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## FOCUS GROUP RECRUITMENT

**ID Action needs your help!** ID Action will be conducting a series of focus groups across the state to learn more about what lowans with disabilities and their families need to become more active advocates for change.

Each session will last two hours and they will be held at the following locations:

### **DES MOINES – Wednesday, June 2**

Noon

3:00 p.m.

6:00 p.m. **(NOTE: THIS FOCUS GROUP**

**SESSION IS FOR PARENTS OF**

**CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES ONLY.)**

### **OMAHA – Monday, June 7**

Noon

3:00 p.m.

### **DAVENPORT – Thursday, June 10**

Noon

3:00 p.m.

If you are interested in participating in one of the focus groups or know someone who may be interested, you can submit a form by visiting [www.idaction.org](http://www.idaction.org) or by calling **1-866-432-2846**.

Someone from the ID Action office will contact you and ask a few questions to make sure that each of the sessions includes participants who represent a variety of interests and backgrounds. Participants do not need to be registered with ID Action.

Please share this information with family and friends who may be interested in participating.

## GUEST AUTHOR REQUEST—WHY I ADVOCATE

We are looking for ID Action registrants to interview for upcoming newsletter articles about why you advocate. If you are interested in discussing why you joined ID Action, how it has helped you advocate for yourself or someone else, what you have accomplished as an advocate or any other topic pertaining to advocacy, we want to hear from you!

Please email [contactus@idaction.org](mailto:contactus@idaction.org) or leave a message at **1.866.432.2846** and we will contact you for an interview.



## JOIN THE INFONET FAN PAGE TODAY!

Once you've created a Facebook page for yourself, check out the new infoNET fan page! You can find the infoNET fan page by typing "infoNET" into the search box on your Facebook page, or you can visit [www.infonetiowa.com](http://www.infonetiowa.com) and click the link to access the fan page. What do you do once you're a fan? Start interacting with other infoNET fans.

- **Write on the wall.** The fan page has a white box that prompts you to share "What's on your mind?" You can share:
  - Examples of how you advocated for change
  - Events happening in your area
  - Post your photos from advocacy events
- **Start a discussion.** Do you have a topic or issue that you would like to discuss with other lowans with disabilities? Click on the Discussions tab and start a conversation. All of the infoNET fans will see your posting and have the opportunity to engage in the discussion.
- **Get real-time information on disability-related bills.** You'll be able to see immediate updates on legislative news that affects people with disabilities.
- **Tell your friends and family about the infoNET fan page.** Do you know someone else who may be interested in becoming a fan of infoNET? Under the infoNET logo on the upper left hand side of the fan page there is a link, "Suggest to Friends." You can recommend the infoNET fan page to as many of your Facebook friends as you want!

## IOWA DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL MEMBER RECRUITMENT

The Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council is recruiting applicants to be considered for appointment to the Council. This year we have several openings for people with developmental disabilities who are interested in advocating for systems change and increasing the number of lowans with disabilities who actively participate in decision-making that affects their quality of life.

A developmental disability refers to disabilities acquired before the age of 22, that are permanent and result in needs for assistance in three or more life areas, such as learning, living, working, caring for oneself, transportation.

The Council's focus on systems change means that we often do not see immediate results. True systems change is incremental and takes long-term strategies that change people's awareness and attitudes. It also takes grassroots interest groups that can effectively communicate with decision-makers about issues and solutions. The Council needs members who are tolerant of this systems change process and who are able to unselfishly represent lowans with developmental disabilities.

Council members are appointed by the Governor and must be able to commit time to prepare for and attend six full-day Council meetings per year, and to engage in other Council-related activities, such as policy-related, educational and outreach activities.

If you are interested, please complete the Boards & Commissions Resume Form available by calling the DD Council Office **(1.800.452.1936)** or online at <http://openup.iowa.gov/bc-resume.pdf>. Please return your completed form by May 21, 2010, to this address:

### Developmental Disabilities Council

617 East 2nd Street  
Des Moines, IA 50309  
1.800.452.1936

## 2010 PRIMARY ELECTIONS: TUESDAY, JUNE 8

The Iowa Primary Elections are coming up on June 8, 2010, and polls will be open statewide from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. In a Primary Election, candidates run against other candidates from the same party to win that party's nomination. Registered voters participate by voting for one candidate for either the Democratic or Republican parties. The winners from each party will then have their names placed on the general election ballot in November.

ID Action encourages registered voters to get out and vote in this year's Primary Election! Be sure to bring photo identification, such as a driver's license, and your voter identification card with you when you go. Your polling place, which is the location where you should vote, is printed on your voter identification card.

You still have time to register before you cast your vote, or you can register at the same time! Here are a few things you should know when registering to vote before or at a Primary Election:

- Voters must choose to register as either Democrat or Republican in order to vote at the Primary Election.
- If you want to register before the election, contact your County Auditor or the Secretary of State's office to request a form. These forms are also available to download from their websites.
- You may also register to vote on Election Day at your designated polling place. Your polling place is determined by your home address.
- You can find out your designated polling place by contacting your County Auditor or the Secretary of State's office. You can also visit the Secretary of State's website at <http://www.sos.state.ia.us> and enter your address.



- If you want to register at your polling place, you will need to bring photo identification and proof of residency with you. This could be a valid driver's license or other any official identification with your photo and address on it.
- A few weeks after you've registered to vote, you will receive a notification in the mail confirming that you are now a registered voter, as well as your voter identification card.

If you can't make it to vote June 8, contact your County Auditor to find out what the procedures are for early voting and absentee ballots. If you have any questions about voting in the Primary Election, please contact your County Auditor or the Secretary of State's office.



## ADVOCATING FOR CHANGE CAMPAIGN GRANTS

Advocating for change is always important, which is why this year we left our day at the State Capitol behind and took Advocating for Change Day to the streets—your streets. ID Action wants to work with you and other community advocates to plan and implement Advocating for Change campaigns and events in your own communities. If you have something that you want to change to make your city, county or state a better place for lowans with disabilities, this is your chance to be heard.

There is still grant money available to help you organize a local campaign. Anyone interested in creating a leadership team and developing a campaign is welcome to apply. Grant awards of up to \$2,000 are available for activities that may include educational workshops, grassroots and coalition-building activities, and public forums. Since ID Action is a nonpartisan project, grants may not be used to advocate for a particular political party or candidate.

Funds are limited, so use your imagination and be creative in your efforts! Grant guidelines and an application form are available on our website at [www.idaction.org](http://www.idaction.org) or by calling **1.866.432.2846**.

Congratulations to the following teams that have already been awarded Advocating for Change Campaign Grants. Look for more updates and information on what these teams are doing to make a difference in their communities.

- The Arc of Cedar Valley, Waterloo—Dave McCalley
- The Arc of East Central Iowa, Cedar Rapids—Tara Cornelius
- Three Rivers Independent Living Corporation, Sioux City—Jeannie Theis
- Opportunity Village, Clear Lake—Cindy Richardson
- Peer Action Disability Support (Citizens for People with Disabilities)—Cherie Clark
- People First and The Arc of North Iowa, Mason City—Barry C. Trump and Jeremy Beavers

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Do you have an event that you would like to share with other ID Action registrants? Let us know and we'll post it to the ID Action Web site!

ID Action will only post events that relate to civic and/or political involvement and include the following information:

- Name of the event
- Brief description of the event
- Date
- Location
- Time
- Cost (if applicable)
- Contact information

You can email the information to [contactus@idaction.org](mailto:contactus@idaction.org) or mail it to:

lowans with Disabilities in Action  
P.O. Box 71369  
Des Moines, Iowa 50325

Don't forget to check out [www.idaction.org](http://www.idaction.org) for a list of these events!



## SAVE THE DATE: BUILDING BRIDGES DAY AT THE IOWA STATE FAIR

The 15th Annual Building Bridges Day at the Iowa State Fair will take place on Friday, August 20. Building Bridges Day is a special day promoting unity and understanding between fairgoers and lowans with disabilities. ID Action staff will be available to answer questions, as well as give away information and resources about ID Action and its services. Please plan to come and see us that day at our booth!



## UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION

ID Action has a large mailing list, so we appreciate your help in making sure we have your correct contact information.

Please let us know if any of the following affect you:

- Different address;
- Name change;
- If you and your spouse are receiving multiple copies of the same mailing; or
- You would like to receive the ID Action mailings electronically.

If at any time you would like to make one or more of the above changes, contact ID Action at [contactus@idaction.org](mailto:contactus@idaction.org) or **1.866.432.2846**.

P.O. Box 71369 | Des Moines, IA 50325 | 866.432.2846 | A project of Iowa's Developmental Disabilities Council

