonderful turn-out for the day. We served sundaes to about 665 people, which included Legislators and their staff, State Capitol employees, FSN members and the general public.

FSN staff would like to thank all the members and their families that came out to help with the social. We would also like to thank The Town Center Dairy Queen for their donation of sundae cups, the Elkview McDonalds for their donation of plastic spoons, United Dairy for the generous price on the ice cream, and of course Dennis Stewart and the staff of General Services for their hard work and gracious support. Next year's Ice Cream Social will be held on April 10, 2012.



Fair Shake Member Keith Mills Goodwill Success Story

Keith and his mother were once homeless and lived on the streets. They were about at the end of their rope when they met Betty from Harmony House in Huntington, WV, six years ago. Betty helped to place Keith and his mother in an apartment within Harmony House.

Keith's mother handled most of Keith's life decisions and he did not have to worry about taking care of himself. However three years ago his mother became sick and passed away and Keith found himself having to become independent. Betty suggested to Keith that he contact Goodwill Industries for job training. He was instructed to talk to counselors at the West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services, who then referred Keith to Work Adjustment Training (WAT) at Goodwill. Keith completed work tasks in Goodwill's warehouse that included sorting donated goods, hanging clothes, janitorial work and working in the retail store. He benefited tremendously from the program and having no prior work experience.

Upon completion of Goodwill's WAT program Keith not only integrated to a steady working schedule and routine, he also greatly improved his interpersonal and leadership skills. Once he completed Goodwill's WAT program he was referred to Mountain State Centers for Independent Living, where he learned skills to enable him to take care of himself while living on his own.

After Keith left Mountain State, he was able to secure employment with Captain D's in Huntington WV, where he has been working for almost a year. He works at Captain D's on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, and recently had his days increased because of his work quality. He does general cooking and food preparation for the establishment. While Keith was enrolled in Goodwill's Work Adjustment program he earned a Client of the Week award for perfect attendance and overcoming all of his obstacles to meet success. Through the skills he learned in Work Adjustment Keith has been able to maintain gainful employment. Keith Mills is perfect example of student achieving life success through Goodwill Industries of KYOWA.

Join Us or Make a Donation to the FSN

Membership dues start at \$20.00 for individuals and start at \$150.00 for organizations.

You can find our membership applications in this publication or on-line at www.fairshake.org

Membership dues/donations support the important work/activities that the FSN engages in to protect and improve the civil rights of West Virginians with disabilities and to promote best practices in public policies.

Your entire donation is tax deductible!

**For more information contact Paul Smith at
304-766-0061 or 1-800-497-4746**

Keith Mills is pictured with his teacher for Goodwill's Work Adjustment Program, LaDonna Anderson, who nominated Keith for an excellency award through Goodwill



***Submitted
by: Keith
Mills***

The WV Developmental Disabilities Council is pleased to offer a new workshop to WV!

ALTERNATIVES TO GUARDIANSHIP
Presented by Dohn Hoyle from the Arc of Michigan
April 2nd, 3rd, or 4th, 2012

Have you been advised to apply for Guardianship? Have you advised others to apply for Guardianship? Guardianship is the route most often suggested to parents when their son or daughter approaches the age of 18, if they have an intellectual disability.

Guardianship is a legal process that removes rights and privileges from an individual. Although limited guardianship is an option in the WV law, many counties do not allow family members to apply for anything other than full guardianship – stripping an incapacitated person of all rights.

Are you interested in learning how many individuals with intellectual disabilities can be supported in making decisions related to school, healthcare, money, living situations, etc., without having a guardian?

Dohn Hoyle is the Executive Director of The Arc of Michigan and long-time advocate for the rights of people with disabilities. Dohn was appointed by the governor to establish the Michigan Quality Community Care Council (MQC3) that supports the “Home Help” (Michigan’s State Plan Personal Assistance Option) workforce in Michigan. The governor also appointed him to Michigan’s Long Term Care Commission. He is Past President/CEO of the Association for Community Advocacy (advocating for people with disabilities since 1949). He convenes the Howell Group – an organization of people across Michigan who intend to see that people with disabilities have the opportunity to experience what we know is right and they desire. Dohn also serves as Chair of the Board for the Center on Self-Determination. He is a frequent speaker, published author and consults nationally

on a number of topics including the subject of, and reasons for, alternatives to guardianship.

This workshop is being offered to: family members of individuals who have developmental disabilities who have not yet applied for guardianship of their family member, advocates for people with developmental disabilities, providers of services to people with developmental disabilities, including school personnel who oversee transition services for students, policy makers, and others who are involved in the decision making process for individuals who have developmental disabilities, mental hygiene commissioners, and others involved in the court process.

You must register to attend. Registration is limited to 75 people at each location.

The workshop will be held from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM in each location, and will include lunch. Please plan to arrive prior to the start time in order to sign in and be ready to begin at 10:00, sign-in will begin at 9:30 AM. It will be offered in three locations within the State. The fee to attend will be \$20. Payment must be made in advance – no payment will be accepted at the event. (Family members of individuals with developmental disabilities may attend at no cost.).

For more information and registration form contact Linda Higgs at 304-558-4884 or Linda.s.higgs@wv.gov

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.**

FSN Mentoring Program Participants Selected

This winter the Fair Shake Network (FSN) began its first official mentoring program. The purpose of the program is to do intensive mentoring with a small group of individuals on the legislative process and influencing policy through legislative advocacy. Individuals chosen for the mentoring program will spend time at the Capitol with mentors during Interim sessions and during the regular Legislative Session to learn the process, develop contacts and relationships, and practice talking to legislators and staff members about the FSN issues and priorities. Mentees will also learn about the disability movement, systems advocacy, and effective leadership skills. The following participants were chosen for the 2012 program. The program is supported by a grant from the WV Division of Rehabilitation Services.

Bucky Strauch

Bucky resides in Martinsburg, WV. Bucky is a graduate of Washington and Lee University and is employed with Expressway Office Solutions as a Senior Accountant Manager.

Currently Bucky is a participant in the 2011-2012 Partners in Policymaking Class. PIP is a leadership program for parents and people with developmental disabilities, sponsored by the WV DDC. Bucky's advocacy experience includes the following: Founder of a parent support group at his youngest son's school, mentor to other parents assisting them with IEP's for their children, ran for the Berkeley County Board of Education, active member of Martinsburg Rotary Club, and the Berkeley Co. Chamber of Commerce. In 2011 conducted an email and phone campaign to support a bill pertaining to sign language interpreters.

Bucky has been happily married for 17 years and is the father of 2 sons, one is 16 and one is 13. Bucky states, "My younger son has given me the

inspiration to become more involved in the disability movement."

Kelly Simpson

Kelly is employed at the Mountain State Center for Independent Living, Huntington office as a Community Resource Advocate.

Her advocacy experience includes the following: 2003 graduate of Partners in Policymaking, served as a member on the Statewide Independent Living Council, member of the Teubert Interagency Council for the Blind & Visually Impaired, active with Cabell Wayne Association for the Blind for over 25 years. and was co-founder of the parent's support group. Also Kelly is a member of the National Association for Parents of Visually Impaired Children, Leber's Congenital Amaurosis Association, and the Cabell County Democratic Women's Association. Kelly has had experience working with her legislators on advocating for Independent Living funding in the State budget and other disability issues.

Kelly is married and the proud mother of three adult children, two of which are legally blind with an eye condition known as Leber's Congenital Amaurosis. She is a step-mother to 4 more adult children and grandmother of 2. She has been an advocate for her children since their birth.

Bob Waybright

Bob resides in Webster Springs WV. When he was 18, Bob was involved in an automobile accident that left him paralyzed from the chest down. Bob is retired from the Webster County Board of Education where he was employed as a teacher's aide and as an autism mentor.

Continued on page 9

West Virginia Youth Self-Advocacy Conference

THURSDAY, JUNE 14TH

9:30 AM - 7:00 PM

West Virginia State University Charleston, WV

Who Should Attend: Students in grades 9 - 12 with intellectual and developmental disabilities?

Conference is limited to the first 50 applicants that meet all eligibility requirements. Applications and more information will be available soon online at

www.peoplefirstwv.org or by calling 304-422-3151/ toll free 1-877-334-6581.



Keynote Speaker: Erin Thompson
Erin Thompson is a 2010 graduate of George Mason University's

LIFE Program for students with developmental disabilities. Erin is currently employed at Rosetta Stone in Arlington, Virginia where she assists with reception and administrative duties. Erin is a Buddy Ambassador for Best Buddies Virginia, board member for the Down Syndrome Association of Northern Virginia (DSANV) and the National Down Syndrome Society (NDSS). Erin is an accomplished advocate for those with intellectual disabilities.

This program funded by:
West Virginia Developmental Disabilities Council
The Arc of West Virginia
912 Market Street, Parkersburg, WV 26101
304-422-3151 / 1-877-334-6581

Kanawha FRN Meeting Date Rescheduled

*****The Kanawha FRN meeting is rescheduled for Tuesday, March 20, 12 p.m. in the Charleston Room of the Schoenbaum Family Enrichment Center in Charleston. Brown bag lunch.*****

March 22, 2012 - Family Centered Practice training in Boone County for those who work and/or live in Boone & Logan Counties.

March 28, 2012 - The Kanawha Communities That Care Substance Abuse Prevention Partnership will meet 12 - 2 p.m. at the South Charleston Public Library in South Charleston. Brown bag lunch.

March 28, 2012 - There will be a free Kaiser Permanente Smoking Cessation Course at FamilyCare Patrick Street Plaza on this date. Participants must pre-register.

March 31, 2012 - Prom Dress Giveaway in the Buffalo/Eleanor area of Putnam County.

April 14, 2012 - Bowling Fundraiser for Regional Teen Institute. Sign up your adult, youth or family team by April 1. See attachment.

June 12 - 15, 2012 - Regional Teen Institute.

WV Children's Trust fund <http://www.wvctf.org/> grants community organizations funds to prevent child abuse and neglect. You can contribute to the fund by donating a portion or the entirety of your WV income tax refund just by checking a box on your return!

Michele Baranaskas, LCSW

Executive Director

Regional Family Resource Network

1701 Fifth Avenue, STE 18 Charleston WV 25387-1900 / 304-414-4470



Voting Matters



The West Virginia Primary Election will be on **Tuesday, May 8, 2012** and the General Election will be on **Tuesday, November 6, 2012**.

You must register to vote!

You can register if you are: a resident of West Virginia and the county where you register, a U.S. citizen, at least 17 years old and 18 before the next general election, and not currently under conviction for a felony.

To vote in a specific election, you must register at least 21 days before the election

You will need proof of your physical address: driver's license, State identification card, utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, etc.

You can register in person at any of the following locations:

County Clerk's office at your county courthouse
Driver License offices
WV-DHHR offices
You can get the registration online at www.sos.wv.gov
You must sign and send it in!

Your Voting Place Must Have Accessible:

Parking spaces with proper signs, routes available from the parking area to building, doors and routes inside the building to the voting machine.

If you have trouble or can't sign your name, you can make your mark and have a witness sign the voter registration form, absentee ballot application, and/or ballot.

Your Right to Vote

If you are registered to vote in West Virginia, you have the right to do so. You have the right to vote at your polling place. If you need help voting, you can have someone of your choice help. You can ask to vote from your car. A voter's service animal **MUST** be allowed into a polling place.

If you have a medical condition or disability and can't go to the voting place, you can ask for an absentee ballot. How? Call your local County Clerk. Ask that an absentee ballot application be mailed to you. Complete and return your application. The County Clerk will mail you an absentee ballot prior to the election.

Why Vote?

It's **YOUR** right as an American.
YOUR vote counts!
YOUR vote may help decide who will speak for **YOU**
YOUR vote may help decide 'who is in charge'
YOUR vote may help elect people who decide on the rights, funding, programs, services and supports **YOU** need.

If You Need Help

Contact your County Commission, Clerk, or the West Virginia Secretary of State's Office
1-866-SOS-VOTE
1-866-767-8683
website: www.sos.wv.gov

Information for this article was taken from the WV Secretary of State's website and from the WV Advocates PAVA Brochure.

facebook

**Fair Shake Network, Inc.
Is now on Facebook
Login and become a fan!**

FAIR SHAKE NETWORK
Membership Application

Please complete all sections of this form.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: Day # _____ Evening# _____

E-mail Address: _____

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.

FSN Mentoring Program Participants Selected *Continued from page 5*

His advocacy experience includes the following: 2005 graduate of Partners in Policymaking, 4-H leader for 10 years, ran for county office two times, member of the Webster County Republican Executive Committee for over 10 years, co-founder of the Webster Co./Nicholas Co. Wheelchair Support Group. Bob attends Disability Advocacy Day at the State Capitol and advocates for a variety of disability issues.

Bob enjoys outdoor activities and wheelchair sports.

Darla Ervin

Darla resides in Morgantown WV. Darla is a wheelchair user and very active in her community. Her advocacy experience include the following: graduate of Partners in Policymaking, ADAPT WV co-founder, a member of WVSILC, NWVCIL board member, member of the Olmstead Council, CED Advisory Committee, member WV APSE, and board member People First of WV. Darla has had experience working with her legislators on money follows the person and other disability issues. In 2001 she received the Governor's Award for starting the Parent Empowerment Network.

Darla is the widow of the late Ken Ervin co-founder of ADAPT WV and the proud mother of one son. She is also an artist and is a participant of the WVUCED Fine Arts Program.

Cindy Spinks

Cindy resides in Summersville, WV. Cindy was involved in an accident in 1984 and as a result is a wheelchair user. Cindy is a graduate of Marshall University and is currently seeking employment.

Her advocacy experience includes the following: graduate of Partners in Policymaking, member of the WVSILC, member of the Ron Yost Personal Assistant Services Board, WV Self-Determination Initiative, WV Inclusion Campaign, the WV State Rehabilitation Council, and the Aged/Disabled Waiver Quality Assurance Council. Cindy attends Disability Advocacy Day at the State Capitol and advocates for a variety of disability issues.

Cindy likes to read and participate in community and state activities.

FSN Annual Community Sale

Spring has sprung, and that can only mean that the FSN Annual Community Sale is just around the corner.

Again this year the Fair Shake Network will be having its annual community sale during the East End Yard Sale. This year's date will be May 12, 2012, from 8:00am until 2:00pm. We will be located in the Kanawha County Board of Education parking lot.

We are now taking donations through May 10, 2012. You can drop off your donations at the SILC/FSN office Monday – Friday from 9:00am until 4:00pm.

We request that your items be in "ready to sell condition" i.e. pre-priced and cleaned. We will not accept clothing except for baby clothes.

We need: workers for the day to help set-up, help with customers, and to help with breaking down at the end of the day. We also need tables to display items. If you would like to help us please contact Paul Smith at paulwsmith@suddenlinkmail.com or call: 304-766-0061 or 1-800-497-4746.



Fair Shake Network
Institute, WV 25112
PO Box 354
Fair Shake Network



FSN Spring 2012 Newsletter

Funds for the Fair Shake Network and their activities is provided by grants from the WV Developmental Disabilities Council, Southern Partners Fund, Appalachian Community Fund and WV Division of Rehabilitation Services and