



Self Advocates in Leadership

# SAIL UPDATE

January 2017

The legislative session has started and is now in high gear. SAIL will be working on many bills during this session. We will be working on setting up a plan for how we can best advocate for our legislative agenda. At our next meeting we will review all of the policy bills that affect our community!

In our efforts to work on mental health issues this session at the next meeting we will have someone from DDA come and talk about what mental health projects they are doing.

**The February 2017 meeting will include:**

- ◆ Get Healthy with Sandy!
- ◆ Discussing the current Bills of interest.
- ◆ Advocacy Day update
- ◆ Decision making procedures

## A Note from the Chairs

### January 2017

Hello everyone, and happy new year!

Advocacy days are coming soon! Schedule appointments with your legislators at least two weeks ahead of your visit. If you don't know who your legislators are you can visit [www.app.leg.gov/districtfinder/](http://www.app.leg.gov/districtfinder/) You should invite your legislators to the Legislative reception on February 1st! We have a new administration in the White House, this will affect our community, be ready to advocate! Looking forward to our February meeting, keep smiling!

**Sincerely, Eric Matthes, Chair of SAIL, Ivanova Smith Co-Chair**

Notes for SAIL meeting on January 10 2017

Location SeaTac Red lion

Time: 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

Introductions

Discussion of the Governor's budget- The Governor has put in his budget a \$1.00 residential rate increase which SAIL supports but also see the need for a higher increase. In the Governor's budget are increases to high school transition services, more money for caseloads, an increase to the adult family home rate, money for supported living investigators, an increase to the housing trust fund. There are other operating budget items that will be posted soon. Also the Governor's Capital budget has money for improvements to Fircrest, Lakeland Village, Rainier and Yakima Valley RHC's. SAIL has many concerns with putting more money into institutions rather than the community. Moreover, we believe people with mental illness should be served in the community.

Community summit—The community summit will be held June 13th to 15th. SAIL will be speaking either on federal issues or person centered planning. More to follow

Stipends available- SAIL has seventeen \$100 stipends for members to attend advocacy events that would be build coalitions with other groups.

SAIL wants to create more awareness in the community by attending local events, state events, and talk to reporters around the state. We need more stories like we had last year when KING 5 Susannah Frame did a series of stories on institutions.

We had a passionate discussion on how to deal with hate crimes against people with disabilities and if we need to advocate for stiffer penalties. Our overall position is that we strongly condemn any hate crime.