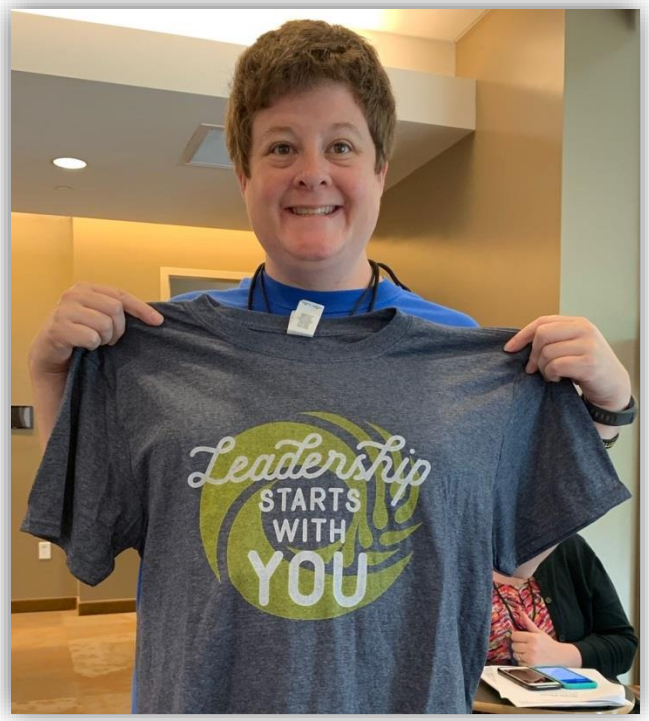
The Self Advocate Coalition of Kansas (SACK)

What is SACK?



SACK is a statewide organization that advocates for people with developmental disabilities.

We encourage and teach people to speak up for themselves and to obtain their highest possible level of independence.

SACK's Mission:

To promote empowerment and independence for adults with developmental disabilities.

SACK's Vision:

All Kansans with developmental disabilities will have the opportunity to express opinions and make choices in order to create a life where they are treated with the same dignity and respect as persons without developmental disabilities.

SACK Supports:

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Who is SACK?

Membership in SACK is composed of adults with developmental disabilities, the majority of whom receive developmental disability services from the state of Kansas.

Purposes of SACK

- **Support local self advocacy organizations**
  - This support comes in the form of providing technical assistance to help local self advocacy groups get started and providing additional training and education for members of the local groups to more effectively run their organizations.

  - SACK supports 32 local self advocacy groups representing over 750 active self advocates across Kansas.
  - Groups range in size from 12 to over 70 members

Purposes of SACK

- **Conduct trainings statewide on issues of concern to persons with developmental disabilities**

  The trainings are about issues such as:

  - Consumer rights within the Kansas developmental disabilities system
  - Individual rights and responsibilities
  - Education to help individuals with developmental disabilities become stronger self advocates
  - How to self-direct your own services
  - SACK will also develop and present trainings on other areas of interest upon request.

Purposes of SACK

- **Advocate for systems change in the state developmental disabilities system**

  This includes facilitating input to state officials from consumers in the state developmental disabilities system. SACK partners with various interested stakeholders on shared concerns, and lobbies our elected officials with regards to legislation that affects consumers receiving Kansas DD services.

Purposes of SACK

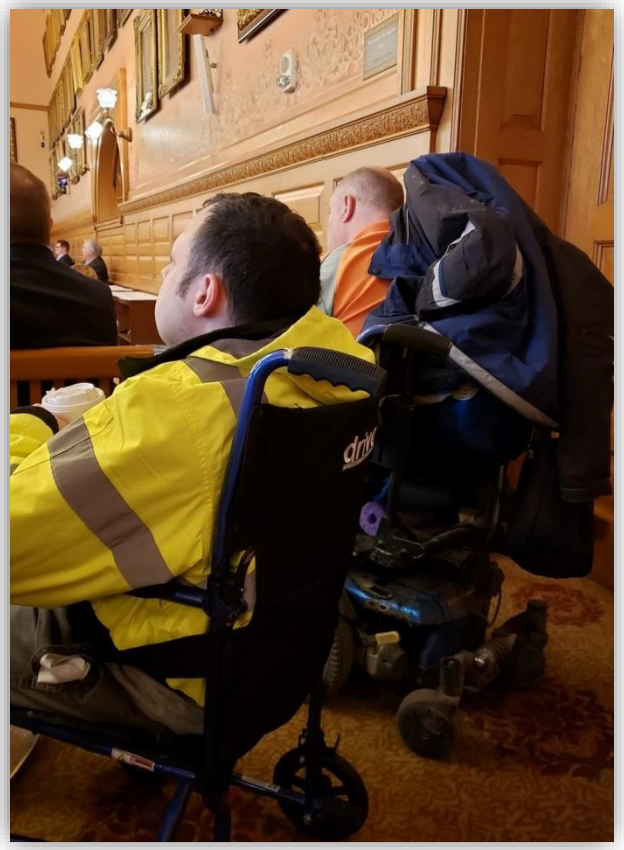
- SACK hosts an annual conference for individuals with developmental disabilities.
  - Provides an opportunity for people with developmental disabilities to learn about issues that affect their daily life.
  - Attendees are presented with 15 learning session opportunities across 5 breakout sessions. The conference has grown to over 300 participants.

How do consumers access SACK?

SACK provides consumer outreach by partnering with KDADS, service providers, CDDOs, stakeholders, targeted case managers and the network of local self-advocacy groups to help educate consumers about self-advocacy options.

Funding and Oversight

- SACK is funded by a contract with KDADS (KCDD?) and additional funding is provided through various grants and initiatives.
- SACK contracts with the Arc of Douglas County for fiscal oversight and organizational coordination.



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THANK YOU!