**QUARTERLY REPORT COVER SHEET**

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| 1 | **Grant Number** | 90DN0331-01-00 |
| 2 | **Project Title** | “Our Community Standing Strong” (OCSS)  A Regional Technical Assistance Center for the Southern Collaborative |
| 3 | **Grantee Name & Address** | 4401 West Northwood Lake Dr.  Northport, Al. 35473 |
| 4 | **Telephone number** | 205-310-4839 |
| 5 | **Project Period** | October 1, 2013-September 30, 2014 |
| 6 | **Reporting Period** | January 1, 2014-March 31, 2014 |
| 7 | **Project Director/Principal Investigator** | Vicki Hicks Turnage |
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| 10 | **Date of Report** | April 21, 2014 |
| 11 | **ACL Program Officer** | Katherine Cargill-Willis |
| 12 | **ACL Grants Specialist** | LaDeva Harris |

**SECTION 1**

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| **Goal 1**    To provide regional technical assistance to strengthen the participating states capacity to increase and support self advocacy through relationships and partnerships at the community level. | |
| Objectives  C:\Documents and Settings\Katherine.CargillWi\Local Settings\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\HYWMHL8B\MM900234700[1].gif | * 1. Identify capacity of SABE and participating states to provide peer advocacy and mentoring.   2. SABE and participating states identify resources and provide opportunities for training and leadership development for and by participating states.   3. SABE supports states in providing education and outreach to their local groups and community. |
| Activities  C:\Documents and Settings\Katherine.CargillWi\Local Settings\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\UOH8537N\MC900440201[1].wmf | 1. 48 attended the advisory Committee meeting in Nashville on January 11-12, 2014. 2. SABE President Bryon Murray welcomed the group and several of the board members joined in the meeting. 3. We had representatives from Vanderbilt and University of South Carolina UCEDD’s and a representative from the Tennessee Sibling’s Network. 4. The meeting addressed strategies for completion of surveys, state presented on the demographics and needs of their state organization and an ally presented on use of social media. 5. States also discussed their strengths and needs for technical assistance at this meeting. 6. Two committees were formed to address survey results and social media and webinar and advisory committee planning 7. All eight states have signed their contracts, completed phase one of the contract, and received their first payment. 8. States have worked on needs assessment surveys and as of March 31 states had completed 605. 9. Committees and Advisory Committee met by phone and Go To Meeting-March 4 and March 6. 10. North Carolina and South Carolina had competed the requirement for 150 survey per state. 11. The Advisory Committee identified and scheduled six webinars based on their immediate needs for technical assistance. 12. The topics and dates for the Webinars are:  * March 27: Vlogging: Video Blogging Beth Hopkins, Self Advocate Mentor Arc of Tennessee * April 22: How to develop a plan? * May 27: How can our DD Partners Help Us? * June 24: Finding Strategies * July 22: Writing Grants * August 26 Keeping Granting * TBD Developing Strategies and Building Partnerships * TBD Blogging- Getting your message out!  1. States were invited and some participated in the SABE-Autism Now Webinar on Closing Institutions. Presenters included The Alabama Disability Advocacy Program (ADAP) and People First of Alabama. Represented OCSS as panel members on the webinar. 2. We are encouraging states to produce video blogs (Vlogs). The first Vlog or Blog are due by end of April. 3. Topics of Vlogs or Blogs will be: employment, children in nursing homes, social security and work incentives, transportation. 4. Provided one on one consultation by phone and e-mail to self-advocacy organizations and partners to Alabama, Arkansas, Tennessee, Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina. 5. Published two articles in SABE Nation on Our Community Standing Strong and an article on Employment First published in the Kansas City Times featuring Jeff Ridgeway and People First of Alabama efforts to promote employment. 6. Set up Facebook Page and worked with SABE’s website developer in revamping the website to feature Our Community Standing Strong. |
| Outcomes  C:\Documents and Settings\Katherine.CargillWi\Local Settings\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\1DMY56TI\MC910217623[1].wmf | 1. Advisory Committee has met 2 times during quarter. January 11-12- Nashville-Face to Face,   March 4-Committees-Conference Call  March 6-Advisory Committee-Go To Meeting   1. 605 needs assessments collected as of March 31, 2014. Two states have completed 150 survey requirement. 2. All 8 states have completed demographic survey which included identification of 5 topics for technical assistance and identification of state expertise in providing peer to peer technical assistance. 3. Six Webinar topics have been identified and scheduled. 4. Peer to Peer Technical Assistance have been provided by representatives from state organizations and their allies 5. States also participated in the Webinars on Closing Institutions and Vlogging |

**SECTION 2**

**Collaborations**

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1. SABE continues to collaborate with Syracuse in managing the Listserv,

2. ASAN and NEAT met by conference call on January 10. Discussion included setting up a Facebook page for the Self Advocacy Technical Assistance Grantees. OCSS posted their surveys on the site for other grantees to review. A conference call have been scheduled for April 3. The topics of discussion will include a joint presentation at the National Self Advocacy Conference in Oklahoma.

3. OCSS will present with ASAN and NEAT at Reinventing Quality Conference in Baltimore in August.

4. Vanderbilt University UCEDD has been extraordinary in reaching out to collaborate with our project. This has included the participation of two staff from the University. In addition, the project provided technical assistance to Vanderbilt in the area of how to support self advocacy in Tennessee. The Center offered to develop a survey to be used to gather information for other UCEDD’S in participating state on how they supported self advocacy.

5. University of South Carolina sent a staff member from the UCEDD to the meeting in Nashville. In addition, another staff member and a self-advocate will present an advanced webinar on Blogging.

6. The Arc of Tennessee’s Self Advocate Mentor, Beth Hopkins presented a webinar on Vlogging.

7. Arkansas UCEDD sent a representative to the Nashville Meeting and participated in the State call with Arkansas.

8. ADAP-Alabama (P and A) and President of People First of Alabama Co-presented on Webinar on Closing Institutions.

9. DD Councils from Florida and South Carolina supported their team members and allies to attend the meeting in Nashville.

10. Self Advocacy organizations from Alabama and Oklahoma supported their team members and allies to attend meeting in Nashville.

11. Georgia’s P and A supported their representatives attendance and are involved in the Survey Result Committee.

12. Alabama Department of Mental Health Director of Self Advocacy Services attended the Advisory Committee meeting in Nashville.

13. National Sibling Network published an article highlighting the collaboration that is being facilitated by the project.

14. The Arc of South and North Carolina stepped up to act as fiscal agents for their self advocacy organizations.

**SECTION 3**

**Problems**

1. SABE Website is in process of reconstruction so the project has been delayed in establishing a page for Our Community Standing Strong. We have made progress and should have this in place in the 3rd quarter.

3. One state self advocacy group had indicated in the first quarter that they would not be able to participate. The group has also been reluctant to communicate their concerns to their partners to see if they could assist. However, this was corrected by the involvement of one of the partners.

4. Outcome based contracting was somewhat new to some of the fiscal agents. We have worked through these issues.

5. Number of needs assessment survey continue to be an issue for some states due to resources needed. We are working through these issues and will consider extending the deadline if needed.

6. Use of an internet based survey was new to some organizations. Some states have been very successful in managing these issues and are providing support to other states.

7. Internal communication and interactions within state organizations.