DDPC was recently awarded a three-year Federal grant from the Administration on Developmental Disabilities for a training project entitled, "Leadership Training for Personal Assistance." The grant was a result of a cooperative effort between DDPC, other state human service agencies, self-advocate groups, Independent Living Centers, other advocates, and this Department. The goal of this project is to strengthen the abilities and skills of individuals with disabilities, their family members and advocates to influence and impact on all aspects of personal assistance services delivery systems.

The Leadership Training Project is intended to provide participants with:

- training in leadership and advocacy skills;
- information about best practices;
- awareness of current issues and trends; and,
- knowledge about policy making at the state, local and national levels.

Individuals with disabilities, parents, family members, primary care givers and advocates are eligible for the training program. Participants will be selected from applications submitted to the DDPC. Enrollment is limited. Training sessions are held from 6:00 P.M. on Friday evening and on
Saturday from 8:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. The sessions are conducted one weekend a month for a four month period. While the deadline for submitting an application for the Albany training session has already passed, there are three other sessions that are scheduled for other regions across the State for the remainder of the calendar year.

I hope you can lend support toward promoting this worthwhile advocacy and skills training program by sharing this information with persons or agencies whom you think might be interested in this program. General questions about the program can be directed to Mr. Fred Waite, Bureau of Long Term Care, 1-800 343-8859 extension 3-5490, or by dialing direct at (518) 473-5490.

Persons interested in obtaining an application form or who have specific questions about "Leadership Training for Personal Assistance" are encouraged to directly call DDPC in Albany at 1-800-395-3372 (voice) or (518) 432-8245 (TDD/TTY).

Sue Kelly
Deputy Commissioner
Division of Health & Long Term Care