



Penn-Mar
Human Services

Transforming Life Into Living

The Penn-Mar Advocacy Collective Year at a Glance

“Strategy is what helps us ensure that all our action does not simply become ‘the noise before defeat.’”

– Jim Shultz



Year At a Glance

January

- Pennsylvania and Maryland Legislative sessions scheduled to convene
- New Year, New Goals!
 - What are my New Year Advocacy Goal?
 - Identify three tasks you would like to achieve in this new year!
- Advocacy Boot Camp! – Let's work together to make our message heard
 - If working out is part of your New Years Resolution, then as an advocate, so is perfecting your story.
 - How to prepare to speak to your Representatives
 - What are the issues that need to be addressed
 - What are our advocacy partners addressing
- Maryland's Developmental Disability Day (DD Day) is coming around the corner
 - Come one, Come all!
 - Identify who you want to visit this year
 - Squad Goals!
 - Identify FIVE friends
 - Ask them to join you on DD Day
 - Tell them why this matters so much to you!
 - Contact the Manager of Volunteer Engagement to let her know who you would like to speak to and who will be joining you this year!

February

- Maryland's - Developmental Disabilities Day!
 - Spend the day with us in Annapolis for one of Maryland's biggest days for IDD advocacy. Join other advocates, families, self-advocates, PMHS team members and policy makers in creating some "good trouble" and let your voice be heard!
- Don't forget to say Thank You
 - What's in a thank you and why is this so important
 - Remind our representatives who you are and your story!

March

- IDD Awareness Month
 - Flood this month with information about the people we love and use this month to raise IDD and PMAC awareness



April

- Maryland legislative sessions scheduled to adjourn

May

- May 1st is Law Day
 - This offers us a chance to take this month to understand how policy is created and to take a look at how the legal process works to protect our liberties and strive to use advocacy to amplify the opportunities and experiences for the men and women we support
- PAR Rally is Next Month! Start organizing to get our voices heard!
 - Gather FIVE people who are in of support making life equitable and inclusive for all!
 - Share your story
 - Be Heard
 - Share your time and mobilize

June

- Rally in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania!
 - Join us for a day to be seen and heard. Last year we had over 40 people attend this rally, let's make 2021 even more successful and colorful with our PMHS T-shirts!
 - This is a day to tell our Representatives what supports are needed, for someone with IDD living in this Pennsylvania and who helps us in our journey. It's our time to address what is needed for the progress of all people!
- Circle back with those Representatives and say thank you for their time and remind them about why you attended the Harrisburg Disabilities Rally

July

- While Congress is gearing up for their month-long summer recess, let's plan on some fun activities.
 - Let's take the time to learn about when they will have their Constituents Breakfasts, Town Hall events and schedule some meetings to ask for their support.



August

- The Room Where it Happens
 - Getting in the door – believe it or not, they represent you.
 - What it means to be a constituent
 - Scheduling meetings with your representative and why it is important to have those face-to-face meetings

September

- DSP Week is here!
 - This is when we can take this opportunity to say thank you to those who have taken care of and supported our families
 - Let the letter-writing campaigns begin! Take the time to write a letter about why DSPs are essential to our everyday

October

- Take the time to thank your Representatives who have supported our efforts
 - Take it a step further and call attention to all of your work. Use your social media power to thank those who have supported and spoken out for the IDD community. Utilize your hashtag power!

November

- Pennsylvania legislative sessions scheduled to adjourn
- Introductions are always important
 - Let's take this time to introduce ourselves to the newly elected members
 - Tell them why you and yours need their support this coming year.

December

- Time to regroup and prepare for a new year of legislative advocacy!
- Don't forget to spread the word about the Penn-Mar Advocacy Collective
 - This is the time to spread some cheer and tell others about your efforts and why coming together as a collective to advance local and statewide legislation, policy and funding to amplify opportunities and experiences for the men and women we support with IDD is the best gift of the season