

Help state legislators by attending Advocacy Days

By Tresa Stuber, Clallam County Parent Coalition Coordinator

It is getting to be that time of year again! The 2009 Advocacy Days Series will begin with an exciting day in Olympia on January 28th.

Please see the enclosed flyer for a schedule of the events for that day along with the Advocacy Days schedule for the rest of the Legislative Session.

It is my hope that as we go through these difficult economic times we will remember how important it is that we take part in the great opportunities to express our needs.

Governor Christine Gregoire has publicly asked for input from all of us as to how services can be delivered in a more efficient manner. You can contact her office by phone at (360) 902-4111.

It is important for us to help our government officials by coming up with possible solutions to the complex issues that

we face – there is the old saying that “if we aren’t part of the solution – we are part of the problem”.

How can we help our government save money while creating opportunities for changes in services that are in the best interest of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families? Changes that not only respect individual choice and but empower us to become all that we can be.

Our legislators want to hear from you – they depend on your feedback to inform them about what your needs are and to give them accurate information.

Participating in Advocacy Days is a wonderful opportunity for you to participate in learning about how our state government works and how to be an effective self advocate. If you are interested in being a part of Advocacy Days please contact Tresa Stuber at SNAP (360) 681-8642 to make reservations for one of the trips to Olympia.

Continuing education

Free workshops are being presented by the Division of Developmental Disabilities for continuing education credits.

To register call:

Debra Terry at **360-565-2702**, or
Andrea Reetz at **360-565-2701**, or toll free
1-877-601-2760.

Use of Psychoactive Medication on People with Developmental Disabilities:

9 a.m.- 4 p.m., February 6.

From Schools for the Feeble-Minded to Self-Determination: An Evolution in Values;

9 a.m.- 4 p.m., March 17.

All workshops will be held at **203 West 1st Street, Port Angeles**, the DSHS office.

Family Network Groups

The Family Network Groups next meeting is **Parents with children who experience autism** from **6~7:30 p.m.**, Monday, **January 26** and again April 27, 2009, at the Olympic Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Hall, 73 Howe Road, Port Angeles.

Dinner will be provided and free childcare is also available, but with a one-week notice. Upcoming meetings are:

Senior parents who have adult children with developmental disabilities meet, from **6-7:30 p.m.** Monday, February 23 and Monday, March 30, 2009.

Contact **Jenell Dematteo** at **360-379-8934**.