

## Campaign In Action

A work group including DDS and representatives from the Association of Developmental Disabilities Providers has developed a set of strategies focusing on promotion and education to campaign for the Shared Living model.

A provider to provider support group has been convened to offer consultation opportunities to agencies who wish to provide Shared Living services for the first time or for whom it has been a very limited part of their service system. The group will provide mutual support, present best practices to give examples of implementing the model successfully, address people's fears and misconceptions, guide providers in selecting candidates for Shared Living, provide technical assistance, and deepen understanding of the model.

Focusing on Area office guidance, Shared Living information teams (one per DDS area) consisting of a designee from a provider agency, a current home care provider with the individual receiving services and/or their legal guardian; as well as a DDS liaison have been assembled in order to share their story about how the model works for them at area office staff meetings.

Presentations, that took place in the spring, consisted of real life examples, safeguards, how homes are backed up in the event of a crisis, clinical consultation needs, transitions to new homes and general information about the model.

Beginning in FY '16, DDS will offer information about Shared Living to individuals who have been prioritized for residential placement for consideration as a first choice **among options** available. In addition, for those already living in group homes, information about Shared Living will be provided in order to have individuals consider it as an alternative choice, **if desired**, to their current situation.

