

July 31, 2012

Dear Friends –

We were notified about 2 weeks ago that P.A.D.S. (Peer Action Disability Support) got a grant from ID Action through the Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council (the DD Council) to put on a VOTING INITIATIVE in 2012.



Collaboration is a major part of the grant – and we want it to be!!

We will be doing three things in this initiative:

1. Co-sponsoring a **DISABILITY VOTING FORUM** to learn about topics of importance to people with disabilities, meet the candidates and get their positions on issues, and learn about voter rights —
 - We have scheduled KTOS on Tuesday, October 2nd from 5:00 to 7:30 PM as it has good accessibility, good parking and a good technology set-up.
 - A letter will be sent to candidates and dignitaries asking that they come to this event
 - The grant will pay for transportation for people with disabilities since the event will be in the evening
 - A flier will be made for distribution announcing FREE PIZZA & FREE TRANSPORTATION to & from the event
2. Conducting an **ABSENTEE BALLOT CAMPAIGN** —
 - A flier will be made for distribution explaining the benefits & process
3. Providing **FREE TRANSPORTATION TO THE POLLS** for people with disabilities on Election Day —
 - A flier will be made for distribution
 - P.A.D.S. is paying for Election Day transportation!

There is no fee to co-sponsor the FORUM, however we will ask that your agency, organization, or business take on at least one of the tasks **ON THE NEXT PAGE**. It will make sure that we have good community participation, and a great “cross-disability” perspective.

Currently, the Management Team for this initiative is the same as the P.A.D.S. Education, Awareness, and Action Committee consisting of: Rachel Hall, Craig Quinby, Jack Roeder, Tom Hardecopf, Bob Cihla (President of P.A.D.S.), and myself. We want to include you on the Team for this initiative – please sign up!

As you can see, we are excited about voting and this project! This project is about helping people with disabilities to know the candidates, the issues, and their rights. We hope you will jump on board this non-partisan initiative.

Cherie Clark

P.A.D.S. Vice President 2012

3108 Ridgemore Drive SE

Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52403

Home: 319-364-0037 (between 10 AM and 4:00 PM please)

empoweria@mchsi.com

cc: P.A.D.S. Board of Directors & Management Team – via email

Please complete the form below, and get it back to me via email or snail-mail by FRIDAY, AUGUST 10th – thanks!!! Cherie

Name: _____

Agency/organization/business: _____

Email: _____ Telephone number: _____

Here are some ideas of what you, as an individual, or your agency, organization, or business can do – please check the ideas(s) that you can commit to:

- Become a part of the Management Team for the Voting Initiative!!! We will probably meet 3 or 4 times before Election Day 11-6-12.
- Sign on as a co-sponsor of the Forum and distribute your agency's fliers at the Forum
- Provide drinks &/or cookies (the grant will provide pizza)
- Help with registration, pizza distribution &/or clean-up at the Forum
- Print fliers for the Forum, and distribute fliers to your clientele and to other people as well
- Print fliers for the Absentee Ballot Campaign, and distribute fliers to your clientele and to other people as well
- Print fliers for the Election Day Transportation opportunity, and distribute fliers to your clientele and to other people as well
- Give us your ideas on outreach – reaching people that we don't normally reach
- Support the effort with a small \$\$\$ or in-kind donation – if everyone does a little, it will work!!!
- Other ideas for the Forum, Absentee Ballot Campaign, or Election Day Transportation:

_____ Thank-you!