FAMILY ADVOCACY CALL-IN DAY

It has become increasingly difficult to coordinate a single Statewide Family Advocacy Day. Therefore, this year Family Advocacy events will be held throughout the state on different dates. In the past, Family Advocacy Day consisted of visits by family members across the state to their legislators on a single day. This year many types of events will be held, throughout March, including calls to legislators, letter writing campaigns, e-mail and visits to their district offices.

The developmental disabilities field was relieved this year that the Governor’s budget did not include new funding cuts to key services. Therefore, we do not have to ask the legislature for restorations as has been the case in the past. As a number of Affiliates have already done events with their local Legislators, we are also asking that you have families participate in the Alliance of Long Island Agencies FRIDAY, MARCH 9TH Family Advocacy Call In to local Legislators.

The goal is to ensure that New York State legislators hear our message and remember that people with developmental disabilities continue to need services, which are not currently available. These services include: out-of-home residential services; day services; CSS; respite and services for the medically frail.

The message is simple:

Funding is needed for additional services for people with developmental disabilities in New York State. According to OPWDD, there is a waiting list across the state of more than 11,000 (Affiliates can call their local DDSO for specific waiting list numbers for your region). Please ask your leadership to add funding for these much needed services.

ACTION NEEDED:

1. Family members need to call their New York State Assemblymember and Senator (you have received a list of your program sites and legislators).
   - To find their Assemblymember either call 518-455-4100 and ask for public information or click on the link: www.assembly.state.ny.us/mem/
   - To find their state Senator either call 518-455-2800 and ask for public information or click on the link: www.nysenate.gov

2. State their name and address

3. Read the message above or make a similar plea for additional services in their own words.