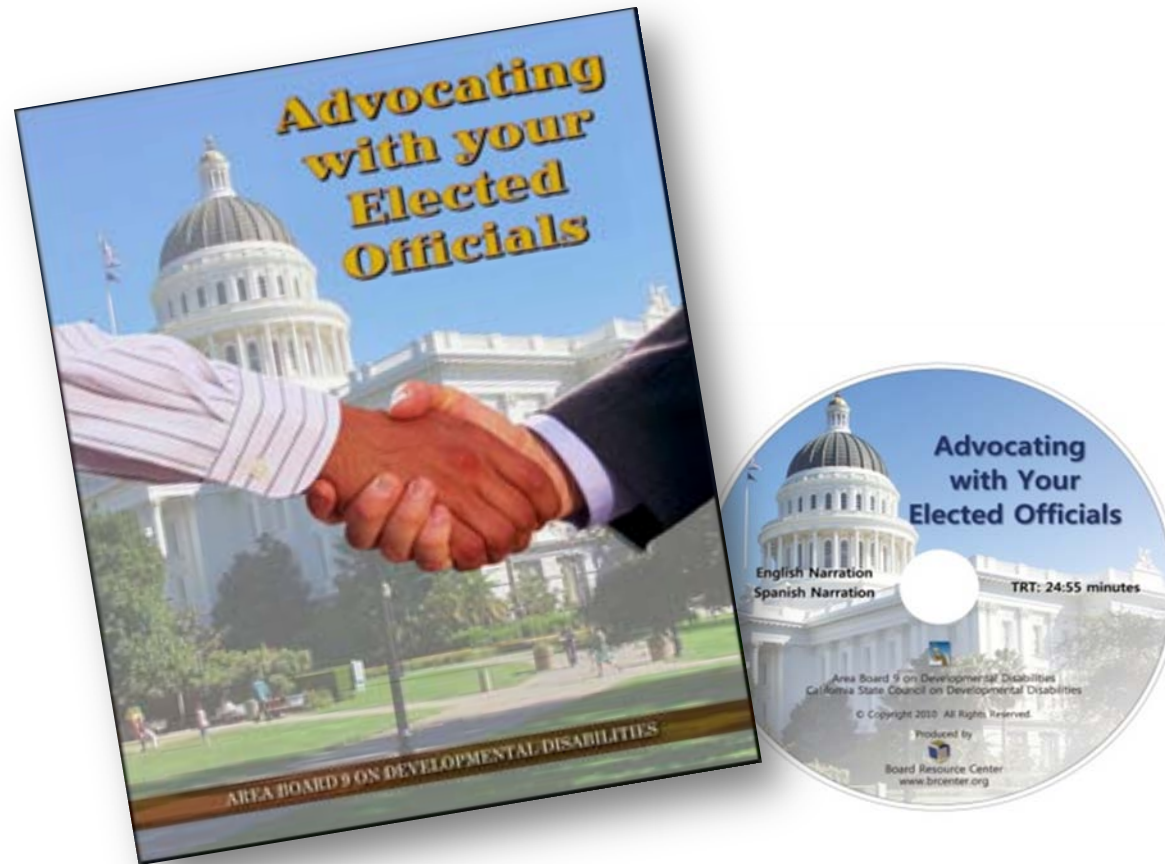


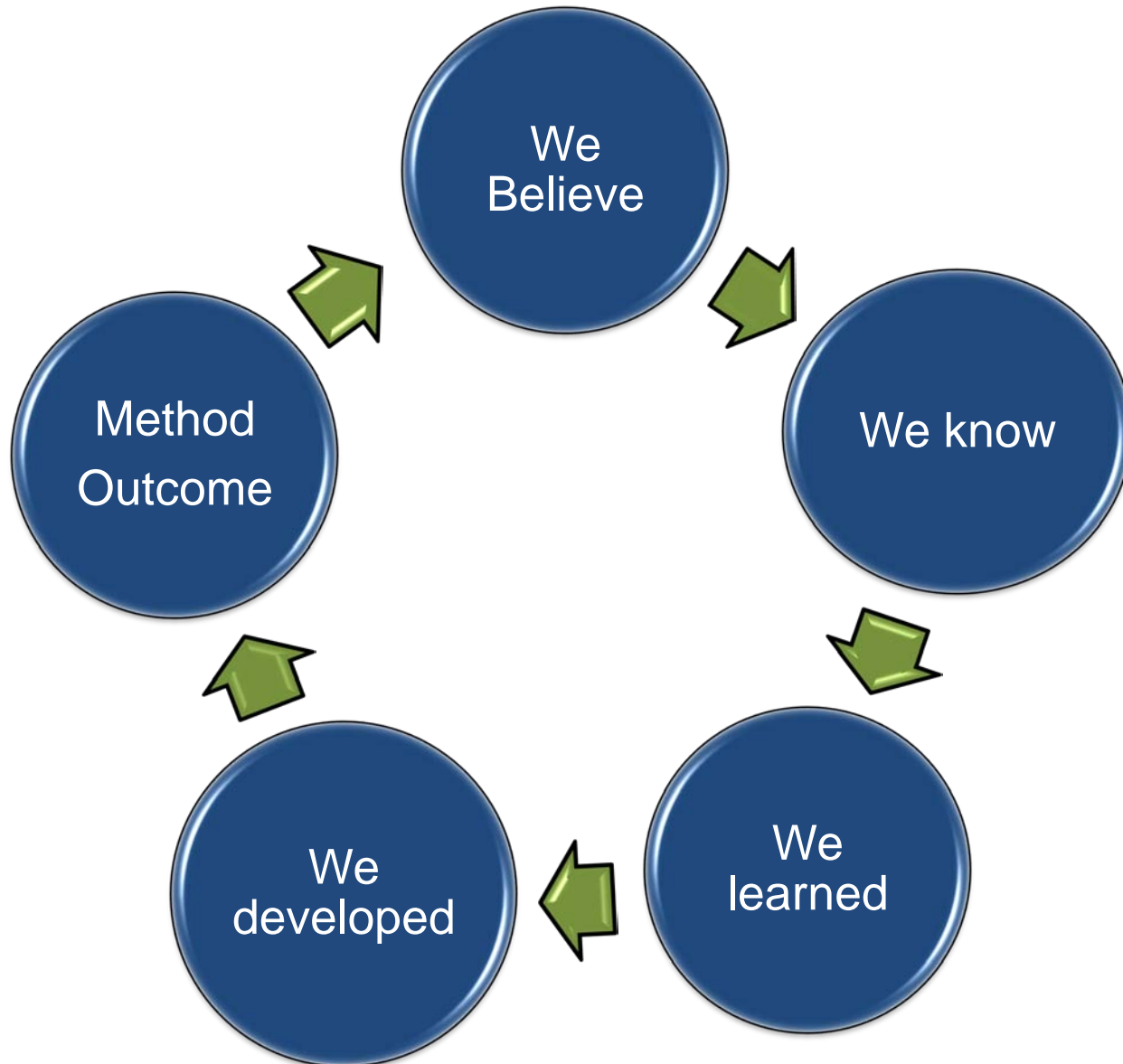
# Legislative Advocacy



## Plain Language Tools

The **Board** Resource Center  
*Making Complex Ideas Simple™*

# Advocating with your Elected Officials



We  
Believe

# Civic Engagement/Advocacy



Democracy requires active participation.

“The people’s voice” is important in the political decision-making process.

Advocacy with elected officials is one of the fundamentals of a democratic society.

We  
Believe

# Civic Engagement/Advocacy



People need knowledge and skills to be effective and heard by their elected officials.

Many with intellectual disabilities and low literacy are disenfranchised from the political system due to lack of understanding.

Clear and accessible information facilitates greater engagement in the advocacy process.

We know

# Civic Engagement/Advocacy

People with low literacy and those with intellectual disabilities are less likely to advocate and vote.

People must advocate and engage in the political process to avoid human rights abuse.



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## Legislative Advocacy Project

Increase number of community members engaged in meaningful interaction with elected officials.



We know

# Background

## Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

The UN Treaty ensures people with disabilities and people without disabilities are treated equally.

### Article 21

#### Freedom of expression and opinion, and access to information



Provide information intended for the public to persons with disabilities in accessible formats they can understand and use.

We know

# Background

## Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

### Article 29

#### Participation in political and public life



Equal political rights and opportunity to enjoy them on an equal basis with others.

... Ensure materials are appropriate, accessible, easy to understand and use.

# Background

Nearly 25% adults, with and without disabilities, have a difficult time reading basic signs and labels.

Nearly 53% (Los Angeles) working-age adults cannot read well enough to use a bus schedule or complete a job application.

People with disabilities and/or low literacy are typically marginalized and removed from the political system.

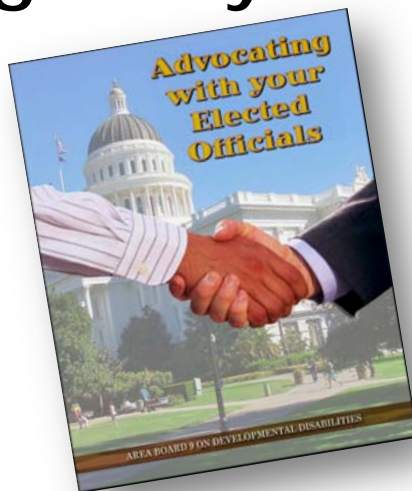
- Limited or no voice - people speak for them
- Lack knowledge - effective ways to advocate



Develop

# Advocacy Made Easy

## Advocating with your Elected Officials



### Objectives:

- Easy-to-use advocacy tool
- Individual/small group process
- Designed by-and-for intended group
- Sustainable approach

### Outcomes:

- Increased engagement with elected officials.
- Lead others by example

## 3 - Steps

### Identify

The end-user

Key consultants, designers (end-users)

Accessible strategy (Think-Plan-Do)

### Develop

Multi-media approach

Sequenced learning

Web based and group orientation formats

### Verify

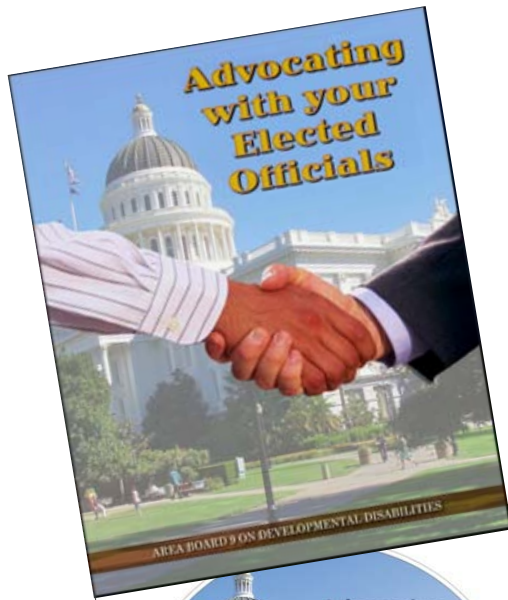
Community focus groups

Field-test, Revise, Apply

## Outcome

# Advocacy Tools

*Making Complex Ideas Simple<sup>SM</sup>*



### Easy-to-use Workbook:

- Sending an email or letter
- Meeting with elected official
- Calling elected official



### Companion Video:

- Illustrate/narrate each step

## Outcome

# Advocacy Tools

## Interactive Website

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Area Board 9 website. The header includes the logo, a language selector, and a contact button. A navigation bar lists: How to Use the Site, What's on the Site, Default Contrast, High Contrast, and Change Font Size. The main content area features a sidebar with 'Our Legislators' (Senators and Assemblymen) and a 'HOME' button. The central focus is on California State Senator Fran Pavley, 23rd District, with a photo, a map of the district, and contact information for both Capitol and District offices. A bio and areas of interest are also provided.

**AREA BOARD 9 ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

Select Language

**CONTACT AREA BOARD 9**

How to Use the Site What's on the Site Default Contrast High Contrast Change Font Size + -

**Our Legislators**

**SENATORS**

- Sam Blakeslee
- **Fran Pavley**
- Sharon Runner
- Tony Strickland

**ASSEMBLYMEN**



- Julia Brownley
- Cameron Smyth
- Jeff Gorell
- Katcho Achadjian
- Das Williams

**US SENATE**

- Barbara Boxer
- Diane Feinstein

**HOME**

**California State Senator FRAN PAVLEY, 23rd District**



**Capitol Office**  
State Capitol, Room 4035  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Phone: (916) 651-4023  
Fax: (916) 324-4823

**District Office**  
2716 Ocean Park Blvd.  
Suite 3088  
Santa Monica, CA 90405  
Phone: (310) 314-5214  
(805) 815-3917  
(818) 831-6082  
Fax: (310) 314-5263

**WEBSITE:**  
<http://dist23.casen.govoffice.com/>

**Bio:** Senator Fran Pavley was born in Los Angeles. She is a former teacher and first mayor of Agoura Hills. She has lived almost all of her life in the 23rd State Senate District that includes portions of Los Angeles and Ventura Counties.

**Areas of Interest:** Along with energy, clean air, and water, Senator Pavley focuses on consumer protection, education, health and transportation.

Elected Officials  
Links to legislation

The screenshot shows the same website with a different main content area. It features a sidebar with a 'HOME' button and a section titled 'Advocating with Your Elected Officials DVD and Book'. The main content area is titled 'ADVOCATING WITH YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS DVD AND BOOK' and includes a paragraph about the importance of contacting representatives. Below this is a large video player with a play button and a progress bar. At the bottom, there are two book covers and links to download PDFs in English and Spanish.

**AREA BOARD 9 ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

Select Language

**CONTACT AREA BOARD 9**

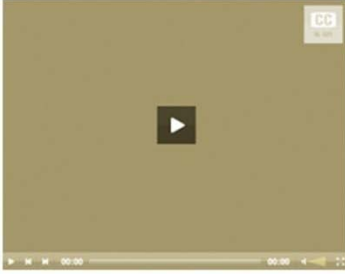
How to Use the Site What's on the Site Default Contrast High Contrast Change Font Size + -

**Advocating with Your Elected Officials DVD and Book**

**HOME**

**ADVOCATING WITH YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS DVD AND BOOK**

Communicating directly with your elected officials about issues important to you can make a difference. Contacting your representatives is an effective way to share concerns and participate in the political process. This video will guide you when sending personal letters or emails, telephoning or meeting with your legislators and other elected officials. Get involved and make sure your voice is heard!



English: Download PDF

Spanish: Download PDF

Training Video  
Group training slides  
Workbook



# Board Resource Center

[www.brcenter.org](http://www.brcenter.org)



Collaborative, flexible approaches that assist individuals, groups and organizations assure inclusive decision making, policy development and service delivery using plain language and accessible formats, person/user-centered commitment to make complex ideas simple.



Training and technical tools to increase access to new ideas and resources that create natural community experience, relationships and collaborative partnerships.



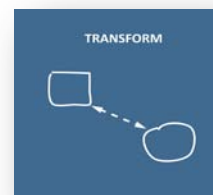
BRC provides a library of tools that assist individuals and organizations support people they serve to live quality self-determined lives and contribute to their communities. They are organized in three categories: Include, Connect, Transform and are free of charge. [http://brcenter.org/lib\\_library.html](http://brcenter.org/lib_library.html)



Facilitation and tools that lead to greater connections and active membership for individuals and their families in neighborhood communities, agency-to-agency collaboration, public/private cooperation that enhance agency effectiveness.



BRC produces periodic newsletters that feature new trends, strategies and our new public domain print and digital media tools. BRC self-advocate advisors share data they collect surveying community members about employment, community life and ways to access natural supports.



Training and facilitation for organizations to assist with system transformation. BRC acts as a coach and support team to encourage new ways of thinking about mission fulfillment and service.

[mark@brcenter.org](mailto:mark@brcenter.org)

Mark Starford, Director