

The Resident Voice



Support Line (866) 503-3332

www.ciadny.org

425 East 25th Street New York, NY 10010

APRIL 2024

Greetings to All,

Deborah Hunter Peer Advocate, here with the latest and greatest update on our Annual Speak Out, February 28th, 2024. Cars rolled up to Venture House, dropping off residents and Staff for our 7am departure to Albany, NY. It was a chilly morning. Venture House, an organization for youth under 25 that provides social skills training, opened their doors at 6am and provided us with coffee and a warm place to wait for our bus. Our team was about 45 people and a service dog. JK Canepa provided bagels and cream cheese, Sherletta McCaskill gave everyone a snack pack. All very nice. "ROLL CALL" - everyone accounted for and off we went. We had a great driver, he got us to Albany in good time. At 11am our Executive Director, Geoff Lieberman welcomed the participants, allies and invited guests. Gary Levin CIAD Board Vice-President spoke words of encouragement. We previewed a great new film - *Empowerment and Resiliency: The Impact of CIAD*. You can view this at www.ciadny.org.

Deborah Berger, Bronxwood Adult Home spoke on CIAD funding and Bruce Davis from Belle Harbor Manor spoke about the EQUAL program restoration. The official listeners included representatives from the NYS Department of Health, the NYS Justice Center, and Legislative Offices. Following a hot lunch and open mic time, we had meetings with Legislators from 1-3:30 p.m. all of whom gave each team a "thumbs up" to support our Equal Grant and funding for CIAD priorities.

It was an awesome time and the feedback from the participants was GREAT!!!

In Memoriam

Valerie Hall Peer Advocate

Valerie served as the Resident Council President at Ocean View Home. She encouraged others to participate in the Council and worked diligently to improve relations with the administration of the home. She was actively involved in the EQUAL Grant process and other initiatives in the home which led to greater empowerment and positive outcomes for the residents.

No matter what was happening in her life or the world, Valerie always had a smile and a positive outlook. When things got difficult, she was strengthened by her deep faith in God and was buoyed by her church family and friends. Like many adult home residents, Valerie overcame many obstacles and challenges in her life. Now, after a life well and generously lived, she has completed her life journey. She will be greatly missed.

Rest eternal grant her, O Lord; and let light perpetual shine upon her.



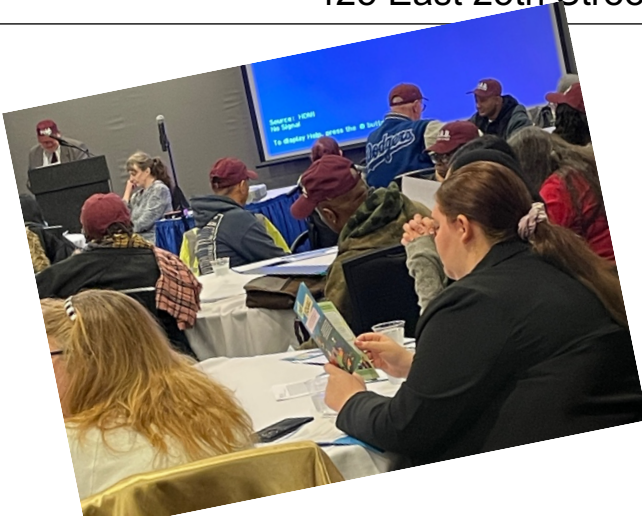
CIAD is a nonprofit advocacy organization run with and by persons with disabilities to support resident rights in Adult Care Homes. CIAD provides: Resident Council training and organizing, Independence Training, and individual advocacy. In partnership with Mobilization for Justice we support advocacy efforts with the NYS Department of Health, Adult Care Home operators and state and local elected officials.

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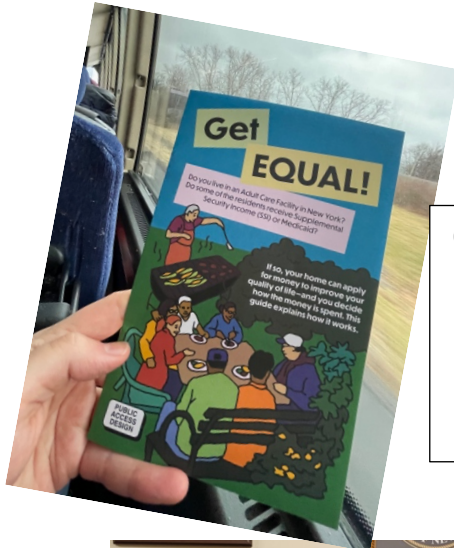
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Gary Levin, CIAD Board VP, addresses the crowd.



QACC residents Marvetta Drumgold, Marc Riddick, Marlene Hill, Spencer Hawks with Agustin Cepeda from CUP meet with Assemblymember Steve Raga



Get EQUAL! – the new brochure from CIAD walks you through the EQUAL process. Please see our website for a copy or call the Support Line 866-503-3332, or ask a Peer Advocate or other staff to receive one.

<https://ciadny.org/equal-grant-information/>



Miguelina Camilo, Counselor to Assembly Speaker Heastie met with Glenda King, Deborah Berger, and Vivian Walston.



Executive Director Geoff Lieberman shepherds everyone back to the bus for the ride home.