Advocacy Board Activities

What is the function of each ADSD Advocacy Board?
### Functions of Advocacy Boards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Provide</th>
<th>Provide leadership, oversight, and advocacy in support of Nevadans</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Establish</td>
<td>Establish priorities for communities represented</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promote</td>
<td>Promote awareness of issues and services important to the community represented</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advise</td>
<td>Advise state agencies and the legislature regarding barriers and solutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improve</td>
<td>Improve working relationships with state, other advocacy groups, non-profits and community members</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Board Members

Board members are volunteers who steer policy recommendations and play a significant role in providing guidance to state agencies and programs serving those they represent.
Volunteer “job” Description

- Understand the board’s mission, vision, and related program.
- Read and understand board by-laws.
- Serve as active *advocates* and ambassadors to the board and community that you represent.
- Leverage personal and professional connections, networks, and resources.
- Prepare for, attend, and participate in board meeting and subcommittee meetings.
What is Advocacy?

Advocacy is defined as any action that speaks in favor of, recommends, argues for a cause, supports or defends, or pleads on behalf of others.

If you care about an issue, then you should advocate. As a member of an advisory board, you have a duty to advocate for the community you serve.
Where does advocacy start?

You started advocating when you joined the board!

Some things that you can do as a new board member:

• Make it personal: Share why you care about the board you serve when engaging with members of your community.
• Connect the dots: Work with local and state leaders. Is there a policy or regulation standing in the way of solutions? Help them understand how they can help.
• Coordinate: Work with fellow board member, boards, and community members to strategize consistent messaging.
It’s not a full-time job!

Simple activities can make a big impression:

• Get a phone call returned.
• Encourage attendance and engagement.
• Set a meeting.
Thank you for your commitment to your Board!

Next steps? Questions? Discussion?