

What goes on the agenda?

Your group will have its own ideas about what you want to talk about.

BUT here are some ideas for the sort of items that may go on an agenda. These are items that other groups have found useful.

1. Introductions and welcome to new members.
(It's a good idea to welcome new members. It will help them feel good about come to the meeting.)
2. Apologies for absence. (From people who can't come.)
3. Notes of the last meeting. (This will remind you of what you discussed at the last meeting)
4. Letters to be dealt with and phone calls to be made.
5. Discussion about money. (The Treasurer's Report)
6. Old business.
7. New business.
8. Requests for speakers. (You group may have been asked to send someone to speak to another group about self advocacy. You need to decide who will do this.)
9. Any other business. (Any business which hasn't been dealt with earlier in the meeting.)
10. Date and time of the next meeting.
11. Social time at the end of the meeting.

TALKING, LEADING TO ACTION

Sometime people will come to the group with something that needs action. The group will need to talk about what they can actually do to change something.

Some things needing action may involve just one person. Or they may involve the whole group. Sometimes the group may have a problem which affects all people who are labelled 'handicapped' or 'disabled'.

Example 1:

One person may have a problem. A review meeting is being held to discuss where she will live. That person has been told she can't go to the meeting even though it's about her life. She wants to go and tell them what she thinks. The group may decide they are going to speak to the people having the meeting and see that she is allowed to tell the people there what she feels.

Example 2:

Several people in one group tried to book a holiday together. The booking had been refused because they told the holiday firm that they have developmental disabilities.

The group decided to do two things:

- write to the holiday firm and complain
- contact a national organization who would help them get publicity for their complaint

Example 3:

In one city, people with disabilities were not being allowed to use their special bus passes. They felt this was an important issue. It affected more than just the group's members. They decided to write to the bus company and asked them to stop this from happening.