



# Self-Advocacy in Michigan

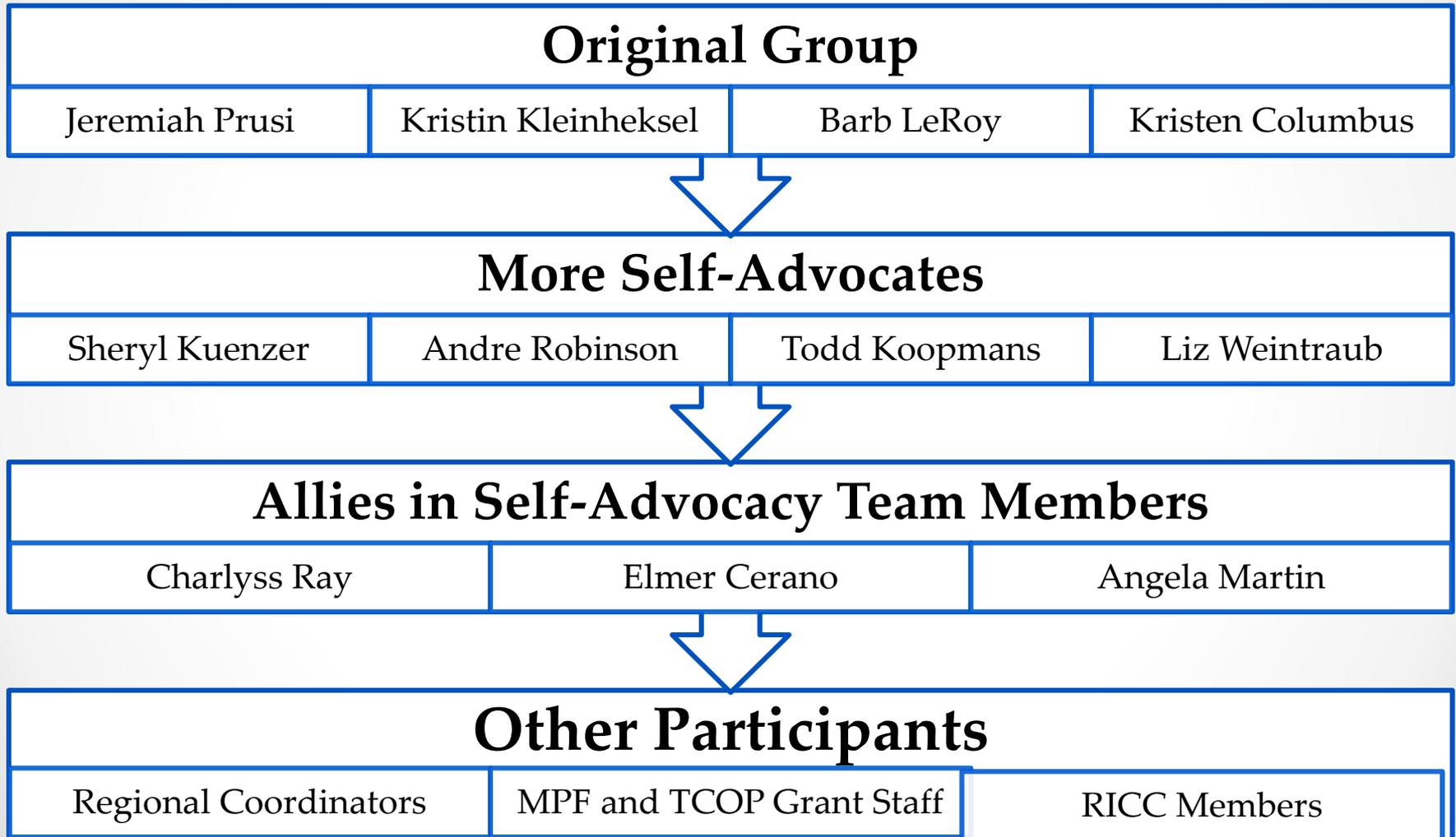
Tuesday, May 20, 2015

DD Council Retreat

Okemos Conference Center



# Self-Advocacy Group



# Beyond Tokenism Recommendation



- Fund and support independent autonomous statewide self-advocacy organizations/networks.

# Beyond Tokenism Recommendation

Determine the desired role of RICCs

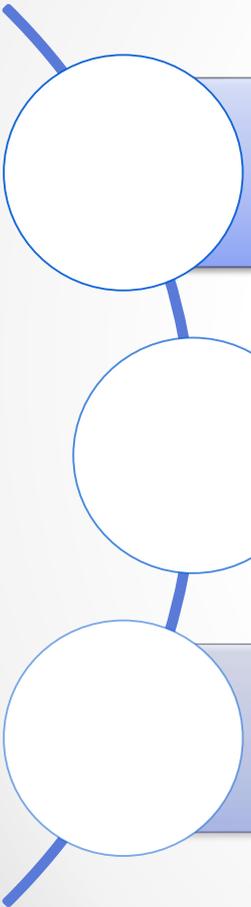
- 1) The Self-Advocacy Network with people with disabilities in charge
- 2) An advocacy collaboration between people with and without disabilities

# What is Self-Advocacy?



- Self-advocacy is about speaking up for you. *It teaches you how to make decisions and choices that affect your life so you can be more independent.*

# What does it mean to be a self-advocate?

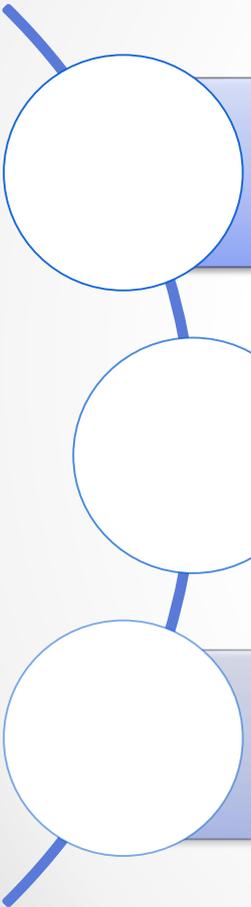


Getting to know yourself, being proud, and feeling strong

Knowing the people around you and making friends

Making your own decisions

# What does it mean to be a self-advocate?

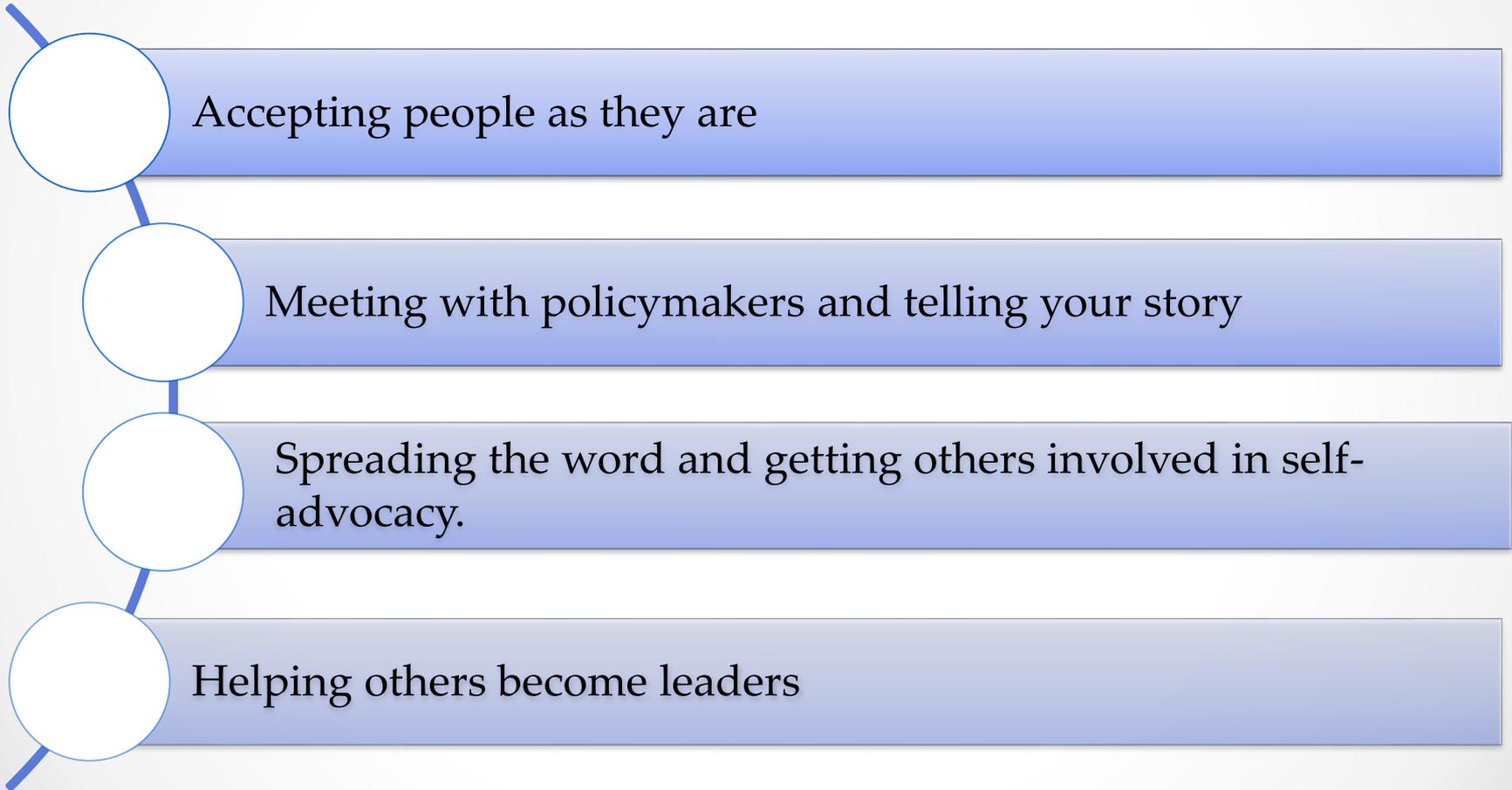


Knowing and preserving your rights and responsibilities

Realizing you are not alone and you can become part of your community

Listening to people's ideas and respecting their opinions

# What does it mean to be a self-advocate?



# 3 Questions



What are we doing in Michigan around self-advocacy?

What could we be doing?

What should that look like?

# Guide Posts



# Self-Advocacy at the National Level



# What Does the DD Act Say About Self-Advocacy?

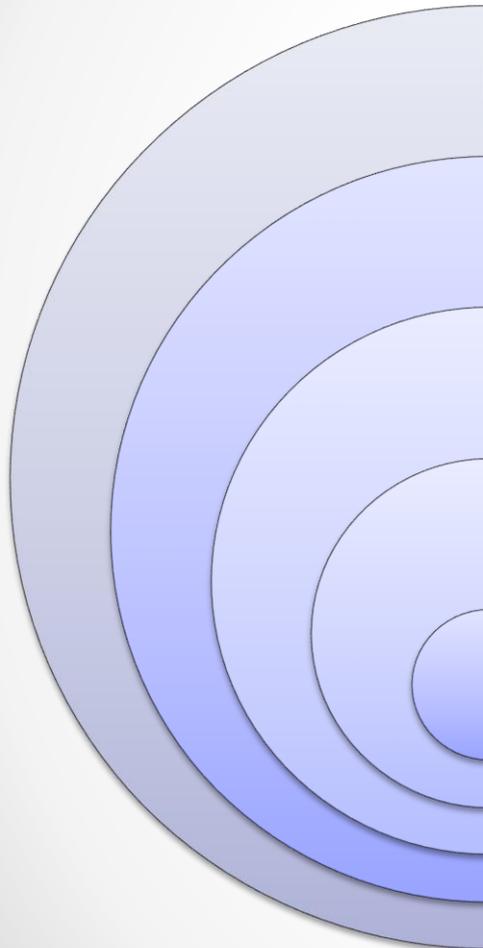
- Sec.124(c)(4)(A)(ii); State Plan establish or strengthen a program for the direct funding of a State self-advocacy organization led by individuals with developmental disabilities;

# Definitions of Self-Advocacy



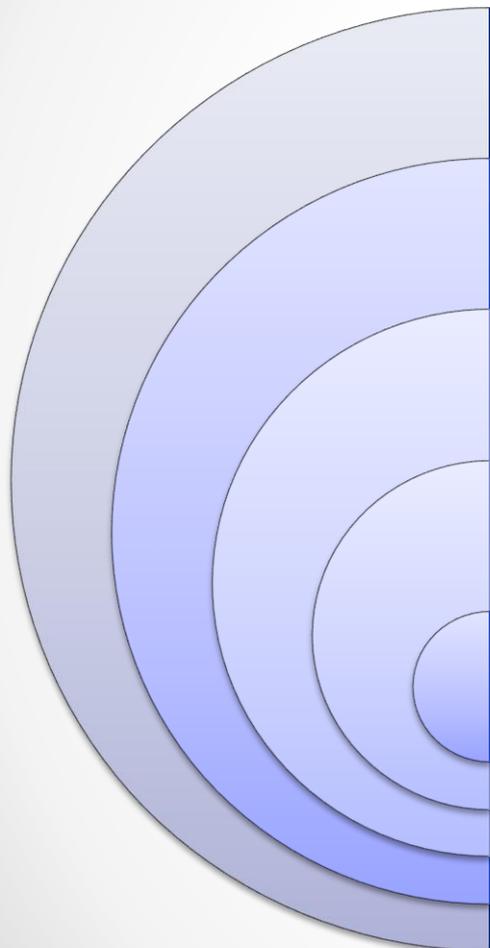
“Self-  
Advocates  
Said...”

# In Michigan...



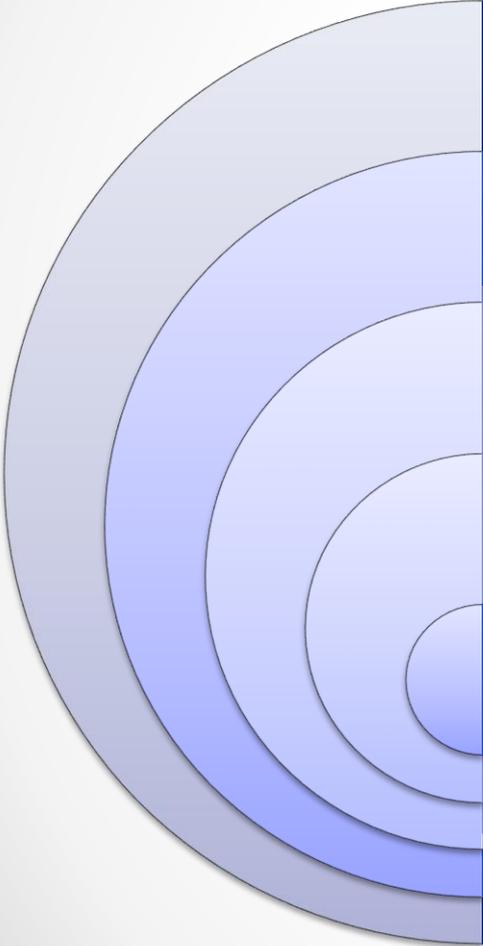
Self-advocates in Michigan need more training
Self-advocacy in Michigan will have to change to move in the direction of the national movement
Most RICC members don't understand the true meaning of self-advocacy
We need more network communication
A stronger network means doing something different than the RICCs

# Name 3 Things a Self-Advocacy Group MUST Have



People to Speak up for Themselves
Good/Strong Leadership
Drive/Action/People with Passion
Resources/Funding
Support/Patience/Help

# What's stopping you from speaking up for yourself?



Authority/ Compliance
Self-Esteem/Self-Doubt/Self-Confidence
My Guardian/ Issues with my Guardian
People Don't Listen to Me
Don't Know How/ Never Learned How

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# RICCs and Self-Advocacy

## **Other Self-Advocacy Groups**

- Lead by people with disabilities
- Have an advisor chosen by the group

## **Regional Inclusive Community Councils**

- Not all lead by people with disabilities
- Reliant on agency staff for RICCs' existence

# Self-Advocacy Organization Model

Model	Advantages	Disadvantages
Service System	External Support	Constrains development of real self-advocacy
	Recruitment of Members	Few practical outcomes
	Accommodations are met	Staff takes over leadership
		Funding not controlled by self-advocates
		Priorities confusing

Creating a New Self-Advocacy Organization-Imagine the Possibilities  
 A Discussion Brief – Jack M. Brandt; Partnership for People with Disabilities  
 Virginia Commonwealth University

# What's Stopping PWD from Running the RICC?

Conflict with facilitators/advisors

Self-Esteem/Self Doubt

Individual Support (Staff Time)

PWD having the voice to lead over staff

# What's Stopping PWD from Running the RICC?

Working on stuff between meetings

Communication/ Technology skills

Guardianship Issues

Agency/Organizational Rules

# Self-Advocacy Organization Model

Model	Advantages	Disadvantages
Autonomous	Truly authentic self-advocacy voice	Dependent on self-funding
	Leadership of the organization is self-advocates	Instability of leadership
	Group recognition among policy makers	Separation between executives and general membership

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# Rebuilding the Self-Advocacy Network in MI

Identify self-advocates to lead the movement

- 1) Interviews
- 2) Focus groups
- 3) Self-Selection

Host a statewide self-advocacy meeting

Participants will become the inaugural members of the Self-Advocates of Michigan (SAM)

Support SAM

DD Network partners will provide financial support and technical assistance

# Recommendation(s)



1. Approve the start of rebuilding a self-advocacy network in Michigan. Give the go ahead to start work on a network with the goal of that organization becoming an autonomous organization and eventually gaining 501 (c)3 status.
2. Discontinue funding for RICCs beginning in FY 2017 (beginning of new plan).

# Timeline

Date	task
May 2015	Council Approval
June 2015	Work with regional coordinators and others to identify self-advocates
July-Sep 2015	Interviews/Focus Groups/Identify interested self-advocates and invite to statewide meeting
Aug/Sep 2015	Logistics/Invites for Statewide Meeting
October 2015	Inaugural Meeting of SAM

# For Further Consideration...



Role of Regional  
Coordinators



Impact on 5YP

# QUESTIONS

