

Update and Final Report Summary:

State Name: **Tennessee** (insert your logo and any pictures from events in your state)

**Accomplishments: (October 2013-September 2016)**

\_150\_\_\_ # of Surveys Completed

\_6\_\_\_ # of Vlogs Produced

\_2\_\_\_# of Webinars presented by members of your organization or Allies

\_10\_\_\_# of participants in webinars for period from your state. (*10 different participants were on more than one webinar during the 3 year grant. Please let us know if different info is needed here.)*

**Please list 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)
3. Eliminating Sub Minimum Wages (TIME Act); April Meredith & Charles Hall
4. Inclusion in Faith Community of Choice; Lorri Mabry
5. Navigating Disabilities Q & A Part 1 April Meridith & Alecia Searcy
6. Navigating Disabilities Q & A Part 2 April Meridith & Alecia Searcy

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

Please indicate what face to face meetings they attended.

2014: Nashville and Birmingham

Nashville: Bill Gage, Sam Gage, Gatha Logan, Ruthie Beckwith, Emma Shouse, Carol Rabideau

Birmingham: Bill Gage, Sam Gage, Anna Bass, Carol Rabideau

2015 Oklahoma City and Myrtle Beach

Oklahoma City: Bill Gage, Sam Gage, Emma Shouse, Carol Rabideau

Myrtle Beach: Bill Gage & Sam Gage

2016 Decatur and Orlando

Decatur: Bill Gage, Sam Gage, Carol Rabideau

Orlando: Bill Gage & Sam Gage

Highlights from your state that you are proud of for the project period: Please list all of the grassroots events with dates that you were involved in. Each state was to host at least 8 events in year 2 and 3 of the project.

**Grassroots Events:**

October 1, 2013-September 30, 2014

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| DATE | DESCRIPTION OF EVENT |
| December 2013 | Reactivated Facebook Page |
| December 4, 2013 | Arlington Law Suit dismissed |
| March 2014 | Established People First of Tennessee website |
| Quarterly throughout period | People First of TN Board meetings and chapter meetings |
| May 2014 | TN Disability Mega Conference PFT TN Collected surveys |
| May 2014 | TN Disability Mega Conference: Bill Gage, Gatha Logan, and Jennifer Austin presented on the Our Community Standing Strong project. |
| Aug- October 2014 | Planned and hosted small retreat. |

October 1, 2014- September 30, 2015:

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| --- | --- |
| DATE | DESCRIPTION OF EVENT |
| October 2014-September 2015 | Insured the setup of proper supports and transition of former institution residents into community-based living |
| Throughout period | Gained PF membership |
| January 2015 | Created partnership with the National Federation of the Blind to collaborate on the Sub Minimum Wages issue (Time Act) |
| January 2015-Sept. 2015 | Began communications with DIDD to present on PF of TN at Focus Group Meetings |
| Spring 2015 | Established ground work for new Nashville Chapter |
| April & July 2015 | Attended 2 Clover Bottom Settlement Meetings |

October, 2015- December 31, 2016:

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| --- | --- |
| DATE | DESCRIPTION OF EVENT |
| In this period | PF Board Member April Meredith & 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 |
| 11/8/15 | OCSS sponsored community meeting for self-advocates/family members |
| 11/5/15 | Bill, Sam, Charles, Jack, Lorri, Mark & Ruthie & Carol attended the Clover Bottom closing ceremony |
| February 2016 | Ruthie, April & Tiffany met to discuss fundraising strategies |
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| Nov & Dec 2015  Jan 2016 | 3 Nashville PFT chapter meetings |
| March & April 2016 | Attended 2 Middle TN DIDD TN Focus Group meetings |
| April 2016 | Lorri presented at TASH Faith Conference |
| May 2016 | 2 presentations at TN Disability Mega Conference: Minimum wage & Time Act (April with NF-TN) and The Choices Waiver (Lorri). Also had a People First TN booth at Mega. Recruited 30 new PFT members. |
| April 2016 | PFT Executive Board Meeting |
| May 2016 | Met with Arc Rutherford Country president to discuss possible partnership/collaboration |
| May 2016 | Ruthie & PFT met with Ruthie on grand update and draft job listing for potential Community Organizer position, pending grant |
| June 2016 | PFT meeting with grant representative from CCHD, PFT Board Meeting, and OCSS work group meeting |
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| 8/6/16 | OCSS Retreat – Members of People First of TN, Members of Volunteer State People’s First from Buffalo River, Allies, and 2 Path Facilitators from The Arc TN created a PATH for People First of Tennessee |
| September 2016 | Organized & held West TN PFT meeting |
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**Please list Allies, who participated in face to face meetings, assisted with webinars, and supported your plan implementation and travel to face to face meetings:**

Ruthie Beckwith, PFT Advisor

Emma Shouse, TN DD Council

Anna Bass, Disability Rights Tennessee

Carol Rabideau, Vanderbilt Kennedy Center (UCEDD)

Alicia Cone, TN DD Council

**Webinars that you participated during the project period:**

TN participated in 13 or 14 webinars. The four in 2015-2016 were:

Closing Institutions hosted by Tennessee & Alabama

Youth Leadership Training, Youth Summits and other ways to engage youth

Long Road Home and Olmstead: How do we expand our efforts beyond Institutions and Nursing Homes

How can our Partners help to sustain our Peer to Peer Efforts

**List any grants obtained with partners to work on priority issues. (Describe the grant and the partners)**

None. Ruthie submitted a grant for 2016 to CCHD which was accepted, but ultimately denied. The grant asked for funds for efforts to get minimum wages in sheltered workshops. However, the 2014 CMS ruling said there could be no more sheltered workshops, community employment only. So the goal of the grant was not relevant nor legal. CCHD welcomes a new grant application in their next funding cycle.

The Arc of Tennessee has worked with PFT to submit a grant application to the Disability Coalition. Grant application still pending.

Planning meetings (Retreats) with Partners:

Date(s) Partners who participated

8/12/14, 9/3/14, 9/24/14 TN OCSS work group meeting Emma Shouse, DD Council,

Anna Bass, Disability Rights TN, Carol Rabideau, Vanderbilt Kennedy Center UCEDD, Ruthie Beckwith, Advisor to PFT

10/30/14, 2/12/15, 4/2/15, 5/13/15, 6/4/15, 8/20/15 TN OCSS work group meeting Emma Shouse & Alicia Cone, DD Council,

Anna Bass, Disability Rights TN, Carol Rabideau, Vanderbilt Kennedy Center UCEDD, Ruthie Beckwith, Advisor to PFT

10/22/15, 11/19/15, 2/12/16, 4/25/16, 6/20/16 TN OCSS work group meeting Emma Shouse & Alicia Cone, DD Council,

Anna Bass, Disability Rights TN, Carol Rabideau, Vanderbilt Kennedy Center UCEDD, Ruthie Beckwith, Advisor to PFT

8/16/16 Retreat mentioned above. 30 were in attendance including Members of People First of TN, Members of Volunteer State People’s First from Buffalo River, Allies, 2 Path Facilitators from The Arc TN, and 2 student interns.

**Other state plan activities that you are proud of from 2016:**

* Recruited new PFT members
* PFT Facebook page followers increasing (194 likes/followers as of 6/16)
* 2/19 Attended VSA Young Soloist Competition and Interviewed guest performer American Idol Season 8 finalist Scott Macintyre (April)
* 4/16 Attended National Federation of the Blind Convention (April)
* Attorney for PFT had closing institution progress meeting for Green Valley
* Created People First of Tennessee Youtube channel
* Maintained strong collaboration with the NFB on TIME Act advocacy
* April wrote and submitted 2 articles about the subminimum wage issue, the TIME Act, and PFT?NF advocacy/collaboration (TN Voice newsletter and Breaking Ground Magazine)
* The Arc of TN is currently supporting PFT pro bono, after the resignation of long-time advisor Ruthie Beckwith who now the Executive Director of TASH
* April Meridith secured employment at Empower TN (CIL)

Please tell us how OCSS had strengthened your state efforts and how the peer to peer interactions has affected your life and the lives of other involved in the movement in your state and the South.

By getting chapters established and more active, new friendships and opportunities for social interaction are now occurring in Tennessee. People are utilizing and developing leadership skills. Using social media is allowing more people to be in contact with peers. Additionally, now know self-advocates from OCSS – Southern Coalition, to learn from moving forward.

Increased partnerships with DD and Community Partners is resulting in increased fundraising activities and future TASA (VKC Project) meetings for self-advocates to meet others from across the state.