

## Advocacy “Primary Themes”

### Yesterday’s Work

- **Inspired Examples** – Select Advocates tell Hamilton County communities and citizens about their journey from often undervalued, often discriminated Person with a disability to thriving contributor and citizen with their own, good life.
- **Legislative Advocacy** – build key, personal relationships with legislatures and actively advocate for appropriate development and changes in the law to the best benefit of People with DD.
- **Key Language Concepts** – select advocates strove to be educated on key language concepts such as Advocacy (in and of itself), People First Language, Self-Determination, Integration, Inclusion, Person Centered-ness, etc... and share these ideas with other People with DD.
- **Education** – select advocates strove to share all of the above with then attempt to share that with professionals and community members.
- **Built Key Partnerships** – with common Advocacy Groups, Legislatures, other Social Services, Educators, and Community Partners.
- **Critical Levy Work** – Advocates believed and continue to believe that DD Services and Supports make a difference and thus worked/work to ensure they are sustained and remain valued by their communities.

### Evolving Advocacy (Today and Tomorrow... A Robust Plan)

Elite Team to a **Multi-Diverse, Independent & Interdependent, Expansive Matrix Approach**.

**Explained:** Much of yesterday’s work was done by a rather small percentage of representative advocates and had varying degrees of impact upon those served from amazingly impacting everyone to other efforts that affected far fewer people’s lives than intended. Having trialed many efforts and studied our experience, today’s team seeks to weigh our efforts carefully so that they strategically aim to involve and impact the most people possible.

HCDDS Advocacy will now seek to go beyond making known what is possible or right, but to actually work to create widespread opportunity so that people with DD may truly avail themselves of the laws, rights, and opportunities made possible by our Legacy Advocates. To do so, we must create many teams, many based and acting within their own neighborhoods and communities. Some of these will be independent agents. Some will be teams of collaborators with common pursuits, common obstacles, and designs to collectively make a difference. Many more persons with DD must be involved and sharing their stories to act upon the reality that they want to live good lives. Some will lead, some will contribute, all will share their experience toward the good of the whole.

- **Life Course**
  - **Citizens and Future Citizens**
  - **Community Partners/Best Neighbors in Hamilton County**
  - **System Analyzers and Navigators**
  - **Voice Gatherers towards Action Upon Trends**
- (See Advocacy Plan <Handout Provided> for the above 5 Meta Themes).**

### A Few Highlights of Plan and Efforts

- Legacy Keepers
- Life Course Outreach to Doctors and Families
- Neighbors in Action
- Partners in Action
- Trend Gatherers
- Robert Shuemak Show