**State Name**: \_\_Tennessee\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Organization Name: \_\_\_People First\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Demographic survey from Survey Monkey (insert your information) **153**

C:\Users\Juliana\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\18CRGSBE\MC900388914[1].wmf**Mission statement**

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| Our mission statement is …  *Our mission is to provide a means for people with disabilities to air and alleviate their concerns in the areas of housing, education, employment, and transportation.* |



**Our History**

We started on October 19, 1982.

We have nine state board members.

We have eight self-advocacy chapters in our state. Three chapters are meeting: Lewisburg, Hohenwald and Waynesboro. Selmer and Chattanooga have met off and on over the past two years. Three chapters (Murfreesboro, Jackson and Nashville) would like to start meeting right away.

**(SCOTT Analysis)**

C:\Users\Juliana\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\18CRGSBE\MC900368302[1].wmf **Strengths:** Make a list of the things you are most proud of:

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| 1. People First of Tennessee is the oldest self-advocacy organization in the South. 2. Grass roots work of the past. 3. We helped to close the Louisa Developmental Center in Murfreesboro. 4. We helped get legislation passed that limited the number of people who could live in a group home. 5. We had the first VISTA volunteer project in the country that had only people with disabilities as VISTA volunteers. 6. The People First of Tennessee v. Arlington Developmental Center lawsuit was the first lawsuit in history filed by people with disabilities and who had lived in a public institution. The People First of Tennessee v. Cloverbottom Developmental Center closed the Nate Winston Developmental Center in 1998. Clover Bottom Developmental Center is scheduled to close and we are working to close the Greene Valley Developmental Center. 7. The lawsuits resulted in over 1,500 people moving to the community. The budget for community services increased from 60 million in 1990 to 770 million today. 8. We were one of five state self-advocacy organizations that had representatives meet with Deval Patrick at the United States Department of Justice about having them take stronger positions on their institution cases. 9. We hosted the 1991 National Self-Advocacy conference with over 600 attendees from 32 states. At this conference self-advocates voted to start the national organization, Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered. We hosted 8 meetings of the national organization when they were first beginning and had three different members serve on the board of directors. 10. We had a federal Department of Education Self-Determination grant that we used to start high school chapters and write a curriculum that was published by James Stanfield, called *Lessons in Living*. 11. We had shared a Self-Determination Grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation with People First of Alabama and People First of Georgia to teach people about self-determination. This grant helped start the Southern Collaborative. 12. We participated with ADAPT in direct actions that focused on getting people out of nursing homes. 13. We were included in Joe Shapiro’s book, *No Pity*. 14. We filed a lawsuit against DMRS over people not being told that they could sign up to be on the waiting list for services 15. We held a recognition ceremony to thank people who had helped people move out of the Arlington Developmental Center 16. Members of People First find their voice and learn how to speak up. 17. Arlington Developmental Center law suit ended. |

C:\Users\Juliana\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\116F6F1A\MC900383288[1].wmf **Challenges:** Make a list of your challenges and barriers:

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| 1. Getting membership back up. 2. Getting the chapters together –    1. Finding volunteers to serve as local chapter advisors (organizers).    2. Transportation to get to meetings.    3. Communicating with agencies that prohibit or discourage attendance at People First meetings.    4. Communication and making arrangements for people served by agencies due to staff change.    5. Lack of understanding about how collective self-advocacy is different from individual self-advocacy and why organizing is important for people to have a voice and true influence |

C:\Users\Juliana\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\116F6F1A\MC900436992[1].wmf **Opportunities:** Make a list of your resources: people, partnerships and money.

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| 1. The Developmental Disabilities Network –  * Disability Law & Advocacy Center of Tennessee * The University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities at Vanderbilt Kennedy Center and the University of Tennessee Boling Center * The Tennessee Council on Developmental Disabilities  1. The Sibling Leadership Network 2. The Center for Independent Living in Chattanooga - Trac 3. The Tennessee Disability Coalition 4. The Arc of TN & local 5. The Training and Rehabilitation Center (TRC) in Smyrna 6. Our lawyers: Jack Derryberry, Judy Gran, and Earle Schwartz 7. The Quality Review Panel 8. Our donation letter raised $600 this year. |

 **Threats and Trends:** List the problems that you do not have control of and that keeps your group from accomplishing your goals:

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| Transportation  Sources of funds: problems with the audit of our last grant with DIDDs have interfered with us being able to get a new grant from them for operating funds. |

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**State Technical Assistance Project Work Plan**

**Goal: Develop and Implement a State Technical Assistance Needs and Plan to strengthen the organization**

Measurable Outcome(s): Participating State Self Advocacy Organizations develop, implement and monitor an individualized plan for strengthening their organizations and local groups capacity to run their organizations through partnerships with SABE, DD Network, and community organizations.

**State Name: People First of Tennessee, Inc.**

| **Objective** | **Action Steps** | **1\***  **October-December**  **2014** | **2\***  **January-March**  **2015** | **3\***  **April-June** | **4\***  **July-September** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **To Develop or Enhance partnerships with DD Partners in your state** | 1. **Host a retreat to identify ways and timeframes on activities that you can work together on** | Late Oct. |  |  |  |
| **Increase connections to the grassroots to promote self advocacy efforts** | 1. **Host five regional Grassroots meetings with a partner to help recruit members and help old and new members develop a plan for starting local chapters in their region. We will host three Grassroots meetings with a partner to focus on (1) Employment First and (2) building a stronger state organization.** | (Retreat to plan regional visits in the next 3 quarters) | Middle TN (Nashville or Murfreesboro | East TN Knoxville  West TN (Jackson – Union College) | West TN (Memphis)  Upper East TN (ETSU) |
| **Enhance the state leaderships skills in providing peer to peer technical assistance in their state and the region** | 1. **Participate in Quarterly Advisory Committee meetings for OCSS** 2. **Attend Face to Face Meetings of the Webinar** 3. **Present on at least one OCSS Webinar** 4. **Submit at least 2 blogs or Vlogs on issues of concern** 5. **Participate in OCSS Webinar** | Oklahoma meetings  *?*  TBA? *Who choses Topics?*  April & Jennifer  *Where to send file?*  TBA  *Can we know questions to be answered ahead of time?* | TBA  April & Jennifer  TBA | TBA  TBA | TBA  TBA |
| **Establishment of state structure to maintain connections with grassroots** | 1. **Develop a strategic plan and funding (financial plan) for a state structure that supports grassroots issues** 2. **Secure at least one grant per year with the support of your partners** | Investigate grant opportunities, write letters of intent, plan grant writing schedule.  Campaign for Human Dev.; Local Murfreesboro Group; Community Development Block Money | X |  |  |