**SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT COVER SHEET**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | **Grant Number** | 90DN0301-02-00 |
| 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, 2014-September 30, 2015 |
| 6 | **Reporting Period** | April 1- September 30, 2015 |
| 7 | **Project Director/Principal Investigator** | Vicki Hicks Turnage |
| 8 | **Report Author** | Chaqueta Stuckey  Vicki Hicks Turnage |
| 9 | **Telephone** | Chaqueta Stuckey: 843-319-0118  Vicki Hicks Turnage: 205-310-4839 |
| 10 | **Date of Report** | March 22, 2014 |
| 11 | **ACL Program Officer** | Katherine Cargill-Willis |
| 12 | **ACL Grants Specialist** | LaDeva Harris |

****

**SECTION 1**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **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 | Identify capacity of SABE and participating states to provide peer advocacy and mentoring.  SABE and participating states identify resources and provide opportunities for training and leadership development for and by participating states.  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 | As of September 30, 2015 seven of eight states have completed their state plans and are reporting progress.  We have also added Mississippi to our project. There group has completed the State Organization demographic survey has submitted 34 surveys.  Current survey count for OCSS states is 1331.  We have collaborated with the Southwest Alliance Self Advocacy TA Center and they are using the survey developed during the first year of the project. This Center has completed 628.  Link to survey results: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-KYNYNS67/>  The Advisory Committee has met by Go To Meeting September 17, 2015. We have met 3 times for the year.  Met with 8 of 8 states by Go To Meeting to review their plans and accomplishments. We have also met with Mississippi to negotiate their involvement with the project.  Two Face to Face Meetings were held during the first six months of project. Dates were: October 11, 2014-Oklahoma City, Oklahoma (SABE National Conference) and March 19-20, 2015 in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina). Plans were made during this reporting period for a face to face meeting in Decatur, Georgia for October 10-11, 2015. The event will be hosted by People First of Georgia and the Georgia Advocacy Office. It will be held in conjunction with the SABE Board Meeting.  Webinars for period included:   * 4/23/14 Building Effective Teams * 6/18/15 Membership Recruitment-Focus on Youth * 7/23/15 Organizing Around an Issue * 9/24/15 Partnerships Outside the Disability Community   Vlogs for period:  12 Total for year: 15  Topics:   * Long Road Home * A Job is a Human Right, Bullying * Navigating Disability: Disability Q and A * Personal Success Stories * Marriage Penalty * Leadership * ADA   Continued to post our work to <http://www.sabeusa.org/projects/our-community-standing-strong/>  Posted events on SABE Facebook page  Developed evaluation survey for 2015. To be completed at Face to Face meeting in Decatur, Georgia October 10-11. |
| Outcomes  C:\Documents and Settings\Katherine.CargillWi\Local Settings\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\1DMY56TI\MC910217623[1].wmf | Advisory Committee met with Go To Meeting on September 17, 2015. States presented on their state plan activities.  Mississippi joined OCSS and has completed their state organization demographic survey and 34 needs assessment surveys were completed,  Peer to Peer Technical Assistance have been provided by representatives from all state organizations and their allies in advisory meetings, state team meetings, and webinars.  Our Community Standing Strong page on SABE website continues to be updated. Google Analytic Reporting indicates that there have been 560 visitors to site. Of these visitors 539 are new to the site. SABE site was rebuilt during this same period   |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | State Plans:   * 7 of 8 states have completed their plans and are in process of implementation. We are in process of uploading reports to website.   Google Analytics October 1, 2014-September 30, 2015 | | | | | | | **User Type** | **Sessions** | **% New Sessions** | **Bounce Rate** | **Pages / Session** | **Avg. Session Duration-Seconds** | | New Visitor | 539 | 100.00% | 76.44% | 0.95 | 17.35 | | Returning Visitor | 21 | 0.00% | 71.43% | 1.29 | 63.05 | | Total | 560 | 96.25% | 76.25% | 0.96 | 19.06 |   Facebook likes :   * 76 Facebook Blogs posted in year 2. * 664 people were reached * 65 Likes on Community Standing Strong Page to date. * 411 Likes on Self Advocacy Technical Assistance * 1545 Members Self Advocates Becoming Empowered   You Tube Self Advocates Becoming Empowered: Our Community Standing Strong Series   * 15 New vlogs posted during period (39 over two year project period) 928 views on You Tube to date. * See Self Advocates Becoming Empowered Station-Our Community Standing Strong Video Series: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLHe4SX3HJvyt8jUw4e5BzvfquH-2M1rXg>   Face To Face Advisory Meeting:   * Myrtle Beach meeting in March focused on sustainability and this discussion will continue at our Face to Face meeting in October in Decatur, Georgia (October 10-11, 2015),     Designed evaluation survey and collected responses.   * Preliminary results from our evaluation is attached and may also be accessed at : <https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-Y8PPSB2C/> * 21 people have responded to date. |
|  |  |

**SECTION 2:**

**Collaborations**

****

* Met by conference call with AIDD and other SA Regional Technical Assistance projects on calls: May 18, June 1, August 5.
* Continued collaboration with NEAT, Southwest Alliance and Heartland Centers on Self Advocacy
* Collaborated with states on their plan implementation
* Continued to encourage partner participation in advisory committee meetings and webinars.
* Partners from UCEDD’s (Vanderbilt University, University of South Carolina, and University of Arkansas), Tennessee DD Council, P and A’s from Tennessee, Alabama and Arkansas have been active participants in webinars and advisory committee meetings.

**SECTION 3**

**Problems**

One state self advocacy group continues to have problems with survey completion and plan development. Our team is working with this state and there partners. Two of their DD Partners attended the Face To Face Advisory Committee meeting in Myrtle Beach. A face to face technical assistance visit is planned for 2016 to work with the leaders to develop a plan to rebuild their state group.

We continue to have some problems with technology and access for committee members, but we have the attitude that we have to continue to try to experiment with technology to assist people in becoming more comfortable with technology as a means of strengthening our efforts. We are considering a project with NEAT and the Vote Project to record short instructional videos that will complement the Technology Handbook published during the first six months of the reporting period.

**SECTION 4**

**PRODUCTS THAT HAVE BEEN DISSIMINATED**

**IN THE LAST SIX MONTHS**

* Financial report for period to SABE Board and for grant reporting
* Webinars Recordings and presentation material:
  + Team Building
  + Strategies for Membership
  + Recruitment of Youth
  + Steps in Organizing around an issue
  + Partnerships outside the Disability Community.
* State Plans Updates
* SABE Nation featured an article in Spring Newsletter
* 12 Vlogs posted on You Tube during period: 39 total Vlogs for two year period: 928 Views to date
* Facebook Posts
* Advisory Committee Meetings Minutes -Go To Meeting
* Evaluation Survey

Attachment 1:

Evaluation of Success of Project for October 1, 2014-September 30, 2015

Participants in the project were asked the following questions about their satisfaction with the project:

1. How has the OCSS project been important in your life?
2. Success stories
   * That demonstrates the power of the self advocacy movement
   * That demonstrates the importance of peer to peer learning

Quotes include:

“My experience with OCSS has provided me with the opportunity to see how other states work with their self advocacy groups and succeed at different projects. By talking to leaders from other states at our face to face meetings, I have learned about techniques of organizing that I can bring back to Alabama.”

Brittany Gore, Advisory Committee Member from People First of Alabama

“Partnering with OCSS has been helpful in learning how to support the self advocacy network and allowed for us as Partners to talk with other states about their successes.”

Tom Masseau, Arkansas Disability Network

“I applied for a full time self advocate position at the University of Southern Mississippi UCEDD and I got it. I liked meeting other self advocate leaders and doing something that is important is important to the community.”

Taylor Corley, Advisory Committee Member from Mississippi Self Advocacy Team Member

“Our Community Standing Strong has helped me to realize the type of advocate that I am. It has allowed me to network with other advocates. It has provided with training that I enjoy. It has also helped me to advocate for the use of technology in my state. I have discovered Vlogging with my I Pad. I loved telling my story and hope to produce another great video this year. I absolutely love being a part of Our Community Standing Strong.”

Ebony DeLoach, Advisory Committee Member from IMPACT South Carolina.

“Since attending the OCSS advisory meeting in Myrtle Beach, I feel like I am more vocal and I teach people how to speak up for themselves.”

Saquan Brown, Secretary IMPACT South Carolina

“The OCSS project, and my involvement with People First of TN, has encouraged me to professionally network and build personal supports. It has helped me further develop practical skills for a work environment, recognize and utilize my unique talents, and gain confidence to be successful in all aspects of my life. I am thankful for all the challenges, opportunities and relationships this project provided.”

April D. Meredith Greater Nashville Area PF of Tennessee

“Life in the real world is my quote as that is what I do! OCSS has helped me continue my mission to share my idea and help others with micro-enterprises, and promote ADA and parking patrol. Being part of this group helped my state self advocacy group become a non-profit. OCSS has united the states that are involved in the project...we can achieve anything we wanted as United We Stand!”

David Taylor, Jr. Advisory Committee Member, SABE Region 6 Alternate People First of North Carolina

“Being part of the OCSS project has strengthened my desire and drive to promote self-advocacy efforts in our state.  Meeting with such great self-advocates from across the south is such an amazing and inspirational experience that everyone should have!!!!”

Jerry Alliston, Ally University of Southern Mississippi

“OCSS has supported our self advocacy organization in learning how to do technology and helped us get more involved with our partners.  We love the idea of reaching out to other states and learning from them in ways to better our state. I recently had to go to the hospital and got completely ignored by the workers because of being a person with intellectual disabilities.  It picked up my stuff and went to another hospital.  I was able to do that because of the strength I have gained from OCSS.”

Dee Banta, Advisory Committee Member, Region 9 SABE Alternate Oklahoma People First

“OCSS important to the independent living community because we have been a little behind in the south.  SA is important for breaking down the barriers for people with disabilities.

“**Long Road Home** events are important to us because southern states have had no real funding and are driven completely by the passion that we all have for the movement.  It is such a civil rights law for SA. “

Cheri Mitchell, People First of Georgia and Georgia Advocacy Office

“OCSS has helped me as a person.  It has given me more patience to be a better leader.  I actually have more patience.  Everything is about timing with self advocacy. I serve on the transportation board in Florida and I have to takes stances because people who do not know the situation will try to incorporate things that are not realistic.  I stepped on toes and made my point. “

Arizona Jenkins, Advisory Board Member, Florida Self Advocacy Network (FLSAN)

Success stories are also featured in our Vlog series:

Some of the most powerful stories featured in this series include:

* Impact, Ebony’s Story, March 2015
* Jeff Ridgeway: Celebration of Life 2015: Advisory Committee Members share stories of a Great Southern Leader at Face To Face Meeting in Myrtle Beach, March 2015
* Bernard Baker’s Story
* Independent Living: Connie Coleman’s Journey
* <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLHe4SX3HJvyt8jUw4e5BzvfquH-2M1rXg>

Survey Results:

**Q1 Please tells us about you.**

**Answered: 21 Skipped: 0**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Answer Choices** | **Responses** | |
| Name: | **100.00%** | 21 |
| Organization | **0.00%** | 0 |
| Address: | **100.00%** | 21 |
| Address 2: | **4.76%** | 1 |
| City/Town: | **100.00%** | 21 |
| State: | **100.00%** | 21 |
| ZIP: | **100.00%** | 21 |
| Country: | **100.00%** | 21 |
| Email Address: | **100.00%** | 21 |
| Phone Number: | **100.00%** | 21 |

**Q2 what state are you from?**

**Answered: 21 Skipped: 0**

**Alabama**

**Arkansas**

**Florida**

**Georgia**

**Oklahoma**

**Mississippi**

**North Carolina**

**South Carolina**

**Tennessee**

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

**Q3 Which organization do you represent?**

**Answered: 21 Skipped: 0**

**State Self Advocacy**

**Local Self Advocacy**

**Protection and**

**Advocacy**

**Developmental Disabilities...**

**University Center for...**

**The ARC**

**State Developmenta...**

**Independent Living Center**

**Parent Organization**

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Answer Choices** | **Responses** | |
| State Self Advocacy | **71.43%** | 15 |
| Local Self Advocacy | **14.29%** | 3 |
| Protection and Advocacy | **4.76%** | 1 |
| Developmental Disabilities Planning Council | **0.00%** | 0 |
| University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities | **9.52%** | 2 |
| The ARC | **0.00%** | 0 |
| State Developmental Disabilities | **0.00%** | 0 |
| Independent Living Center | **0.00%** | 0 |
| Parent Organization | **0.00%** | 0 |
| **Total** | **21** | |

**Q4 Please let us know how you have been involved in Our Community Standing Strong, the Regional Technical Assistance center for Self Advocacy? You can choose more than one response.**

**Answered: 21 Skipped: 0**

**Completed surveys**

**Attended Face**

**to Face...**

**Attended GoToMeetings...**

**Attended Conference...**

**Created Video**

**Blogs**

**Presented on a**

**Webinar**

**Created a state plan**

**Held a Technical...**

**Presented at a Conference**

**None. New to the project**

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Answer Choices** | **Responses** | |
| Completed surveys | **66.67%** | 14 |
| Attended Face to Face advisory committee meeting | **90.48%** | 19 |
| Attended GoToMeetings and GoToWebinars | **71.43%** | 15 |
| Attended Conference Calls | **61.90%** | 13 |
| Created Video Blogs | **52.38%** | 11 |
| Presented on a Webinar | **33.33%** | 7 |
| Created a state plan | **42.86%** | 9 |
| Held a Technical Assistance Events | **28.57%** | 6 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Presented at a Conference | **33.33%** 7 |
| None. New to the project | **19.05%** 4 |
| **Total Respondents: 21** |  |

**Q5 Please tell us how each activity worked to strengthen our peer to peer technical assistance efforts during the second year of our project. Your will need to respond to each activity.**

**Answered: 21 Skipped: 0**

**Did not attend webinars, th...**

**Face to Face Advisory...**

**Getting together wit...**

**Conference**

**calls**

**Development of state plans ...**

**Working with**

**partners**

**Advisory Committee...**

**Webinar Presentations**

**Production of Video Blogs ...**

**Grassroots**

**Survey**

**State Demographic...**

**Presentation on Video...**

0 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 1 1.2 1.4 1.6 1.8 2

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Worked Extremely well** | **Worked well** | **Worked okay** | **Worked somewhat** | **Did not work at all** | **Total** | **Weighted Average** |
| Did not attend webinars, this is my first year. | **83.33%**  5 | **16.67%**  1 | **0.00%**  0 | **0.00%**  0 | **0.00%**  0 | 6 | 1.17 |
| Face to Face Advisory Committee Meetings | **71.43%**  15 | **28.57%**  6 | **0.00%**  0 | **0.00%**  0 | **0.00%**  0 | 21 | 1.29 |
| Getting together with representatives from other state groups and allies | **68.42%**  13 | **21.05%**  4 | **10.53%**  2 | **0.00%**  0 | **0.00%**  0 | 19 | 1.42 |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Conference calls | **61.90%**  13 | **28.57%**  6 | **4.76%**  1 | **4.76%**  1 | **0.00%**  0 | 21 | 1.52 |
| Development of state plans for technical assistance | **47.37%**  9 | **52.63%**  10 | **0.00%**  0 | **0.00%**  0 | **0.00%**  0 | 19 | 1.53 |
| Working with partners | **47.37%**  9 | **47.37%**  9 | **5.26%**  1 | **0.00%**  0 | **0.00%**  0 | 19 | 1.58 |
| Advisory Committee Meetings by GoToMeeting or GoToWebinar | **47.62%**  10 | **42.86%**  9 | **4.76%**  1 | **4.76%**  1 | **0.00%**  0 | 21 | 1.67 |
| Webinar Presentations | **42.11%**  8 | **52.63%**  10 | **0.00%**  0 | **5.26%**  1 | **0.00%**  0 | 19 | 1.68 |
| Production of Video Blogs by states on issues | **52.63%**  10 | **36.84%**  7 | **5.26%**  1 | **0.00%**  0 | **5.26%**  1 | 19 | 1.68 |
| Grassroots Survey | **47.37%**  9 | **42.11%**  8 | **5.26%**  1 | **0.00%**  0 | **5.26%**  1 | 19 | 1.74 |
| State Demographic Survey | **47.37%**  9 | **42.11%**  8 | **5.26%**  1 | **0.00%**  0 | **5.26%**  1 | 19 | 1.74 |
| Presentation on Video Blogging and Technology at National Conferences | **50.00%**  9 | **38.89%**  7 | **0.00%**  0 | **5.56%**  1 | **5.56%**  1 | 18 | 1.78 |

**Q6 Please let us know how we can improve our project for Year 3.**

**Answered: 21 Skipped: 0**

[**Communication**](https://www.surveymonkey.com/analyze/1TxJp_2FQmpmYsdVAZMg2f3xIyxeXStX6VVT3th_2BdbwSo_3D) **14.29%**

[**Continue to share**](https://www.surveymonkey.com/analyze/1TxJp_2FQmpmYsdVAZMg2f3xIyxeXStX6VVT3th_2BdbwSo_3D) **19.05%**

[**Increase participation**](https://www.surveymonkey.com/analyze/1TxJp_2FQmpmYsdVAZMg2f3xIyxeXStX6VVT3th_2BdbwSo_3D) **4.76%**

[**No recomendations**](https://www.surveymonkey.com/analyze/1TxJp_2FQmpmYsdVAZMg2f3xIyxeXStX6VVT3th_2BdbwSo_3D) **42.86%**

[**Sustainability Planning**](https://www.surveymonkey.com/analyze/1TxJp_2FQmpmYsdVAZMg2f3xIyxeXStX6VVT3th_2BdbwSo_3D) **19.05%**

**Q7 How would you rate your overall satisfaction with your participation in our project for Year 2?**

**Answered: 21 Skipped: 0**

**Extremely Satisfied**

**Very Satisfied**

**Satisfied**

**Somewhat Satisfied**

**Not Satisfied**

**Comment**

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Answer Choices** | **Responses** | |
| Extremely Satisfied | **57.14%** | 12 |
| Very Satisfied | **19.05%** | 4 |
| Satisfied | **14.29%** | 3 |
| Somewhat Satisfied | **4.76%** | 1 |
| Not Satisfied | **0.00%** | 0 |
| Comment | **4.76%** | 1 |
| **Total** | **21** | |

**Q8 Identify problems you may have experienced in using technology for this project.**

**Answered: 21 Skipped: 0**

**Could not log in to the...**

**I used the phone to cal...**

**I lost connection**

**None**

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Answer Choices** | **Responses** |
| Could not log in to the computer | **23.81%** 5 |
| I used the phone to call in, but could not talk to others | **9.52%** 2 |
| I lost connection | **19.05%** 4 |
| None | **57.14%** 12 |
| **Total Respondents: 21** |  |

**Q9 Please check the webinars that your participated in.**

**Answered: 21 Skipped: 0**

**Partnerships Outside of t...**

**Building Effective Teams**

**SALT Leadership**

**Organizing Around an Issue**

**Strategies for Membership...**

**This was my first year o...**

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Answer Choices** | **Responses** | |
| Partnerships Outside of the Disability Community | **71.43%** | 15 |
| Building Effective Teams | **42.86%** | 9 |
| SALT Leadership | **38.10%** | 8 |
| Organizing Around an Issue | **33.33%** | 7 |
| Strategies for Membership Recruitment | **28.57%** | 6 |
| This was my first year on the project | **4.76%** | 1 |
| **Total Respondents: 21** |  | |

**Q10 Please tell us if the webinars we conducted this year were useful.**

**Answered: 21 Skipped: 0**

**Building an Effective Team**

**Partnership outside the...**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | | | | |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  | | | | |

**SALT**

**Leadership...**

**OCSS**

**Strategies f...**

**Organizing around an Issue**

**This is my first year o...**

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Not helpful** | **A Little Helpful** | **Helpful** | **Very Helpful** | **Fantastic** | **Total** | **Weighted Average** |
| Building an Effective Team | **0.00%**  0 | **0.00%**  0 | **17.65%**  3 | **35.29%**  6 | **47.06%**  8 | 17 | 4.29 |
| Partnership outside the Disability Community | **0.00%**  0 | **0.00%**  0 | **17.65%**  3 | **41.18%**  7 | **41.18%**  7 | 17 | 4.24 |
| SALT Leadership Training | **0.00%**  0 | **6.25%**  1 | **18.75%**  3 | **25.00%**  4 | **50.00%**  8 | 16 | 4.19 |
| OCSS Strategies for Membership Recruitment | **6.67%**  1 | **0.00%**  0 | **20.00%**  3 | **26.67%**  4 | **46.67%**  7 | 15 | 4.07 |
| Organizing around an Issue | **6.25%**  1 | **0.00%**  0 | **18.75%**  3 | **31.25%**  5 | **43.75%**  7 | 16 | 4.06 |
| This is my first year on the project | **0.00%**  0 | **0.00%**  0 | **100.00%**  1 | **0.00%**  0 | **0.00%**  0 | 1 | 3.00 |