



FAIR SHAKE NETWORK

Vol.:2 Issue: 4

Quarterly Newsletter

Fall 2012

Board

Chairperson:
Kelly Simpson

Vice Chairperson
Bob Waybright

Treasurer
Donald Carson

Secretary
James Qualls

Jeannie Elkins
Tiffany Farley
Nancy Tyler

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Director
Jan Lilly-Stewart

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Paul Smith

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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



Meet Our 2012-2013 Board Members

At the September Membership Meeting the network elected board members for the fiscal year 2013. Below is a list of board members.



Kelly Simpson, Chairperson

As a Community Resource Advocate for Mt. State Center for Independent Living for more than eight years, she enjoys being a member of a community that helps people to become independent.

Kelly is married and the 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. She is very proud of all of her children.

Kelly has served as a board member for the Statewide Independent Living Council for over eight years. She is a member of the Tuebert Interagency Council for the Blind & Visually Impaired. She has been active with Cabell Wayne Association for the Blind for over 25 years and was co-founder of the parent's support group. She 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 is a 2003 graduate of the Partners in Policy Making Program. She attends the WV Legislature sessions as an advocate for Mountain State and monitor and support legislation that affects people with disabilities.

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Board Members for 2012-2013 continued



Bob Waybright, Vice Chairperson

Bob was born on Elkins, WV. He has lived most of his life in Webster County, WV. When he was 18 he was involved in an automobile accident that left him paralyzed from the chest down. After spending five months in Charleston General Hospital recovering from his accident he went to the rehabilitation center located in Institute, WV where the P.T. and O.T. staff taught him how to take care of himself and move

back into the community. Bob was married for 5 years; he has now lived on his own in his home since 1992.

Bob was a 4-H leader for ten years. He has run for county office two times and was on the Webster County Republican Executive Committee for over 10 years.

He worked for the Webster County Board of Education for over 18 years as a teacher's aide and an Autism mentor. He was also a co-founder of the Webster Co. and the Nicholas Co. Wheelchair Support Group.

In 2005 Bob graduated from Partners in Policy Making.

Bob has cut his hair for Locks of Love twice and has raised \$250.00 for the organization. He has also played wheelchair sports where he has held state records.

Bob would like to see that every county in WV would have all the same benefits.



James Qualls, Secretary

James lives in Huntington, WV. He is very active in the disability movement and is involved with many disability organizations. Besides being on the board of the Fair Shake Network he is also involved with the WV Statewide Independent Living Council, the Mayor's Committee on Disabilities, Consumers Advisory Board, Mountain State Centers for Independence Living and People First.

His hobbies include sports, and Rock 'n' Roll music (guitar rock). Some of his favorite musicians are Erick Clapton, Joan Jett, Robert Plant and others. James has looked to others in the disability movement as his heroes such as David and Jan Lilly-Stewart, Delmar and Karen Davis, Kevin Smith, Christina Smith, Ron Yost, Justin Dart, Ed Roberts, and John Lipscomb.



Donald Carson, Treasurer

Donald was born in Joliet, ILL, he now resides in Beckley, WV.

Donald is a Member of Mountain State Centers for Independent Living Centers, Fairshake Network, WV Statewide Independent Living Council,, and Chair of CAAC.

Donald would like to see that all people with disabilities be treated like everyone else.

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Is now on Facebook
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Board Members for 2012-2013 continued



Jeannie Elkins, at large

Jeannie is one of the most recognized parent advocates in the State of WV. She is married to Bryan Elkins and is mother of a 29 year old young man with Autism.

Jeannie was instrumental in the development of the Charleston Chapter of the Autism Society of WV and served as the President of the local chapter and the State organization for several years. Jeannie continues to be a mentor to others who have family members

with Autism.

Jeannie is knowledgeable in the areas of independent living, family support, self-determination, and money follows the person. She was instrumental in the development of the WV Self-Determination Initiative, a group promoting self-determination for people with disabilities and their families. She is a 1998 graduate of Partners and Policymaking. In 2005 she assisted the WV DD Council in planning self-determination conferences throughout the state. Jeannie served on the WV Developmental Disabilities Council for many years; and she is the immediate past Chair of the Council.

Currently she participates on the Medley/ Hartley Advocacy Project Advisory Council, The Olmstead Council, The QAI Waiver Council, serves as President of the Marshall University Autism Training Center Advisory Board, and has been an active member of WV FSN for twelve years. Jeannie is a first time FSN Board Member and serves as the Chair of the Membership Committee.



Tiffany Farley, at large

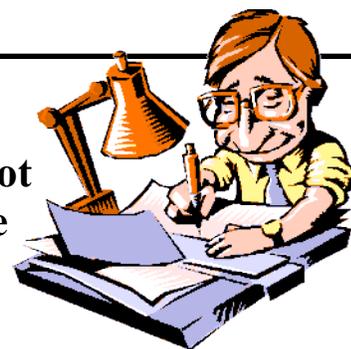
Tiffany Farley is a lifelong resident of Cool Ridge, WV. She graduated from Shady Spring High School in 2004. After graduation she was diagnosed with peripheral vision blindness which led her to the disability community. She attended Orientation and Mobility training at the WV Rehabilitation Center in Institute, WV.

Tiffany has always used her hands making crafts. She has been crocheting since she was 4yrs old and loves to think of unique items to make and even more unique materials to make them out of. Tiffany is an active consumer at Mountain State Centers for Independent Living. She loves to recruit new members and tell everyone she meets about the programs at MTSTCIL. She advocates for herself and others through Fair Shake Network and she is excited about the upcoming legislative session. Tiffany has a genuine love for helping others and is going to let that show in the work she is doing and will do for FSN and MTSTCIL.

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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.



Central WV CAC Safety Symposium

In connection to September being National Emergency Preparedness Month, the Central WV Consumers Affairs Committee held a Safety Symposium on September 22, 2012 at the Elk River Community Center in Elkvew. On hand for the event were representatives from Metro 911, The Kanawha and Putnam Emergency Ambulance Authority, The Red Cross, The Kanawha County Health Department, The Kanawha County Sheriff's Department and The Pinch Volunteer Fire Department.

Each representative addressed the crowd detailing the role their agency plays in a disaster. They then answered questions from the audience. Most of the conversations centered on the recent wind storm that the state experienced in late June.

Central WV CAC would like to thank each organization for participating in the symposium. Thanks to WV Division of Rehabilitation Services for the refreshments. They would also like to thank Eric Tissenbaum of the Appalachian Center Independent Living for both emceeding the event and scheduling the participates for the event, and a great big thank you to the people at the Elk River Community Center for the use of their facility.

Board Members for 2012-2013 concluded



Nancy Tyler, at large

Nancy Tyler, M.S.W., J.D. is a private healthcare consultant working in the Charleston area. Prior to July 1st of 2012, Nancy worked as Counsel for the House Health & Human Resources Committee for the West Virginia Legislature for five years and as Counsel for the House Finance Committee of the Legislature for seven years. She was primarily responsible for all health related bills for the Legislature. She also participated on a variety of committees as a liaison to the legislature. Ms. Tyler's background includes a variety of health related duties including the following: Director of the Office of Health Facilities Licensure and Certification in the Dept. of Health and Human Resources, Director of WV Operations for United Health Care, Deputy Attorney General, Executive Director of Boulder Valley Women's Health Center, Health Policy Analyst for the Sunrise/Sunset Committee of the CO Legislature and other positions in the health arena. She also has worked for United Cerebral Palsy, and Shawnee Hills Community Behavioral Health Center and has had a long term commitment to people with disabilities and enabling complete integration with the community. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Family Services from Auburn University, her Masters in Social Work from West Virginia University and her Law Degree from the University of Denver.

Upcoming Events for FSN

- FSN will be having their 2013 Training Day on February 26, 2013 at Blessed John XXIII Pastoral Center, 100 Hodges Road in Charleston, WV. This year's topic will be on Community Organizing. Details and registration are coming soon.
- FSNs Disability Advocacy Day will be the following day, February 27, 2013 at the State Capitol beginning at 9:00 am.
- FSN will have its Annual Ice Cream Social on April 10, 2013 at the State Capitol from 2:00 pm until 4:00 pm.

EMPLOYMENT FIRST WORKSHOP

The Fair Shake Network, with sponsorship from the WV ADA Coalition, WV Advocates, the WV Developmental Disabilities Council, the WV Division of Rehabilitation Services and the WVU Center for Excellence in Disabilities, hosted an Employment First Workshop at the Bridgeport Conference Center on August 18, 2012.

Employment First is the concept that employment for a person with a disability should be top priority. Once a person obtains employment, other life needs become easier to obtain. This is a big part of the WVDDC's five year plan.

Speakers for the event included LuAnn Summers, Rehabilitation Program Manager for Community Rehab Programs, WVDRS, gave an overview of West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services; David Stewart, WV ADA Coalition Coordinator did an overview of Employees' Rights Under the ADA; Todd Rundle, Program Manager for Family Services, spoke about Assistive Technology in the workplace; Russell Sickles, Director of Operations and Business, Job Squad presented Employment First concepts; Jim Cremeans, Planner, WVDDC spoke about WV Developmental Disabilities Council's Employment First initiative; and Jennifer Tenney, Program Manager, Employment Programs, WVUCED talked about Employment Work Incentives.

It was a great workshop with a lot of wonderful information. For those who missed it, there are plans to present this workshop again sometime in 2013.

The Fair Shake Network would like to thank all of the sponsors for the great collaboration, the speakers for their time and information, and the Bridgeport Conference Center and Wingate Hotel for their hospitality.

The WV Developmental Disabilities Council is planning a PASSING workshop for the week of January 27 – February 1, 2013 (yes, that's Sunday through Friday). As someone who has attended one of our workshops on Social Role Valorization you are eligible to attend PASSING - the second half of the training. This is a practicum experience which allows you to visit two different types of programs and learn to use the PASSING instrument, which is a tool for analyzing service quality using social role valorization criteria.

You may have already attended a PASSING workshop. That doesn't preclude your attendance at this one. Some people attend both SRV and PASSING numerous times in order to develop a deeper understanding of the theory. The only details I have to share at this time are the dates and the general location, which will be Charleston, WV.

We hope that many of you will be able to take advantage of this opportunity! The WV DD Council will typically only offer this workshop biennially, so the next opportunity to attend this close to home may not be until 2015!

For more information contact [Linda S. Higgs](#) at WV Developmental Disabilities Council 304.558.4884

Effective Advocacy Strategies for You Conference

April 29 - April 30, 2013 Stonewall Resort Roanoke, WV

The Center for Excellence in Disabilities, Fair Shake Network, the Statewide Independent Living Council, and self advocates will be hosting the first Effective Advocacy Strategies for You Conference, April 29 - 30, 2013.

This conference is designed to provide resources for individuals with developmental and other disabilities, their families and community members so they may be effective advocates. Stipends will be available for for individuals and families.

Elizabeth Weintraub currently works for Association of University Centers on Disability (AUCD), as Self-Advocacy Project Specialist. She also serves as a consultant for the National Children's Center, and for the Council on Quality and Leadership (CQL). She represents CQL in a variety of local, state, and national forums regarding quality of life for people with disabilities.



Keynote Speaker:
Liz Weintraub

For more information, call Helen Panzironi at **304-293-4692** ext. 1154.

FSN 2013 Mentoring Program

The FSN is sponsoring our second annual 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 program is co-sponsored by WVDRS.

If you are interested in applying for the program please return the 2013 Application located on the next two pages. FSN will choose 4 to 5 emerging leaders in WV to participate in the 2013 Mentoring Program. You will be notified by February 15 if you have been selected.

For more information contact Jan Lilly- Stewart by e-mail at wvfn@msn.com or by phone at 304-549-9064.

**If you are selected to have a mentor, you will be contacted regarding your specific needs and accommodations for meals, lodging, and sessions, etc. FSN staff wants to ensure we have the information needed to provide you with all the accommodations you will need to function effectively and fully participate.*

PLEASE RETURN THIS APPLICATION BY JANUARY 23, 2013 TO:

Fair Shake Network
P. O. Box 354
Institute, WV 25112-0354

APPLICATION FSN LEADERSHIP MENTORING PROGRAM

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: day: _____ evening: _____ E-MAIL: _____

Please indicate your disability/s (this information will be kept confidential):

How did you hear about the opportunity to learn from a mentor?

- Newspaper article (list paper and date) _____
- Mailer sent to you
- Mailer passed on by a friend
- FSN Newsletter
- Other (please explain) _____

Participating in the FSN Leadership Mentoring Program will require you to be present at the State Capitol to work with your mentor a **minimum** of 4 days during the 2013 Legislative Session (February-April 2013) and a **minimum** of 2 days during the 2013 Legislative Interims (May-September 2013)

Are you prepared to make a commitment to be present and to actively work with your mentor for all days scheduled? Yes No

Please mark all accommodations will you need to actively participate:

- Lodging (up to \$100 per day)
- Meals (up to \$30 per day)
- Gas (up to \$65 with receipts)
- Parking/Tolls
- Driver (up to \$10/hour drive time only)
- Respite Care/PAS (up to \$75.00 per day)

Other _____

Please explain why you would like to participate in the FSN mentoring program:

What skills, qualities, and characteristics do you have that would make you a good candidate for the FSN mentoring program?

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Please list your educational, volunteer, and/or work experience:

Please describe your experience with advocacy, leadership, and/or legislative advocacy:

Are you willing to complete homework assignments between your visits to the WV Legislature?

Yes No

Are you willing to complete a project after your mentorship?

Yes No

Are you willing to participate in conference calls during your mentorship?

Yes No

Please provide two references who would recommend you:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: day: _____ evening: _____ E-mail: _____

How do you know this person? _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: day: _____ evening: _____ E-mail: _____

How do you know this person? _____

The information provided in this application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature

Date



Join The Fair Shake Network Today!



There is no better time to join the FSN then right now!

FSN has just started its new fiscal year. You will get news and updates on local, state and national issues that affect people with disabilities

Name: _____

Address: _____

County: _____ Phone# _____

E-mail Address: _____

How did yo 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.



FSN Newsletter

2012 Fall Edition 2012

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.

*The Staff and Board of FSN Would Like To Wish
You and Your Family
A Joyous Holiday Season*