

**POSITION PAPER ON TRANSPARENCY:
THE CREATION OF STATEWIDE REGIONAL PLANNING GROUPS**

GROW is a parent and family run organization whose dedicated members have volunteered their time for thirty years to advocate for a full range of supports and services to enhance the lives of people with developmental disabilities.

During all this time we have experienced limited and inconsistent dialogue with statewide agencies responsible for providing these services. Now during these fiscally challenging times, it is extremely important that groups such as GROW have ongoing input to help determine priorities for services.

We would like to create a transparent environment in which there is the opportunity for open communication between all stakeholders and in particular parents, self advocates and other family members.

We recognize that there are many issues facing OPWDD and believe that a transparent environment coupled with a proactive partnership would be one way to address the full spectrum of planning for the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities.

We urge you to create and pass legislation requiring such transparency and input via regional planning groups or some other mechanisms.