

High Five: November

5 Tips to Support Systems Advocacy

1. Become informed.

Join listservs, follow reputable social media sites, listen to free webinars, find out about resources in your community and what needs may be. Are there workgroups, councils, or task forces that may be a good fit to help expand knowledge base, networking opportunities, and the opportunity to share?

2. Prioritize goals and issues.

Get a feel for decision makers and what might allow them to better associate with and support an issue.

3. Communicate directly and with specifics.

Communicate at the right time, share personal stories to create a connection, and streamline focus and energy on one or a few issues versus trying to speak about a multitude of issues that may overwhelm a recipient.

4. Be open to pivoting.

There may be times a new train of thought and/or course of action needs to take place. Budget, time, manpower, health, and other resources may affect timelines and the ability to be involved in systems advocacy.

5. Keep at it.

There is the saying that if at first you don't succeed, to try, try again. Systems advocacy can take numerous attempts, sessions, and years to accomplish. Building awareness can help gain traction for the issue at hand.