

Disability Advocacy Day 2025 Speaking Roster & Agenda

**Please note: All times are approximate and subject to change based on the length of speeches.*

We appreciate your patience and understanding as we ensure each speaker has the opportunity to share their message.

9:40 AM - 10:00 AM | Opening & Proclamations

- 9:40 AM **William Farior**, MC, Program Assistant, Partners in Policymaking with the South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council – Master of Ceremonies/Welcome
- 9:50 AM **Valarie Bishop**, Executive Director, South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council – Reading of the Governor’s Proclamation
- 9:55 AM **Kaylyn Sinclair**, Self-Advocate – Reading of the Senate Resolution

10:00 AM - 10:30 AM | State Leadership

- 10:00 AM **William Farior**, MC – Announcement of SCPDO Advocate of the Year Award
- 10:05 AM **The Honorable Curtis Loftis**, South Carolina State Treasurer
- 10:10 AM **Margaret Alewine**, Bureau Chief of Policy, South Carolina (SCDHHS)
- 10:15 AM **Michelle Woodhead**, Vice Chair, (SCDDSN) Commission
- 10:20 AM **McKenna Woodhead**, Self-Advocate

10:30 AM - 11:00 AM | Self-Advocacy & Disability Services

- 10:30 AM **Anna Maria Conner**, Senior Attorney, Disability Rights South Carolina
- 10:40 AM **Jennifer Bazer**, President, The Palmetto Council of the Blind; Self-Advocate
- 10:50 AM **Ruth Bollinger**, Lead Coach, CarolinaLIFE Program; Self-Advocate
- 10:55 AM **Dr. Joseph Ryan**, Distinguished Professor & Executive Director, ClemsonLIFE Program

11:00 AM - 11:30 AM | Advocacy & Workplace Inclusion

- 11:00 AM **Brandon & Ashley Abbott**, Local Business Owners Accompanied by Team Members
- 11:10 AM **WC Hoecke & Karl Hoecke**, Harmony Christian Community, Advocacy March
- 11:25 AM **William Farior**, MC – Presentation of SCPDO Self-Advocate of the Year Award

11:30 AM - 12:00 PM | Family Advocacy & Autism Support

- 11:30 AM **Zoe Wingard**, Self-Advocate
- 11:40 AM **Tosha Rollins**, Advocate, Professional Counselor, Author, Autism Spectrum Specialist
- 11:45 AM **Rachel Nash**, Founder of Nash Patient Advocacy & Counseling
- 11:50 AM **Michelle Singleton**, Midlands Area Marketing Specialist, Elite Home Care & Stokes Family

12:00 PM - 12:30 PM | Education, Barriers & Open Mic

- 12:00 PM **Anastasia Ford**, Disability Advocacy Coordinator, Akoma Cares and son, **Donovan**
- 12:10 PM **Michael Leaphart**, Self-Advocate
- 12:15 PM **Padgett Mazingo** Presents the Limitless Learner Award to **Dr. Greenhouse**
- 12:20 PM **Open Mic** – Invitation for attendees to share their stories
- 12:30 PM **Closing Remarks**