Parent to Parent of NYS and Westchester & Putnam Independent Living Centers
Family Empowerment Advocacy Series

January 9, 2017

Dear Interested Applicant,

Parent to Parent of NYS and Westchester & Putnam Independent Living Centers are accepting applications from parents, grandparents and guardians of individuals with disabilities to participate in our **Family Empowerment Advocacy Series**. This series is offered once per year. This series prepares parents, grandparents and guardians of children with disabilities to better advocate within the education system for their own children and as a volunteer to assist other families. The training includes information about the special education process, including the laws, regulations and policies related to students with disabilities. The training aims to improve communication and develop effective advocacy skills.

Participants are selected through an application process and must reside in one of the following counties: **Albany, Columbia, Dutchess, Fulton, Greene, Montgomery, Orange, Putnam, Rensselaer, Rockland, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie, Sullivan, Ulster, Warren, Washington and Westchester**. There are no fees; however, participants are expected to attend all training sessions in person and webinars to meet the requirements listed in this letter. Accepted applicants are expected to be willing to educate families residing in their county. Graduates of the program may be asked to assist up to three families over the course of the year. Examples of assistance include talking to another parent, grandparent or guardian about education advocacy, assist with problem solving or troubleshooting about their child's education, or helping a parent, grandparent or guardian learn about special education process. It is not an expectation that graduates attend CSE meetings. Additionally, graduates are asked to participate in occasional surveys and report on your advocacy efforts with other families on a monthly or quarterly basis.

The **Family Empowerment Advocacy Series** is a **32 + hour** program conducted via both in-person workshop sessions and webinars. There will be **3 mandatory in-person sessions** (**each session being 6 hours**) and **10 mandatory 1 ½ hour webinars** (offered day or evening…your choice). Some sessions will require minimal homework. Interested individuals who do not have access to a computer and/or the internet to participate in webinars should contact Tina Beauparlant at (518) 381-4350, x 22 or (800) 305-8817 to discuss available options.

Please see the attachment with an outline of all webinar sessions.

In-person training sessions will take place in **4** different locations connected by way of video conferencing:

Capital District DDSO (Building 3) at 500 Balltown Road, Schenectady, NY 12304
Capital District DDSO (2nd Floor) at 3 Care Lane, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
Taconic DDRO (Conference Room A) at 38 Firemen's Way, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603
Hudson Valley DDSO at 11 Wilbur Road, Thiells, NY 10984

Interested participants can register on line by clicking **HERE**

or

mail, e-mail or fax their completed application, with cover sheet to:
Tina Beauparlant: tbeauparlant@ptopnys.org or Fax (518) 393-9607 **or**
Denise Green: dgreen@putnamils.org or Fax (845) 228-7460

Applications must be received by February 8, 2017. Participants will be selected based on the quality of their application and ability to serve families in areas of need. Applicants who are selected will receive a confirmation call on February 10, 2017.

If you have questions about the application or the Family Empowerment Advocacy Series, please contact:
Tina Beauparlant at Parent to Parent of NYS, tbeauparlant@ptopnys.org, (518) 381-4350, x22 or (800) 305-8817 **or**
Denise Green at Westchester and Putnam Independent Living Centers, dgreen@putnamils.org or 845-228-7457, x1102

Sincerely,

Tina Beauparlant
Regional Program Manager / Education Specialist

Trish Washburn
Education Specialist

Denise Green
Parent Training and Information
Center Coordinator

Becky Coles
Parent Training and Information
Center Specialist

PARENT TO PARENT OF NYS

STARBRIDGE
For the Hope and the How

WILC
Westchester Independent Living Center, Inc.

*Funding for this training is provided through the Parent Training and Information Center (PTIC) project administered by STARBRIDGE, Rochester, NY.

Parent to Parent of NYS and Westchester& Putnam Independent Living Centers
Family Empowerment Advocacy Series Application
Application must be received by
February 8, 2017
You can mail, e-mail, fax or register on line

(PLEASE PRINT)
Name:_____
Address:_____
City:_____ Zip:_____
Home Phone:_____ Work:_____
Cell:_____ E-mail:_____
County:_____

The information on this page of the application is requested by our funding sources and is not used to discriminate during the application process.

The area in which you live is: Urban___ Rural___Suburban___

Ethnicity
Hispanic or Latino _____ Not Hispanic or Latino _____ Undisclosed _____

Race
Caucasian/White_____ African-American/Black _____ American Indian/Native American/Alaskan Native _____ Asian_____ Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander _____
Two or more races _____ Undisclosed _____

Does your child have an: IEP _____504 _____
What is your child/children's classification(s): _____
Participants must reside in one of the counties served by these offices: **Albany, Columbia, Dutchess, Fulton, Greene, Montgomery, Orange, Putnam, Rensselaer, Rockland, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie, Sullivan, Ulster, Warren, Washington and Westchester**.
I am:
A parent of _____child (ren) with disability. Age(s)_____
A grandparent of_____ child (ren) with disability. Ages(s)_____
A guardian of _____child (ren) with disability. Age(s)_____

Please check 2 or 3 major life activities affected by your child's disability:
Receptive & Expressive Language_____ Intellectual disability_____
Learning disability _____ Mobility _____Medical _____ Self Care_____ Other_____

What services are you or your family member receiving? (i.e. School, Respite, Medicaid Service Coordination, day or residential habilitation):
Education ____ Respite ____ Service coordination ____ Day Hab ___ Residential Hab ____
Individualized Service ____ Employment ____ Job Coach ____ 504_____ Other ____

What interests you in this program?
Reputation of the program___ Interest in Advocacy ___ Family members/friends previously attended____ Networking opportunities ____ Learn to assist/advocate for my child and others____ Other _____
Comments (**Mandatory**)_____
_____
_____

Why are you a good candidate for the program?
I want to learn to be a strong advocate____ I want to be part of a network of advocates _____
Other ____
Comment (**Mandatory**)_____
_____

What experience have you had in advocating for people with disabilities?
Personal with my child ____ Personal with friends, neighbors, other parents____
Systemic with other groups and organizations____

Areas of Previous Experience? Advocacy____ Community Inclusion ____ Residential/Housing Option ____ Educational Issues ____ Employment Issues ____ Guardianship & Alternatives ___ Individualized Services ____ SSI/SSDI ____ Transition ____ Other ____
Comments: _____
_____
_____

Do you belong to any committees or organizations?
I do not belong to any committees or organizations ____ Community groups ____ School groups (ie. SEPTA/SEPTO or PTA/PTO) ____ Parent groups ____ Disability-specific groups ____ Faith-based organization ____
Comment **(Mandatory)** _____
_____
_____

If you are accepted into the Family Empowerment Advocacy Series, how would you use this information to help people with disabilities?
Join a committee or organization related to disability ____
Write letters/visit/educate policymakers _____
Continue my learning by participating in other training/ conferences ____
Educate others ____
Become a voice in my community ____
Become a voice for my child and others ____
Other ____
Are you committed to attending all in-person and webinars sessions? Yes_____ No_____
If No, please explain: _____
_____

Tina Beauparlant
Parent to Parent of NYS
Family Empowerment Advocacy Series
500 Balltown Rd
Schenectady, NY 12304
(518) 381-4350, ext.22
Fax: (518) 393-9607
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Denise Green
Westchester & Putnam Independent Living Centers
10 County Center Rd, 2nd Floor
White Plains, NY 10607
(845) 228-7457, ext. 1102
Fax: (845) 228-7460
E-Mail: dgreen@putnamils.org

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Family Empowerment Advocacy Series
Outline
February - May 2017
32 Hours

Dates of ALL in-person SESSIONS and WEBINARS are listed below

- **February 15, 2017, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm (6 hour day)**
- **March 22, 2017, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm (6 hour day)**
- **May 2, 2017, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm (6 hour day)**

All in-person sessions and webinars are MANDATORY.
Please choose a day or evening webinar that works for you.

Name of webinar	Date(s)	Time(s)	Hour(s)
Transition from Early Intervention to CPSE Presenter: Ellen Burns, Director Early Childhood Direction Center	Feb 28, 2017 **OR** March 1, 2017	12:00 pm - 1:30 pm **OR** 6:00 pm -7:30 pm	1.5 hours
Education Records Organizer Presenter: Tina Beauparlant Trish Washburn	April 11, 2017 **OR** March 15, 2017	12:00 pm –1:30 pm **OR** 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm	1.5 Hours
Understanding Your Child's Evaluations Presenter: TBD	March 13,2017 **OR** March 23,2017	12:00 pm –1:30 pm **OR** 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm	1.5 Hours
Developing Your Child's IEP Tina Beauparlant & Denise Green	March 28, 2017 **OR** March 30, 2017	12:00 pm – 1:30 pm **OR** 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm	1.5 Hours
AT in the IEP Tina Beauparlant & Denise Green or Becky Coles	April 3, 2017 **OR** April 11, 2017	12:00 pm – 1:30 pm **OR** 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm	1.5 Hours

Let's Talk High School Transition Tips and Services for after Graduation Tina Beauparlant & Becky Coles	April 4, 2017 **OR** April 25, 2017	12:00 pm – 1:30 pm **OR** 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm	1.5 Hours
Diploma Options Tina Beauparlant	April 10, 2017 **OR** April 13, 2017	12:00 pm – 1:30 pm **OR** 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm	1.5 Hours
Come Ask the Advocate TBD	March 15, 2017 OR March 21, 2017	12:00 pm – 1:30 pm OR 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm	1.5 Hours
Manifestation/School Discipline TBD	May 4, 2017 OR May 9, 2017	12:00 pm – 1:30 pm OR 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm	1.5. Hours
Dignity for all students/bullying Developing a safety plan TBD	May 8,2017 OR May 18, 2017	12:00 pm – 1:30 pm OR 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm	1.5.Hours