

Meet the New National KASA Board & Task Force Members!



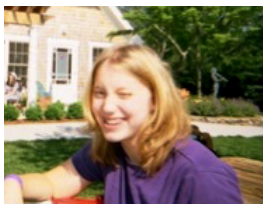
Bryan Dooley
Lewisville, North Carolina
National KASA Board Member



Allison Cardwell
La Mesa, California
National KASA Board Member



Luke Sapienza
Bristol, Vermont
National KASA Board Member



Emily Sinton
Redlands, California
National KASA Task Force Member

Getting Involved

By Danielle Lucchesi-Fellguth

Hey KASA members! Have you ever wanted to get involved with community service but didn't think you could because you have a disability? Well, one of our Board members felt that way and wrote "Getting Involved in Doing Community Service," one of KASA's newest tip-sheets!

This awesome tip-sheet features tips on how to be comfortable, confident, and proactive while helping out your community. It also includes an inspirational story about how a KASA Board member got involved with community service!

KASA has over 65 youth written tip sheets and resource guides on our website – all written for youth, by youth. To check out "Getting Involved in Doing Community Service" and other new additions to the website, visit KASA's "What's New" page at: <http://fvkasa.org/about/whatsnew.php>

To read all the other youth-created tipsheets and articles on everything from dating to self-advocacy, visit the KASA website's "Youth Resources" page at: <http://fvkasa.org/resources/index.php>

Attending AMCHP

By Mallory Cyr

In March of this year, I had the privilege to attend the annual meeting of the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs (AMCHP). I had attended before, to present for the Healthy and Ready to Work (HRTW) national center, but this time I attended on behalf of National KASA with a different perspective and the intention to come away with ways to further youth involvement at a national level. I had the opportunity to attend great workshops about things like learning how to tell your story and shifting your thinking about working to change the system. I also got the chance to visit Capitol Hill and have an actual meeting with one of my state senators. She was very interested in the work KASA does. Seeing how things happen at a higher level really made the thought of making a difference seem real! Overall it was a great experience, and I can't wait to go back to DC and continue to strive for change!



To Mallory - With appreciation for your advocacy!
Sen. Susan Collins

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.



Carrie Piaggi
Clarksburg,
Massachusetts
National KASA Task
Force Member

(Not pictured)
Kate Atwood
Arlington, Texas
National KASA Task
Force Member

Tapping into Creativity

By Jennifer Thomas

Have you done anything to tap into your creative side this spring? Well, the KASA Board has, and they are pretty excited about. Much of the time, the Board is very serious as it completes its projects and works on different tasks. As the board members have been discussing Disability Pride and ways to promote it among the Disability Community, the idea of starting a creative process came up.

The first creative process involved writing a group poem. Each member wrote a line of the poem and passed it on via email. Completing this process has also brought the Board closer together. Check out the KASA Board's poem *Happenings in Spring*.

Happenings in Spring

Where does the green grass grow?

In the wide open plains,

Under starry twinkling skies,

Beneath a white sheet of snow.

It is this moment I know my heart is at home.

It is sunny in the spring.

It is pretty in the spring.

Flowers bloom under the spring sun.

Reactions to KASA Tip-sheets and Articles:

"I loved your section on patient rights, loved it."

"The articles ["The History of Disability Portrayal in the Media; Disability Culture part 1" and "Disability Portrayal and the Media Today; Disability Culture part 2"] are both great resources for my paper."

KASA Six Month Statistics: November 2009 – May 2010

Total number of Website hits for fvkasa.org:
109,517

Number of hits **each day**: 622

Top 5 Documents Viewed on the KASA Website

- *Medical Model vs. Social Model* — 1,243 hits
- *Guides to Presentations and Technical Assistance* — 894 hits
- *Disability Portrayal and the Media Today; Disability Culture Part 2* — 873 hits
- *How To Give a Presentation* — 729 hits
- *KASA Connection Newsletter July/2009* — 524 hits

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His Journey- Reflection

By Danielle Lucchesi-Fellguth

Did you see the article in the last KASA Connection about Hamza Jaka, a KASA Board member, who travelled to Pakistan to do some advocacy work? If you've haven't, you can read it on KASA's website:

<http://fvkasa.org/KASA%20Connection%20Newsletter%2012%2009.pdf>

While in Pakistan, Hamza realized how simple things that we often take for granted and forget to appreciate can greatly affect people's lives. When asked how he would compare the U.S.A.'s disability community to the disability community in Pakistan, he stated that both communities have "energetic younger leaders that are getting ready to make big differences."

Hamza has been keeping up with his advocacy work overseas since he has been back in the United States by continuing to share resources and things he learned in KASA, like Disability Pride. Also he continues to provide advocacy assistance and help the Rising Sun Institute improve their therapy department. In the future, he plans on working even more to spread his knowledge about disability communities and disability pride in general in addition to continuing to learn from people.

Hamza's blog from his journey can be found at: <http://disabilityadvocacyinpk.blogspot.com> . . . Be sure to check it out! For more information on the Rising Sun Institute go to: <http://www.risingsun.org.pk/>



National KASA Board Update

The Board of National KASA has been very busy lately welcoming new members and with lots of great projects going on.

The current Board co-chairs have been working with Melinda Haus-Johnson and Teresa Squires of the Michigan Disability Rights Coalition to put on a two-part disability pride training for members of the KASA Task Force. The second and final part of this training took place at the end of May and was very well received by the Task Force Members, since many had a specific interest in learning more about Disability pride.

The KASA Board will also be working with volunteer Molly Greiner to learn about how laws are made and get put into place and the history of the creation of important laws, such as the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

The Board's committees have also been hard at work. The Membership committee worked on putting this newsletter together and getting the KASA Facebook group more active. The Chapter Development Committee is starting to wrap up the final edits to the long-awaited Chapter Development Manual, which will provide support and guidance to states wanting to have their own KASA chapter. Finally, the Fundraising committee has been working on letters to our donors, writing thank-you letters and reviewing grant applications.

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!



National KASA Task Force Update

The KASA Task Force had the pleasure of welcoming three new members to join in April! They also have been wrapping up their toolkit project for youth on working with para-professionals. They will be developing a teleconference training this fall to teach youth and adult allies how to use the toolkit! The monthly call for May was spent with members of the KASA Board and Michigan Disability Rights Coalition to do a training and discussion around Disability pride, which many of the members have been eager to learn more about!

Update from Connecticut KASA (CT-KASA)

Connecticut's state KASA chapter had their in person meeting in May and will be continuing to work on their Transitioning to Adult Health Care booklet.

Special Thank You to our Donors!

Thanks to our donors! With your support *KASA hires young adult consultants, giving them an opportunity to learn new skills and gain experience.* Besides our much-valued financial donations, KASA would also like to deeply thank our many in-kind donors!

Some of our All-Star Contributors include:


- **Patti Hackett**, who donated two frequent flyer plane tickets to support KASA youth to travel to our last in-person meeting where the KASA Board developed our 3-year strategic plan.
- **Healthy and Ready to Work and the Michigan Department of Community Health/Children's Special Health Care Services** both supported a KASA young person to attend the KASA Board meeting and the Family Voices conference.
- **Stacey Milbern**, who donated time to help update the KASA website with pictures, resources and a "What's New" page.
- **Melinda Haus-Johnson and Theresa Squires** have shared countless hours and have used their own resources to give in-person and teleconference training on Disability Pride with the KASA Board and Task Force.
- **Molly Greiner**, who provided training to the KASA Board and Task Force on the legislative process and how we could get involved.

Thanks to all of our fantastic KASA supporters! You help create a place for youth with disabilities to learn, grow and lead!!

KASA speaks at conferences and provides training to youth and adult organizations on a variety of different topics. Check it all out at www.fvkasa.org

*Interested in becoming a KASA member? For a small fee (FREE for youth) you can receive a lifetime membership to KASA, where you will get a monthly listserv full of information and resources, discounts on materials, become part of a national network speaking out on youth disability issues and much more! Check out all of the benefits at: <http://www.fvkasa.org/benefits.html>
Become a KASA member today!*

Note: This newsletter was written and put together by the KASA Advisory Board's Membership Committee and KASA Youth Consultants.

KASA is a youth run project of Family Voices 

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