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.
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

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

- 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

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