



July 20, 2016

Partners in Policymaking: Announcing Advocacy Workshops & Recruitment for 2017 Applicants

The Council is holding the last of the 2016 regional advocacy workshops and is recruiting for the 2017 Partners in Policymaking Class. The final two workshops in lieu of the regular Partners in Policymaking program are scheduled for September in Pineville and Monroe on the topic of Supported Employment. See below for details about workshops and the next Partners class.

Advocacy workshops are hosted by Liz Gary, Partners in Policymaking Coordinator, to provide a piece of Partners to people around the state who otherwise cannot participate in the regular Partners in Policymaking classes. All participants will receive information on how to become involved in systems change for individuals with developmental disabilities and how to become empowered advocates. Partners alumni are also encouraged to attend as a “refresher.”

A \$10 stipend is available for individuals with developmental disabilities and family members of people with developmental disabilities who travel 50 miles or more roundtrip to a workshop. Contact the Council (robbie.gray@la.gov or 225-342-6804) with questions or if you will travel 150 miles or more roundtrip to ask if an additional travel stipend is available.

Save the Dates and register by clicking the region/city below.

Region 6 – Pineville

DATE: Thursday, September 15, 2016
TIME: 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM
PLACE: Main Street Community Center - 708 Main Street
TOPIC: Supported Employment, Transition & Post-Secondary Services
SPEAKER: Sue Killam

Region 8 – Monroe

DATE: Friday, September 16, 2016
TIME: 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
PLACE: Public Health Office (Community Room) - 1650 Desiard Street
TOPIC: Supported Employment, Transition & Post-Secondary Services
SPEAKER: Sue Killam

Apply for the 2017 Partners in Policymaking Class

The Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council is now recruiting motivated individuals with developmental disabilities and parents of young children with developmental disabilities to apply for the 2017 Class of Partners in Policymaking. The Council is especially interested in individuals who have the enthusiasm and potential to become effective advocates.

Participants attend a weekend training session each month from January through June. Individual sessions are devoted to specific topics presented by nationally-known experts. The next class begins January 13 - 14, 2017. Sessions begin at noon on Friday and conclude at 3:00 PM on Saturday. Attendance at all sessions is mandatory for successful completion and graduation in June. Some of the topics to be covered include: History, Philosophy & Values, Assistive Technology, Inclusive Education, The Legislative Process, Supported Employment, Supported Living, Community Building, Community Organizing, and Systems Change Advocacy.

The 2017 Partners sessions are scheduled as follows:

January 13 - 14	April 7 - 8
February 10 - 11	May 5 - 6
March 10 - 11	June 9 - 10

Participants are expected to complete assignments between sessions and become engaged in systems advocacy. Lodging and meals are provided. Respite care and attendant services are reimbursed for participants who qualify.

Completed applications must be received in the Council office via e-mail or fax or postmarked no later than **September 30, 2016** to be considered. This deadline will not be extended. Final selection of participants will be made by mid-November 2016.

To apply for the 2017 Partners in Policymaking class click [HERE](#). Contact Robbie Gray via email at robbie.gray@la.gov or call 800-450-8108 or 225-342-6804 for more information or assistance with applying. Additional information can also be found at www.laddc.org.

