



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE
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KEVIN T. CASEY
Deputy Secretary
Office of Developmental Programs

FEB 21 2008

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Dear Colleague:

As The Pennsylvania Training Partnership for People with Disabilities and Families, “the Partnership,” begins its fourth year, we anticipate that you will continue to take advantage of the opportunities for training and information that are provided by the Partnership. As courses are developed, they are reviewed and approved by the Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) to ensure accurate and consistent dissemination of information. The Partnership makes available training and technical assistance developed and provided by and for people with disabilities and families, so that people will have the knowledge, resources and power to be contributing members in their chosen communities, living self-determined lives. The training is coordinated statewide, yet locally responsive. Trainings are person-centered, and culturally competent.

Training topics currently available for both self-advocates and families include:

- An Overview of the Mental Retardation (MR) System in Pennsylvania
- Self-Determination: A Way to Get Power, Choice and Control in Your Life
- What is a MR Waiver and How Do I Get One?
- What I Do Once I Have a MR Waiver?
- Everyone Can Communicate
- Planning For Life After High School
- Introduction to Person-Centered Thinking

Additional topics currently available for families

- Long Term Planning for Your Family Member
- Developing a Good Individual Support Plan (ISP)
- Prioritization of Urgency of Need for Services (PUNS)

Additional topics currently available for self-advocates

- My Choice, My Direction: Self-Directed Supports
- Sexual Abuse Awareness Training for Self-Advocates

The Partnership is continually developing new training courses. Currently they are finalizing presentations for self-advocates and family members on the Supports Intensity Scale® (SIS®) and the PA Plus.

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Funded by the Office of Developmental Programs, the Partnership is coordinated by the Institute on Disabilities at Temple University and includes Vision for Equality (providing family training in Eastern Pennsylvania), Mentors for Self-Determination (providing family training in Central Pennsylvania and mentoring and family connections statewide), Achieva (providing family training in Western Pennsylvania) and Self Advocates United as One (providing self-advocate training statewide). All Partnership trainers are self-advocates or family members. All training sessions are free. Additionally, some reimbursements are available to family members and self-advocates for travel and personal assistance expenses related to attending Partnership training.

Through your support and cooperation with the Partnership, self-advocates and family members in your local area have the same opportunities as those living in other areas throughout the Commonwealth to take advantage of training, mentoring, leadership development and technical assistance that was developed by and for self-advocates and family members. Everyone benefits when knowledge of the systems that serve people with disabilities allows people to move through systems more easily, to use systems more fully, and to change systems more effectively. The information provided by the Partnership is comprehensive and consistent. Our expectation is that you contact the Partnership agency in your region for training and information, build relationships with the Partnership, and assist them to ensure events are scheduled in your local area.

A full listing of the courses, along with a monthly calendar of course offerings can be viewed at: www.TheTrainingPartnership.org. You can reach the Partnership via their toll-free number 1-866-865-6170. Shortly, your MR Director will receive a packet of information from the Partnership that will be helpful in meeting our expectations. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Kevin T. Casey

c: MR Directors