



## MEMBERSHIP AGREEMENT

### RESPONSIBILITIES:

As a representative of the organization listed below, I am authorized to commit support from the organization for the following principles:

1. To advocate for the full benefits of citizenship including rights, privileges, opportunities and responsibilities for individuals represented by member organizations of SCPDO.
2. To advocate for funding needs and access to a coordinated array of services and supports, determined by the individual's unique strengths, needs and choices.
3. To advise state agencies, commissions, councils and legislative bodies on issues relative to the needs of persons with disabilities and their families.
4. To provide a forum for networking and exchange of information and leadership development.
5. To provide a mechanism for public awareness related to the needs of individuals with disabilities.
6. To encourage the input of individuals with disabilities and their families on issues and policies.
7. To actively participate in the meetings of the SCPDO as required. Active participation is defined as attending at least **75%** of scheduled meetings. Meetings will occur monthly, at a time to be determined, based on member availability. If unable to attend, I will communicate my absence to a member of the Executive Committee. I understand that my membership in SCPDO may be revoked by a vote of membership based on attendance.
8. To submit annual dues of \$100, due July 1 of each year, or at the time of signing. Dues are to be used to promote the purpose of the SCPDO and support the annual event. Per SCPDO by-laws, dues may be waived by the Executive Committee for undue hardship.

### RIGHTS:

1. As a current and active member, I will receive one vote on behalf of the organization I represent.
2. As a current and active member, the organization I represent will be promoted on printed and online literature of the SCPDO.

By signing this document, I, the appointee for the named organization, agree to abide by the terms described above through active participation and payment of annual dues.

Organization Requesting Membership: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name of Appointee: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Appointee: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved by SCPDO: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# **SOUTH CAROLINA PARTNERSHIP OF DISABILITY ORGANIZATIONS**

## **BYLAWS**

### **ARTICLE I - NAME**

- Section 1. The name of this association shall be South Carolina Partnership of Disability Organizations (SCPDO).
- Section 2. The Partnership is a nonprofit, nonpolitical, nonsectarian organization. No part of any earnings shall inure to benefit any member, and no officer or director of the Partnership, nor shall they receive any compensation for services as an officer, director, member or delegate to any meeting except as ex-officio.
- Section 3. The Partnership will comply with federal and state Freedom of Information Acts.
- Section 4: The original bylaws of the Partnership were adopted on February 20, 1997, by the following charter member organizations: Brain Injury Association of South Carolina, Columbia Brain Injury Support Group, Trident Head Injury Support Group, South Carolina Autism Society, South Carolina Spinal Cord Injury Association, The Arc of South Carolina, and The Arc of the Midlands.

### **ARTICLE II - PURPOSE**

- Section 1. The purpose of the Partnership is to advocate for individuals with autism, brain injury, intellectual and developmental disabilities, and spinal cord injury. These four categories will be referred to collectively hereafter in these bylaws as “disabilities.”
- a. To advocate for the full benefits of citizenship including rights, privileges, opportunities and responsibilities for individuals represented by member organizations.
  - b. To advocate for funding needs and access to a coordinated array of services and supports, determined by the individual’s unique strengths, needs and choices.
  - c. To advise state agencies, commissions, councils and legislative bodies on issues relative to the needs of persons with disabilities and their families.
  - d. To provide a forum for networking and an exchange of information and for leadership development.
  - e. To provide a mechanism for public awareness related to the needs of individuals with disabilities.
  - f. To encourage the input of individuals with disabilities and their families on issues and policies.

### **ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP**

- Section 1. All member organizations must agree with the purpose and bylaws of the Partnership.
- Section 2. Membership in the Partnership shall consist of self-advocates and advocacy organizations and groups that have as their purpose to benefit individuals with disabilities.
- Section 3. Membership shall be approved by a majority vote of the current and active members.
- Section 4. No member shall represent the Partnership without the express vote and authorization of the current and active members.
- Section 5. Any membership dues or assessment of member organizations, if or as the need occurs, must be approved by the Executive Committee. Dues may be waived by the Executive Committee for undue hardship.
- Section 6. All member organizations must be represented and are expected to actively participate in meetings and planning for Disability Advocacy Day as well as disseminate information.
- Section 7. All member organizations will equally share administrative duties. Members may be added by a majority vote of the current and active members.

### **ARTICLE IV - OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES**

- Section 1. The officers of the Partnership shall consist of Chairperson, Immediate Past Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Secretary. A Treasurer position may be elected if the Executive Committee deems it necessary.
- Section 2. Individuals eligible to serve as officers must represent a voting member of the current and active members.
- Section 3. The term of office shall be for one year with a maximum of two consecutive terms. Officer terms begin July 1 and end June 30.
- Section 4. The duties of the Chairperson shall be:
- a. To call special meetings as needed and to organize responses for immediate action.
  - b. To preside at all meetings.
  - c. To appoint ad hoc committees and task forces deemed necessary to conduct the Partnership's business, with the approval of the Executive Committee.

- Section 5. The Vice Chairperson shall, in the absence of the Chairperson, perform the duties of the Chairperson and any other duties assigned by the Partnership or the Chairperson.
- Section 6. The Secretary shall record minutes of all meetings of the Executive Committee and the current and active members and be responsible for the distribution of information and notification to members concerning the activities of the Partnership. The Secretary shall keep complete files of the Partnership.

#### **ARTICLE V - MEETINGS**

- Section 1. Meetings of the Executive Committee shall be held as needed. Meeting dates shall be established at the beginning of the fiscal year.
- Section 2. Business that must be taken care of immediately can be addressed by the Executive Committee, which shall report to the current and active members in written form (including electronic communication). Actions of the Executive Committee shall be subject to the approval, revision or alteration by the current and active members by a majority vote, providing no irrevocable rights of third parties shall be affected by such revision or alteration.
- Section 3. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the members of the current and active members.

#### **ARTICLE VI - COMMITTEES**

- Section 1. The Executive Committee shall consist of all of the elected officers and the Immediate Past Chair.

#### **ARTICLE VII - ELECTIONS**

- Section 1. Officers shall be elected annually prior to the end of the fiscal year by a majority vote of the current and active members. Elected officers shall assume their duties at the first meeting of the new fiscal year (July 1 through June 30). Candidates can be nominated or nominate themselves.

#### **ARTICLE VIII - FINANCES**

- Section 1. If the Executive Committee deems it necessary to elect a Treasurer, they will establish procedures to operate under at that time.
- Section 2. Any named fiscal agent for grants received by SCPDO shall report periodically to the current and active members.

## **ARTICLE IX - GOVERNING RULES**

- Section 1. All meetings shall be governed by consensus. If formal action is needed, Robert's Rules of Order, Revised will be followed.
- Section 2. The current and active members by two-thirds majority vote may reprimand or expel any member whose conduct is detrimental to the purpose, cause or well-being of the Partnership.

## **ARTICLE X - AMENDING THE BYLAWS**

- Section 1. These Bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of members of the current and active members.
- Section 2. Proposed amendments to the Bylaws shall be sent to the membership of the current and active members at least 10 days prior to a scheduled meeting.

Adopted: February 1997

Amended: September 2000

Amended: June 2012

Amended: June 2017

Amended: July 2018

Amended: August 2021

Amended: February 2025