Update and Quarterly Report Summary:

State Name: **Tennessee**

**AccomplishmentsYear One: (Oct 2013-Sept 2014)**

150 Surveys Completed

2 Vlogs Produced

Topics of Vlogs:

1. Basics of Self—Advocacy and the Importance of Speaking Up for Oneself (Gatha Logan)
2. Closing TN’s Institutions (Bill Gage)

**Who represented your state on the advisory committee and at the face to face advisory committee meetings?**

Nashville Carol Rabideau (VKC) and Emma Shouse (TN Council on DD), Ruthie Beckwith, Bill Gage, Sam Gage, Gatha Logan

Birmingham Carol Rabideau (VKC) and Anna Base (DRT), Bill Gage, Sam Gage

**Highlights from your state that you are proud of from Year Two:**

1. Successfully closed the last major institution in TN
2. Insured the setup of proper supports and transition of former institution residents into community-based living
3. Created Facebook page and gained 159 likes as of Sept. 30, 2015
4. Gained membership
5. Established groundwork for new Nashville chapter
6. Created partnership with the National Federation of the Blind of TN to collaborate on the Sub Minimum Wages issue (TIME Act)

**Report October, 2015- December 31, 2015:**

**Advisory Committee Meetings:**

Decatur, GA.: Bill Gage, Sam Gage, and Carol Rabideau (ally)

**Allies, who participated in face to face meetings, supported your plan implementation and webinars:**

1. Vanderbilt Kennedy Center
2. TN Council on Developmental Disabilities
3. Disability Rights of TN

**Webinars that you participated in this year:**

**October 22: Closing Institutions:**

Number who participated: 5 (Bill Gage, Sam Gage, Gatha Logan, Ruthie Beckwith, Carol Rabideau

**November 19:** **Youth Recruitment Strategies:**

Number who participated: 4 (Bill Gage, Sam Gage, Lorri Mabry, Carol Rabideau)

**Local or state events October 2015-December 31, 2015 (8 grassroots events-2 per quarter)**

1. PF Board Member April Meredith, and President of NFB of TN James Brown, met with Field Rep. Tina Jones of Congressman Desjarlais’s office to ask for support of the TIME Act
2. Lorri attended 2 Clover Bottom settlement conferences with the state
3. Bill, Sam, Charles, Jack, Lorri, Mark, Ruthie & Carol attended the Clover Bottom closing ceremony, 11/5/15
4. Bill, Sam, Lorri, Ruthie, Charles, April, Gatha, Emma, Alicia, Carol, and 4 support staff attended the TN OCSS committee meetings (10/11/15 & 11/19/15).

**Date Vlog submitted (2 needed for year)** 02/25/2016

**Topic(s) of Vlog**

1. Eliminating Sub Minimum Wages (TIME Act); April Meredith & Charles Hall
2. Still planning

Inclusion in Faith Community of Choice; Lorri Mabry

**Grants obtained with partners to work on priority issues.**

Ruthie submitted an application for The Campaign for Human Development for grants for 2016-2017. Request was for $25,000 to use for leadership development with a focus on eliminating sub minimum wages in Tennessee. Waiting for response on grant application.

Ruthie, April, and Tiffany met twice in February to discuss fundraising strategies.

**Retreat with Partners: Date(s) Partners who participated**

TN OCSS work group meeting scheduled on Jan. 21, 2016 to plan retreat.

As of 04/25/16, Retreat possibly to be held on 08/5-6/16 or in conjunction with TASA meeting; at DRT or VKC; Planning Subcommittee formed (Carol, Lorri, and maybe Gatha); $600-800 of PFT funds earmarked; TCDD Education and Travel Grant may be used to support attendees

**Other state plan activities that you are proud of from 2015:**

1. Bill, Sam, and Ruthie hosted a webinar on Closing Institutions.
2. We gained 170 likes on our FB page as of Dec. 31, 2016.
3. Those who have liked our FB page not only include individuals, but also other self-advocacy organizations.
4. April & Lorri each submitted a presentation proposal for the 2016 TN Disability Mega Conference. Both are accepted.

**Local or state events January 1 – March 31, 2016**

**(Eight grassroots events – 2 per quarter)**

1. 03/17/16 OCSS Advisory Committee Webinar (Ruthie and Emma; Bill and Sam tried but unsuccessfully logged in)
2. Retreat location research (Ruthie and Emma)
3. 3 Nashville chapter meetings held (Lorri, Ruthie, Scott Finney, and Charles Hall)
4. Attended 2 Middle TN Focus Group meetings (Lorri and Ruthie)
5. **TN Disability Mega Conference planning: Received official acceptance letters of 2 presentation proposals (April and Lorri); collaborated with NFB-TN President/Copresenter (April); Corresponded with conference planners including Carol (April); Reserved PFT booth for April and Lorri (Ruthie)**

**Other state plan activities that you are proud of from January 1 – March, 2016:**

1. Recruited new PFT member
2. PFT Facebook page increased total likes/followers to 182 as of 04/25/16
3. 02/19/16 Attended VSA Young Soloist Competition and interviewed guest performer American Idol Season 8 finalist Scott MacIntyre (April)

**Other completed activities to be included on 3rd Quarter Report:**

1. 04/01-03/16 Attended National Federation of the Blind Convention (April)
2. 04/22/16 Presented at TASH Faith Conference (Lorri)
3. 04/25/16 OCSS Advisory meeting with partners
4. 04/25/16 PFT Executive Board meeting