



## Progress on the New PFMO/HSRN Plan

People First of Missouri Steering Committee members are helping to make a new action plan for self-advocacy in our state. The plan is an important part of PFMO's role in the Heartland Self-Advocacy Resource Network (HSRN) project. HSRN is a three year project that includes the states of Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas as partners who are helping each other become better.

The first step in writing the plan was finding out about the needs of self-advocates in Missouri, opinions about our state's support of self-determination, and how people think PFMO is doing.

The Steering Committee and HSRN team got this information by collecting surveys and listening to focus groups of self-advocates and their supporters. Everyone was invited to fill out a computer or paper survey to share their thoughts. In

March, PFMO conference attendees talked in small groups and as a larger group about how Missouri is doing in its support of self-advocacy and self-determination. In April, the Steering Committee spent a day talking about how PFMO is doing as an organization.

Steering Committee members looked at all the information shared through the needs assessment, and chose five needs they thought were most important in two categories. You can find the list on page 4.

At the August Steering Committee meeting, members came up with ideas and action steps to work on these priorities. The hardest parts of the planning process are now done. The next step is for members and others to look at the plan, make a final draft, and get group agreement.

*See PFMO's Top 10 on page 4*

## People First of Missouri is Strong and Active

People First members and chapters are busy learning, giving and growing. We make a positive difference in our communities.

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Above, PFMO President Roger Crome and his wife, Wendy.

## Message From the President

by Roger Crome, President

Hello my friends! It is election time again in People First of Missouri. We have many high quality candidates running to represent you. I would recommend that between now and our November 14th and 15th steering committee you find out as much as you can about each candidate and make suggestions to your chapter's representatives.

This will be my final Message from the President, and I wanted to say that it has been a pleasure having the privilege of representing you as President of People First of Missouri. Over the last four

years, our organization and our country has seen a lot of change. Many progressive things are happening in our society, and I am sure there are many more to come. The new set of officers will face the exciting challenges that come with progressive trends and organizational growth.

Thank you for entrusting me to lead such a valuable movement.

## People First of Missouri Officers

Roger Crome  
President

Cathy Enfield  
Vice President

Becky Dickey  
Treasurer

Katie Kinder  
Secretary

Jason Mize  
Sergeant Of Arms

### Contact Information:

PO Box 30142  
Kansas City, MO 64112

(800) 558-8652

missouripeoplefirst.org

missouripeoplefirst@gmail.org

facebook.com/  
missouripeoplefirst

twitter.com/MOpeoplefirst

## Governor Nixon Signs the ABLE Act

by Jason Mize, with Mark Satterwhite

Have you heard of the ABLE Act? Chances are, you will.

As you know, a person with a disability who has Medicaid is not allowed to have over \$999.99. Basically, you can't save money for the future or for expensive things Medicaid doesn't cover. On June 29, 2015, Governor Nixon signed the ABLE Act, which changes that.

We recently went to a presentation in Columbia about the ABLE Act, given by Cathy Brown, Director of Public Policy and Advocacy at Paraquad. Cathy said people who experience disability before they turn age 26 will be able to save up for things they need without losing their Medicaid benefits. Their families will too. People will be allowed to

set up ABLE accounts and put up to \$14,000 in them each year.

Cathy Brown said the state of Missouri still needs time to put all the procedures and rules in place for the program, which may take up to a year. The program is very promising for people who are able to save and promises to lift some out of total poverty.

The ABLE Act was sponsored by Senator Eric Schmitt (pictured standing behind Governor Nixon in the photo). It passed easily in the House and Senate, with support from both Republicans and Democrats.

While this is good news, there is still a lot of policy and advocacy work left to do for people trapped in poverty. The Medicaid asset limit of \$999.99 hasn't changed in half a

century. We hope the Missouri legislature will do something about that next session. Last session, there was a bill to raise the asset limit that went pretty far, but not far enough. We're hoping to see that bill proposed again.



At left: Onlookers watch as Missouri Governor Jay Nixon signs the Able Act into law, including the bill's sponsor, Senator Eric Schmitt (wearing blue tie).

## Learned At Real Voices, Real Choices

Members of the Randolph County chapter of People First attended the Real Voices, Real Choices Conference at Tan-Tar-A in August. Here are some of the things they learned:

**Brian** - I really enjoyed the speaker that taught about Laughter Yoga. I learned that if I need to relax, I do some Laughter Yoga and feel better.

**Durrender**- The breakout classes I liked most were, "Stretching Your \$\$ - Smart Couponing" and "How to Cook Healthy for Diabetics." They showed me how I can save my money and cook healthy for my family.

**Michella** - The session on Healthy Relationships was good. In the past, I was in an unhealthy relationship and did not know how to be safe. This gave me more knowledge so I can make better choices.

**Jeremy** - I'm currently looking for a job and I learned how do a job interview. Be prepared, make sure you have everything you need, be on time, and dress up for your interview.

**Judy**- I liked meeting a lot of new people from throughout the state of Missouri who have different disabilities.

Many of our members received scholarships from the Department of Mental Health, and we would like to thank them for making this event available.

## 2015 PFMO Officer Elections List of Candidates

The following people would like to be considered for statewide office in People First of Missouri. Elections will be held in November at the Steering Committee meeting.

President	Vice President	Treasurer	Secretary	Sergeant of Arms
Cathy Enfield	Roger Crome	Judy Moffett	Curtis Ash	John Burriss
Lewis Evans	Becky Dickey	Susan Newton	Abrea Edwards	Jennifer Floretta
Patty Goss	Gary Stevens		Katie Kinder	Randy Todds
Jason Mize	Marilyn Whittle		Ida Kuhn	Joahanna Wortmann
Kelly Ray				

Continued from page 1,

## PFMO's Top 10 Priorities

### Top Five PFMO Organization Priorities

1. Helping local PFMO chapters become stronger
2. Finding and keeping new members, especially younger people
3. Teaching new members about our values and training new members and advisors to be leaders
4. Communicating with local chapters, members, advisers, supporters, and other advocacy groups
5. Supporting PFMO and its leaders to get things done

### Top Five Missouri Self-Advocacy and Self-Determination Priorities

1. Training youth (age 15 to 30) with disabilities in self-advocacy and leadership skills
2. Helping people with disabilities be active on decision-making boards, committees, and task forces
3. Supporting people with disabilities who want to change laws and rules that affect their lives
4. Teaching everyone about real inclusion and self-determination and how to make them happen – this includes family members, professionals, support staff and the public
5. Supporting people with disabilities to influence decision makers

For more information on the Heartland Self-Advocacy Resource Network, contact Project Director Laura Jackson, UMKC Institute for Human Development [walkerla@umkc.edu](mailto:walkerla@umkc.edu), 816-235-5626.

## PFMO Chapter Activity Updates

### Boone County

In May, we presented to parents at the Transition Academy. We talked to them about supporting self-determination. The Transition Academy is organized by the local Community Transition Team. Also in May, we noticed in a community calendar an event called “Story Time for Adults with Disabilities” in the Children’s Room at the library. We spoke with the event organizers about how that sounded to us. Not good. Sometimes, using people first language doesn’t even cut it. They were understanding. In June, we wrote a letter to the Superintendent at the public schools. There is a new program set up to serve “violent” students with autism in a segregated school setting. We shared our concern about labeling and that once someone is labeled they might get stuck in a system that keeps them labeled. In July – potluck!

### North Kansas City

At our July meeting, Representative Lauren Arthur spoke to our group. She is an advocate for helping people with disabilities. We are excited about House Bill 343 being signed into law. It creates a committee we hope will help the Money Follows the Person program to continue. Also, we want to congratulate State Senator Ryan Sylvey of North Kansas City for being named the 2014 Vocational Services Legislator Of The Year.



Above: People First of Randolph County (Moberly Chapter) attended this year’s Real Voices Real Choices conference.

### Tiger Country

Our chapter members had a great time at the PFMO state conference. We would like to thank our Adviser Rhonda McMillen and member Amanda McMillen for helping us present a breakout session on assistive technology. It was a good thing for us to do as new chapter.

We had a “Meet and Greet” in June where we had pizza and watched a movie. Five people came and joined us and had a very good time. We have changed our meeting to the third Wednesday of each month.

### Springfield

Springfield People First is active and meeting monthly. We held a fund raiser at Alice Irene’s in Marionville and raised \$400. We have a new

meeting place in Springfield that we appreciate very much. Springfield had three members attend the 2015 State PFMO Conference this year. They enjoyed it very much and brought back information to our chapter. We continue to advocate for each other.

### St. Charles

This summer, our chapter hosted a Bar-B-Que event and attended the Real Voices Real Choices conference in August.

Vim Horn of UMKC attended one of our meetings and we were able to gather some great information on how to make our chapter better, grow bigger, and be stronger. We are very excited to start using the information we learned and put it to work.



## Employment: The Changing Landscape

October 28th, 2015, 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM  
Stoney Creek Hotel and Conference Center  
2601 South Providence Road, Columbia, MO 65203

The Arc of Missouri, People First of Missouri, and the Missouri Developmental Disabilities Council are proud to present the "Employment: The Changing Landscape" Summit. Please join us in discussions on how recent and future changes in Federal regulations and guidelines affect Missouri community and sheltered employment programs for those with intellectual and developmental disabilities. A specially selected panel of speakers will be engaging in conversations with attendees about employment programs in other states, community employment programs in Missouri, Missouri sheltered workshop systems, and Missouri Vocational Rehabilitation systems.

### Panel of Speakers

- Victoria Thomas - Representative, United States Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division
- Susan Eckles - Representative, Missouri Protection and Advocacy Services
- Linda Rolfe - Former Director, Washington State Development Disabilities Division
- Brent Blackwell - President, Missouri Association of Sheltered Workshop Managers
- Fulvio Franzi - Director, Extended Employment Sheltered Workshops, Office of Special Education, Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
- Chris Clause - Director, Community Rehabilitation Programs, Vocational Rehabilitation, Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
- Duane Schumate - Director, Youth Transition and Employment, Missouri Department of Mental Health, Division of Developmental Disabilities

### Moderators

- Roger Crome - President, People First of Missouri
- Charles "Chaz" Nickolaus - Employment/Transportation Specialist, MO DD Council Ed Thomas - President, Arc of Missouri

### Cost to Attend

Self-Advocates - FREE!!! (Includes 1-Year Free Membership to the Arc of Missouri)  
Family Members/General Public - \$15 (Includes 1-Year Free Membership to the Arc of Missouri)  
Professionals - \$60

\*\*\*Lunch will be provided\*\*\*

### Register online at:

<http://eventbrite.com/e/employment-the-changing-landscape-tickets-18566602207?aff=es2>

Registration will also be provided from 8:30 AM to 10:00 AM at the Summit, although lunch cannot be guaranteed for those who do not register online.

If you have any questions, trouble registering online, or need to request special accommodations for participation, please contact Ed Thomas at 573-693-1511.

**Working together, we can help build a better world for all.**

## A Thank You to People First MO

To all the People First Chapters who helped out with the Real Voices Real Choices Conference,

On behalf of the staff and committee members of the Real Voices Real Choices Conference we want to THANK YOU very much for your support. It takes many people to be able to help host such a large group of individuals. Missouri People First has done an outstanding job helping with this conference over the last three years. We are truly grateful for the help that individuals offered in the art room and Windgate Hall during meal times and want to make sure that you know how much we appreciate all the support and help you give.

If you have any feedback that you would like to share with us, we would appreciate it. What you liked, what you think can be improved on, or any suggestion you may have. If you would also like to help again next year at the conference, please send us your name and contact information so we can provide you with information as it comes available.

Sincerely,  
Garret Lawrence  
Missouri Department of Mental Health  
Consumer Conference Co-Chair

## Hands Around the Capitol

Missouri State Capitol, Jefferson City

<https://www.facebook.com/handsaroundcapitolMO>



Awareness



Advocacy

October 6th  
12 p.m.



Civil Rights

ADA 25  
AMERICANS WITH  
DISABILITIES ACT  
1990-2015

Inclusion

Celebrate



Road to Freedom

- Celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the ADA at the State Capitol
- Come listen to speakers
- Receive resource information
- Raise disability awareness
- Everyone is invited

12 p.m. Event Speakers

1 p.m. Surround the Capitol holding hands

For more information, please contact Rob Honan, Governor's Council on Disability, 573-751-2600

## Celebrate the 25th Anniversary of ADA

On OCTOBER 6th, 2015, a coalition of disability rights groups and other organizations is sponsoring "Hands Around the Capitol." This exciting event will celebrate the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act and

October as "Disability Awareness" month. Several great speakers are lined up, including the Governor.

For more information, visit the event [Facebook page](#) or call the number listed on the flyer above.



# Working for Change in Missouri Guardianship Laws

Did you know the Guardianship law in Missouri is 32 years old? Think of how many things have changed since it was passed in 1983! Many people in Missouri believe it is time for the way guardianship is handled for people with disabilities in our state to change too.

A group called MO-WINGS (Missouri's Working Interdisciplinary Network of Guardianship Stakeholders) is working to write new words for a better law. Many people are helping, like lawyers, social workers, college professors, public administrators, people with disabilities and their parents, siblings,

guardians, and representatives. One member of the group was there when the first law was written in 1981!

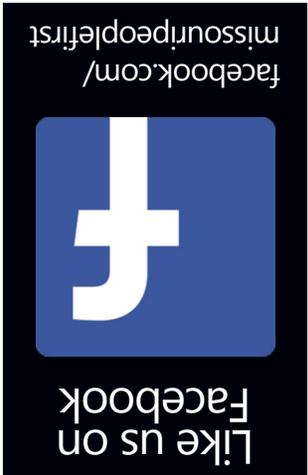
MO-WINGS has met for a few years to look at the law and think of ideas to make it better. They are also using reports from the National Guardianship Summit (2011) to guide their work.

One part of the law they hope to fix will make judges think through all other options for each person before appointing a full guardian or conservator. These options might mean getting more support from family and friends, becoming more

independent by using adaptive technology, having a trustee or someone to help with the person's money but not make decisions for him or her, or limited guardianship. MO-WINGS has many other ideas to improve the law, too.

Members of the group have been talking about the project and their plans to take it to the state legislature next session at meetings across the state.

MO-WINGS invites you to learn more about its work, leave your comments and suggestions, and find out about October meetings by visiting the website at [mo-wings.org](http://mo-wings.org).



PLACE  
POSTAGE  
HERE



PO Box 30142  
Kansas City, MO 64112  
KDK29