

Section 12: Self-Advocacy and Support Groups

Aiken County DSN Advocacy Group	
<p>Purpose:</p> <p>To provide support to individuals with disabilities and their families.</p>	<p>Contact:</p> <p>P.O. Box 698 Aiken, SC 29802 (803) 507-4129 Fax: (803) 642-8806 Contact: (803) 507-8653 Email: RCourtney@aikentdc.org</p>
<p>Explanation:</p> <p>Aiken County DSN Advocacy Group provides advocacy, support, training opportunities, and recreation opportunities to individuals with head and/or spinal cord injuries and similar disabilities and their family members.</p>	

American Academy for Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine	
<p>Purpose:</p> <p>To provide resources and information to professionals and people with cerebral palsy and other developmental disabilities and their families.</p>	<p>Contact:</p> <p>6300 North River Road Suite 727 Rosemont, IL 60018-4226 (847) 698-1635 Fax: (847) 823-0536 Email: king@aaos.org www.aacpdm.org</p>
<p>Explanation:</p> <p>The American Academy for Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine (AACPDM) is a multidisciplinary scientific society devoted to the study of cerebral palsy and related neurological disorders and to professional education in developmental medicine. The Academy seeks to stimulate professional education, research, and interest in the problems involved in understanding these disorders and improving care and rehabilitation. AACPDM holds a variety of instructional courses and scientific plenary sessions designed to help professional people improve their knowledge and skills. AACPDM is funded by fees from it's over 1,500 members.</p>	

American Association on Mental Retardation (AAMR), SC Chapter	
<p>Purpose:</p> <p>To advocate for people with mental retardation.</p>	<p>Contact:</p> <p>Evelyn Turner, President c/o Charleston County DSN Board 995 Morrison Drive Charleston, SC 29413 (843) 805-5853</p>
<p>Explanation:</p> <p>AAMR is an association for professionals involved in service, training and research for people with mental retardation.</p>	

Berkeley Citizens, Inc.—Self-Advocacy Group	
Purpose:	Contact:
To create and promote opportunities for people with lifelong developmental disabilities.	P.O. Drawer 429 1301 Old Highway 52 South Moncks Corner, SC 29461 (843) 761-0300 (843) 853-9075 (for families outside the local telephone area) Fax: (843) 761-0303 Email: gsmith@bciservices.org www.berkeleycitizens.org
Explanation:	
Berkeley Citizens, Inc. (BCI) —Self-Advocacy Group provides peer support, fund raising, public relations, social/recreational activities and community service. BCI is a non-profit human service organization whose goal is to provide individuals with lifelong developmental disabilities the opportunity to develop and maintain productive, self-fulfilling lifestyles. BCI also strives to individually design supports, services, and training to provide them in a manner which protects an individual's dignity, rights, and self-worth, while enhancing each person's potential, capacity for self-determination and choice to the fullest.	

Brain Injury Association of South Carolina	
Purpose:	Contact:
To provide information and resources regarding brain injury.	P.O. Box 21523 800 Dutch Square Blvd., Suite B-225 Columbia, SC 29210 (803) 731-9823 Fax: (803) 731-4804 Toll free: 1-800-290-6461 Email: scbraininjury@bellsouth.net www.biausa.org/sc
Explanation:	
Brain Injury Alliance of South Carolina offers TBI information and resources, support groups, prevention materials, and awareness events, advocacy, statewide conferences and workshops for individuals living with TBI, caregivers and the general public.	

Coastal Center Chapel, Inc.	
Purpose:	Contact:
To enhance faith and religion for individuals with disabilities.	Coastal Regional Center 9995 Jamison Road Summerville, SC 29485 (843) 821-5809 Fax: (843) 821-5894
Explanation:	
Coastal Center Chapel Inc. maintains an interdenominational chapel for people with disabilities served by Coastal Regional Center.	

Council for Exceptional Children	
Purpose:	Contact:
To improve educational outcomes for individuals with disabilities, those who are exceptional, those who are gifted.	1110 North Glebe Road Suite 300 Arlington, VA 22201-5704 (703) 620-3660 Toll free: 1-888-232-7733 TTY (Text only): 1-866-915-5000 Fax: (703) 264-9494 Email: jackib@cec.sped.org http://www.cec.sped.org//AM/Template.cfm?Section=Home
Explanation:	
<p>The Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) advocates for appropriate governmental policies, professional standards while providing continual development, and helps professionals obtain resources necessary for effective practice. The CEC also advocates for newly and historically underserved individuals with exceptionalities. They provide professional development opportunities and resources; 17 divisions for specialized information; journals and newsletters with information on new research findings, classroom practices that work, federal legislation and policies; conventions and conferences; and special education publications.</p>	

Families, Friends and Neighbors Showing Support (FFANSS)	
Purpose:	Contact:
To provide support and community to people with disabilities, their families and friends.	Fairfield DSN Board P.O. Box 367 410 West Washington Street Winnsboro, SC 29180 (803) 635-2154 Fax: (803) 635-8052
Explanation:	
<p>Family, Friends and Neighbors Showing Support (FFANSS) provides support and advocacy for families and friends of people with disabilities. Pre-vocational and day-habilitation training to people with MR-Respite-Service coordination.</p>	

Family Resource Center for Disabilities and Special Needs	
Purpose:	Contact:
To provide information and resources to families and individuals.	1575 Savannah Highway Suite 6 Charleston, SC 29407 843-266-1318 Fax: 843-2661941 frc@frcdsn.org
Explanation:	
<p>The Family Resource Center for Disabilities and Special Needs was organized to promote opportunities for learning, inclusion and empowerment for individuals with disabilities and special needs, their families and their communities through means such as education, advocacy and outreach.</p>	

Family Services, Inc.	
Purpose:	Contact:
To provide human services to families and individuals.	Family Services, Inc. 4925 LaCross Rd., Suite 215 N. Charleston, SC 29406 Toll free: 800-232-6489 Phone: 843-744-1348 information@familyserviceschassc.com
Explanation:	
Family Services, Inc. offers an array of programs for you to chose that will assist you in your specific situation such as Conservator/Guardian Program, Representative Payee Program, Consumer Credit Counseling Services, Homeownership Resource Center, Behavioral Health Sciences, Employee Assistant Program and Mortgage Default Counseling.	

Florence County DSN Advocacy Group: Our Voices Count Too	
Purpose:	Contact:
To promote and support self-determination, personal growth and inclusion for people to achieve their desired outcomes.	1211 National Cemetery Road Florence, SC 29506 (843) 667-5007 ext. 337 Fax: (843) 678-8573 Toll free: 1-800-340-4028 Email: gsingleton@fcdsn.org www.fcdsn.org
Explanation:	
Florence County DSN Advocacy Group: Our Voices Count Too provides support and advocacy to people with disabilities and to their families, promoting independence and speaking up for people with disabilities.	

Georgetown County DSN Advocacy Group: Georgetown Club H.E.L.P.	
Purpose:	Contact:
To promote self-advocacy and self-determination with people with disabilities.	Georgetown Club H.E.L.P. P.O. Box 1471 Georgetown, SC 29442-1471 (843) 546-6231 Email: ygoodin@gcbdsn.com
Explanation:	
Club H.E.L.P. is an advocacy group to provide information of services and support to and for people with disabilities. The Group's goal is to Help, Educate, and Love People while promoting their independence, exercising their rights and becoming more community involved.	

Greenville County DSN Advocacy Group: "Let Our Light Shine on You"	
Purpose:	Contact:
To promote consumer involvement in DSN administrative and policy issues.	P.O. Box 17467 Greenville, SC 29606 (864) 281-3960 Fax: (864) 281-3985 TTD: (864) 281-3982 Email: aaington@gcdsnb.com www.gcdsnb.com
Explanation:	
<p>Greenville County DSN Advocacy Group: "Let Our Light Shine On You" promotes consumer involvement in local and state agency affairs and operations including participation in staff orientation and development, education of consumers about advocacy, fundraising, and public relations. The mission of this group is to be heard and seen through exercising individuals rights and volunteering; to show others respect and be respected; to strive to improve relationships and help others to do so; through these things individuals will be able to enjoy life to the fullest.</p>	

Lift Disability Network	
Purpose:	Contact:
A consortium of Christian organizations working in disability ministry.	301 East Pine Street Suite 150 Orlando, FL 32801 (407) 210-3916 Fax: (407) 835-3601 Email: info@liftdisabilitynetwork.org www.liftdisabilitynetwork.org
Explanation:	
<p>The Family Network aids the disability family with a suite of programs that include social services, mentoring, mental health & family counseling, social events, and spiritual development. Services are available to families in need without regard to creed/beliefs. Lift Learning Institute utilizes new media (state of the art) and print learning environments to teach emerging concepts in disability-life dynamics. The institute purposes to impact the family break-up rate by educating and empowering the disability family, professionals, and faith leaders. The newest member to this suite of elevating services is Lift Leadership Network. Combining its efforts with the legacy of CCPD (The Christian Council on Persons with Disabilities) the ministry network is committed to connecting leaders, ministries, and agencies that work in the disability community. There are already more than two hundred organizations associated with Lift Leadership Network across the country.</p> <p>Lift Disability Network is a community where the disability family is embraced, encouraged, and empowered. An intersection where helplessness meets hopefulness... a place of healing for wounded souls... & a connection to faith for a better life.</p>	

MUMS National Parent-to-Parent Network	
Purpose:	Contact:
A national parent-to-parent network for families of children with special needs and rare disorders.	150 Custer Court Green Bay, WI 54301-1234 (920) 336-5333 Fax: (920) 339-0995 Toll free: 1-877-336-5333 Email: mums@netnet.net www.netnet.net/mums/
Explanation:	
MUMS is a national Parent to Parent Network whose mission is to help parents who have a child with any disorder, medical condition, or mental or emotional disorder or rare diagnosis make connections with other parents whose children have the same or similar condition. If possible matches are made according to age, geographical location, gender, and severity of the symptoms. MUMS is a non-profit tax-exempt organization that runs on donations and subscription fees for their quarterly newsletters. If you would like to be registered in the MUMS database for matching with other parents, please download the MUMS' survey form (found on website listed above) or call and leave your name and address and phone number and your child's diagnosis on their answering machine. They will send you a sample newsletter and a survey form for you to fill out and return.	

Newberry County DSN Advocacy Group: Voices for "PRIDE"	
Purpose:	Contact:
To facilitate a self-advocacy group for individuals with disabilities.	P.O. Box 856 Newberry, SC 29036 (803) 276-0078 Fax: (803) 276-0785
Explanation:	
Voices for PRIDE (People-Realizing-Individual-Dreams) is a self-advocacy group for people in Newberry County. The group's main goal is to increase community awareness and inform them of the abilities people with disabilities have as potential employees. Voices for PRIDE meet the first Wednesday of each month at Newberry Industries. Meeting time is 12:30 pm.	

Parents Reaching Out to Parents (PRO-Parents) of South Carolina	
Purpose:	Contact:
To provide resources for parents of children with disabilities and special needs.	652 Bush River Road Suite 218 Columbia, SC 29210-7537 (803) 772-5688 Fax: (803) 772-5341 Toll free: V/TTY 1-800-759-4776 Email: proparents@proparents.org www.proparents.org
Explanation:	
Parents Reaching Out to Parents of South Carolina, Inc. is a private, non-profit organization which provides information and training about education to families of children with all types of disabilities. PRO- Parents believes parents can be the best advocates for their children. Experienced advisors assist parents to become more aware of their rights and responsibilities through telephone counseling, workshops and written material. With confidence and knowledge, parents can then participate as equal partners with professionals on behalf of their children. PRO-Parents also serves professionals in education and related fields throughout South Carolina.	

Partners in Policymaking™	
<p>Purpose:</p> <p>To develop leadership and training programs for people with disabilities and their families.</p>	<p>Contact:</p> <p>652 Bush River Road Suite 203 Columbia, SC 29210 (803) 772-5688 Fax: (803) 772-5341 Toll free: 1-800-759-4776 www.proparents.org/pip.html</p>
<p>Explanation:</p> <p>Partners in Policymaking™ is a leadership training program for parents of children with developmental disabilities and adults with disabilities that teaches them how to be effective advocates with Policymakers and how to advocate for systems change. PIP is a project of the SC Partnership of Disability Organizations and is administered through a grant from the South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council.</p>	

People on the Go	
<p>Purpose:</p> <p>To provide information and resources that allow people with disabilities to become self-advocates.</p>	<p>Contact:</p> <p>P.O. Box 8707 Columbia, SC 29202 (803) 935-5266 Fax: (803) 935-5250 Toll free: 1-866-300-9331 Email: thearcsc@aol.com www.arcsc.org/pogo</p>
<p>Explanation:</p> <p>People On The Go is a self advocacy group, whose membership is made of up of more than 60 people living in Richland and Lexington Counties. Meetings are held the second Monday of each month to discuss issues affecting people with special needs. Guest speakers are also invited to make presentations that provide information about opportunities available for those with special needs and to offer instruction on how POGO members can get actively involved. POGO also provides information, education, and training on effective self advocacy for adults with disabilities and addresses concerns about work and employment for people with disabilities. To become a member, please contact People On The Go at the number listed above.</p>	

Self-Advocacy Advisory Committee—Whitten Center	
<p>Purpose:</p> <p>To help individuals acquire self-advocating skills.</p>	<p>Contact:</p> <p>P.O. Box 239 Clinton, SC 29325 (864) 938-3422 Fax: (864) 938-3115 Email: pturner@ddsn.state.sc.us</p>
<p>Explanation:</p> <p>Self-Advocacy Committee—Whitten Center provides opportunity for residents to learn self-advocacy skills and address issues affecting people receiving services.</p>	

South Carolina Autism Society	
Purpose:	Contact:
To provide information to individuals with autism and their families.	806 12 th Street West Columbia, SC 29169 (803) 750-6988 Fax: (803) 750-8121 Toll free: 1-800-438-4790 Email: scas@scautism.org www.scautism.org
Explanation:	
SC Autism Society provides advocacy, information, training and referrals to professionals and people with autism and their families; fosters support groups across the state. Hosts a variety of educational opportunities including an annual conference. Support Groups: Horry County (843) 650-0129; Greenville (800) 438-4790.	

South Carolina Speech Language Hearing Association	
Purpose:	Contact:
To provide information, resources and referrals to individuals with communicative disorders, their families and professionals.	P.O. Box 518 Summerville, SC 29484 (843) 408-3121 www.scscha.com
Explanation:	
The mission of the South Carolina Speech-Language-Hearing Association, a professional and scholarly organization for speech-language pathologist and audiologists, is to meet the needs of its members and the individuals they serve by promoting and advocating of the highest quality services and professional standards, providing opportunities for professional growth and the exchange of knowledge, and educating the public about communication disorders and the professions of speech-language pathology and audiology. The association also has memberships available for professionals who wish to become more involved with the association, through lobbying, research, education, etc.	

TASH	
Purpose:	Contact:
To provide equity, opportunity and inclusion for people with disabilities.	1025 Vermont Avenue, NW 7 th Floor Washington, DC 20005 (202) 263-5600 Fax: (202) 637-0138 Email: araum@tash.org www.tash.org
Explanation:	
TASH is an international association of people with disabilities, their family members, other advocates, and professionals' fighting for a society in which inclusion of all people in all aspects of society is the norm.	