



To: Provider Associations
Voluntary Provider Agency Executive Directors
Developmental Disabilities State Operations Office Directors
Developmental Disabilities Regional Office Directors
IBR Director
Commissioner's Advisory Council
DDPC Consumer Caucus
OPWDD Required Regulations Mailing List

From: OPWDD Office of Counsel, Bureau of Policy & Regulatory Affairs

Date: September 15, 2016

Re: Final Regulations – Agency Name Change & Terminology Updates

Effective Date: Wednesday, September 21, 2016

Suggested distribution:

Agency Administrators and Managers

Purpose:

OPWDD has filed final regulations that update terminology in Title 14 NYCRR to 1) reflect the change of the agency's name from "Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (OMRDD)" to "Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD)"; and 2) replace obsolete terminology with people-first language. For example, the terms "mental retardation", "client", "consumer", and "service recipient", are replaced with "person", "individual", "individual or person receiving services", and "individual or person with developmental disabilities".

The final regulations are effective September 21, 2016. There are no changes to the final regulations in comparison with the proposed regulations.

The text and summary of the final regulations are posted on the OPWDD website at www.opwdd.ny.gov. Look under "Regulations & Guidance."

Thank you.