

New Council Member

Ashley Colvin



Ashley Colvin is a seasoned public servant with over a decade of experience in human resources, government, and community-based initiatives, and is a passionate advocate for autism awareness and inclusion. As a parent to children on the autism spectrum, her commitment to advocacy is both professional and deeply personal. She served as a Salary Administrator, Talent Acquisition Analyst, Recruiter, Generalist, and Recruiting Manager, primarily supporting various public health sections in Georgia and North Carolina. Ashley's work has focused on hiring diverse, mission-driven professionals to strengthen services for underserved communities and improve health outcomes across the state. She is also an entrepreneur and a South Carolina Youth Advocate Program Wrap Advocate in family support services. Drawing on my lived experience and a strong foundation in public service, I aim to contribute to the development of policies and programs and serve on committees that support neurodiverse individuals and their families. She is deeply passionate about advocacy that drives meaningful change, particularly in creating more inclusive systems that uplift underserved and neurodiverse communities. What motivated her to join the DD Council was that becoming a member of the 25th Partners in Policymaking class inspired her to become more active in her community. Finally, her favorite holiday is Halloween.

South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council Welcomes

Brian McAndrew



Brian McAndrew is a native of Arizona. He graduated from Pima Community College with an Associate's Degree in Digital Film Arts. He is the Special Needs Advocacy President of the North Central Pennsylvania Center for Independent Living. Brian is passionate about advocacy and states, "It's something I'm good at and I get to help people like me". He is also a graduate of the class 25 Partners in Policymaking®. While taking the Partners in Policymaking® class and learning about other opportunities to effect change in the disability community, he became interested in applying to join the South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council. Brian loves technology, is a fan of AI, and is a forward-thinking individual who is always looking for projects to improve in South Carolina. A fun fact about him is that he has lived in several states, such as Arizona and South Carolina, and has advocated in both.

New Council Member

Carly Bowman



Carly is a dedicated advocate and proud mother of two children with diverse disabilities. Her children profoundly shaped her passion for inclusive policies and community support. Carly brings a unique blend of professional knowledge and lived experience to advocacy work, with years in childcare and a strong foundation in child development, family engagement, and inclusive practices. Carly navigates complex diagnoses of congenital heart defects, ocular albinism, type 1 diabetes, autism, and speech delays. She has first-hand insight into the gaps and needs within support systems for children with disabilities. She is passionate about reaching families who need support, focusing on ensuring the well-being of all children with disabilities across the state by connecting families with vital resources and promoting inclusive, equal opportunities. What brought her to the Developmental Disabilities Council was her life-changing experience with Partners in Policymaking®. At a time when she was overwhelmed and struggling to find resources, the program offered clarity, connection, and hope. It became an actual turning point—and it sparked a passion for advocacy that continues to guide her work. That experience opened the door to the DD Council, where she can now help to create meaningful change for families like her own. Outside of advocacy work, Carly enjoys spending time in nature, treasure hunting at thrift stores, and getting lost in a good book. She has a deep love for music and never misses a chance to dance. A passionate sports fan, she is always ready to cheer on her favorite team—Go Gamecocks! These simple joys fuel her spirit and keep her grounded in both life and leadership.

New Council Member

Kristen Schmutz



Kristen Schmutz is a dedicated leader, writer, and advocate with a passion for community care and inclusive storytelling. She holds both a Bachelor's and a Master's degree in Creative Writing, with a professional focus in marketing and communication strategy. She currently serves as the Center Director of Active Day of Low Country, an Adult Day Healthcare provider supporting aging seniors as well as young adults with intellectual and physical disabilities. In her role, she leads with compassion, structure, and creativity — ensuring every member is met with dignity, purpose, and joy. Her personal journey and professional mission intersect in one core belief: every person deserves the opportunity to thrive. She is a recent graduate of the 25th class of Partners in Policymaking® hosted by the South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council. Kristen is deeply involved in statewide advocacy efforts. She proudly serves on the Transition Services Committee of the South Carolina Department of Education Advisory Council, where she contributes to improving post-secondary outcomes for individuals with disabilities. Also, beyond her professional expertise, Kristen is a proud mother of five children — one with Autism and two who are neurodivergent — which fuels her deep commitment to advocacy, accessibility, and empowering families through support and understanding. A fun fact about her is that she is a Lifelong Yankee fan, avid reader, anime lover (Fairy Tail and InuYasha top the list), and mom of five boys!