

N.E.A.T. Peer to Peer Connections Regional Technical Assistance Plan



This plan outlines the technical assistance that N.E.A.T. states are going to give each other for the period of

July 15, 2014 to January 30, 2015.

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Introduction

The big picture...

Peers and self-advocacy organizations in the NEAT region (New England and New York) have a huge amount of knowledge about self-advocacy, technology, and how to make their groups grow.

Project goal...

The goal of this project is to **build connections with each other** and **use peers in our region to help other peers to grow their self-advocacy organizations and projects in their states**. We want our organizations to be strong, to use technology, to share information and communicate with each other, to find ways to sustain ourselves (with money and other resources), to be well-connected to our DD Network partners. We want our peers to have **more access to information and technology** and to **feel less isolated** and **empowered to help each other out**.

Purpose of the Technical Assistance plan and our timeline...

This is a 3 year project. There are more than 2 years left to go! This Regional Technical Assistance Plan is **our map for the next 7 months**. It says **who is going to help who and what groups want to learn from each other**. In February and March 2015, we will go back and do another needs assessment. We will look at where each group has gotten better and where each group still needs help. We will update our state and regional plans in April and May 2015. In June 2015, we will begin giving technical assistance to each other all over again!

What each state needs to do...

Read this plan. Work with the states you connected with **to provide and receive technical assistance**. Report technical assistance you give to states by **completing and return the Tracking Form** (page 33). Evaluate the technical assistance you receive by **completing and returning the Evaluation Form** (page 35). Participate in **group trainings and meetings**. Enjoy this **amazing opportunity to learn from each other!**

Examples of How to Give Technical Assistance



- Send an email
- Have a phone call
- Have a conference call
- Google Hangout to talk about the issue
- Host a webinar
- Make a video
- Create a handout
- Create a PowerPoint presentation
- Meet with people to talk about the issue
- Share materials that you have already developed (mail or email them)
- Read someone's work and give them feedback
- Write a blog
- Record a video blog (Vlog)
- Video chat
- Facebook and other social media ways to connect



FORMS



Instructions for Filling out Technical Assistance Forms



Form Number 1: Technical Assistance Reporting Form 2014

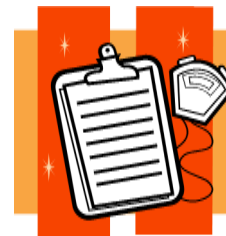
This form will be filled out by the people giving the technical assistance. This form should be filled out after the technical assistance has been given. After it's filled out please send it back to Hilary and Skye (Hilary@gmsavt.org and skye@gmsavt.org).



Form Number 2: North East Advocates Together (N.E.A.T) Evaluation of Technical Assistance 2014

This Evaluation form is for people who received Technical Assistance. You will fill this form out after you receive Technical Assistance. After it's filled out please send it back to Hilary and Skye (Hilary@gmsavt.org and skye@gmsavt.org).

Technical Assistance Reporting Form 2014



The state who is PROVIDING the technical assistance should fill out this form. Please fill out this Report and send back to Hilary or Skye! Thank you :)

Date: _____

Who is giving the Assistance: Please Circle

ME VT NH RI MA NY

Name(s): _____

Who is getting the Assistance: Please Circle

ME VT NH RI MA NY

Name(s): _____

How is this Assistance happening: Please Circle

In Person By Phone By Webinar

Other: _____

What is the topic of this technical assistance?

When Did The Technical Assistance Actually Happen?

(Please fill in the date(s) of the actual assistance)

_____hours

How much time did it take to you to prepare for this technical assistance?

_____hours

After you provided the technical assistance, how much time did you spend following up with the state or people?

_____hours

Other Comments:

Please send Hilary and Skye any materials you made or used as part of this technical assistance!

Thank you :)

**North East Advocates Together (N.E.A.T)
Evaluation of Technical Assistance
2014**



The state who is **receiving** technical assistance should fill this form out. Please Fill out this Evaluation and send back to Hilary or Skye! Thank you!

Date of Technical Assistance: _____

Topic of Technical Assistance: _____

Name of State Who Provided Assistance: _____

Name of State Who Received Assistance: _____

What did you hope to get out of this technical assistance? What did you hope to learn?

Please List Three things you learned/ what did you come away with?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

How will you use this new information in your self-advocacy life?

What did you like about the technical assistance?

What could they do differently next time?

Thanks for your evaluation!!!

STATE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PLANS










Vermont State Plan

Needs Help With...



Getting Help From...

- Board development. Improve how our board works. Operate like a typical non-profit organization  Massachusetts
- Use Social Media to connect members of our local groups  Rhode Island
- To do more and different types of presentations to schools  Maine and Rhode Island
- Provide more hands-on tools and training on public speaking  New York and Rhode Island
- Increase who we get money from and how much we get.  NEAT Staff

Giving Help to...

- **Maine** for How to connect with service providers and community members to train them on people's rights and ADA rights in the community; groups that may not be aware they need the information or education
- **Massachusetts** for Youth.
- **New York** for leadership development and Improvement in SANYS technical operation and organization policies: Database, Website, Personnel Policies
- **New Hampshire** for Newsletter
- **Rhode Island** for Information and connections to young adults through self-advocacy and share resources to create National Conference.



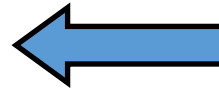
New York State Plan

Needs Help With...

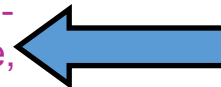


- Leadership development
- Improvement in SANYS technical operation and organization policies: Database, Website, Personnel Policies
- Leadership on Policy- State and National Issues- Self Advocate leaders
- Easier to understand communications/ Policy statements
- Create an annual fundraising campaign.

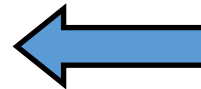
Getting Help From...



Vermont and Rhode Island



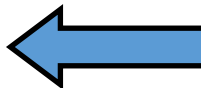
Vermont and Maine



NEAT staff



NEAT staff



NEAT Staff

Giving Help to...

- **Maine** for how to connect with service providers and community members to train them on people's rights and ADA rights in the community and for Ideas to recruit new members, especially young adults members, and ideas to recruit chapter advisors and for Ongoing leadership training for members and How to get people connected to the digital community and how to connect with all community audiences to share their stories and How to join a group in the community, how to become a participating member of the group.
- **Massachusetts** for Youth, transportation, and building the southeast region.
- **Vermont** for providing more hands-on tools and training on public speaking
- **New Hampshire** for board development and focus on organizational goals and new membership
- **Rhode Island** for leadership series



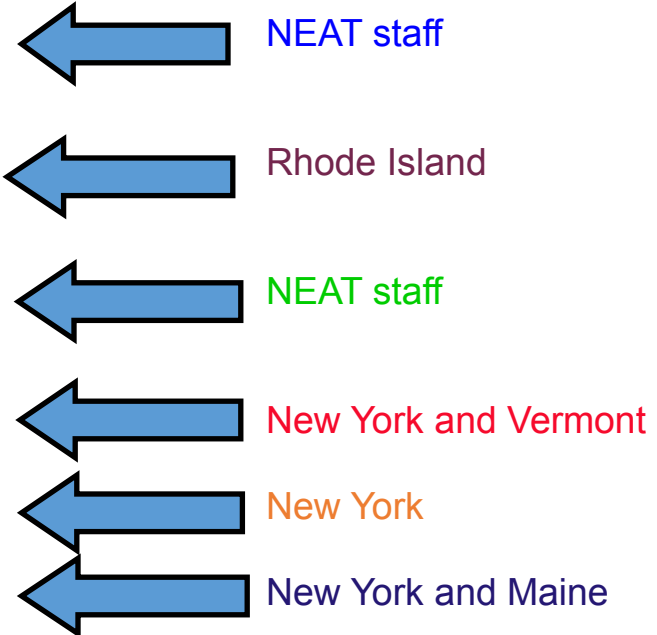
Massachusetts State Plan

Needs Help With...



- Fundraising and money partners
- Better website and social media and more tech support.
- Building the overall capacity of the MASS organization
- Working with youth
- Transportation
- Supporting the southeast region of MASS

Getting Help From...



Giving Help to...

- **Maine** for Ongoing leadership training for members and how to connect with all community audiences to share their stories
- **Vermont** for Board development to Improve how their board works so it operates like a typical non-profit organization .
- **Rhode Island** for finding funding from other sources.



Rhode Island State Plan

Needs Help With...



Getting Help From...

- Information and connections to young adults through self-advocacy ← Vermont
- Connect for support from DD Councils and other DD Advocacy ← New Hampshire
- Employment and attitudes ← NEAT Staff
- Sharing resources to create a National Conference ← Vermont
- Leadership Series ← New York
- Find funding from other sources ← Massachusetts and NEAT Staff

Giving Help to...

- **Maine** for The “Wow” factor: how to make meetings more interesting and having more fun, ideas of how to keep members interest and How to get people connected to the digital community (Skype, Facebook, Google hangouts) and or assistive technology; how to overcome barriers such as no Internet access; what works well on other websites, what accessible features are used...
- **Massachusetts** for Better website and social media and Tech Support
- **New York** for leadership development
- **Vermont** for Use Social Media to connect members of our local groups and To do more and different types of presentations to schools and Provide more hands-on tools and training on public speaking



Maine State Plan

Needs Help With...



Getting Help From...

- How to connect with service providers and community members to train them on people's rights and ADA rights in the community  New Hampshire, New York, Vermont
- The "Wow" factor: how to make meetings more interesting and having more fun, ideas of how to keep members interest.  Rhode Island
- Ideas to recruit new members, especially young adults members, and ideas to recruit chapter advisors  New York
- Ongoing leadership training for members  New York
- How to get people connected to the digital community (Skype, Facebook, Google hangouts) and or assistive technology; how to overcome barriers such as no Internet access; website accessibility successes  Rhode Island and New York
- How to connect with all community audiences to share their stories  New York, Massachusetts, New Hampshire
- How to join a group in the community, how to become a participating member of the group.  New York
- Fundraising and funding  NEAT Staff



Maine, Part 2

Giving Help to...

- **New Hampshire** for Board development and Focus on Organizational Goals will include developing a survey to assess the needs of the organization, focus group with the regional chapters, and creating measurable goals with timelines and New Memberships.
- **Massachusetts** with their southeastern region
- **New York** for Improvement in SANYS technical operation and organization policies: Database, Website, Personnel Policies
- **Vermont** to do more and different types of presentations to schools



New Hampshire State Plan

Needs Help With...



Getting Help From...

- Board Development will also include: less side conversations at the meetings, timelines, and members staying on track.  New York and Maine
- Focus on Organizational Goals will include developing a survey to assess the needs of the organization, focus group with the regional chapters, and creating measurable goals with timelines.  New York and Maine
- New Membership and recruiting younger members  New York and Maine
- Newsletter  Vermont
- Funding  NEAT Staff

Giving Help to...









- **Maine** for How to connect with service providers and community members to train them on people's rights and ADA rights in the community; groups that may not be aware they need the information or education and how to connect with all community audiences to share their stories
- **Rhode Island** to Connect for support from DD Councils and other DD Advocacy

ATTACHMENTS







Big List of the NEAT Region's Strengths and Needs 2014

Strengths

What is the strength?	Who is strong at this?
Augmentative and Alternative Communication: True inclusion of people who use devices to communicate in leadership roles and meetings.	 VERMONT
Abuse: Booklets and trainings on recognizing and responding to abuse.	 VERMONT
Basic Self-Advocacy Tools: we have a great handbook for starting new groups and a series of 6 basic self-advocacy workshops.	 VERMONT
College: How to pay for college and many success stories from people being truly included when taking college classes.	 VERMONT
Advocacy information about conversion of sheltered workshops to employment programs that get people real jobs.	 VERMONT
Disability Awareness Training including how to make information easy to understand.	 VERMONT
Legislative Education: How to get members of local groups really involved and steps to take to work with other organizations to get bills.	 VERMONT
Peer Advocacy: We have peers who work for provider agencies. We have tools for teaching people how to be mentors and peer trainers.	 VERMONT









Big List of the NEAT Region's Strengths and Needs 2014

Strengths

What is the strength?	Who is strong at this?
Sexuality: Curriculum, handouts, workshops on sexuality and relationships for self-advocates, staff and family members.	 VERMONT
Staff Training: How to keep your opinions to yourself and support people to make their own decisions.	 VERMONT
Fantastic self-advocate leaders throughout New York	 NEW YORK
Our presences on all key committees and system transformation teams now and over the years—nothing about us without us works	 NEW YORK
Good working relationship with government entities and many organizations throughout the	 NEW YORK
SANYS consistent legislative outreach and capacity; and ongoing policy statements on issues important to our self-advocacy members	 NEW YORK
Significant organizational funding through contracts with the state; we have a lot of flexibility to do the things we want to do	 NEW YORK
Our State and Regional Conferences, attended by over 2500 people last year	 NEW YORK

Big List of the NEAT Region's Strengths and Needs 2014

Strengths

What is the strength?	Who is strong at this?
SANYS U, We Have Choices activities, and Wheel Power activities	
Our Board and Grass Roots structure, regional offices and large network of groups	
The amount of presentations we give on various topics and the amount of people we connect with each year	
Our staff including self-advocates presenters and grass roots organizers as well as the support administrative staff who work for SANYS	
Advocating for ourselves	
Coming up with events that are meaningful for others to learn	
Able to meet each month/regularly	
Wanting better education/learning opportunities for ourselves	

Big List of the NEAT Region's Strengths and Needs 2014

Strengths

What is the strength?

Who is strong at this?

Taking control/striving to improve/great respect for each other/open to ideas and discussions



Group dynamics



Being informed



Social pieces-more friends/connections



Keeping friends/connections made



Trust/respect to and from each other



Well-connected outside of group-speaking, working with our communities



Being a good leader, teamwork, getting things out to talk about



Big List of the NEAT Region's Strengths and Needs 2014

Strengths

What is the strength?

Who is strong at this?

Gathering information-orally but also in print



Helping with friendships-more confidence in ourselves



Helping with growth-personal growth



Present on statewide boards and representing our state



Growth and longevity



Bravery in the group with support from others



Learning to get along with others-forming new connections



Helping with listening, problem solving, learning



Big List of the NEAT Region's Strengths and Needs 2014

Strengths

What is the strength?	Who is strong at this?
Legislative action	
Willing to change and adapt to change	
We have a long history, and lots of experience	
Others are starting to “take us seriously” and value the voice of Self-Advocates	
We are GREAT at hosting conferences and other events	
We have AMAZING Volunteers	
We’re good at teaching others about Self-Advocacy and Leadership	
We are AWESOME at making things easy to understand	

Big List of the NEAT Region's Strengths and Needs 2014

Strengths

What is the strength?

Who is strong at this?

We are ALL ABOUT THE FUN



We reach out STATEWIDE - RI is small



We set the pace around the peeps
We don't rush things just for the sake of getting them done.



We delegate (give jobs to lots of people) and work in smaller groups and committees



We are "non-conformists"
We don't do things just because others do.



We work as a team.



We are technology geeks!











We are creative! There are "no bad ideas". We pull them ALL together and work together!











Big List of the NEAT Region's Strengths and Needs 2014

Strengths

What is the strength?	Who is strong at this?
Local groups need SUPPORT without CONTROL (Right now, local groups who rely on agency support can have that support taken away without any notice or way to appeal.)	
Local groups need to <i>OWN</i> their group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - decide if staff should be at meetings - groups should not be part of an agency as a program 	
Legislative Advocacy	
Trainings	
Annual increase in membership	
Annual Conference	
Conference Ad book	
We never give up/Strong voice	

Big List of the NEAT Region's Strengths and Needs 2014

Strengths

What is the strength?	Who is strong at this?
Rainbow Support	
Self-Advocate Board of Directors	
Annual retreat	
We are a growing organization	
More fundraising (unrestricted)	
Better communication with membership	
Legislative advocacy – testimonies, talking with legislators, advocacy day at the statehouse	
Partnering with our DD network to provide training such as: rights, guardianship, and relationships	

Big List of the NEAT Region's Strengths and Needs 2014

Needs

What is the need?

Who needs help with this?

Budgeting: Supporting our board to have a finance committee who can explain money decisions.



Building Confidence: looking for any and all ideas on how to support our members to be willing to try something new things, take a risk.



Families: We need to get better at reaching out to families of people disabilities.



Funders: Ideas for how to find and keep funders who will give us lots of money.



Increase Public Awareness: we need tools and examples of how other groups connect with the general public.



Media: Tools and examples on how to get the media to tell our stories.



New Members: Examples of how other states got new people to join their local groups.



Public Speaking: tools for teaching people to how to present.



Big List of the NEAT Region's Strengths and Needs 2014

Needs

What is the need?

Who needs help with this?

Schools: More resources and ideas on how to work with schools.



Social Media: examples of effective use of social media and easy ways to explain it to our members.



Technology: good training tools for how to use computers, iPads, smart phones etc.



Update our lists of self-advocates, self-advocate groups and supporters; we need a new database and we're beginning to work on that now



Better connections and communication with people throughout our organization; we need an accurate list of our members and to improve ways of meeting across the state through computer and other technology



Create a truly accessible web site with read aloud capability and easy read versions of documents



To simplify complex system transformational issues so that all SANYS members can understand and use the information in their advocacy



Update our organizational personnel policies and by-laws



Big List of the NEAT Region's Strengths and Needs 2014

Needs

What is the need?

Who needs help with this?

To increase our fund raising so that we are less dependent on government funds



More leadership development for self-advocates including youth leaders



Better Partnerships with others disability groups, especially with all the system change issues we all face



To pay attention to the major changes happening in New York and the US regarding disability policy and share what we learn with all self-advocates in New York



To take more of a leadership on some national issues and share what we are learning



Fundraising



New Membership



Communication-verbal. written, technology (with officers)



Big List of the NEAT Region's Strengths and Needs 2014

Needs

What is the need?

Who needs help with this?

Newsletter



Focus on our goals



Community organizing-exposure, marketing



Transportation



Staying on task-schedule, tracking of time



Money-budgeting, earning, financial security



Board development



Less side conversations at meetings



Big List of the NEAT Region's Strengths and Needs 2014

Needs

What is the need?

Who needs help with this?

Timelines-not good at staying on track



Local groups NEED MORE SUPPORT!!!!!!



Local groups need independent advisors, not agency staff



Young Adults NEED information and a connection to Self-Advocacy!



We need to stop analyzing and start acting!



We need to give Self-Advocates the tools to find and speak up about the needs of the Self-Advocacy movement.



Advocates in Action needs to develop many funding sources so we don't rely on just one



"Self-Advocacy" needs to be recognized as a REAL THING. A SELF-ADVOCATE is a person who has an I/DD who is *actively involved in the SA movement*.



Big List of the NEAT Region's Strengths and Needs 2014

Needs

What is the need?

Who needs help with this?

Self-Advocates need accessible information about Self-Advocacy, Decision-Making, Leadership and other topics.



Self-Advocates need Information Technology * Self-Advocates need access to the internet * Self-Advocates need training and support so they can use email and social media and telecommunications tools (ie: Facebook, Google Hangouts and YouTube)



Tech Support



Transportation



Better communication amongst self-advocates



Building our capacity (regional coordinators, regions, support, volunteers)



Better web site/social media











Youth



Big List of the NEAT Region's Strengths and Needs 2014

Needs

What is the need?	Who needs help with this?
Monthly Regional Meeting (Southeast)	
Money and partners	
Funding and fundraising ideas	
The 'WOW' factor! How to make meetings more interesting and have more fun, ideas of how to keep members interested	
Ideas to recruit new members, especially young adult members, and ideas to recruit chapter advisors	
Ongoing leadership training, for members. (Who and how is organizational leadership provided to other state organizations?)	
People have stories to share, how to connect with community audiences to share their stories	
How to join a group in the community, how to become a participating member of the group	

Big List of the NEAT Region's Strengths and Needs 2014

Needs

What is the need?

Who needs help with this?

How to connect with service providers and community members to train them on people's rights, and ADA rights in the community; groups that may not be aware they need the information or education



How to get people connected to the digital community (skype, google hangouts, Facebook) and or assistive technology

How to overcome barriers such as no internet access



What works well on others websites, what accessible features are used, like text to speech and the ability to increase text size?

Common Areas of Need in NEAT Area

* states that need help with this topic

Board Development

- * New Hampshire
- * Vermont

Organizational Development

- * Massachusetts
- * New Hampshire

Website, Social Media & Technology as Tools

- * Massachusetts
- * Vermont
- * Maine
- * New York

Fundraising

- * Massachusetts
- * Vermont
- * Maine
- * New York
- * Rhode Island
- * New Hampshire

Leadership Development

- * New York
- * Rhode Island
- * Maine

New Membership

- * Maine
- * New Hampshire

If you are getting technical support from some peers and see that another state also needs help with the same thing, please invite them to be part of your technical assistance activities!!! NEAT will host and find trainings for topics that are important to all or most states.

Contact Info



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