

**NYC Family Information & Resource Network**  
[www.nycfamilyinformationandresourcenetwork.org](http://www.nycfamilyinformationandresourcenetwork.org) (*Under Construction*)  
Phone: 212-477-1225 or Email: [nycfirn@gmail.com](mailto:nycfirn@gmail.com)

**THE NYC FAMILY RESOURCE NETWORK** is a newly formed advocacy group comprised of parents, siblings and other family members of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). We are concerned that the current family leadership is aging and we are looking to partner with the next generation of parents, siblings and others to become active participants in the lives of our loved ones.

Acquainting family members with the intricacies of the service delivery system for people with I/DD benefits everyone. It will help the Developmental Disabilities (DD) Councils to expand their reach and their advocacy. By increasing family representation, the DD Councils will attain balance and advocate more effectively.

Our Mission:

- Expand and strengthen the community of interest
- Replenish leadership through the recruitment, training, and mentoring of younger parents and siblings
- Empower families by providing information regarding all services.
- Connect families with other families
- Empower family advocates connected to the volunteer agencies

We propose to support our mission and achieve common goals by starting a **Mentor/Mentee Program**.

Mentees should represent families who have children living at home as well as those who have children living in residences. Mentors should be those who have exhibited leadership qualities and are informed about the DD Community.

In addition to the DD Councils, mentors and mentees could come from:

- Service Provider Agencies
- National/NY Sibling Leadership Networks
- NYC DOE schools including District 75
- Pre-schools, elementary schools and high schools serving children with Developmentally Disabilities whether public or private
- NYS Partners in Policy graduates

**Organizing Group**  
**Family Members: Meri Krassner & Elly Rufer**  
**Professional Advisors: Judy Delasi & Amy Bitterger**

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**We would like to identify family members to join our Network as mentors and mentees to bring a new and stronger voice to the Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) Community.**

**ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE MENTORS**

*As a mentor, I will*

- Commit to the program for a minimum of a year.
- Provide one on one mentoring to the mentee throughout the year
- Accompany the mentee to interagency meetings, public forums, advocacy and lobbying events as well as Network informational sessions on specific issues.
- Provide an overview of the history of the field, what the current issues and challenges are and their relationship to government policies
- Foster a relationship that is conducive to open interaction
- Offer counsel, guidance and encouragement
- Be conscious and respectful of cultural and generational differences between myself and my mentee

**ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE MENTEE**

*As a mentee, I will*

- Commit to the program for a minimum of a year.
- Attend interagency meetings, public forums, advocacy and lobbying events as well as well as Network Informational sessions
- Learn from my mentor's experience and knowledge
- Be a good listener
- Be open to feedback and suggestions
- Initiate independent advocacy opportunities when appropriate
- Communicate my concerns, fears and successes to my mentor
- Be conscious and respectful of cultural and generational differences between myself and my mentor

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