



# DDS Self Advocate Coordinator Fact Sheet

**What is a Self Advocate Coordinator?** DDS has created nine new positions to help consumers to be more involved in all agency activities. Three consumers work in each of the three regions as state employees for 20 hours per week. Their work responsibilities focus on the following areas:



➤ **Self Advocacy:** Help make self-advocacy bigger and better in CT!



➤ **Consumer Participation:** Expand consumer participation in DDS decision-making activities



➤ **Leadership Development:** Help self advocates become effective leaders through participation in training and Toastmaster activities



➤ **Regional Responsibilities:** Assist DDS employees within each division to improve how to effectively support consumer self advocacy and self determination activities



➤ **Spreading the Word!:** Help spread the word about self advocacy and self determination in ways that are easy for others to understand

**Contact your Self Advocate Coordinator today!**

**How can the Self Advocate Coordinators help you?** The Self Advocate Coordinators can assist you in lots of ways. They can assist you to enhance your self advocacy skills. They need to know your points of view about important issues and they need to know what training and educational opportunities would best meet your needs. They also want to hear your ideas for newsletter articles, guides and other written material that will help you and other consumers to advocate better and to lead self determined lives. They want to be good representatives for you and the other people served by DDS.

**What other ways can Self Advocate Coordinators help?** They can help to start a self advocacy group. They can also help existing self advocacy groups to do more and to improve on their current activities.

**Who should I contact for more information about ways a Self Advocate Coordinator might help?** You should call the Self Advocate Coordinator in your geographic area if you are interested in learning more about the work they do, or if you think they can assist you in some way. The contact information for the Self Advocate Coordinator in your area is listed below:

### **North Region**

(Willimantic Area): Varian Salters - 860-456-6345

(East Hartford Area):

(Newington Area): Carlos M. Colon – 860-331-2072

### **South Region**

(New London Area): Joyce Rivers - 860-859-5442

(Wallingford Area): Carol Grabbe – 203-294-5119

(New Haven Area): Genna Lewis-203-974-4225

### **West Region**

(Torrington Area): Jamie Louchen –860-496-3067

(Cheshire Area): Jossie Torres – 203-806-8736

(Waterbury Area): Ivan Villa-203-806-8830

(Southbury Training School): Vincent Cox-203-586-2934

**Call Now!**