

Hello All,

Thanks for coming last night'. The meeting was a success on many levels. There were 80+ people representing every borough.

It was clear that the hunger for information and the desire for how to affect change confirms NYC FAIR's premise that families really do want and need to know what's happening to the services we depend on.

Pete Pierri made it very clear that we, as family members, have a greater impact on the legislature than the professionals and if we want to protect what we have and provide for the needs of the future **THEY MUST HEAR FROM US.**

**For BROOKLYN - Family Advocacy is TOMORROW FRIDAY, 2/20**

*Going with others may be more comfortable if you've never done this before. If you want to participate there will be a briefing at Heartshare at 117 Livingston Street, 2nd. floor starting at 10:30. Appointments have been made with your legislators: they know you are coming. You will be given help with how to manage the appointment. Just email Amy Bittinger at [abittinger@ucpnyc.org](mailto:abittinger@ucpnyc.org) to let her know you plan to attend.*

**Manhattan's Advocacy Day** is Friday February 27-

The briefing will be at IAC, 150 W. 30th Street, at 9:3

To participate email Margaret Puddington at [margaret.puddington@gmail.com](mailto:margaret.puddington@gmail.com).

**Detailed flyer Attached**

The other boroughs have not set up official Advocacy Days BUT that does not mean that we should not go on our own, encouraging our friends and family as well, to make our needs known. The Legislative Breakfasts are a good way to get to know the legislators in your borough and to learn more about the issues facing all of us. **(Flyer is attached)**

**As Pete said last night, these people do not know what our lives are like and we MUST educate them so they can see the urgency of making things right.**

**The action item** is to ask them to write a letter to their leadership about the underfunding of OPWDD - Carl Heastie in the Assembly and Dean Skelos in the Senate and to copy you on that letter.

**AND WRITE TO US ABOUT WHAT YOU SEE AS THE ISSUES YOU CONFRONT -**

We will continue to update everyone about what is going on and to strengthen our network - Family members created these services and family members must step up again to preserve them. Inaction counts as a passive 'okay' to these

people.

**IAC's Handouts are attached for your reference.**

See You Soon,  
Elly and Meri *for the Steering Committee*