



# Newsletter

Nothing About Us Without Us



## President's Report

## Regional Meetings

### Welcome to our 2017 Summer Newsletter.

People First has been recruiting new members and organizing new chapters. We have joined other disability advocates to fight for increased funding, stop Medicaid cuts, support Insurance for Autism services, funding for the Alabama Housing Trust Fund and more. In March, a group travelled to Washington D.C. to participate in the 2017 Disability Policy Seminar and met with our Federal lawmakers. We also met with state legislators on these topics during the Alabama legislative season. -**Katy Johnson, President**



April 5, 2017 State Board Meeting

### BIG NEWS: JUNE 7-9, 2018. National Conference Self Advocates Becoming Empowered in Birmingham, Alabama.

**State Office Staff; Left to Right:** Julie Morrow, Program Director; Susan Ellis, State Coordinator; Allison Haynes, Outreach Coordinator; Shea McKinney, State Chapter Coordinator



America's Choice Chapter of People First Hosts

### REGION V MEETING

WED., JULY 12, 10 AM TO 2 PM



Cleburne County Commission Mountain Center in Heflin, AL. 6751 Hwy. 78, Heflin, AL 36264.

### A JOB IS A HUMAN RIGHT: THE CAMPAIGN FOR EMPLOYMENT FIRST IN ALABAMA

- 10:00 REGISTRATION
- 10:30 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS
- 10:45 CAMPAIGN FOR EMPLOYMENT FIRST IN ALABAMA
- 11:15 LUNCH (PROVIDED) Music by "Sounds of Joy" from Tuscaloosa
- 12:00 FIT FRIENDS FUN EXERCISE
- 12:30 EMPLOYMENT FIRST ACTIVITY
- 1:00 GUEST SPEAKERS: **State Mental Health Commissioner Jim Perdue**  
**State Commissioner of Rehabilitation Jane Elizabeth Burdeshaw**
- 2:00 ADJOURN

#### Mileage reimbursement forms available at the meeting.

Please respond to this communication informing us whether your group will be in attendance and how many will be coming as soon as possible or by July 1st. Also, if you cannot attend, please let us know.

For questions or more information, simply respond to this email or contact Brittany Rouse at 256.310.9852 or Lynetta Owens at 256.676.0687.

**WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO A MEETING IN EACH REGION THIS YEAR. WE WILL EDUCATE ON 'EMPLOYMENT FIRST' POLICIES. PEOPLE FIRST HAS A NEW VIDEO ON EMPLOYMENT FIRST AND WE WILL SCHEDULE MEETING IN EACH REGION; UPCOMING REGION V. CONFERENCE, JULY 12 IN HEFLIN.**

## Keys to the Community

People First of Alabama is busy implementing our new Alabama Council on Developmental Disabilities grant to empower all self-advocates to be participants in community activities of their choice. We have given presentations at two locations and participants are learning about community participation and how to participate and how to plan an activity in their community. Let us know if your organization would like to have these presentations at your group. They are fun and productive.



## Young Emerging Leaders

Our program for youth ages 16-26 years old is organizing bi-monthly trainings. July 22 will be our next training in Hoover, Alabama. You may call [Shea McKinney](tel:205-417-3563) at 205-417-3563; or email [peoplefirst.leadership@gmail.com](mailto:peoplefirst.leadership@gmail.com). The participants will receive intensive training on self-advocacy leadership and human rights and each will be recognized as disability leaders in our state. Graduates will have the skills and knowledge to be effective members of community organizations and agencies, including leadership bodies. The training is available to youth all over the state. If you are a teacher and would like to have presentations on any topics related self-advocacy, self-determination, leading your own IEP, Human Rights, Civil and disability Rights; contact us by email or phone.



## New Chapters

**The University of Alabama is the home of our newest chapter and the only university chapter in our state! We hope it is the first of many to come. The chapter President is Jamaica Cooper who is a recent graduate of the CrossingPoints program on the campus. This is a transition partnership for students who have received their credentials from their high schools in Tuscaloosa. Jamaica found out about People First through her participation in Young Emerging Leaders. Following her graduation from CrossingPoints, she has become a staff member at the university in the Education Department. The chapter recently hosted a week of Disability Awareness. Check out their Facebook page.**



# PEOPLE FIRST

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