

# ALLY

Self-Advocacy Alliance

*See Us. Respect Us. Listen to Our Voices.*

Alliance Structure

# Background

*The achievements of this project belong to a wide range of leaders committed to a world in which people with developmental disabilities are respected and valued as the voices to lead policy and systems that support people to have the life that they choose.*

*Over two years, many people engaged with The Arc of Virginia and contributed to what would later become Virginia's statewide **A Life Like Yours Self-Advocacy Alliance**.*

# *Why Form an Alliance of Self-Advocates?*

**The purpose of forming an Alliance is to ensure that the voices of people with disabilities are the primary force for effecting change in Virginia.**

# *How is the Alliance Structured?*

**The A Life Like Yours Self-Advocacy Alliance is made up of Local Self-Advocacy Groups across Virginia.**

# Alliance Members

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There are two types of membership in the Alliance:

- 1) Self-Advocacy Group - A local group of Self-Advocates who already a formal group or wish to develop one in their local area. Each group selects a Liaison to represent them in the Alliance meetings.
- 2) Individual Members - Members of the local Self-Advocacy groups (formal or developing) are members of the Alliance once that group joins the Alliance.

# Alliance Liaisons

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Since the Alliance is made up of Self-Advocacy Groups, each group assigns at least 1 REPRESENTATIVE as LIAISON to the Alliance Board.

This person is the go between from the local Self-Advocacy group to the Alliance.

# Alliance Board

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- The Alliance Board is made up of the local representatives from each group, called Liaisons.
- The Alliance Board elected 3 co-chairs as their leadership
- The Arc of Virginia staff provides support to Alliance members and leadership to ensure that participation in the Alliance is accessible to everyone, regardless of support needs.

# To Join or Learn More

*Website:*

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