Quotes from CAB Members

"I have increased my "know how" for speaking up about important issues regarding ways to improve DDS and other agencies relating to disabilities" Arlington

"You meet other family members dealing with the same concerns and issues." Andover

"You work directly with DDS directors and discuss concerns about how to make a difference in the community." Worcester

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Additional Contact Information:

Contact your DDS Area Office

www.mass.gov/dds

Mass Department of Developmental Services

500 Harrison Ave

Boston, MA 02118

www.mass.gov/dds

Massachusetts Department of Developmental Services

Citizen Advisory Boards

Self-Advocates Make a DDS Difference

Elin M. Howe, Commissioner

Ralph Edwards, Director
Office of Citizen Leadership

What is a Citizens Advisory Board (CAB)?

The CAB is a group of people including self-advocates and family members and others who want to improve the quality of life for individuals and families with intellectual disabilities.

They talk to people who work for DDS about the quality of programs.

They contribute to positive change through advocacy, community education and other activities.

ACTIVITIES

Legislative Advocacy
CAB members host meetings with state legislators to educate them about important issues.

Quality Assurance
CAB members visit residential and other programs interested in how people live. Areas of focus include: nutrition, relationships, safety and community involvement.

Community Education
CAB members help people better understand what individuals with disability need, how to become good friends, and have fun in the community.

What do CAB members do?

CAB members find information, share what they know and work with others and build partnerships.

Who should apply?

Anyone interested in improving the quality of life of people with intellectual disabilities.

People interested in participating in legislative advocacy and quality assurance visits.

How Much Time will it Take?

The amount of time you spend is up to you.

The Citizens Advisory Board meets monthly, at the DDS Area Office. Besides the meetings, members can attend legislative breakfasts, recognition events, and go on Quality Assurance visits.

Who Do I Contact for an application?

Ralph Edwards - Office of Citizen Leadership
1-617-624-7755 or ralph.edwards@state.ma.us