

Mission Statement

To plan with, mobilize and organize people with developmental disabilities, their families and their supporting communities and organizations to make the promise of integration, productivity, independence and quality of life a reality in policy and practice.

"Welcome to *Voices*, a special newsletter created specifically to keep you informed of the planning, organization and activities of the Alliance for Full Participation."

Alliance for Full Participation Summit Makes History

On September 22-23, 2005, the Alliance for Full Participation held the historic "Many Voices, One Vision" Summit at the Washington Hilton and Towers, Washington, DC. The result of two years of planning and an unprecedented level of cooperation among 11 leading organizations in the developmental disabilities community, the Summit brought together 2,300 self advocates, family members, researchers and public policy leaders to talk about the challenges and barriers to full participation and to seek solutions to those barriers on a local, state and federal level.

During the Summit, attendees worked as one community to share ideas, address issues, learn new practices and identify challenges to full participation. The Summit's theme of collaboration, unity and action struck a core with many attendees and provided the groundwork for future collaboration and action. Plenary session speakers Roger Nierenberg, Dr. Meg Wheatley and Martin Luther King, III, provided key insight into leadership, community membership and self determination and enhancing the qualities of supports and services.

At the conclusion of the Summit, a national action agenda for change was created. This agenda, drafted by the leadership of the 11 organizations, was grounded in the results of an interactive Town Hall session in which all Summit attendees had a chance to vote electronically on the key issues facing the developmental disabilities community, and in the work of the Alliance's state teams, who submitted state-wide priorities for change. This agenda will create a road map for future action by the Alliance.

The spirit of collaboration and unity created by the Summit has already taken root and resulted in a joint Medicaid Policy Statement endorsed by all 11 founding organizations and unveiled at the Summit in Washington.

Complete copies of the AFP Summit Action Agenda, the Medicaid Joint Policy Statement, and the Town Hall voting results are available on the AFP Web site: www.AllianceForFullParticipation.org

Summit Statistics

2262 Attendees including 187 personal assistants
115 Poster presentations
92 Exhibitors

Attendees by Type

20% Self Advocate or Family Member
18% Service Provider
15% Policy Professional/Analyst
8% Educator
7% Government Official
6% Researcher
4% Direct Support Professional
23% Other

Moving Forward

The AFP organizers realize that far more than a four-day meeting will be required to hammer out achievable strategies for helping persons with developmental disabilities become valued, contributing members of their communities. Over the coming months, the AFP will implement the following strategies:

- **Holding one another accountable for achieving the goals and vision of the Summit action agenda.** Each organization will review the Summit action agenda and create an outcomes-focused plan for addressing these goals in their organizations. Members of AFP will continue to work in collaboration to achieve the goals of full participation.
- **Support the work of AFP's State Teams:** AFP's state teams, created to build state-wide coalitions that mirror the national Alliance, were critical to the success of the Summit and will be key to the implementation of the AFP action agenda. Over the coming months, AFP will be identifying ways to continue to network and link AFP's state teams so that networking and sharing of model practices can continue.

Special Thanks

The Alliance for Full Participation would like to express its sincere appreciation to all those who attended the Summit and added their voice to our collective vision. In particular, we would like to honor all of the self advocates, family members and direct support professionals who made the effort to be present in Washington, DC. Your presence made a difference.

- **Prioritize and Focus on Key Goals:** Over the coming months, AFP will be soliciting input from state teams and stakeholders and will select one key issue from the AFP action agenda to focus on for immediate attention. Once key priorities are determined, AFP will provide detailed action steps.

"Just as important as the goals that are set by the AFP's Board and those set by state teams will be the actions and goals set by individual attendees," stated Renee Pietrangelo, CEO, ANCOR, and chair of the AFP

Steering Committee. "The Summit served as a catalyst to unite and energize the developmental disability community with a common sense of purpose and mission. It is our individual response to this collective call to action that will determine whether the AFP action plan becomes reality."

In a post-Summit evaluation, nearly all the respondents committed to taking action to advance the AFP agenda, through increased education, advocacy, networking and by holding AFP and others accountable for achieving the goals identified during the Summit.

AFP's Town Hall Honors All Voices

The Summit's Town Hall session, moderated by CNN special correspondent Frank Sesno, was a highlight of the Summit program. Designed to create a dialog on the key barriers to full participation and to begin the process of identifying solutions to make full participation a reality, the program was anchored by three panels featuring individuals with developmental disabilities, people who work with and support them, and people who employ them.

In addition to audience participation and commentary throughout the Town Hall, audience members were able to vote electronically on questions designed to determine attitudes and establish priorities for the Alliance's action agenda. The results of these questions were presented immediately on the screen, allowing audience members to understand where there were similarities or differences in priorities and attitudes.

For many in the audience, the Town Hall provided a defining moment. Several segments of the audience felt that for the first time,

their voices and their priorities were being heard and honored on the national stage. The Town Hall was video taped and the Alliance for Full Participation is currently seeking sponsors so that this material can be edited and used to educate individuals and communities about the importance of full participation for individuals with developmental disabilities. If you are interested in sponsorship opportunities, please contact Carol Walsh at 301-706-6252 or walshworks@mindspring.com.

For complete results of the Town Hall, please visit our Web site at

www.AllianceForFullParticipation.org

Please note, the results of the Town Hall polling do not represent a scientific poll. Instead, they provide a snapshot of the thoughts and opinions of those gathered in Washington during the two day Summit.

Alliance for Full Participation: Scenes from Many Voices One Vision

Networking

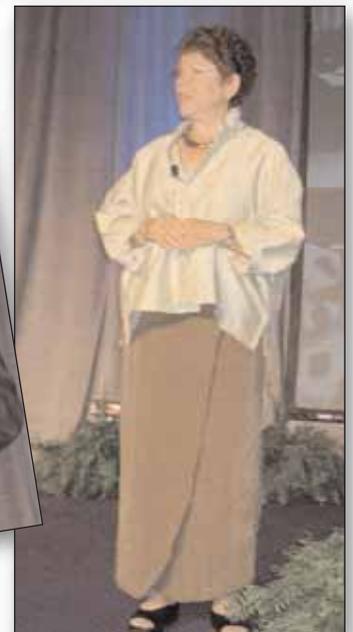


Breakout Sessions



Alliance for Full Participation: Scenes from Many Voices One Vision

Plenary Sessions



Town Hall



Photos at the Summit were taken by New Vision Photography

For complete information on the program
for the Alliance for Full Participation's
2005 Summit, visit the Web site at
www.AllianceForFullParticipation.org

ANCOR is pleased to support the Alliance
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