



Self-Advocacy Association of New York State, Inc.

**Self-Advocacy Association of New York State (SANYS)
2011 Legislative and Policy Platform
OPWDD's Budget**

**General Principles regarding all budget and
system change proposals:**

- **Safety** of all people who are supported by OPWDD: We need to make sure people are safe where ever they live, work or hang out in the community
- **Fairness** and equity in all decisions
- We need dedicated, skilled and fairly compensated **direct support professional staff** to support us
- **Providers** of service need to be **financially stable**
- We must continue to provide supports to people on **waiting lists**
- **Individualized supports** are desired by many people and have proven to be less expensive
- Self-advocates have a lot to offer including **work and volunteer community service**

SANYS 2011 Platform—Key Points

- Spend all money available to OPWDD and dedicate all resources in a **People First** way.
- Advocate to **keep all the money currently in OPWDD's budget**, including Medicaid funds at or as close to the current level as possible; SANYS supports an 1115 Waiver to help with this goal.
- Encourage and **support provider agencies to reinvest** the funds they receive so that more people can be supported with existing funds; **individualized supports** are an important way to do this.
- OPWDD must **phase out of funding state operated services** or provide these services at a lower cost.
- Through **provider reinvestment** and **less State operated costs**, OPWDD can provide supports for some of the people on **waiting lists** for supports.
- Include people with disabilities and their families in all discussions about the future of services: **Nothing about us without us** is an important theme for self-advocates.
- Encourage an attitude of **"me to we"** among all interested parties. Call upon everyone to understand that in this fiscal crisis, advocates from all points of view must all come to the table and talk about how we spend available resources in ways that best support people and their families. Everyone needs to be willing to put some of their own priorities to the side and work together to create system of support that can be sustained.
- Related to home health care for people with physical disabilities: Expand consumer directed options and do all we can as a state to support people in their communities instead of nursing homes.

Approved by the executive committee of the Self-Advocacy Association of New York State, Inc., December 10, 2010

For additional information please contact:

**Steve Holmes
Administrative Director
Self-Advocacy Association of New York State, Inc.
500 Balltown Rd.
Schenectady, NY 12304**

518-382-1454-office

518-796-8769-cell

**Note: Cell phone (above) or home phone (518-489-1343) is
best from December 20 to January 3.**

seholmes@earthlink.net

www.sanys.org