**Statements, Concerns and Questions Received from Participants Prior to October 27, 2015 NYC FAIR meeting**

**Parent Fears**

LI - Adult child

Is the future for our family members as bleak as it appears?

MB - Adult child

Lack of recreational and community activities for those living in residences.

CW - Adult child

How will OPWDD ensure that our adult children will be able to survive and thrive after their parents are gone?

**Residential**

**There has been no residential development for those living at home for many years. The money for development has been dedicated to those living in state operated developmental centers (DCs). The number of families who have a child or sibling considered priority one continues to increase with very little development to meet that need. Will you support and educate your colleagues to look closely at the need for money in this year's budget to develop new 24/7 certified residences?**

MB - Adult child

Residential Services

JC - Adult child

Residential Concerns for future

JL - Adult child

Group residential

AM - Adult child

Residential opportunities

BO - Adult child

Housing

SO - Adult child

Residential Development

AS - School-age child

Need for residential homes

MS - Adult child

Funding for new 24/7 certified homes (IRAs)

**Direct Support Professionals**

**Competition for good staff has always been an issue in the field.   As parent (CS) of an adult child wrote in:**

**DSP salaries are too low**

**Training is incomplete**

**Turnover is too high**

**Virtually no career advancement**

**What is your plan for improving DSP conditions?**

**And another parent KN asks:**

**Will you support a wage increase for Direct Support Professionals equal to the fast food workers?**

MB 1 - Adult child

Wage increase for Direct Support Professionals (DSPs)

MB 2 - Adult child

DSP Wages

KC - Adult child

DSP minimum wage issue

**A System in chaos**

MD Adult child

Lack of transparency

KM - Adult child

What's up with the obfuscations?

JR - Adult child

How do we know what the changes are since there are so many versions of the changes?

MO - School Age child

How long should it take for a child to receive services once approved by OPWDD?

DW - Adult child

Sheltered workshop closings

SO - Adult child

Rate Rationalization

GZ - Adult child

Impact on existing facilities of new consumers via Transition

**Lack of Respite Services for those living at home**

JC - Adult child

Respite facilities that can accommodate wheel chairs

JC - Adult child

Are there any discussions for weekend respite in the Bronx accommodate wheel chairs?

**Equal access to all services**

JL - Speaks to all ages

How can non-English speaking families reach funding and services?

**Additional questions for Senator Carlucci**

ER - Adult child

How can we prevent the loss of OPWDD and a merge into the Department of Health (DOH)?

KW - Adult child

How can we get the Justice Center to work more effectively?

LD - School-age children

How will legislature respond to RRL data and Transformation Panel recommendations?

MS - Adult child

For those who are dually diagnosed with a developmental disability and mental illness how can they be better served while budget cuts to the services they desperately need keep occurring? At times these people do not have much of a voice and because they are adults, they have to advocate for themselves even when they are suffering from a crippling mental illness. Will you advocate for them in the senate? Will you give them a voice?

RW - Adult child

Can the legislature require OPWDD to report data to families on staffing in self-direction services?

**Funding concerns**

MB - Adult child

Sustainability of current residential facilities

CG - Self Advocate

Since many individuals cannot travel independently will there be sufficient funding added to OPWDD's budget to ensure safe transit where the individuals need to go to i.e., day hab, supported employment sites and certified residents?

DG - Adult child

Changes to self-direction budget

**Lack of Choice - One size does not fit all**

AC - Adult child

Why did the state legislature fail to stop Governor Cuomo and OPWDD from closing all the major developmental centers across the state? This put the lives of the seriously disabled in jeopardy.

DW - Adult child

How can we assure choice? For example, keeping our family member in their residence even if it's been designated as an Intermediate Care Facility (ICF), particularly if they need an enhanced level of care because of multiple disabilities?