



Meeting with your Legislator/Policy Makers

You can meet individually with your State Legislator or invite other families who have family members waiting for DMRS Services

- I. Set date and time with Legislator(s)
- II. Confirm meeting space.
- III. Meeting at home or community meeting space
 - a. Refreshments – beverages, cookies, etc
 - b. Cups, napkins, plates, if necessary
- IV. Invite Families
- V. Plan program
Use personal stories to emphasize need for services/supports as a person or family member on the waiting list.
 - a. Determine the message you want to convey.
 - b. Include success stories as well as the needs.
 - c. Decide who will say what.
 - d. Make sure that your individual stories reflect the need for more services for you and others in your community.
 - e. Ask questions of Legislator(s)
 - i. How will you help?
 - ii. What other information do you need?
- VI. Take a picture of the Legislator(s) and group after the meeting.
- VII. Write a thank you note and summarize the points you want to make.
- VIII. Contact Doria Panvini or Walter Rogers and let us know how your meeting went.

Suggested Topics

Pick one to three topics that you feel most strongly about:

1. Long Waiting Lists for DMRS Supports

2. Home and Community Based Waiver Services (HCBS)
 - a. Personal assistance.
 - b. Residential Options.
 - c. Day Time Supports (Facility and Community).
 - d. Supported Employment.
 - e. Therapies.
3. Importance of choice to meet individual needs including the option to hire and supervise one's own staff (Self-Directed Option)
4. Family Support Funding

For more information contact: Walter Rogers at wrogers@theactn.org or Doria Panvini at robert.s.panvini@vanderbilt.edu .