

SPEAK UP!

SELF-ADVOCATE GROUP NEWSLETTER

Volume 2 Issue 1

Advocacy Day 2018!

This year instead of Day at the Capitol and Push Day as separate events, InterHab hosted one event and called it Advocacy Day (inside this year, which the group liked.)

Here's what else we liked about this March 27 event.



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- Tom Cox understood how we felt. "Great that he listened to us."
- Kathy liked the nice people at the state capitol that helped us.
- Mark liked meeting the legislators.
- Lena liked how the legislators answered some of our questions.
- Kathy mentioned how Kim spoke in front of the group.
- Kirk liked when Rep Resman showed them where the laws were passed.
- Jason's Deli provided the lunch and it was really good. Nice that they had water for us.

Legislative Coffees

Last fall and winter several legislators came to our Self Advocate Group meetings. We asked them questions, made our voices heard and enjoyed doughnuts and coffee.

Thank you to Representatives Lusk, Kessinger, Gallagher and Koesten, and Senators Bollier and Sykes, for participating!



SB 332 Hearing

Our group kept a close eye on SB 332 this year. This was a bill that would have removed IDD long term supports and services from KanCare.

Victor, Chad and Roy traveled to Topeka for a hearing on the bill. Several SAG members watched the hearing online in the JCDS Board Room. We were especially interested because our executive director, Chad VonAhnen, opened up the hearing.

- Gary remembers Chad giving testimony. He also remembers Gayle talking about her son Rusty. She said how important it was to acknowledge people's disorders.

- Chad remembers a lot of people being in the room.

- More people seemed to be on our side.

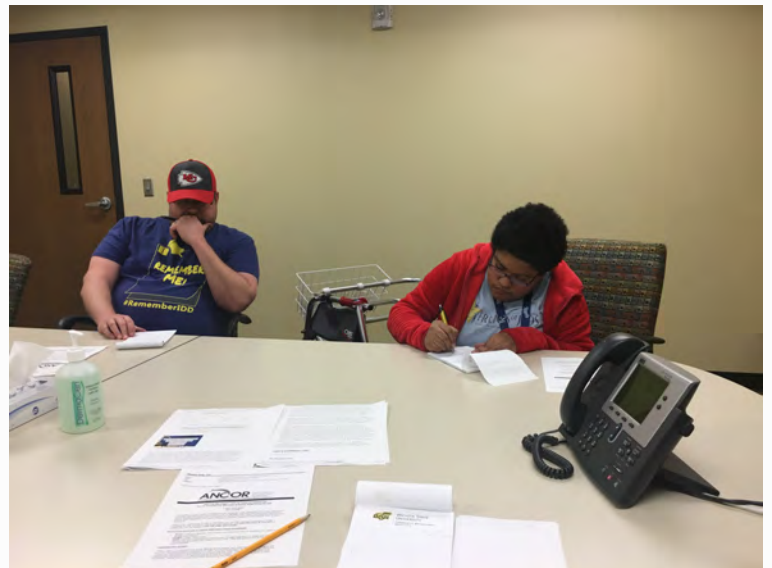
See our Self-Advocates in Action!



Mark wanted a sidewalk in front of his house. He invited the Mayor and the public works director for Gardner and his landlord, Friends of JCDS, to learn about his request. Mark discovered plans were already in place for a sidewalk!



Victor spoke about JCDS and the services he receives to the Heartland Combined Federal Campaign, a group of federal employees.



Lena has been closely monitoring a federal piece of legislation called HR 620 that makes it harder for people with disabilities to get ADA violations corrected. She emailed Congressman Yoder on the issue and also sat in on a national advocacy conference call.

What else are we up to in 2018?

✓ We are talking about the countywide Positive Behavior Supports initiative and how we can create PBS objectives for our SAG meetings!



✓ We want to hold a voter registration drive in time for the next election!



✓ We want to learn new skills like fire safety, CPR, First Aid and AED training.



✓ We're headed back to the SACK (Self Advocacy Coalition of Kansas) conference in Topeka!

