



ADVOCACY BEST PRACTICES

- **DO** assign who will lead the meeting; it is best that the constituent of the Member leads.
- **DO** introduce the group as CHILD & ADOLESCENT PSYCHIATRISTS, physicians who specialize in the treatment of behavioral health disorders in children and young adults.
- **DO** keep your introductions short & sweet. *You are a physician, who do you serve and where?*
- **DO** get to know the staffer: ask them questions about their boss' legislative priority regarding mental health and healthcare for children.
- **DO** attend meetings with anecdotes from the District.
- **DO** mind the time.
- **DO** use the one-pagers and leave behind information. Open the folder for them or point out resources in the folder.
- **DO** be pleasant, even when a staffer or Member appears combative, uncaring, or uncooperative. Bring them back to the point.
- **DO NOT** talk about campaign contributions, AACAP's PAC, attending political events, volunteering on campaigns, or anything related to elections.
- **DO** say "I don't know" if you don't know the answer to a question. Let the Member/staffer know that you or an AACAP staff member will follow-up with an answer.

DO HAVE FUN. YOU GOT THIS!