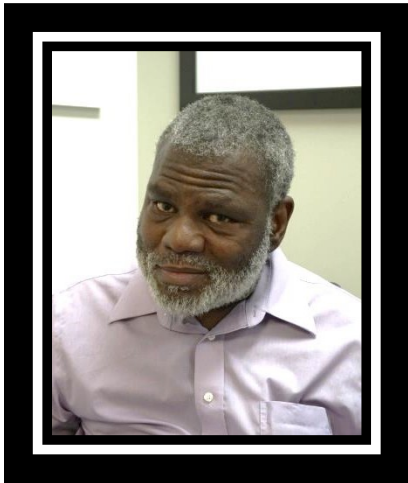




# **GETTING YOUR MESSAGE OUT**

**What is a Position Statement and  
How do you Write One?**

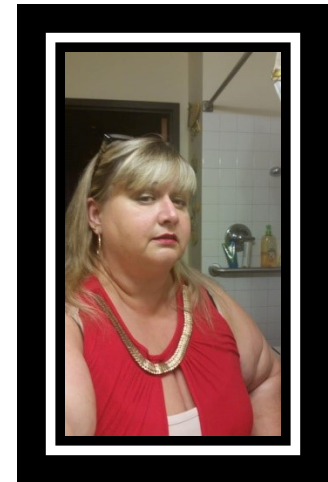
# PRESENTERS



**Bernard Baker**



**Emily Rogers**



**Cheri Mitchell**

# WHAT IS SARTAC?

- Self Advocacy Resource and Technical Assistance Center
- Online clearinghouse for information
- A partnership between regional technical assistance centers
- Funded by Administration for Community Living



# POSITION STATEMENT TOOLKIT

- What is a Position Statement
- Identify the Issue
- Gathering Information and Facts
- Sharing Your Paper



## GETTING YOUR MESSAGE OUT

WHAT IS A POSITION PAPER AND  
HOW DO YOU WRITE ONE?



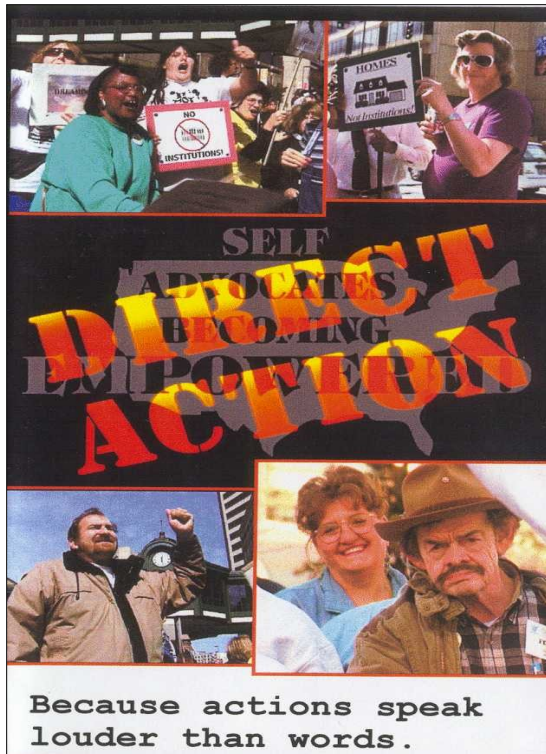
# WHAT IS A POSITION STATEMENT

- It is a great way to speak up for yourself and others!
- The public needs to know and we need to educate on how issues or problems affect us!
- A position statement is a way to make your position clear and provide facts that support your position.



**YOU are the experts!!**

# IDENTIFYING THE ISSUE

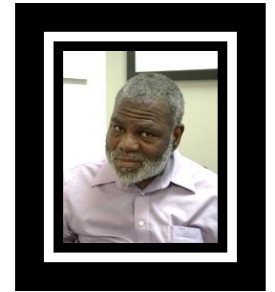


- Find a disability issue your group can agree to work on
- Self advocacy groups are most affective when we write on issues that we are experts on



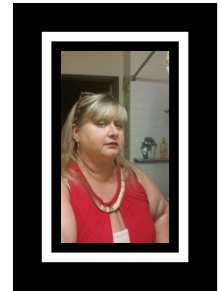
# GATHERING INFORMATION AND FACTS

- You need to get information about the issue
- Identify the benefits and challenges about the issue
- Facts and information can come from
  - Numbers of people affected
  - Graphs
  - Charts
  - Stories
  - Polls
  - Surveys



# THE POSITION OF THE SELF ADVOCACY GROUP

- A position statement need to be the official position of the self advocacy group
- The group needs to decided what their position is on a issue
- Take a vote to confirm the position
- Before voting you need to consider
  - Beliefs and principles
  - How people feel



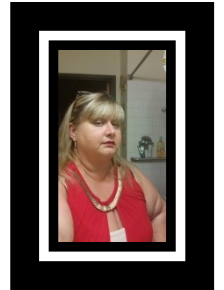
**The position statement reflects who you are as a self advocacy group**



# SHARING YOUR PAPER

Identify your audience – who needs to get the statement

- How do they get their information
  - Written – hard copy or electronic
  - Social media -Videos and Stories
  - Make sure it is accessible

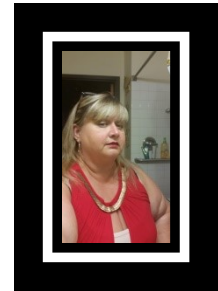


Who else need it?

- Individuals or general public



# SUCCESS IN ADVOCACY!



# SMALL GROUP SESSIONS QUESTION:

WHO HAS DONE A POSITION STATEMENT ABOUT  
AN IMPORTANT ISSUE?

Yes

- Why did your group choose that issue?
- How did it go?

No

- What are some issues that you face in your community that you could work on?

# SMALL GROUP SESSIONS QUESTION: FINDING INFORMATION

Yes

- Where did you find information about the topic or issue?

No

- Where can you find information about the topic or issue?

# SMALL GROUP SESSIONS QUESTIONS: WORKING ON AN ISSUE

## Yes

- How do you decide to work on that issue?
- What other organizations worked with you?
- Was there any disagreement?
- How did you come to an agreement?

## No

- How do you decide to work on issues?
- Who can work with you on the issue?

# SMALL GROUP SESSIONS QUESTION: SHARING YOUR STATEMENT

Yes

- How have you shared your position statement?
- What would an accessible document look like to you?

No

- If you have not, who would you share the statement with?



# RESOURCES

Resources for self advocacy groups can be found at [www.selfadvocacyinfo.org](http://www.selfadvocacyinfo.org)



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Self Advocacy Resource and Technical Assistance Center (SARTAC). At the top, there are social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube, along with a language selection dropdown set to "Select Language", a "Listen to Page" button, and "Access Options". The SARTAC logo, featuring a stylized book and colorful figures, is on the left, with the text "SARTAC Self Advocacy and Beyond" to its right. The full name "Self Advocacy Resource and Technical Assistance Center" is displayed on the right. A dark blue navigation bar contains the menu items: HOME, ABOUT, RESOURCES, SELF ADVOCACY, SUPPORT, and CONTACT US, with a search icon on the far right. Below the navigation bar is a banner image showing a man in a wheelchair using a computer, a group of people around a table with various icons, and a woman smiling at a laptop. A purple banner below the image reads "Your one-stop resource for organizing and supporting self advocacy groups". At the bottom, a green question asks "How can we help your self advocacy group?".

Self Advocacy Resource and Technical Assistance Center

HOME ABOUT RESOURCES SELF ADVOCACY SUPPORT CONTACT US

Your one-stop resource for organizing and supporting self advocacy groups

How can we help your self advocacy group?