

**Meeting Schedule  
October 2023 - August 2024**

The Advocacy Network will meet monthly on Zoom. At these meetings, advocates will learn valuable skills and knowledge about policy and advocacy, share their thoughts and advocacy ideas with one another for peer support, hear presentations from guest speakers, and develop their own independent advocacy projects, aligned with Strategies for Children's (SFC) statewide advocacy strategy.

*All meetings are 6:00-7:30pm, second Tuesday of each month, unless otherwise noted.  
Exact schedule and topics subject to change.*

- October 10, 6:00-8:00pm: Introductions, goals, schedule. Overview of current policy and advocacy opportunities. Equity and representation. Finding your “why?”
- November 14: Advocacy 101 (part 1). Begin planning advocacy projects. Learn about the Early Childhood Agenda.
- December 12: Advocacy 101 (part 2). Guest Speaker – Advocacy Network cohort 2. Finalize advocacy projects.
- January 9: State budget advocacy. Guest Speaker – elected official.
- February 13: Communications workshop. Public speaking and crafting your “elevator pitch,” w/ SFC’s director of communications, Diagneris “Nery” Garcia.
- March 12: Advocate shares part 1, share updates and hear feedback on your advocacy project.
- April 9: Advocate shares part 2, share updates and hear feedback on your advocacy project.
- May 14: State policy updates. Guest Speaker – elected official.
- June 11: Health, Mental Health, Behavioral Health. Guest Speaker – tbd.
- July 9: Advocacy straight talk, with SFC’s executive director, Amy O’Leary.
- August 13: Reception for Reflection, with guest attendees.

In addition to monthly meetings, SFC staff will hold “**one-on-one**” meetings with each advocate to review their progress and provide support. These will happen three times (fall, winter, spring) with additional check-ins available upon request. **We are here to support you in your advocacy journey!**

Additional opportunities available throughout the year:

- Professional development (trainings, meetings, and events),
- Public speaking (serving on panels, testifying at public meetings, media appearances),
- Writing (blogs, articles, letters-to-the-editor, testimony),
- Leadership (serving on boards and advisories).

Advocates will use Google docs to record their progress and receive feedback.

**SFC will provide technology training and support!**

For more information please contact our program assistant Jayleese Le Blanc at [jleblanc@strategiesforchildren.org](mailto:jleblanc@strategiesforchildren.org).