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Benefits and Services

How will the People First Waiver impact Special Olympics and other recreational type programs that are not typically "covered" services (i.e. our local chapter of AHRC does dances/holiday parties)?

The People First Waiver will provide Medicaid services only. These services include all State Plan services and the services provided under OPWDD's current Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waiver plus a new category of Individual Directed Goods and Services (IDGS) which are services, equipment or supplies that address an identified need in the service plan related to improving and maintaining the individual's opportunities for full membership in the community. IDGS is available to individuals who live in their own home or residence, a family care home or a supportive apartment. Services that are not a covered waiver service will not be funded through the waiver, and will remain the responsibility of the sponsoring organization to support. Non-Medicaid services such as recreational programs that may be funded through Family Support will continue to be funded outside the Medicaid budget using 100% state dollars.

Transformation Agreement

Does the CMS transformation plan also apply to state-operated homes/programs?

The Transformation Agreement with CMS includes activities OPWDD will undertake to improve community integration and personal outcomes for individuals currently served by voluntary agencies and OPWDD's state services.

How will OPWDD achieve getting costs below the 50% benchmark by 10/1/15 without dictating or mandating service changes to individuals?

OPWDD is not required to reduce costs by 50 percent. Rather, New York State (not just OPWDD) must demonstrate by October 1, 2015 that less than 50 percent of its total Medicaid long-term Medical Assistance budget is spent on institutional services. New York will achieve this objective by promoting opportunities for community-based services and supports that can facilitate a more integrated life for people who currently reside in institutional settings and assisting those individuals to plan for and achieve a successful transition.

What steps have been taken to partner with Adult Career and Continuing Education Services – Vocational Rehabilitation (ACCES-VR) to share expectations of achieving your stated goals? How can we assure a seamless transition of service delivery between the two systems?

Commissioner Burke recently met with ACCES-VR about OPWDD's employment goals. OPWDD and ACCES-VR are developing a process to work more closely together to ensure earlier transition planning and development of a person-centered approach to adult services for graduating/aging-out students.

What is the current percentage of people receiving long-term supports and services who are living in institutional settings in NYS?

	Institutional	Community
All Populations	53%	47%
Developmental Disabilities	39.8%	60.2%

This information can be found at the Clearing House for Home and Community-based Services:
<http://hcbs.org/moreInfo.php/doc/3325>.