

ADVOCACY 101

- **Advocacy is defined as**
- **“The Art of pleading or arguing in favor of something, such as a cause, idea or policy; actives support.**

– American Heritage Dictionary 2000

What is Lobbying?

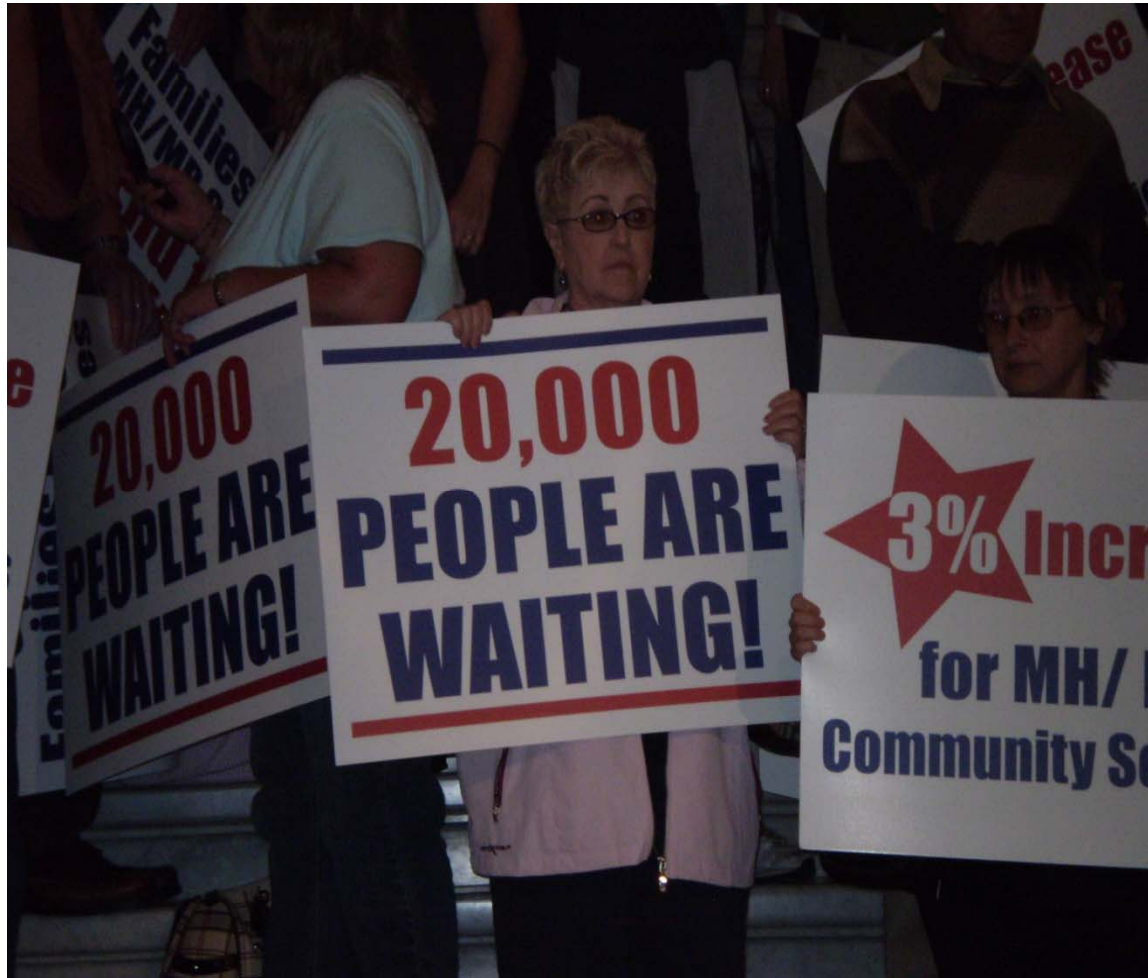
- “Trying to influence the thinking of legislators or other public officials for or against a specific cause.”
- Lobbyist are usually compensated for their services.
- Need to comply with various ethical and lobbying disclosure laws governing their activities.
- Guaranteed RIGHT in America.

- So, if you have ever spoken with a public official on an issue that you are for or against, then you have “lobbied” your official and “advocated on behalf of a cause.
- However, you are usually not subject to ethical and lobbying disclosure laws unless you are compensated for your activities.



Self Advocates, Parents, Commissioners, Federal and State Legislators gather at Homefields after successfully working together to bring additional dollars in Lancaster County for those on the waiting list.

- Legislators are hardworking, dedicated individuals.
- They need to be knowledgeable about everything from Special Education Funding to Agricultural Issues
- From the Waiting list Initiative to the Trucking Industry.



It is vital for you to be an active and effective advocate on behalf of your cause.

Helpful Hints to being an effective advocate.

- Be authentic, passionate and professional
- Identify who you are and who you represent
- Do your homework and know your issue.
- Present the facts
- If asked a question you do not know, tell them you will research the question and get back to them.
- Tell your story
- Bring along a picture of the person you are representing.



This is Peter visiting his mother. Peter lived in an institution for 27 years. He is currently living with two other guys in the community. He gets to go out to eat, go fishing, rides his bike and visits family. I want all people with disabilities to be able to live a life similar to his.

Contacting your Legislator

- Schedule appointments with your legislator during their time in the district offices..
- Be on time.
- Dress appropriately
- It is ok to meet with a staff or an aide.
- Introduce yourself and state why you are there.
- State your objective.
- Thank him for previous support
- Explain how this issue effects you and your community.
- Personal stories help the legislator relate to the human side of the issue.
- Ask for legislative support
- Ask what you can do to help the legislator.
- Leave fact sheets or other written materials regarding your issue.
- Thank the legislator for their time and send a written thank you as soon as you get home.

Contacts Via Mail or Phone

- Identify yourself and your issue.
- Be concise
- State your purpose
- Refer to legislation
- State your concern
- Think about how this effects your local community.
- State the facts
- Ask if they are willing to support your view

To access the Action Center
www.thearcpa.org



Representative Scott Boyd at The Arc of Lancaster County's Membership meeting



Five Conversations a Legislator Wants To Have With You

1. What are the local statistics?
2. How state monies are being spent in the district
3. Real life stories that illuminate the statistics
4. How your organization accesses voters in the district
5. What specific legislative action would make you happy.