ALASKA ADVOCACY AND LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Share your voice and perspective with your community!

Self-Advocates have the opportunity to be involved in organizations that they love, by joining boards or becoming members of organizations. Some examples of Alaskan organizations that are related to advocacy or disability rights in Alaska, are listed below. If an organization you know of is not listed here, we encourage you to check with the organization to find out how you can become involved.

DISABILITY-RELATED BOARD OPPORTUNITIES

CHALLENGE ALASKA

Improves the lives of people with disabilities, their families and the whole community through adaptive sports, therapeutic recreation, and education. They reach individuals in Anchorage, the Mat-Su, and the Kenai Peninsula.

- www.challengealaska.org
- www.facebook.com/challengealaska/

PEER POWER

This organization's purpose is to help Self-Advocates become empowered. The organization is Self-Advocate led, and connects people from all over Alaska.

- peerpower907.wixsite.com/peer-power
- www.facebook.com/PeerPower907/

KEY COALITION

A grassroots organization that helps people with developmental disabilities become educated and empowered, through policy change and access to policy makers. Their mission is to promote the dignity, status, and equality of Alaskans from around the state who experience disabilities as valued, contributing participants in a shared community.

- keycoalitionofalaska.wordpress.com
- www.facebook.com/keycoalitionofalaska/

STONE SOUP GROUP

A non-profit that provides information, support, training and resources to assist families caring for children with special needs. They reach individuals all over the State of Alaska.

- www.stonesoupgroup.org/
- www.facebook.com/stonesoupgroup/

DISABILITY-RELATED BOARD OPPORTUNITIES

THE DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY SHARED VISION COLLABORATIVE

A group of Self-Advocates and community members who take action to make sure the DD Shared Vision is met, and that people are able to live their lives as they see fit. They reach individuals all over the State of Alaska.

- www.facebook.com/groups/DDSharedVisionAlaska/
- www.dhss.alaska.gov/gcdse/Pages/ddsharedvision/aboutus.aspx

WALLBUSTERS

An advocacy group for people with disabilities, to advocate for the removal of barriers to independence for people with disabilities. They have chapters in Homer and Fairbanks.

- www.facebook.com/WallBusters/

DISABILITY LAW CENTER

An independent nonprofit law firm providing legal advocacy for people with disabilities anywhere in Alaska.

- www.dlcak.org/dlc-board/board-service/
- www.facebook.com/DisabilityLawCenterofAlaska/

PEOPLE FIRST FAIRBANKS

This organization does outreach to Self-Advocates in Fairbanks and the surrounding area, to ensure that locals are able to live their lives as they see fit.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS ALASKA

An organization that aims to change attitudes towards people with I/DD, and to transform lives through the joy of sport, every day, and everywhere. They reach individuals all over the State of Alaska.

- www.specialolympics.org
- www.facebook.com/SpecialOlymAK/

SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICE AGENCY

Provides consultation and training to support the unique educational needs of individuals and the Alaskan communities that serve them. They reach individuals all over the State of Alaska.

- sesa.org
- www.facebook.com/Special-Education-Service-Agency-Alaska-10150155078110227/

INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTERS (SAIL, ILC)

Independent living centers promote a philosophy of consumer control, peer support, self-help, self-determination, equal access, and individual and systems advocacy in order to maximize the leadership, empowerment, independence, and the full inclusion of individuals with disabilities. They support individuals throughout the Southeast region of Alaska, the Kenai Peninsula, Anchorage, and other Alaskan communities. Check out the map below for a location and agency closest to your location.

- www.ilru.org/projects/cil-net/cil-center-and-association-directory-results/AK
- www.sailinc.org
- www.facebook.com/Independent-Living-Center-458343857609731/

DISABILITY PRIDE

Occur each July nationally. Each community organizes their Disability Pride events differently, and through different leadership. Alaska has had Disability Pride events in Anchorage, Soldotna, Fairbanks, Juneau, and Kodiak.

- www.facebook.com/pages/category/Community/Disability-Pride-Alaska-201291947145967/

DISABILITY-RELATED BOARD OPPORTUNITIES

RAINBOW CLUB

A social/educational support group for LGBTQ+ adults 18 and up, who experience intellectual or developmental challenges.

- identityalaska.org/about/support-groups/

ALASKA ASSOCIATION ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (AADD)

The largest network of agencies serving the community members who experience developmental disabilities in Alaska. They have formed strategic alliances between providers, national associations, the State of Alaska, the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education, the people they serve and their communities.

- www.aaddalaska.org/about-us/

CONSUMER ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR THE CENTER OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

The University of Alaska's Center for Human Development (CHD) is a University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) authorized in the Developmental Disabilities Act of 2000. It conducts interdisciplinary training; provides community service programs including training, technical assistance, and direct service; conducts research; and disseminates information about disabilities. CHD has a Community Advisory Council that must consist of more than 50% who are individuals with developmental and related disabilities and family members. The Council advises and guides the work of the CHD, helps create and move toward CHD's vision, and serves as an informal bridge between the community and the University in Alaska.

- www.alaskachd.org
- www.facebook.com/alaskachd/

DISABILITY-RELATED STATE BOARD OPPORTUNITIES

STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL

This nonprofit is a self-advocate led, non-Governmental organization which develops, monitors and evaluates the federally mandated Alaska State Plan for Independent Living. The SILC promotes the independent living philosophy statewide, reaching individuals all over the State of Alaska.

- www.alaskasilc.org
- www.facebook.com/SILCAK/

STATE VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION COMMITTEE

The State Vocational Rehabilitation Committee (SVRC) works with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) to help Alaskans with disabilities achieve quality employment outcomes. They reach individuals all over the State of Alaska.

- labor.alaska.gov/svrc/

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL EDUCATION

The GCDSE's mission is to create change that improves the lives of Alaskans with Disabilities. The Council uses planning, capacity building, systems change, and advocacy to create change for people with disabilities, all over the state. They reach individuals all over the State of Alaska.

- www.dhss.alaska.gov/gcdse/
- www.facebook.com/GCDSE/

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY SERVICE PROVIDER AGENCY BOARD OPPORTUNITIES

There are many service providing agencies that welcome and encourage involvement of people with disabilities. These agencies exist in communities all over Alaska. They provide Home and Community Based Services to people with disabilities, and also foster independence through advocacy work. To see if an agency has involvement opportunities, you may contact them directly, and inquire about board positions, or other volunteer leadership opportunities.

OTHER BOARD OPPORTUNITIES (NOT DISABILITY SPECIFIC)

It is important to note that boards and involvement can expand beyond those related to disability advocacy for Self-Advocates. Anything you want to become involved with probably has associated nonprofits, including hobbies, interests, spirituality, sports, animal advocacy, outdoorsmanship, art, lifestyle, and more. There are over 8,000 nonprofits around Alaska, that a Self-Advocate may become involved with. Popular nonprofits in Alaska include The American Heart Association, The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA), Bean's Café, Straw for Dogs, Friends of Campbell Creek Science Center, Habitat for Humanity, and more. It is important that organizations include members of all-abilities, so that unique perspectives are able to be heard. To find out how you can become involved in an organization in your community, you may contact the organizations directly. For a list of organizations please see the link: 501c3lookup.org/state/AK?pagenum=2&sortby=o_name&sortdir=asc

There are also many State of Alaska Boards which are not specific to disability, which you can apply to be on and bring your perspective to broad community work. These are wide ranging, but include the Subsistence Resource Commission, Roadless Rule Citizen Advisory Committee, Pioneer's Homes Advisory Board, Pacific Salmon Commission, Board of Game, Council on the Arts, and many more. For a complete list of State Boards, and more information, see the link:
gov.alaska.gov/services/boards-and-commissions/active-boards-commissions/

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