



**For Immediate Release:**

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## **Advocates To Provide Family Supports in South Shore Communities**

**Framingham, Massachusetts**, July 19, 2010...Advocates, Inc. is pleased to announce that it has been awarded the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) contract for family support services in the South Coastal Area which includes Weymouth, Braintree, Milton, Randolph, Quincy, Cohasset, Hingham, Scituate, Hull and Norwell. Beginning on July 1, Advocates South Coastal Family Support Center in Randolph began providing support services to over 300 families caring for loved ones with intellectual/developmental disabilities.

The program director and two staff members provide workshops, trainings, case management and information/referral services both at their Randolph office and at various accessible sites in the area. Families with questions can call 1-877-628-6789 to speak with a family supports staff person.

"We look forward to partnering with families in the south shore to provide supports tailored to their specific needs and goals," said Jeff Keilson, vice president of strategic planning and development for Advocates. Keilson and other Advocates staff are in the process of recruiting an Advisory Council led by family members of individuals with disabilities to provide guidance and direction for the program.

"Our approach to family supports is family-driven and culturally sensitive," Keilson added. In addition to the South Coastal Family Support Center, Advocates operates several other family supports programs including the Autism Alliance of MetroWest and Project Able which supports Chinese and Vietnamese families in Boston and the south shore.

To learn more about Advocates family supports programs, visit [www.AdvocatesInc.org/Resources-ForFamilies](http://www.AdvocatesInc.org/Resources-ForFamilies).

### **About Advocates**

Headquartered in Framingham, Advocates is among the 20 largest human service organizations in Massachusetts. With over 1,000 employees and 12,000 individuals served each year, Advocates is a leading provider of family support services; residential support services; day habilitation; employment supports; outpatient mental health and substance abuse services; psychiatric emergency services; housing, benefits and legal services; and community justice programs. Advocates' programs are located at over 100 sites throughout Eastern and Central Massachusetts. To learn more, visit [www.AdvocatesInc.org](http://www.AdvocatesInc.org).

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