MASSACHUSETTS ADVOCATES STANDING STRONG

IT'S A NEW WORLD AND YOUR IDEAS COUNT!

THE 23ND ANNUAL MASS SELF-ADVOCACY CONFERENCE

Keynote Speaker: Max Barrows, Outreach Director at Green Mountain Self-Advocates
Workshops, Awards, Raffles, and More!

Feb 19 - Feb 24, Online via Zoom
10:30 AM to 3:30 PM

www.WeAreMASS.org/annual-conference
THANKS TO OUR GROW SPONSOR!

85 Main Street, 2nd Floor, Watertown, MA 02472  (617) 926-1113
www.beaverbrookstep.org

"Your Ideas Count"
Explore your abilities

Congratulations to Mass Advocates Standing Strong
Annual Statewide Self Advocacy Conference - 23 YEARS STRONG

February 19, 2022 through February 24, 2022

Since 1973 Beaverbrook STEP has been dedicated to providing progressive residential, day and support services to adults and children with intellectual and developmental disabilities. In addition, we are committed to strengthening relationships among individuals, families and communities. We welcome your participation in our work.
Advocates is proud to support Massachusetts Advocates Standing Strong!

Thank you for empowering individuals to become stronger self-advocates.

Advocates champions people who face developmental, mental health, or other life challenges. We partner with individuals and families to shape creative solutions to even the greatest obstacles.

First, we listen. Then, together, we do what it takes to help people thrive.

www.Advocates.org Find us on  

Facebook  Twitter  Instagram  LinkedIn
Welcome Message from MASS Chairperson Al Milne and Statewide Coordinator Brian Kremer

Hello and welcome to Your Ideas Count! The 23rd Annual MASS Self-Advocacy Conference. We're delighted to have you here. We have three great days ahead of us, starting with today. We'll be hearing from keynote speaker Max Barrows, have a Q&A with DDS Commissioner Jane Ryder, watch two groups lead workshops, see self-advocates and supporters receive awards, and have an exciting raffle for those who attend the full day. Thank you for coming and have fun!
THANKS TO OUR BUILD SPONSOR!

VINFEN IS PROUD TO SUPPORT MASSACHUSETTS ADVOCATES STANDING STRONG (MASS)

Together, we share in a vision where people with intellectual and developmental disabilities are fully empowered to make choices that improve and enrich their lives.

Vinfen transforms lives by building the capacity of individuals, families, organizations, and communities to learn, thrive, and achieve their goals. Our services and advocacy promote the recovery, resiliency, habilitation, and self-determination of the people we serve. As a human services leader, we strive to be the provider, employer, and partner of choice.
THANKS TO OUR BUILD SPONSOR!

ROAD TO RESPONSIBILITY

Making Lives Better ...  
One Person at a Time

Road to Responsibility is proud to support the mission of MASS

www.roadtoresponsibility.org
1831 Ocean Street, Marshfield, MA 02050
HAVE YOU SEEN THE MASS FLASH?
Not Yet?
What is it?

The MASS FLASH is the monthly MASS Self-Advocacy Newsletter that will keep you in the know regarding what self-advocates are doing. Learn about regional events, legislative action, and read monthly self advocate stories (the next one could be you!), and stay up to date on all MASS happenings.

Kamisha Heriveaux, our amazing Mass Flash Editor and Self-Advocate Content Expert, will keep you in the know. She is always looking for great stories, so if you have a story about self-advocacy or any suggestions, she would love to hear from you!

Contact her at kamisha@wearemass.org and submit a story to share in a future MASS Flash.

https://www.wearemass.org/mass-flash
Max Barrows

Max Barrows is Outreach Director for Green Mountain Self-Advocates, a position he has held since 2007. He mentors youth and adults with developmental disabilities to speak up for themselves and become leaders. GMSA is a lead partner of the Self-Advocacy Resource and Technical Assistance Center (SARTAC). Max leads SARTAC’s technical assistance team assisting local and state self-advocacy organizations across the nation. Max connects with people on all levels advocating for true-inclusion of people with developmental disabilities. In his work, he advances the message that when you meet an individual with a disability, presume competence. He received a White House Champions of Change award for this work in 2015 and Champion of Equal Opportunity award from the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities in 2019. Max is an accomplished self-advocate from Vermont who served as a board member for Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered from 2008 to 2016. On a personal level, Max has a very high interest in extreme weather and he likes to watch college and professional sports.
Commissioner Jane F. Ryder

Jane Ryder was named Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Developmental Services (DDS) in January of 2018, and has worked for DDS since 1995. She was key in the implementation of DDS priorities including waiver enrollment, promotion of shared living and self-direction, and improvement of consistency in practice across the state.

“We have spent much of her career advocating on behalf of individuals with disabilities for equality, empowerment and independence,” said Governor Charlie Baker. “Our administration is committed to providing meaningful supports and training opportunities to help every individual with a disability fully integrate in their communities...”
OPENING DAY – MORNING SATURDAY FEB 19

10:30 AM-11:00 AM  Welcome and Announcements from the MASS Board and Staff
                 MASS Chairperson, Albert Milne, Statewide Coordinator, Brian Kremer

11:00 AM-11:45 AM  Keynote Speaker - Max Barrows

11:45 AM-12:15 PM  Q&A with DDS Commissioner Jane F. Ryder

12:15 PM-12:30pm  The Gunnar Dybwad Supporter Award
                 Presented by Commissioner Jane F. Ryder
                 Gunnar was a tireless advocate. He is known for his work in disability advocacy, including advocating for complete integration and providing every self-advocate with access to their communities.
OPENING DAY - MORNING
SATURDAY FEB 19

12:30 PM - 1:15 PM  Everyone enjoy a lunch break!

1:15 PM - 1:45 PM  We Can Be Leaders: So Can You!!!
                  Presenters - Francesco Hladysz, Samantha Wood, Tim Holmes

1:45 PM - 1:55 PM  The Judith "Judi" Rodger Mentorship Award
                  In memory of MASS co-founder Judi Rodger, we have created the Judi Rodger Mentorship Award. Judi worked as hard for others as she did to advocate for herself.
OPENING DAY - AFTERNOON
SATURDAY FEB 19

1:55 PM - 2:05 PM  The Janet Laperle Encouragement Award
The Janet Laperle Encouragement Award was established in 2021 in memory of Janet Laperle, a fierce self-advocate and friend. Janet was loved by many because she was genuinely interested in helping people advocate and reach their goals. She was a friend to anyone and everyone.

2:05 PM - 2:10 PM  Break

2:10 PM - 2:55 PM  MASS: Stories From Our History
Presenters - Anne Fracht, Sandra Houghton, Melissa Probst, Colleen Ryan, Barbara Pandolfi
OPENING DAY - AFTERNOON  
SATURDAY FEB 19

2:55 PM - 3:10 PM  The Nancy Maynard Leadership Award  
Nancy was known for her strong advocacy and relentless efforts to secure services for the individuals living at home with aging parents. She served a number of years on DDS’s North Shore Area Office’s Advisory Board and spoke regularly to the students at North Shore Community College.

3:10 PM - 3:20 PM  The John Gibbons Rainbow Group of the Year Award  
The John Gibbons Rainbow Group of the Year Award is a new award honoring John Gibbons. His career was dedicated to working and advocating for adults with developmental disabilities.
OPENING DAY - AFTERNOON  
SATURDAY FEB 19

3:20 PM - 3:30 PM  
The Alfred "Big Al" Daigle LGBTQ+ Community Support Award  
The Alfred "Big Al" Daigle LGBTQ+ Community Support is a new award honoring Alfred "Big Al" Daigle. Al was a great supporter who made sure the members of his Rainbow Support Group could go to LGBTQ+ events. Before Big Al passed away, he gave Pauline Bosma a Rainbow bracelet to show his support for her groups.

3:30 PM  
Opening Day Raffle Items - All full day attendees will be entered into a free raffle drawing for really exciting prizes such as a signed football by Patriots Captain Matthew Slater, free museum passes, and other gift cards.
THANKS TO OUR DEVELOP SPONSORS!

Thank You to Massachusetts Advocates Standing Strong

You provide the leadership that empowers our self-advocates to create their futures!

Bridgewell strengthens communities by providing an unmatched range of social and human services that empower people with life challenges to live safe, self-directed and productive lives.

Bridgewell delivers support through community housing, day programs, outpatient treatment, recovery services, education and employment training.

Bay Cove Human Services is proud to support Massachusetts Advocates Standing Strong, and your annual conference.

Thank you for all you do each day to give individuals the education, the tools and the confidence to advocate for themselves and let their voices be heard!

Bay Cove's Developmental Services programs offer individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities a continuum of supports that includes residential, educational, social connection and employment options. Our programs are designed to help foster each person's independence, wellness, and full participation in all aspects of life.

Learn more about our services and programs at www.baycovehumanservices.org
THANKS TO OUR DEVELOP SPONSORS!

The Disability Law Center proudly supports Massachusetts Advocates Standing Strong in its mission to empower self-advocates through education to make informed choices to improve and enrich the lives of people with disabilities.

www.dlc-ma.org  |  617-723-8455  |  mail@dlc-ma.org
### TUESDAY, FEB 22

<table>
<thead>
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| 11:00 AM-11:30 AM | How to Use Zoom; How to Access the MASS Website  
                         Presenters - Francesco Hladysz, Brian Kremer |
| 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM | Let's Talk About Sex!  
                         Presenters - Pauline Bosma, Oscar Hughes, Jenn Rioux |
| 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM | Everyone enjoy a lunch break!   |
| 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM | How DPPC Helps People with Disabilities  
                         Presenters - Leigh-Ann Barry, Jennefer Raymond |
| 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM | Friendship Matters!: Tools and tips from self-advocates on building and maintaining friendships  
                         Presenters - Sam Paster, Jonathan Spiller, Norma Laureano, Rachel Hayward, Meg Gaydos, Lucky Garcia |
<p>| 3:30 PM | Raffle for Attendees - People that attended all the workshops for today will be entered into a free raffle drawing for really exciting prizes. Stay tuned for information on the raffle prizes! |</p>
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<td>Self-Advocacy Impact Lab</td>
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THANKS TO OUR DEVELOP SPONSOR!

Self-Advocacy is Essential

The Arc of Plymouth and Upper Cape Cod is proud to support the 23rd Annual “Your Ideas Count!” Self-Advocacy Conference.

The Arc of Plymouth and Upper Cape Cod

Since 1966, our organization has been growing to meet the needs of people with disabilities and their families throughout Greater Plymouth, Upper Cape Cod, and surrounding Southeastern MA communities.

The Arc is recognized as a leading service innovator, offering services that are individualized, flexible, and self-directed in nature.

Support Services Include:
- Adult Family Care
- Brain Injury Services and Supports
- Day Services
- Employment Support
- Family Resources and Guidance
- Individual Home Support
- Self-Directed Services
- Shared Living

Visit www.PlymouthCapeArc.org for more information on services.

The Arc of Plymouth and Upper Cape Cod empowers and supports people with disabilities and their families to belong, contribute and thrive.

52 Armstrong Road, Plymouth, MA 02360 • (508) 732-9292 • www.plymouthcapearc.org
MASS is now offering the Self-Advocacy Leadership Series (SALS)!

SALS is an eight-class series that focuses on the fundamentals of leadership! All trainings are currently online and are offered to groups only.

All classes are peer-led with technical support from MASS Staff.

If you would like to learn more, you can go to our website https://www.wearemass.org/self-advocacy-leadership-series-sals or email kelsey.oates@wearemass.org!
Self-Advocacy in The Regions
Mark Your Calendar for Upcoming Regional Group Meetings

MASS organizes regional meetings and groups throughout the state. Groups of self-advocates work together advocating on issues such as employment, human rights, self-direction, supported decision-making, and more. We are available to help you start your own self-advocacy group, where you can learn about your rights, speak up, and advocate to make your ideas count!

March 8, 3:30pm - 5:30pm
Contact: Sue Moriarty, Central Regional Coordinator

March 9, 4pm - 5:30pm
Contact: Bridget Crowley, Northeast Regional Coordinator

March 17, 6pm - 7:30pm
Contact: Valerie Horn, Metro Regional Coordinator

March 24, 6pm - 7:30pm
Contact: Sarah Binney, Southeast Regional Coordinator

March 23, 5:30pm - 7:30pm
Self Advocacy Impact Lab
https://www.wearemass.org/events/self-advocacy-impact-lab

https://www.wearemass.org/events
WORKSHOPS

We Can Be Leaders: So Can You!!!
In this workshop, we will be showing our video stories about becoming leaders and talk about what we learned from doing our Leadership Summit and how we also came to learn about leadership summit committee members in other regions. We will show how we were able to expand our advocacy and show we can work together as a team to make one big, beautiful project!

Presenters - Francesco Hladysz, Samantha Wood, Tim Holmes
Organization - MASS
**WORKSHOPS**

**MASS: Stories from our History**

This workshop will bring together leaders and supporters who got MASS off the ground to preserve our history. The format will include stories as well as questions and answers to highlight our mission and our growth. We'll also share pictures and historic documents.

*Presenters* - Anne Fracht, Sandra Houghton, Melissa Probst, Colleen Ryan, Barbara Pandolfi  
*Organization* - MASS

**Zoom How to Use Zoom; How to Access the MASS Website**

In this workshop, we will show you how to use Zoom. We will also show you the MASS website and how to find what you are looking for.

*Presenters* - Francesco Hladysz, Brian Kremer

**Let's Talk About Sex!**

In this workshop, we will talk about safe and healthy relationships. We will give an introduction to dating, talking to your partner, using consent, and having safe sex.

*Presenters* - Oscar Hughes, Pauline Bosma, Jenn Rioux  
*Organization* - MASS
How DPPC Helps People with Disabilities
The Disabled Persons Protections Commission’s (DPPC) mission is to protect adults with disabilities from abuse. This training, designed specifically for persons served, describes how the agency works toward this mission through reporting and investigations. Co-presented with a DPPC Sexual Assault Response- Peer Support Leader, this presentation provides an overview introduction of the different DPPC units that are a part of the investigation process.

Presenters - Leigh-Ann Barry, Jennefer Raymond
Organization - DPPC (Disabled Persons Protection Committee)

Friendship Matters!: Tools and tips from self-advocates on building and maintaining friendships
This workshop explores the very important topic of friendship. Friendship makes us happier, healthier, and safer, and every single one of us needs and deserves it! Workshop participants will discuss what makes a friend and why friendship is important, and will also learn some methods for making friends, and for overcoming challenges to building friendship.

Presenters - Sam Paster, Jonathan Spiller, Norma Laureano, Rachel Hayward, Meg Gaydos, Lucky Garcia
Organization - The Arc of MA
Mass Rights For Change: Survivor Support; We're Here To Help

In this workshop, we will be presenting the Mass Rights for Change (MRfC) team and the Survivor Support Packet (SSP) as an example of our work. We will highlight the need for people to support survivors of sexual violence. We will also highlight the need for self care, and practice self care during the workshop. We will show people how to use the SSP and where to find self-care videos on the MASS website. A Pathways for Change counselor will be available if people need to talk with someone.

Presenters - John Mullaly, Inger Riley, Kelsey Worline, Pauline Bosma, Brian Kelly, Heidi Sue LaBoeuf, Jenn Rioux, Eliza Corderman, Sue Moriarty

Organization - MASS, Pathways for Change and Victim's Rights Law Center

Overview of Supported Decision Making and the SDM Task Force

The MASS Supported Decision Making Task Force will host a workshop about the creation of the SDM Task Force and the value of Supported Decision Making (SDM). There will be different topics covered during the workshop including: the difference between guardianship and supported decision making and creating a form for supported decision making agreements.

Presenters - Austin Carr, Anne Fracht, Kim Plaut and Hezzy Smith
Self-Advocacy Impact Lab
Massachusetts West Region Self Advocacy in partnership with Massachusetts Advocates Standing Strong is excited to introduce Self Advocacy Impact Lab, a hands-on intensive experience in which self advocates can learn and experience the power of social change communication by creating change from the ground up. Participants will have a chance to engage in a discussion and start learning some of the unique strategies and tools that this group will use to create meaningful campaigns for change. Bring your ideas and be ready to learn!

*Presenters* - Amber Pettell, Steven Tobey, Genna Lewis, Kat Stone, Irene Morrison, Francesco Hladysz, Donna Jay, Sarah Binney, and Brian Kremer

*Organization* - Western Mass Training Consortium and MASS

Reminder:
March 23, 5:30pm - 7:30pm
Self Advocacy Impact Lab
CONGRATULATIONS ON A GREAT CONFERENCE!
FROM ALL OF YOUR FRIENDS AT SUNSHINE VILLAGE

VISIT US AT WWW.SUNSHINE.US

The Guild for Human Services offers a continuum of services for youth and adults with intellectual disabilities, including autism, and behavioral/mental health challenges. The Guild is committed to offering services that are strengths-based, trauma-informed and outcomes-oriented.

Learn more at GuildHumanServices.org
The MASS Board

**Northeast**
Sandra Jones - Treasurer
Steven Comeau
Therese LaPorte

**Central**
Karen Kent - Vice Chair
Jillian Berube - Secretary
Francesco Hladysz
Jackie Dulmaine
Samantha Wood

**Southeast**
Albert Milne - Chairperson
George Brown
Thom Fulginiti
Brenda Rankin
Ashley Quick

**Metro**
Anne Fracht
Kim Plaut - 2nd Vice Chair
Joe O'Connell
Matthew Bander

**West**
Steven Tobey
Bill Hurley

https://www.wearemass.org/board-members
Thank you to all of our sponsors!

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Delta Projects
Disability Law Center
Bay Cove Human Services
Bridgewell
Sunshine Village
The Arc of Plymouth and Upper Cape Cod
The Arc of Greater Haverhill-Newburyport
The Guild for Human Services

Friends of MASS
HMEA
Work, Inc
The Rainbow Support Groups are for people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning their gender or sexuality and for friends and supporters. We are a supportive and open group to help people meet others and talk about gender and sexuality topics.

Anyone is welcome at our online Rainbow Support Group. The online group meets the second Wednesday and last Tuesday of every month at 5:30pm Eastern Time. Our next meetings are February 22nd and March 9th. Come to this Zoom link to check out the online Rainbow Group: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84122253807

You can also go to our website for information about other Rainbow Groups in MA: https://www.wearemass.org/rainbow-group

If you have any questions or want to start your own Rainbow Group, contact Pauline Bosma Rainbow Support Group Coordinator at 508-944-5797 or pauline@wearemass.org or contact Oscar Hughes Rainbow Group Support at 857-262-0481 or oscar.hughes@wearemass.org.

https://www.wearemass.org/rainbow-group
Massachusetts Advocates Standing Strong
PO Box 560100
Medford, MA 02156

info@wearemass.org

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Brian Kremer, Statewide Coordinator
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Grant Yosenick, Operations Coordinator
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Kelsey Oates, Trainings and Communications Manager
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Bridget Crowley, Lead Regional & Northeast Coordinator
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Sue Moriarty, Central Regional Coordinator
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Valerie Horn, Metro Regional Coordinator
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Sarah Binney, Southeast Regional Coordinator
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Pauline Bosma, Rainbow Support Group Coordinator
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Oscar Hughes, Rainbow Group Support
Email: oscar.hughes@wearemass.org | Phone: (857) 262-0481
Click on the "Chat" icon to open the chat box.

Click on the "Q&A" icon to ask your questions.

The chat box is where you can send a message to the panelists. Please use the 'Q&A' icon when asking your questions.
Click on “Raise Hand” so the host will see that you have your hand raised. We will call on some attendees at the end of each presentation to ask their questions live via audio and/or video.

Your host will see that you are raising your hand by seeing a small icon next to your name.