

Legislative Efforts

CP Nassau

Overview

- ▶ The NYS budget drives funding for our services
 - ▶ April 1st - March 31st
 - ▶ OPW, DOE, EI, Clinics
- ▶ Each year, we ask our legislators to include services for people with I/DD in the budget
 - ▶ Those efforts were fruitless under the Cuomo administration
 - ▶ And they now seem to be an afterthought under Governor Hochul
- ▶ We have consolidated our efforts to unify our approach to specific asks (i.e. NYDA)
 - ▶ Rallies (Local and in Albany), Lobby Days, local efforts, one-clicks (etc...)

Our Biggest Challenge

The legislators
don't know
who we are

Why is it a Challenge?

- ▶ 1. We have been too late in the game - we need to start earlier
- ▶ 2. We are not LOUD enough
- ▶ 3. We NEED to educate the legislators:
 - ▶ Willowbrook
 - ▶ Difference between DSP's and Home Health Aides
 - ▶ 4410, 4201, 853 (Education)
 - ▶ Article 16, 28, 31
 - ▶ State operated services vs. Voluntary providers
- ▶ 3. We can't just have our hand out

Our Efforts

- ▶ Start a year-round engagement
- ▶ Have a team for each legislator, each team having a point person
 - ▶ Staff Member
 - ▶ Participant/resident
 - ▶ Family
- ▶ Get to know them and them to know us
 - ▶ Folders with information for them to keep
 - ▶ We want to give back and be involved
 - ▶ Can this lead to community opportunities?
 - ▶ Get on contact lists
 - ▶ Aim for monthly contacts
 - ▶ Get specific asks out earlier
 - ▶ Site visits...

Site visits are important – seeing what we do is better than hearing about it



Forms to Organize Ourselves

- ▶ Legislators by area served, contact info, their committee and our contacts. Sample:

Legislator	Local Office Address	Local Phone Number	Areas covered	Committees	Staff Contacts	Participant Contacts	Family Contacts	Notes
Sen. Kevin Thomas (Nassau "Dean")	990 Stewart Ave., Suite LL45A, Garden City, NY 11530	(516) 739-1700	Roosevelt, Baldwin, Baldwin Harbor, Carle Place, Freeport, Garden City, Garden City South, Hempstead, Lakeview, Rockville Centre, New Cassel, Oceanside, Roosevelt, Uniondale, Westbury, West Hempstead	Chair - Consumer Protection, Member of: Agriculture; Finance; Health ; Judiciary; Rules; Local Government	Raeshell H, Sharon R, Pat Q, Jose R, Doris D	Darren A.	Leslie-Ann	Sharon called then sent email as requested.

- ▶ Other forms
 - ▶ Legislators by our residences and programs
 - ▶ Overview of asks

Legislative Handouts

▶ Personalized folder:

- ▶ Willowbrook palm card (with link to 4-minute video)
- ▶ General overview of who we are (CP Nassau)
- ▶ Program specific information
- ▶ Specific asks
- ▶ Do not overwhelm on any one communication

Our Experience So Far

- ▶ It is easier said than done
- ▶ Internal factors
 - ▶ Some staff members are jaded
 - ▶ Busy schedules
- ▶ External factors
 - ▶ Some legislators are more open than others
 - ▶ Scheduling has been difficult

Some tips

- ▶ Make connections
- ▶ Pictures/visuals
- ▶ Bring constituents
- ▶ Tell your story
- ▶ Creative approaches we're taking
- ▶ Voter registration
- ▶ Do not overwhelm with too much information at one time

Next Steps?

- ▶ We plan to continue our outreach and engagement through and beyond the upcoming budget season
- ▶ What are other agencies doing/planning?
- ▶ New initiatives?



CP State

Advocacy works...

but not without YOU!

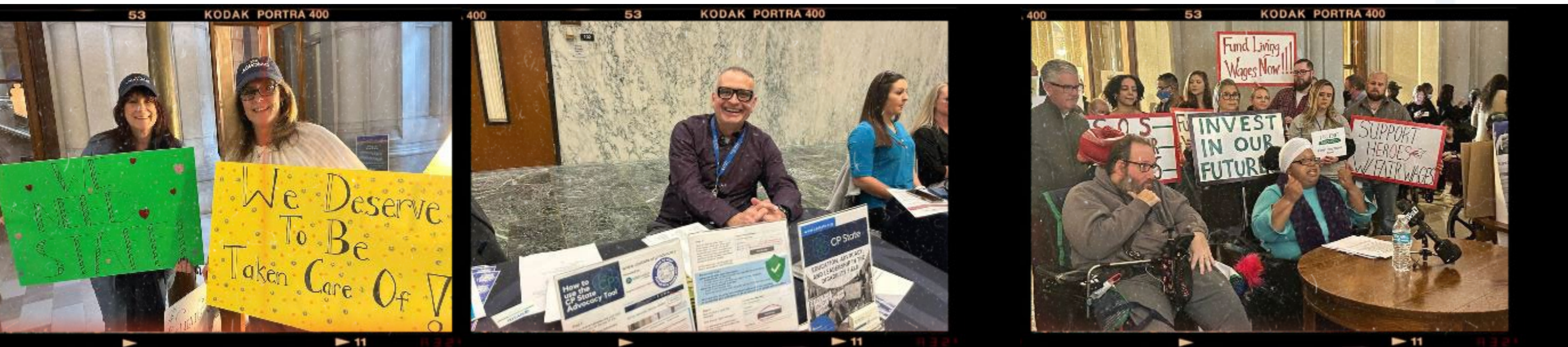
Barbara Crosier

Vice President, Advocacy & Government Relations

Advocacy
is not
one day
in Albany
or D.C.



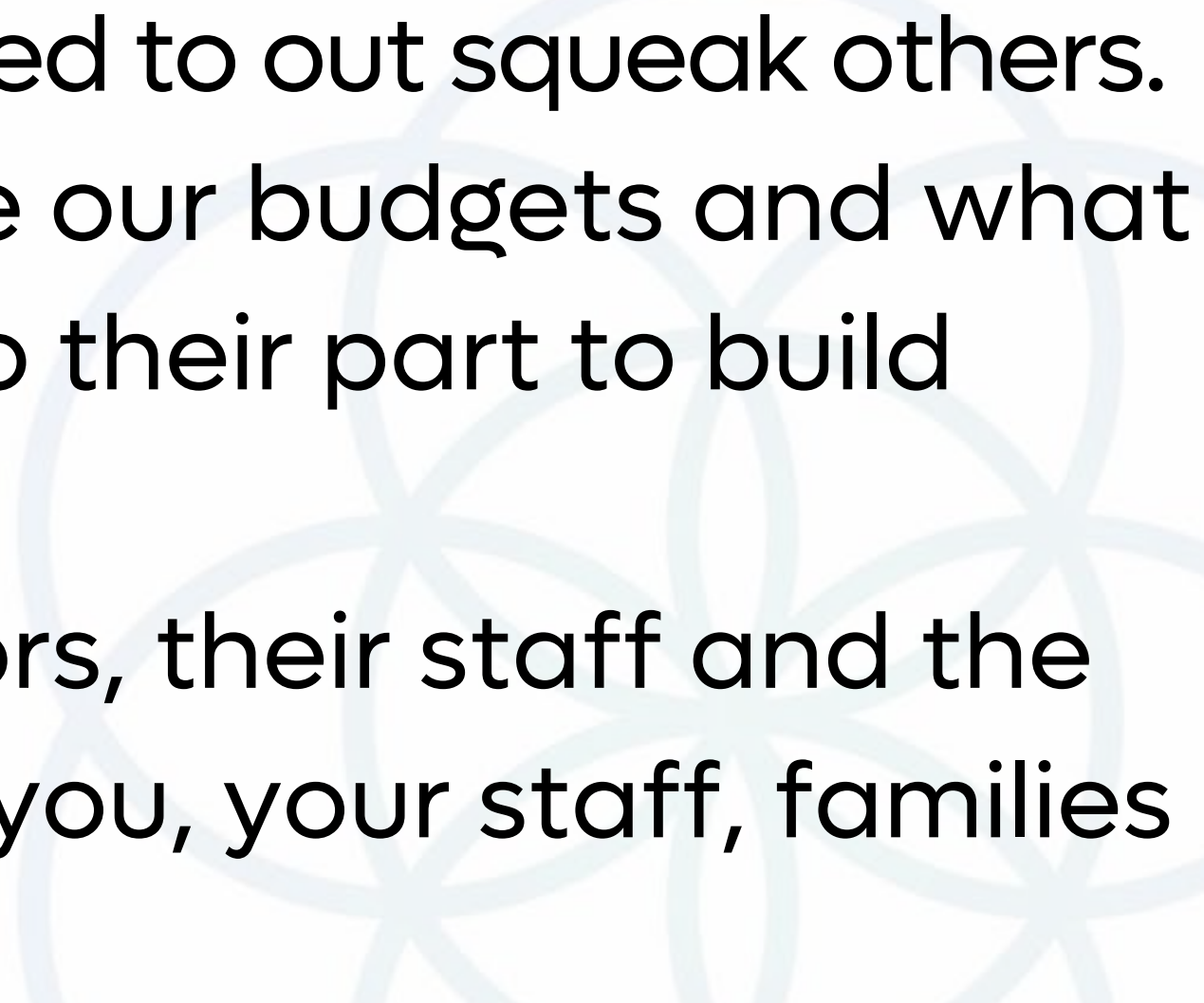
Advocacy requires building relationships 12 months of the year.





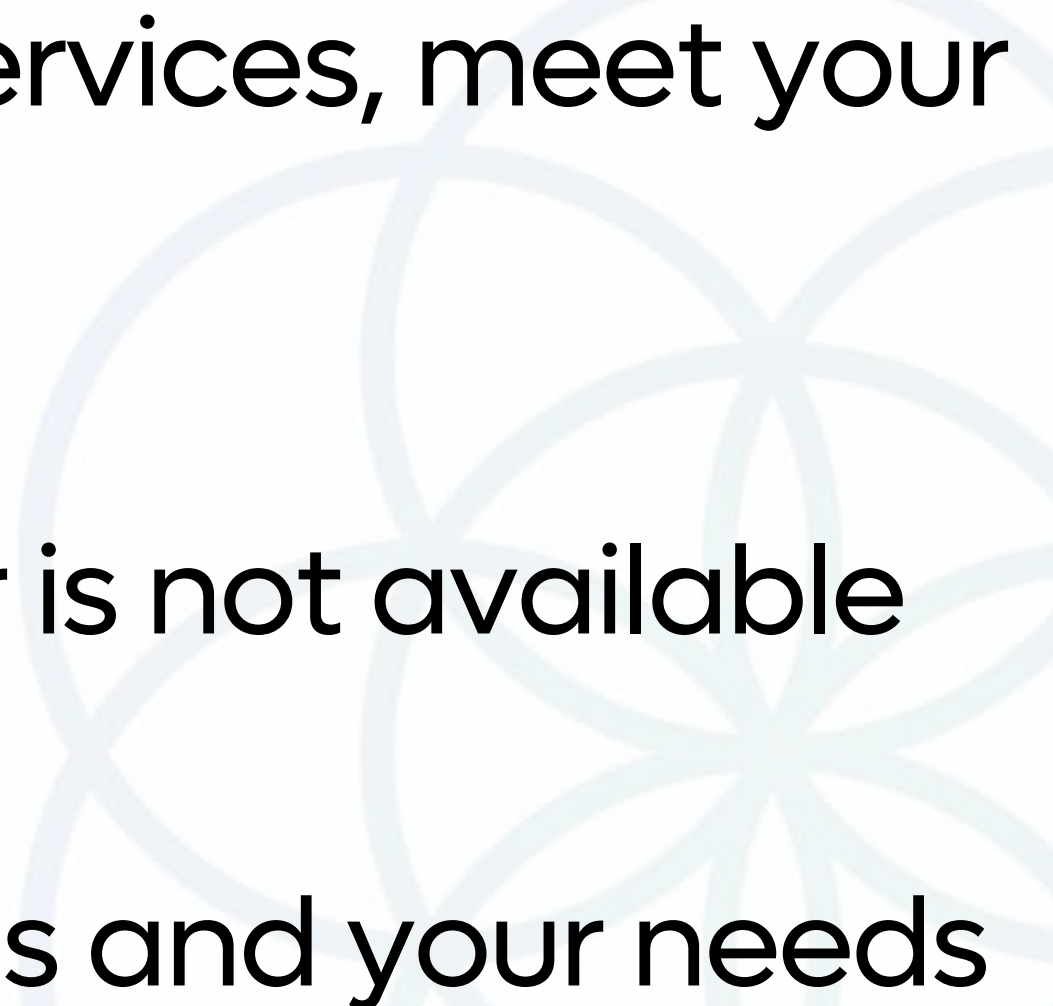
Advocacy has changed

Legislators are hearing from paid lobbyists and constituents on hundreds of concerns and areas.

- The squeaky wheel gets the grease. We need to out squeak others.
 - The Legislature and the Governor decide our budgets and what you will be paid!– if everyone does not do their part to build those relationships, we will be left out.
 - This means getting to know your legislators, their staff and the Governor's local staff so that they know you, your staff, families and the individuals you support.
- 

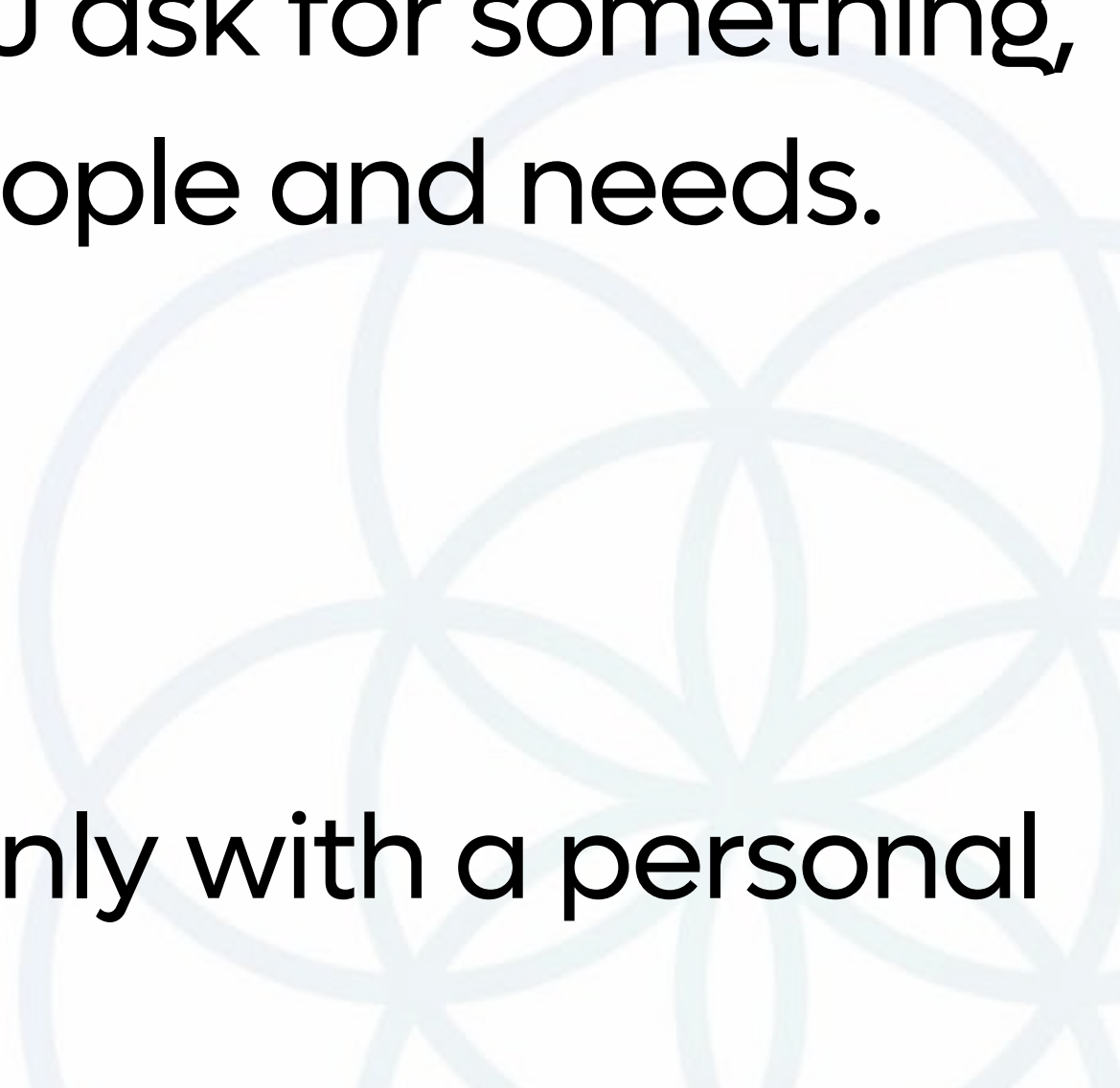


Meet with your legislators frequently

- Invite them to see your support and services, meet your individuals, families and community
 - Reach out to their staff if the legislator is not available
 - Explain and show them your successes and your needs
- 



Build relationships

- Build the relationship so that when you ask for something, they know your Affiliate, programs, people and needs.
 - Be part of the community
 - Volunteer or attend their fundraiser (only with a personal check or funds)
- 



Ask for action

It's easy for a politician to say they support you, but actions speak louder than words. You need to ask them to:

- stand up in Conference,
- speak to their Leader,
- band together with other Legislators who support us,
- ask other legislators to sign on to letters of support,
- attend rallies and press conferences,
- Be your voice!



Families,
staff &
individuals
are key to
advocacy



- They are constituents of legislators
- They have personal stories
- They can ask for and say things that providers can't
- They bring passion

The Tools You Have



Guidance



Advocacy Activity Planner

Quarter 1 - Relationship Building

GOALS OVERVIEW

- Get to Know Your Legislators
- Outreach and Introduction
- Educate Legislators on Agency & Field

JUNE

PREP WORK

- Gather [economic impact data](#) to show you are a driver in the community.
- Identify [programs/sites in each legislator's district](#).
- Identify individuals & families for visits.
- Highlight programs & impact on people. Use specific examples of successes.
- Prepare material and leave-behinds.
- Feel free to [contact CP State for help](#).
- Contact legislators' offices well in advance.

JULY

REFINE YOUR MESSAGE

- Your organization is complex – show OPWDD, DOH, SED, OMH and other programs – make sure they understand the breadth of the program.
 - # of individuals & families in community
 - # of employees in the community
 - Funding goes back to the community
 - Staff salaries
 - Rent
 - Food
 - Local Vendors, etc.
- Contact CP State for templates.

AUGUST

MEET AND EDUCATE LEGISLATORS

- NYS has a constitutional obligation to support individuals with IDD.
- Families are waiting for supports/services.
- All our programs are entirely dependent on government funding—we don't have the ability to increase revenue other than through government increases.
- [Workforce crisis and the need to increase staff funding](#).
- Investment in I/DD saves overall Medicaid costs.

LEGISLATORS CONTACTED & TYPE OF CONTACT

Tell us how the visit(s) went. Go to [cpstate.org/legislative-outreach](#) or scan the code below.




How to use the CP State Advocacy Tool

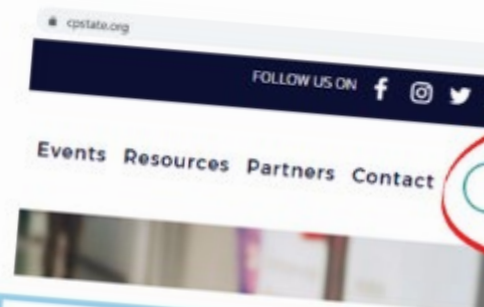
[www.cpstate.org/advocacy](#)

Powered by: 

Support, questions: wdevoe@cpstate.org

Step 1:

Go to [www.cpstate.org](#) and click on Advocacy at the top of the page, or go to [www.cpstate.org/advocacy](#) directly.



Step 2:

Choose the campaign you'd like to support and click on the call-to-action box.

You can sort by state and federal campaigns at the top.



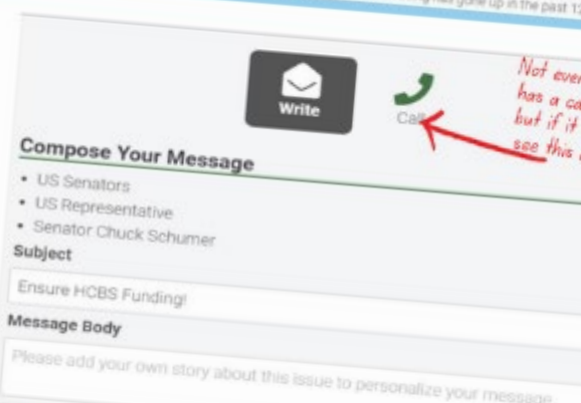
Step 3:

On the campaign page, you'll see some background information on the issue.

Further down the page, you'll see a list of targets (elected officials, agency and division heads, media) and a draft message.

This message can be sent as-written or personalized.

If the campaign has a call-in component, you will also see a phone icon. Click on this icon for a draft phone script.



Conducting a Legislative Visit

Conducting a legislative visit is an effective way to engage with local legislators and advocate for your agency's interests. Here are some steps to follow when planning and conducting a legislative visit:

Step 1

Identify the Purpose

- Determine the specific purpose of the legislative visit.
 - Building a relationship
 - Support for a bill
 - Funding
- Clarifying your objective will help you structure your visit effectively.

Reach out to CP State if you have any questions.

Step 2

Research the Legislator

- Find your legislators on the [spreadsheet provided by CP State](#) or use the "Find Officials" tool at [cpstate.org/advocacy](#).
- Gather information about the legislator you will be visiting.
 - Background
 - Committees
 - Personal interests
- Tailor your conversation to their specific interests and concerns.

Step 3

Schedule the Visit

- Schedule well in advance. Contact info can be found on the [spreadsheet](#) or by using the "Find Officials" tool at [cpstate.org/advocacy](#).
- Provide the purpose of the visit and outline desired outcomes.
- Be flexible with scheduling options, accommodating their availability and preferences.

Step 4

Prepare Talking Points

- Identify and prepare:
 - Key issues
 - Statistics
 - Personal stories
 - Impact of your agency
- Anticipate potential questions or concerns and prepare thoughtful responses.

Reach out to CP State - we can help you craft talking points!

Step 5

Gather Supporting Materials

- Prepare informational materials including relevant data to leave with the legislator. This can help them better understand the issue and serve as a reference after the visit.

Contact CP State for customized one-sheets on statewide issues.

Step 6

Create a Delegation

- Determine who will be part of the meeting with the legislator.
 - Agency staff
 - Individuals served
 - Family members
- Try to bring people who are constituents of the legislator.
- Ensure that each member understands their role.

Collateral

Urge the Governor to invest in disability services and solve the workforce crisis!



Contact the Governor at
 cpsta
 ONI

TWO TYPES OF CARE
 Know the difference. Fund them fairly.
 Supports and services provided by home care staff and Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) in OPWDD-certified settings have distinct differences in terms of regulations, training, responsibility, level of care, and the type of support they offer. However, home care staff and DSPs are similar in that they both provide complementary services, yet are not paid wages that recognize the training and supports they provide in the community.



INVEST IN NEW YORKERS WITH DISABILITIES!

Nonprofit agencies deliver supports to 85% of New Yorkers with intellectual and developmental disabilities. These Medicaid-funded services provide people with I/DD support with the basic tasks of daily living, residential housing, clinical services, vocational training, community integration, respite services and more. These essential programs ensure the health and wellbeing of New Yorkers with disabilities.



For decades, New York has not adequately invested in these services. Systemic underfunding has caused a critical staffing crisis and eroded supports for people with disabilities.

This has led to:
1 in 3 DSPs leaving the field
20,000 unfilled direct care positions
38% of providers reducing programs

WE ARE IN CRISIS!

New Yorkers with disabilities deserve better!
ACT NOW!
 Urge the Governor and legislators to invest in New Yorkers with disabilities. Scan the code to send a message now!



HOW DID WE GET HERE?

In the past decade, costs have more than quadrupled due to inflation, yet year after year, the state neglected to invest in I/DD services. Without investment, wages for essential staff stagnated, the staffing crisis escalated, infrastructure deteriorated, and programs are being forced to close. Minimal increases made in recent years were touted as "historic investments," yet those investments didn't even cover the cost of inflation.

WHAT'S THE SOLUTION?

Permanent investment in Direct Support Professional (DSP) salaries is essential to recruit and retain skilled support staff. Ongoing investment in the field is necessary to reverse years of underfunding and ensure the sustainability of essential supports and services for New Yorkers with I/DD.

We're asking the state to do two things:
 Include a 3.2% Cost of Living Adjustment in the 2024-25 Budget &
 Establish a Direct Support Wage Enhancement for Care Workers

What is the COLA?
 The annual Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) is a planned increase in state program budgets, intended to increase funding appropriately to adjust for inflation and the rising cost of operations. A 3.2% COLA would compensate for this year's inflation. It would merely meet rising costs and keep us from slipping further.

What is the DSWE?
 The Direct Support Wage Enhancement (DSWE) is a targeted workforce investment that would give providers \$4,000 per eligible employee to enhance the hourly rate of pay for frontline staff. This investment is necessary to stabilize our workforce and recruit and retain the skilled staff required to support New Yorkers with I/DD.



For more information, visit cpstate.org/advocacy.
 CP State
 Produced by the Cerebral Palsy Associations of NY.

THE NEED
 has special physical needs that limit his ability, but he does great with gymnastics and jitsu. So great, in fact, that his doctor tells him to do more of it.

THE GAP
 Some costs money, but Medicaid doesn't cover exercise classes even though the doctor's not



Invest in DSPs
INVEST IN me!
 NEW YORK DISABILITY ADVOCATES

Your Collateral



...and staff
to exempt preschool special
pursuant to section 4410 of the
Day Care" program.

GAVRAS CENTER
gavrascenter.com
Danielle M. Wright, MBA, CFE
Executive Director/CEO
E. John Gavras Center
182 North Street
Auburn, NY 13021
315-255-2746 x 2109
dmw@gavrascenter.com

...does create risk of future
JHC loses money and the board of
nic rates for treating patients with disabilities (patients with...)
I would increase current clinic rates by 20%
needed to treat these patients

CPSTATE.ORG
518) 436-0178
CEDAR STREET
EXTENSION, SUITE 2
COHOES, NY 12047
cpstate.org
CPStateNY
@CPState
cpstate

...governor now!
in CP State and New
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ensure the
f non-profit disability



Cerebral Palsy Association of the North Country

...needs of the Early Intervention service system
decades, leading to a capacity crisis that threaten
o the nearly 70,000 toddlers and their families w
providers are leaving the field to earn significant
promise of real and lasting improvements for the infants and toddlers who
ho are served by the program. This pattern of inadequate compensation
al shortage of EI providers, which has resulted in delays in service deliv
ate. New York State is failing to meet its legal obligation to ensure acc
ations and services for infants and toddlers with developmental delays.

...requently in the
entive care services through improved clinic
ding dollars on unnecessary ER and urgent care
uld be re-appropriated and better spent in
with staff that are trained in the
imunity, and in a setting that is more appropriate.
quity and list of recommendations to improve
DD can be found at cpstate.org/health-equity.

cerebralpalsy
ASSOCIATION OF NASSAU COUNTY
cnp Nassau.org
Karen Geller-Hittleman
Executive Director
Central Palsy Association
of Nassau County
380 Washington Avenue
Roosevelt, New York 11575
516.377.2044
kgeller-hittleman@cnpnassau.org

...to differing
physical limitations,
who needs a lift to be removed
quires two people to be put on
in needs assistance from staff
y can be properly examined.
process is needed to dress the
k in the lift and get them back
ss that can take upwards of 30
ent structures do not account for
with an individual's disability
medical service for which there is



THE SUMMIT CENTER
1973 Making lives better for 50 years 2023
costs have increased 103.18% since 2008.

NEW YORKERS WITH DISABILITIES NEED:

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New York Disability Advocates
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3.5% COLA to be included in



cp unlimited
PROGRESS WITH PURPOSE & CARE

HCA
caserves.com
Lisa Kost
Executive Director
ing Celebrate Abilities
18 Broad Street
Inson City, NY 13790
607-217-0066 X429
kost@hcaserves.com



NEED TO THRIVE:

ct Support Wage Enhancement
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% Cost-of-Living Adjustment
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4 NYS Budget to ensure the
rm sustainability of non-profit disability
providers.

cpstate.org/advocacy
to contact the Governor now!



STRENGTHEN THE DIRECT SUPPORT WORKFORCE

Years of underfunding coupled with rising
operational costs have exacerbated a
decades-long workforce crisis affecting the
quality of care for people with intellectual
and developmental disabilities.
Due to the lack of Direct Support Professionals:
• 38% of providers are discontinuing
or reducing programs and services
• Turnover costs non-profit providers
more than \$100 million annually
• An 18% vacancy rate means
New Yorkers

Wraparound Services of the Hudson Valley
www.wshv.org




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New Yorkers with disabilities deserve better!
ACT NOW!
Urge the Governor



Center for Disability Services
Where people get better at life™
An Affiliate of
CP State
www.cpstate.org



One-Click Advocacy

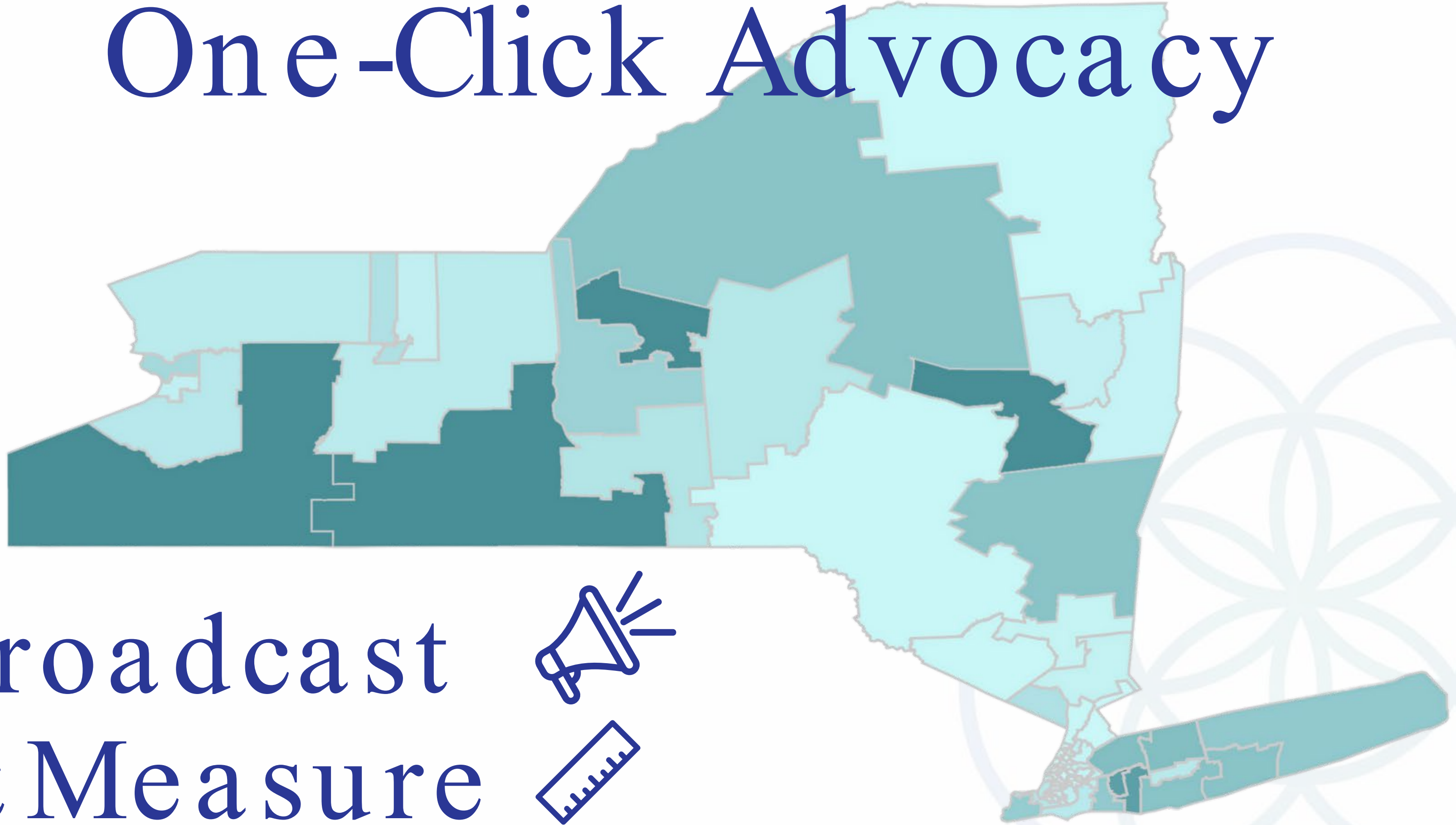
- 21,862 Contacts
- 19,540 Advocates
- 20+ Campaigns
- 200,000+ messages
- 3,647 new advocates in '22



voteRvoice

PART OF **FiscalNote**

One-Click Advocacy



Broadcast
& Measure



I'm the biggest tool.

Seriously.

Call me whenever.





Bill De Vo e
CP State
518-478-4809