



Lifelong Advocates for Marylanders with Developmental Disabilities

ANNUAL REPORT TO SPONSORS

November 7, 2015

The Board of Directors presents the following report on the status of By Their Side.

Membership

By Their Side has 263 members. 69 members receive advocacy services following the death of their sponsors, and all received an annual assessment visit this past year. One member newly assigned will be visited in November. 194 members have living sponsors. In the past 12 months, services have started for five members following the passing of their sponsor, and three members have passed away. The Board has approved four new applications for membership and Lifelong Advocacy Services. 38 members currently receive additional visits and monitoring through Advocacy Plan Services; over half have an involved sponsor/parent.

Advocacy Services

In the past year, By Their Side advocates have assisted members with life changes and small preferences. For example, a member was helped to secure increased State funding for full residential services; the new resource coordinator's request included documentation provided by the By Their Side Advocate to demonstrate need. As planned with siblings, an advocate helped arrange a companion and facilitate Trust funding while a member was hospitalized and then in rehab. The advocate provided a new team with information of past events to support the (approved) DDA funding request for 1:1 staff to assure pica behavior resulting in hospitalization was not repeated. An advocate followed up with a landlord to assure the repair of a porch step. Advocates facilitated the purchase of new and more challenging puzzles for individuals who prefer this activity in their day programs. Advocates' follow up helped accelerate the receipt of needed services such as dental care, a new walker and transition to retirement.

By Their Side advocates continue to work with members and their parents to prepare for transition to their role as advocate. An advocate is helping a parent and team with the development of a comprehensive Individual Plan to fully prepare the next selected provider. As arranged by parents, advocates are visiting some members annually to establish a relationship now. By Their Side continues to provide referrals and guidance to sponsors and other parents who contact our office; estate planning is the chief topic of discussion.

Board Committees

Over the past year, the Board of Directors has worked to address goals related to family support and helping Maryland families learn about our services. By Their Side staff and siblings worked with the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council to co-sponsor and plan MDSibs2015, a statewide conference attended by 186 siblings of all ages. A time-limited parent and multi-disciplinary focus group met from March through October to

explore future-planning needs and resources for families with an only child (and those with siblings.)

By Their Side Board and staff participated in 22 presentations, resource fairs, and meetings with professionals to help families who need us, hear about us. We were invited by the U.S. Department of State to talk with a delegation from the United Arab Emirates about the rights of people with disabilities and advocacy by a non-government organization.

By Their Side's finance committee continues to closely monitor financial reserves for future services. An annual actuarial study to project future needs and expenses is being conducted. The membership fee and Advocacy Plan services rates continue unchanged this year: \$3000 for sponsors under 65, \$3500 for sponsors 64-74, \$4000 for sponsors 75 and over. Advocacy plan services are \$84/hour, with discounts for more frequent contacts.

Financial

As of September 30, 2015, By Their Side's assets totaled \$1,055,706.00. By Their Side's annual audit of financial records for fiscal year ending June 30, 2015, is in process by Naden/Lean, LLC. The 2014 audit found the financial statements "present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of By Their Side, Inc as of June 30, 2014 and 2013, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States." By Their Side's investments are managed by Harbor Investment Advisory. Operating funds are drawn from investment income and undesignated donations. In 2014 By Their Side received a \$151,000 bequest from the Laura and John Birkland Trusts, which is now invested as a reserve for future services.

Personnel

By Their Side's employees include Kathy Vecchioni, Executive Director (20 hours a week) and Personal Advocate; Beverly Rill, Financial Coordinator (16 hours a month) and Personal Advocate; and Sandie French, Administrative Assistant (8 hours a week.) Twelve experienced contractual Personal Advocates also provide advocacy services—Nancy Berger, Kari Borgealt, Ann Brady, Susan Buehl, Paul Mysak, Cathy Raggio, Beatrice Rodgers, Rebecca Rubin, Joan Rumenap, Candice Tritch, Debbie Willis, and Portia Willis— for a total of fourteen Personal Advocates located throughout Maryland.

Governance

By Their Side is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors that includes six parents and two siblings. Directors serving during Fiscal Year 2016 include: Mark L. Wagner, DMD, President; Kenneth Moore, Vice President; Jeffrey Dahlka, Sr., Treasurer; Paula Mattson-Sarli, Esq, Secretary; Joan Chevalier; George Failla, Jr, Esq., Craig S. Hebert; Philip Levinson, DDS; Mary Scott; Judy Volkman, and Tracy Wright. The Board appointed Joan Kolobielski and Martin Lampe, Ph.D as Directors Emeritus. *The Directors welcome sponsors or community members from different professions, geographic areas, and segments of the community to serve on the board or on a board committee.*

Respectfully submitted,



Mark L. Wagner
Board President