

# The Resident Voice



Support Line (866) 503-3332

[www.ciadny.org](http://www.ciadny.org)

205 Hudson Street #746 New York New York 10013

## Winter 2026

It's been a busy time at CIAD and in our Residents' homes these past four months. We held the Food Summit with Department of Health and Residents and Allies, and we are beginning preparations for the 2026 Speak Out! EQUAL Funds were awarded and released. New EQUAL requests were submitted. We have had staffing changes too. Read on for the details!

### September Food Summit

On September 30<sup>th</sup>, CIAD convened the Food Summit with representatives of the Department of Health, the NYS Ombudsman Office; The NY State Justice Center; Mobilization for Justice; representatives from the offices of various elected officials; CIAD Staff and Board members. Representatives from 14 Adult Care Facilities across all five boroughs of New York City, with Residents from seven different Adult Care Facilities participating remotely through Zoom links set up for use in their homes.

Gabriel Toussaint Mermaid Manor, Donna Chatman, from Brooklyn Boulevard ALP, (previously from Queens Adult Care Center), and Charles Lewis, from Bronxwood Adult Care Facility shared their experiences and concerns about food and nutrition at their homes highlighting the importance of food health, culture and tradition. An open comment segment allowed both those present and those remote to share their experiences with the Department of Health representatives and other participants.

Executive Director Theresa Young presented the findings of the CIAD Food Survey conducted from January to June 2025. 19 homes participated from across all five boroughs with 407 participants. The report results and the feedback from participants will shape our next steps in fighting for better food and nutrition in adult care facilities.

***Keep working with your Resident Council and Food Committee as we move forward in 2026. Together we can make a difference when we invest the time.***

**The Support Line is here for You!** If you have a question, need support or direction, or want CIAD to come to a meeting in your home, call us at **866-503-3332**. You can leave a message anytime & we will get back to you if we cannot answer when you call. Be sure to leave a detailed message with a good call back number for you.

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, Resident Rights & Independence Training, as well as individual advocacy.



1. L-R Victoria Klingan, NYS Justice Center; Karen Walker, Deputy Dir. NYS Dept. of Aging & Long-Term Care; Theresa Young CIAD Exec. Dir; Assemblymember Phara Soffrant Forrest, Josiel Estrella, Secretary for Intergovernmental and External Affairs Office of the Speaker - Carl Heastie; Alex He Deputy to Sec. Estrella of the Speaker's Office; Wendy McBride, NYS Dept. of Aging & Long-Term Care



2. The Summit in session during the Survey presentation.

## Policy Committee Meetings and Speak Out 2026!

We have **TWO Policy Committee meetings** scheduled to prepare for the Speak Out. All residents and homes are welcome to participate in person or remotely. The dates are **January 14 and January 21, 2026**. We will meet at 205 Hudson Street in Conference room H on the 8<sup>th</sup> Floor from **10:00 a.m. and conclude by 2:00 p.m.** Lunch will be offered.

*You must reserve a spot by calling the Support Line. Leave your name, home name, and your number and we will confirm it with you.*

### **The Annual Speak Out in Albany will be Wednesday February 11, 2026.**

We will travel by bus and food is provided. We depart at 7:00 am and return by 7:00 p.m. We will have a Plenary Session where residents educate legislators on their needs and then visit with Senators and Assembly members to seek their support. It's a long day and involves a lot of walking to make the visits. This is a chance to bring your voice to the lawmakers. Contact us for more information.

## Welcome!

Please extend a warm welcome to our new staff members:

**Jenine Ferrari** – Resident Advocate is experienced in working with Family Councils and now brings that support to Resident Councils. She had a deep passion for and commitment to the well-being of seniors in adult care facilities. We are pleased to have her on our team.

**Emma Begley-Collier** – Home Organizer brings her energetic and thoughtful skills to the service of Adult Home Residents and Resident Councils. Emma has been an effective organizer in a variety of settings and brings great energy to our work. She is a skilled trainer, and she is eager to work with you! We are delighted that she is a Home Organizer with CIAD.

**You can reach them through the Support Line- 866-503-3332.**