

CQCAPD Quality Initiative Guidance Document

The information in the report entitled: *The Quality Initiative: What People with Disabilities and Their Families Said About Quality of Life* is meant to provide a framework for policy makers, government agencies, advocacy organizations, providers, individuals and family members to use when planning, providing, funding, or regulating services for people with disabilities.

The following are suggestions for how to use the information gathered from the nearly 450 people with disabilities who participated in the Quality Initiative. We encourage you to use this information for conducting presentations, as an education and training tool, and/or for promoting policies that incorporate the needs and desires of individuals with disabilities. The Quality Initiative report, quality stories, and a PowerPoint presentation are available on the CQCAPD website at: www.cqc.nygov

I. Spread the word through presentations: Use the Quality Initiative tools to present to organizations in your community. Some examples are:

- Disability networks (i.e. Disability Network of NYC)
- Quality committees of associations
- Disability Awareness Month
- Medical providers and service organizations
- Schools and community organizations
- Religious and other organizations
- Community planning (i.e. town planning meetings)
- Employers
- Financial institutions
- Retail businesses
- Other public or private entities in your community

II. Education and Training

Quality Initiative materials can be used as:

- a training/orientation tool for places/organizations that serve people with disabilities.
- an educational tool in higher education to train students in the human services, medical, and legal professions
- an educational/public awareness tool for professionals and professional organizations such as the American Medical Association, nursing associations, and with judges, lawyers, correction officers, etc.
- anti-stigma campaigns/public service announcements.

- a tool to increase awareness in public and private organizations so they can become more knowledgeable about the needs of people with disabilities, and develop marketing strategies to meet those needs.

III. Promote Policy Change

The following are some suggestions for discussion when meeting with various groups on potential action items. The action items are purposefully very broad, and represent key issues identified by individuals who participated in focus groups and sent in stories.

Potential Action Items

- ✓ **Housing:** What can be done to ensure that supports are available for people to live as independently as possible?
- ✓ **Transportation:** What can be done to correct the specific problems with paratransit services?
- ✓ **Education:** What can be done to ensure that families and individuals are informed about the limitations of an Individual Education Plan (IEP) diploma, and receive assistance in pursuing their educational goals?
- ✓ **Employment:** What can be done to assist people in finding employment that matches their experience, education and interests?
- ✓ **Health:** What can be done to assist doctors, clinics and other health providers to be more responsive to the needs of people with disabilities?
- ✓ **Personal Relationships:** What can be done to increase opportunities to meet and socialize with people whom individuals with disabilities choose?
- ✓ **Leisure and Recreation:** What can be done to ensure that sporting and recreational activities are accessible and affordable?
- ✓ **Government Oversight:** What can be done to improve enforcement of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and increase public awareness?
- ✓ **Assistive Technology and Accessibility:** What can be done to ensure that individuals have timely access to assistive devices necessary for a good quality of life?

For more information go to: <http://www.cqc.ny.gov> or call 800-624-4143.