



Fill the **GAP** in Utah

A New Age of Grassroots
Advocacy Comes to Utah



What is **GAP**?

The Grassroots Advocacy Partnership (**GAP**) is a new project of the Utah Developmental Disabilities Council in partnership with many agencies that serve individuals with disabilities in Utah. The focus is to build coalitions to ignite and renew the energy of advocacy in this rocky economic climate.



Who are the **GAP** collaborative partners?

- LCPD (Legislative Coalition for People with Disabilities)
- NAMI (National Alliance for Mental Health)
- People First
- Utah Developmental Disabilities Council
- Utah Family to Family Network
- Utah Health Policy Project
- Utah Independent Living Centers
- Utah Parent Center



Who are members of the **GAP**?

- Interested members of the community
- Family members and friends of individuals with disabilities
- Representatives of provider agencies
- Legislative leaders
- Personal care staff



And of course...

Individuals with disabilities



How does the **GAP** work?

- Through collaborative partnerships
- Attracting membership from the disability community
- Educating our members and others in the community
- Educating our political leaders
- Collecting stories in the Story Bank
- Media campaigns



Since our effort officially began in August...

- Region Organizers identified and hired
- Region Organizers trained
- Recruitment began and the message started to spread!
 - Meetings held around the state
 - Contact lists compiled
 - Educating efforts with policy makers ongoing



Key **GAP** Outcomes

- Official **GAP** Membership = 310
- Additional contacts made through meeting attendance and representation with other groups = 259
- Facebook **GAP** Group = 182 (only 17 overlap w/**GAP** Mailchimp)
- Other Social Media Utilized: Twitter and NING—no known numbers on outreach



Legislative outcome as a result of **GAP** education

Rep. K. Powell introduced a motion in the Health and Human Services Appropriations Subcommittee to use funds from the Disability Trust Fund to avoid further cuts in the 2010 fiscal year. This is a clear example of what can happen when legislators think outside the box.



GAP communicated with these leaders

- **Health and Human Services Appropriations Subcommittee**

Sen. Allen M. Christensen

Rep. Ben C. Ferry

Rep. David Litvack

Rep. Kraig Powell

Sen. Patricia W. Jones

Rep. John Dougall

Sen. Daniel R. Liljenquist

Rep. Keith Grover

Sen. Margaret Dayton

Rep. Paul Ray

Rep. Rhonda Rudd Menlove

- **Executive Appropriations Committee**

Rep. Ron Bigelow

Rep. David Clark

Rep. Bradley G. Last

Sen. Wayne L. Niederhauser

Sen. Patricia Jones



The Momentum of the Efforts...

- Increased awareness in the disability community about key issues
- Greater unity in our advocacy efforts
- Increased contacts with legislators
- Better trained advocates in more areas of the state



Our strength will come from:

- the unity of our message.
- the depth and breadth of our network of contacts.
- the connections we make on every level--local, regional, state, and federal. These connections will help us solve issues close to home, and also those that affect everyone on a more global level.



People can be divided into two classes: those who go ahead and do something, and those who sit still and inquire, why wasn't it done the other way?

--Oliver Wendell Holmes