



Learning and Reflection Forum 4
December 14, 2016 2:00 - 3:30 pm Eastern

Forum 4 - Cultural Implications of Self Advocacy

Forum Presenters

Elvir Ariza-Silva, Individual and Family Advocate
DC Quality Trust for Individuals with Disabilities

Diana Autin, Executive Co-Director for Health and Family Support,
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network of New Jersey (SPANNJ)
National Field Co-Coordinator, Family Voices

Tawara D. Goode, Principal Investigator
Leadership Institute for Cultural Diversity and Cultural and Linguistic Competence
Director, Georgetown University National Center for Cultural Competence
Associate Director, Georgetown University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities

Dori Tempio, Community Outreach & Consumer Rights Coordinator
Able South Carolina

Forum Description

There is no one definition of self-advocacy. A common thread that runs through most definitions of self-advocacy includes the action of representing one's self, expressing one's views or interests, and making decisions about one's own life. While many within the developmental disability community embrace self-advocacy as a core value, the practice of self-advocacy, its significance, and its expression varies from culture to culture. This forum will feature the voices of a diverse panel of people with developmental disabilities, how they view self-advocacy, and what self-advocacy means from their unique cultural perspective. It will also offer insights and examples from a national organization that is responsive to culture in supporting self-advocacy for culturally and linguistically diverse populations. The forum will also delve into the role of leaders in discovering, respecting, and responding to the culturally-defined determinants of self-advocacy.

Forum Objectives

1. Define self-advocacy.
2. Describe the culturally-defined determinants that influence self-advocacy.
3. Explain how organizations tailor self-advocacy efforts to the cultural and linguistically diverse populations that they serve.
4. Reflect on leadership that supports culturally-informed self-advocacy at the individual, family, and community levels.