



POSITIVE ABILITIES

Department of Administration

October 2022

Office of Executive Policy and Programs

MISSION: *The mission of the South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council is to provide leadership in planning, funding, and implementing initiatives that lead to improved quality of life for people with developmental disabilities and their families through advocacy, capacity building, and systemic change.*



Cover Photo: Gravity Center, Rock Hill York Can Inclusion Project

FRAGILE X AWARENESS DAY 7/22/2022



This year marks the 18th year that my family has been involved in supporting families impacted by Fragile X. We have been integrally involved with advocating locally and nationally. We have spent many hours speaking with parents, doctors, educators, speech/occupational/ physical therapists, and federal & state governmental leadership. All of this effort has culminated in me being humbled by the efforts of so many folks trying to carve a similar path; it takes a village. It takes community. It takes people like you who care. Thanks for being part of this shared journey!!! And thanks for giving me the opportunity to lead by example...

As I share some of our celebrations below for the purpose of asking all of you to aim high, let me state this too, we have suffered many challenges and failures as well.... My advice to you is to NOT focus on failure. Don't dwell on your stiffest of challenges. Craft a solution, experiment with different options, and adapt along the way when the winds require you to do so!!!



Fragile X Awareness Day at the South Carolina State House on 7/22/2022 was great this year. Post pandemic, I am reminded that I have missed seeing people in person. We held a conference where several speakers attended from the University of South Carolina, the Greenwood Genetics Center, parents from across South Carolina who have children with Fragile X and our daughters also spoke. Our family was also asked to speak on a live TV show "Soda City Live" on WLTX.

<https://www.wistv.com/2022/07/22/soda-city-live-south-carolina-declares-july-22nd-fragile-x-day/>

2022 Kuperman Family marks an incredible year of accomplishments...

Lauren graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from University of South Carolina Magna Cum Laude and is attending U of SC for another degree in German Language... Nicole received her first ever straight "A" semester at Midlands Technical College and is starting to dial in a focus in computer coding...

In closing, I'm grateful for the ability to bring awareness to the people of South Carolina and to have the opportunity to further understanding of the challenges that so many people with developmental challenges face daily. It certainly takes a VILLAGE... Thanks again, to each of you, for all you do!!!

Roger Kuperman, Chairman of the South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council

SOUTH CAROLINA YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM



Youth Leadership Forum is an annual event under a grant with Able South Carolina. The program is a peer-to-peer leadership program which allows young adults with disabilities ages 15 to 25 to increase awareness of self-advocacy, build and develop self-confidence, build leadership skills, citizenship skills, and increase socialization skills. The program supports self-advocates in leadership training opportunities. Self-advocates take the lead role in planning and implementation during the 3-day event. The person-centered training encourages individuals to utilize their gifts, talents, and abilities. Previous participants who go on to become peer mentors convey the importance of being able to share their stories and help bridge the gap in areas of learning from one another. They

share it is great seeing past participants take the initiative in wanting to be in leadership roles. They have become Board Members, sit on panels, and share their experiences. This program helps them advocate and share with others the challenges they have faced and how to apply it to daily living. Peer Leaders share with others what it means to live with a disability, how they moved to the next steps in life, getting jobs, going to school, or taking more of an active role in their communities.



Kimberly Tissot, Director of Able South Carolina greets participants as they are arriving.



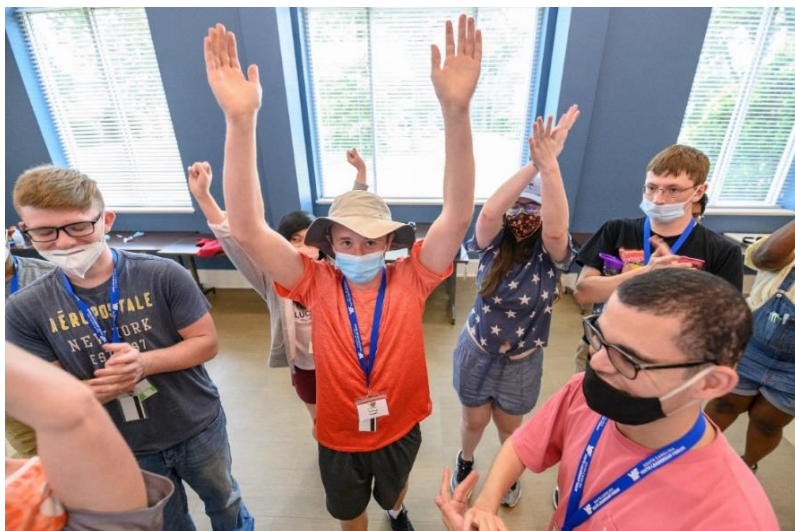
Participants take part in team building exercises to strengthen socialization skills



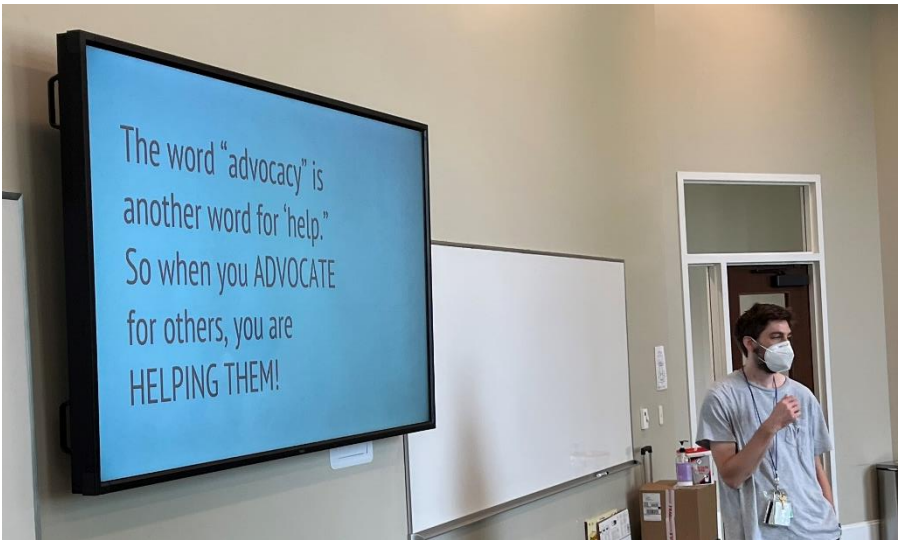
Renisha Robinson and Jackson Powers are engaged as peer mentors share their experiences.



The Purple Elephant Group” is working on individual goal setting.



Break out activities consisted of participants engaging in exercise, team building, one-on-one goal setting, influencing systems, dance collaboration, advocacy, and fun!



Matt Nelson talks about self-advocacy and decision making and Ava Conklin is focused on completing her goals during this session.



Kimberly Tissot who proudly serves as the President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Able South Carolina. Beside her is her son Carter Tissot.



Participants are getting ready for the next session.



Peer staff during the closing ceremony acknowledge all participants and share with parents the events during the program: Jack Symonette, Holden Roberts, Alexis Rivers, Eden Alon

SOUTH CAROLINA DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL

CALANDER OF EVENTS....

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>DD Council Partners In Policymaking[®] class was cancelled due to emergency weather conditions and is scheduled for December 2 - 3.</p>						<p>October 1 <i>Disability Employment Awareness Month</i></p>
<p>2 October 2022 is World Autism Month</p>	3	4	5	<p>6 <i>EQUIP Meeting</i></p>	7	8
9	10	<p>11 DD Council Meeting</p>	12	<p>13 <i>IMPACT Meeting</i></p>	14	15
16	17	18	19	<p>20 <i>EQUIP Meeting</i></p>	21	22
23	24	25	26	<p>27 <i>Project Search Conference</i></p>	28	29
30	31	1 November	2	3	<p>4 <i>Partners in Policymaking</i></p>	<p>5 <i>Partners in Policymaking</i></p>
<p>6 Family Connnection Buddy Walk 2022</p>	7	<p>8 DD Council Executive Committee Meeting</p>	9	10	11	12

**** Please be mindful and prepare for emergencies during this time of year. ****

COUNCIL NEWS....



Cheryl English greets seniors

DEPARTMENT ON AGING

The Department on Aging has begun a campaign to reach seniors across the state. They are sharing with available resources with seniors and are targeting rural areas that are hardest to reach. Their first outreach event was held in Eastover at the Eastover Park. They utilized local vendors and available resources in the corresponding areas. As a proud Lower Richland Representative, I was excited that I was FINALLY able to share DD Council information at a location only 20 minutes from my home! Special thanks to Megan Johnson for coordinating our efforts.



Seniors receive information



AUCD LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Program Assistant, William “Will” Farrior, attended the AUCD Leadership Academy in June 2022. He is currently working on his goals and the SC DD Council Staff are assisting him, by providing mentorship.

The one-year program supports and encourages self-advocates in achieving yearly goals, as well as increasing their leadership skills and abilities. Individuals, with the aid of the AUCD Leadership Academy, set their own goals. They will work throughout the year to reach milestones they put in place. You will read more about this in a future Partners in Policymaking® Newsletter. We are extremely proud of “Will” and the work he is doing with the DD Council.



Danielle Sartin is ready to serve another four years with the DD Council as she completes her application. Thank you for all you do Danielle!



DD Council would like to welcome Ian Devlin to the Office of Executive Policy and Programs.

CONGRATULATIONS MR. AND MRS. DERRICK MEANS!



September 3, 2022, 11:00 AM

The wedding was filled with great joy! Derrick commented, "THERE IS NOTHING LIKE IT IN THE WORLD"!



Mark Riffle, Savannah Mullins, and LaQuanda Clark from Able, SC were emotional as Tia said, "I Do"! Savannah was Tia's Maid of Honor.

Derrick and Tia celebrated with family and close friends, as well as their extended families from Able SC, DD Council, and IMPACT. We were all delighted to witness their union and to share in such a joyous occasion. We here at the DD Council wish you much success as you and Tia embark on this journey as husband and wife! CONGRATULATIONS!



SOUTH CAROLINA DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL

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Ms. Anna Bleasdale
Mrs. Trayci Brazell
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Ms. Allison Danielle Sartin
Ms. Andrea Sinkler-Slaughter
Mrs. Elizabeth Smithson
Dr. Kim Watkins
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Cheryl English, Program Coordinator
Ian Devlin, Program Assistant
William Farrior, Program Assistant
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For program funding details, please visit <https://www.scdde.state.sc.us/about.html>

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