

Having Our Say

The newsletter of SaySo, Strong Able Youth Speaking Out

Volume 3, Number 1

About SaySo

SaySo is a statewide association of youth aged 14 to 24 who are or have been in North Carolina's out-of-home care system. This includes all types of substitute care, including foster care, group homes, and mental health placements.

Our mission is to work to improve the substitute care system by educating the community, speaking out about needed changes, and providing support to youth who are or have been in substitute care.

Become a Member!

If you are interested in joining **SaySo**, let us know! E-mail or write us with the following information: your name, age, and address (including e-mail) and the kind of out-of-home placement are you in or have you been in.

Contact Information

SaySo

c/o ILR, Inc.

411 Andrews Rd., Ste. 230

Durham NC 27705

Phone: 800/820-0001

Fax: 919/384-0338

Web Site: <http://sayso-nc.tripod.com>

Email: sayso@ilrinc.com

Officers

Co-chairs: Melinda M. and Erica B.

Secretary: Kiki I.

Treasurer: Jennifer P.

Sergeant-at-arms: Frank Byrd

Making Improvements

What SaySo members have done:

- Met with the Governor
- Met Hilary Clinton
- Conducted workshops for the Division of Social Services about the needs of foster youths.
- Met with the State Director of DSS about what older foster youths need from the system and why SaySo is so important
- Presented at the National Independent Living Conference.
- Conducted the Arizona Youth Conference
- Helped facilitate the passing of new legislation benefitting more youth and those who have aged out of care
- And so much more....

Current Projects:

- Assisting development of local SaySo Chapters (see below for further detail)
- Speaking at Youth Days conferences in the summer
- Speaking at Youth Recognition Luncheons
- Participating in IL Curriculum Project coordinated by the Jordan Institute (June 1-3 in Atlanta)
- Participating in National Independent Conference in Orlando (selected Board Members)

Where to find your SaySo Reps

The new SaySo Board of Directors will have their orientation meeting May 18-19 at the NC Child Advocacy Institute in Raleigh.

Youth Recognition Luncheons for graduating (high school, GED, etc.) youth:

June 5- Morganton
June 6- Rocky Mount

Youth Days Conferences (please plan to attend):

July 19- Morganton- Western Piedmont Com Col
July 24- Jamestown- Guilford Tech Com Col
July 26- Hamlet/Rockingham- Richmond Com Col
July 31- Kinston- Lenoir Com Col

Local Chapter Stuff

SaySo would like to extend our appreciation to our newest local chapters. They are located in Moore County, Caldwell County and Mecklenburg/Gaston County. For more information about these or starting a local chapter in your area, contact Nancy Carter at Independent Living Resources, Inc. at 800-820-0001.

Congratulations to our newly-elected Board of Directors

Melinda M. , Co-Chair Cleveland County	Erica L. , Co-Chair Gaston County	Jen P. , Treasurer Durham County	Kiki I. , Secretary Wilson County
Teresa H. Halifax County	Bernard M. Guilford County	Peaches S. Sampson County	Chaka C. Guilford County
De'Von M. Mecklenburg County	Tiffany D. Guilford County	Dionna H. Pitt County	Clarence G. Wake County
Makeisha W. Nash County	Stephaine M. Onslow County	Chaney P. Onslow County	Misty W. Wilkes County
Casey M. Caldwell County	Steaphon J. Caldwell County	LaMeisha M. New Hanover County	Travis W. Mecklenburg County



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