

Inside This Newsletter

- ☆ [Task Force's National Teleconference /Webinar](#)
- ☆ [Board and Task Force Join Forces](#)
- ☆ [Lights! Camera! Access!](#)
- ☆ [Membership Drive](#)
- ☆ [Creative Process](#)
- ☆ [Featured Article](#)
- ☆ [Karina in Costa Rica](#)
- ☆ [KASA Stats](#)

KASA Task Force Hosts National Teleconference and Webinar



This October the KASA Task Force hosted a national teleconference/webinar called *Working With a Paraprofessional (One-on-One Aide) in School: Using the KASA Paraprofessional Toolkit*. This teleconference/webinar was free to participants and presented information about KASA and the KASA Paraprofessional Toolkit, including what is in the toolkit, how to use it, tips for all involved, etc. The presentation even gave tips on how to be youth-led! The presenters shared the challenges they faced in working with paraprofessionals (sometimes called "one-on-ones" or "associates") as well as what worked. They also shared what the process of developing the toolkit involved. Task Force Members spent two and a half years on this project after one member shared his experiences with the group. The Task Force decided that they wanted to do something to improve other young people's experiences with paraprofessionals, and the *KASA Paraprofessional Toolkit* was born.

Task Force Member Sarah Sims was interviewed about the teleconference/webinar by a KASA Interviewer. Here is what she had to say:

KI: How did you feel about the fact that the Task Force put on a national teleconference/webinar?

SS: It was a really exciting thing to do. I was amazed at how many people listened in and requested that it [the presentation] be done again.

KI: How much work went into preparing for the teleconference/webinar?

SS: We got started back in August. We had to sort out who could do what, who was available to be on, how many extra calls we would need to have, who would get the PowerPoint ready, and practice. A lot went into it.

KI: What did the Task Force hope to accomplish by hosting the teleconference/webinar?

SS: We hoped that by doing it, we can spread the news about what we had been working on and teach people how to use it.

KI: What did you learn from this experience?

SS: We all learned how to effectively make presentations. We had to make the physical presentation and present the toolkit under time constraints. Others also learned what the toolkit was about.

If you missed the teleconference/webinar it's recorded! To check it out or to order the toolkit, visit www.fvkasa.org

If you want to be a part of national KASA's success, visit our website at www.fvkasa.org. You can become a member, find helpful resources and/or make a donation today.

KASA Membership Drive

KASA is hosting a Membership Drive, and we want you! Your input and feedback is important to us. We work to include our members in meaningful ways in our youth-driven, grass-roots project. If you want to learn more or have something to say...join us today!

Here are just a few of the things our members get as being part of KASA—and membership is FREE for youth.

Benefits of a lifetime KASA Membership:

- o Lifetime access (subscription) to our email listserv, full of opportunities and resources.
- o Discounts on our reports and manuals.
- o Access to youth experts on youth leadership and meaningful youth involvement and/or gain access to youth who can speak at your meetings and attend your trainings. (See KASA's "Guide to

KASA Board & Task Force Join Forces in New Mexico

By Mallory Cyr and Jennifer Thomas



The first week of August, 2010, the KASA Board and Task Force had their in-person meeting. It was a two-day meeting held in Albuquerque, New Mexico where the Family Voices office is located. The KASA Board and Task force



spent the first day of the meeting doing activities and training around advocacy and issues of disability pride and justice. The second day they discussed and worked on revising KASA's values and mission statement.

The second day the Board and Task Force met

separately so that each group could work on individual projects. The Board moved forward with the Chapter Development Manual, and the Task Force continued planning for the teleconference/webinar on the Paraprofessional Toolkit.

It was a very productive couple of days. The meetings focused on project goals and next steps. The Board and Task Force agreed that it was wonderful to have the opportunity for the Board and Task Force to meet and work face-to-face after only hearing each other's voices during



teleconferences or working together online. The group is looking forward to continuing the bond that meeting together has allowed them to create in their working relationship and personal lives as well.



To keep up with what KASA is doing, join us on our website or on Facebook at:

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=52342247092>

If you want to be a part of national KASA's success, visit our website at www.fvkasa.org. You can become a member, find helpful resources and/or make a donation today.

KASA CONNECTION!

Presentations and Technical Assistance” brochure)

Our network features youth and young adult leaders as resource experts on living in the community, managing our health care, going to school, advocacy, civil rights, getting a job and much more!

We provide information on scholarships, conferences and events around the country.

Check us out on our website and see what other resources we have to offer and become a member today!

Featured Article By Bryan Dooley

The article featured this month is *Welcome to... A Typical Life?!? (and I have a disability!)* by Torrie J. Bryant. It is a great conversation starter. Sit down with your parents, and I guarantee a lively discussion will follow. Bryant gives a view from the child with a disability of an essay *Welcome to Holland* by Emily Pearl Kingsley. This essay is usually



Creative Process

By Allison Cardwell



In addition to all of the great advocacy that is showcased in KASA’s newsletter, we’ve added a spark of creativity! The creative process allows KASA’s board members to collaborate on a

creative process of their choice. This newsletter, we asked each board member to submit a picture of their favorite thing or activity. From these pictures, we created a collage, allowing all our interests to come together. Whether it’s attending conferences, going to concerts,

volunteering at a refugee resettlement camp, or listening to Sondre Lerche, Board Members have fun doing their favorite things!

Lights! Camera! Access!

By: Danielle Lucchesi Fellguth

This past summer, KASA Board Member, Danielle Lucchesi Fellguth had the opportunity to represent KASA at the “Lights! Camera! Access! Summit” sponsored by Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) and co-sponsored by the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences.

During this summit in Los Angeles, California, casting directors, agents, unions, guilds, performers, writers, diversity groups focused on entertainment and many others came together to think of ways to improve images of and increase employment opportunities for people with disabilities who are involved in the entertainment industry.

A few of the participants included Robert David Hall, of the popular TV show *CSI*; Department of Labor Assistant Secretary for ODEP, Kathy Martinez; and RJ Mitte who was on *Breaking Bad*, another popular TV show. These people as well as other influential people spoke, asked questions, and participated in discussions on five different panels that



If you want to be a part of national KASA’s success, visit our website at www.fvkasa.org. You can become a member, find helpful resources and/or make a donation today.

KASA CONNECTION!



given to parents to comfort them after their child is diagnosed with a disability. Read both at <http://fvkasa.org/reports/welcome.php>

Connecticut KASA

Connecticut's state KASA Chapter has been connecting with National KASA to review some final projects and have been discussing the process of recruiting new members as current members age out. They are also in the final process of reviewing healthcare transition booklets.

revolved around a variety of topics, such as producing, internships and mentoring in the entertainment industry.

I spoke on the panel about internships and mentoring with representatives of large networks, such as CBS, and others who would benefit from having information about internships and mentoring in the entertainment industry. I talked about KASA's mission, achievements, and the different methods and tools used to reach out to members, including the newsletter and monthly listserv. Through doing this, I assured people that if there were any opportunities for internships and/or mentoring, Kids As Self Advocates would be able to let a great deal of people know about them. I realize what a rare experience I had during "Lights! Camera! Access!" and am grateful and glad that I got to partake in it.

THANKS TO OUR KASA DONORS!!

Thanks to our donors! With your support, *KASA hires young adult consultants, shares teleconferences and webinars and gets needed "real life" information out to youth!* Besides our much-valued financial donations, KASA would also like to deeply thank our many in-kind donors!

Karina in Costa Rica

By: Jennifer Thomas

KASA Board Member Karina Chaikhoutdinov had been looking for a way to travel internationally and was wondering if it would even be possible for her considering her disability. Karina finally came across an opportunity to travel to Costa Rica with Mobility International USA (MIUSA). Karina stayed with a host family during her stay in Costa Rica. The host family was quadruplegic, so the entire house was accessible. "The family was so nice," Karina says, "they even accommodated my diet." Karina is also very grateful to Lydia Shula, Exchange Project Manager, for coordinating everything and making her trip to Costa Rica possible. Karina advises others with disabilities to try traveling internationally. "It's possible!" she says.



Taken at Plava Hermosa

KASA 6-Month Stats

The following are KASA's stats since the last newsletter:

531 average hits per day

Top 5 Web Downloads:

- *My Story About Surviving a Hospital Stay*—1,467 hits
- *How to Ride the Bus*—1,236 hits
- *How to Work with Personal Care Assistants*—1,230 hits
- *Dancing Through Life*—981 hits
- *Medical Model vs. Social Model*—612 hits

Top 5 Requested KASA Documents:

- *KASA Brochure*
- *KASA Publications Order Form*
- *KASA Benefits of Membership*
- *What is on the KASA Website*
- *How Can YOU be a Leader with KASA?*

**186,897
Total Hits
on the
Website**

If you want to be a part of national KASA's success, visit our website at www.fvkasa.org. You can become a member, find helpful resources and/or make a donation today.