Serving on Groups

People with disabilities and our caregivers and families provide a unique and valuable perspective to discussions about systems of care. Many opportunities exist for us to bring our lived experience to the table and be involved in changing systems to better serve people with special health care needs, chronic illness, and disability.

Benefits of Service

Getting the inside scoop on available programs and services.

Influencing the direction of activities, services, and policies.

Gaining experience that will help you in your present job or help you get a better one.

Feeling empowered in your loved one’s care and potentially in all areas of your life.

Diversity in groups is vital and encompasses more than race/culture. You may be the only person with a disability or parent/grandparent/sibling/caregiver voice. Your could be the only representative of your geographic area or family structure. If you have a disability, you might be the only person representing the disability community. Your representation matters.

A culture of trust and respect is necessary for talking about our differences in an open and honest way. Meaningful participation requires all group members to adhere to certain standards of behavior, how formal or informal these standards are will vary by group. *Robert's Rules of Order* is a famous set of formal standards. Written by General Henry M. Robert, a U.S. Army engineer, in 1876 and revised in 2000, *Robert’s Rules* is still regarded as the authority on the subject of parliamentary law.

Handling a Motion

A member states the motion.

Another member seconds the motion.

The presiding officer restates the motion, thus placing it before the assembly for consideration.

The assembly may discuss the motion if it is debatable and amend the motion if it is amendable.

The presiding officer takes the vote.

The presiding officer announces the result.

Places to Serve

Advisory Groups Committees

Associations Councils

Boards of Directors Task Forces

Coalitions Work Groups

Commissions