

DDS and the Statewide Advisory Council held its annual State House Celebration on March 22, 2010 in the Great Hall. More than two hundred and fifty individuals, family members, providers, legislators, DDS staff, and other citizens attended. The 2010 theme was “Take Charge: Take Action!” **Dan Rea**, a veteran Boston television journalist who is the Host of NightSide on WBZ news radio and well versed on disability issues, was the emcee for the event. This year, **Marjorie Cohen** and **Susan Nadworny** were presented with the 2010 **Gunnar Dybwad** Leadership Award.

**Susan Nadworny** was recognized for her unyielding commitment to help others and her unique ability to rally people together to help all families in Massachusetts ensure that their children with disabilities have the same opportunities as other children. As President of Massachusetts Families Organizing for Change, Susan helped MFOC become a leading voice in the developmental disability community. In addition to helping out families directly and educating them on how effective services can help individuals with disabilities realize their potential, Susan was a frequent visitor to Beacon Hill where she met with legislators and shared with them the knowledge and stories that were critical to their understanding of the importance of assisting individuals with intellectual disabilities. Susan’s efforts to support the disability community have also expanded to working with the Donate Life Melrose program in organizing organ donation awareness activities and raising money to fund education and outreach.

At this year’s event, there were fifteen individuals and groups of individuals recognized as the 2010 DDS/SAC State House Honorees. **MFOFC Board Member, Cathe Carpenter**, was one of two individuals honored for their leadership on the Central Middlesex Citizens Advisory Board in revitalizing its legislative committee and creating the community relations committee.

### ***Congratulations Susan and Cathe!***

*Above is an excerpt of an article posted on [www.mass.gov/dds](http://www.mass.gov/dds)*