



Revised September 12, 2013

OPWDD “Community Dialogues:” A conversation with stakeholders about community inclusion and the expansion of employment and meaningful community activities for people with developmental disabilities.

OPWDD will convene community dialogues to solicit input from families, providers and self advocates on strategies that are being considered as part of a plan to increase employment and meaningful community activities for people receiving OPWDD services.

In its 1999 Olmstead Decision, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that states, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), have an obligation to provide services to individuals with disabilities in the “most integrated setting appropriate to their needs.”

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, the “most integrated setting” is defined as a setting that enables individuals with disabilities to interact with non-disabled persons to the fullest extent possible. Integrated settings are those that provide individuals with disabilities opportunities to live, work, and receive services in the greater community, like individuals without disabilities. Integrated settings are located in mainstream society and provide individuals with disabilities the opportunity to interact with non-disabled persons to the fullest extent possible.

OPWDD is developing a plan to increase opportunities for people with developmental disabilities to engage in employment and meaningful community activities that are consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act. It is important that this plan also addresses the needs and concerns of parents, self-advocates, and providers. The following concepts are under consideration as elements of the OPWDD Transformation Employment Plan:

- **Multi-Year Strategy:** Employment transformation will not happen in one or two years. It will take several years and will include time to identify a person’s employment interests and abilities, develop their job readiness skills, identify a job in the general workforce that matches those skills and abilities and include non work activities that create opportunities for community inclusion.
- **Assessment:** Vocational assessments and discovery will be used to identify a person’s interests and skills, and to identify the supports they will need to become successfully employed in the general workforce or to engage in meaningful community activities.

- **Alternative Business Models:** Opportunities will exist for providers to obtain information about alternative business models that create employment opportunities in integrated settings, and technical assistance will be available to providers that need help changing their business model.
- **Retirement Options:** Supports will be available for people who chose to retire and participate in non-employment activities.
- **Community Inclusion:** Options will be available for people who do not want to be employed in the general workforce, and for people who want to supplement employment with other types of community inclusion activities.
- **Volunteering:** Volunteer and other community activities will be supported as ways to prepare people for employment.
- **Maintaining Relationships:** As people become employed in the general workforce, supports will be available to keep them connected to their social networks, friends, and peers.
- **Transportation:** Strategies will be explored to address the challenges associated with transportation.
- **Benefits Planning:** Supports will be available to individuals and families so they have accurate information about the impact a job may have on their benefits.
- **Peer Mentoring:** Peer mentoring will be utilized as a way to encourage people to explore the possibility of employment in the general workforce.
- **Staff Retraining:** Opportunities will exist to support direct support professionals as they work with people to obtain and maintain employment in the general workforce.
- **Self-employment:** Strategies will be explored to increase self-employment opportunities.
- **Getting More People Hired:** Strategies will be explored to partner with the business community and to encourage them to hire people with developmental disabilities.

OPWDD urges self-advocates, family members of people with developmental disabilities, providers, advocates, and other interested parties to participate in the community dialogues and provide input on the concepts that will be included in the OPWDD Transformation Employment Plan, and to specifically provide feedback on the following:

- The concepts under consideration for the Transformation Employment Plan.
- Recommendations on additional concepts that should be considered in the Transformation Employment Plan.
- Recommendations on additional ways to support people in obtaining and maintaining employment in the general workforce, including supports for people with complex medical and/or behavioral health needs.
- Recommendations on additional ways to provide information and engage in continued dialogue with stakeholders.
- Recommendations on additional ways to support providers seeking to create employment opportunities consistent with the U.S. Justice Department’s definition of “integrated settings.”

REGISTRATION

Registration to attend the community dialogues is required. Please call the regional contact person to register, as conference room space is limited. When you register, please indicate whether you are planning to attend only, or attend as a speaker. Speakers must limit their comments to three (3) minutes and bring three (3) copies of their written statement. Locations and contacts for registration are listed below.

Written comments may also be submitted to:

Tonya Obey

OPWDD

44 Holland Avenue

Albany, NY 12229

or via email at Tonyamaree.Obey@opwdd.ny.gov

For general information about the community dialogue, please contact OPWDD's Division of Person Centered Supports:

Phone: (518) 473-9697

Fax: (518) 473-0054

To register for the community dialogues and to reserve a time to speak, obtain more information or directions to the community dialogue locations, or to arrange for a special accommodation, please call the regional contact person for the hearing location at the telephone number listed below.

Videoconference Locations and Contact Information

Region 1

Dates:

Tuesday, September 17, 2013 - 8:00am-12:00pm

Friday, September 20, 2013 -10:00am-2:00pm and 4:00pm-7:00pm (Statewide)

Thursday, September 26, 2013-4:00pm-7:00pm (Statewide Videoconference)

Locations:

Western NY (September 17, 20, and 26)

West Seneca DDSO

1200 East & West Road

West Seneca, NY 14224

Contact: Kathy Smouse

(716)532-5522 ext 2323

Jay Bowers

(716) 517-2271

Rochester

Finger Lakes DDSO /Monroe Developmental Center
620 Westfall Road, Rochester, NY 14620
Room 25 Leaf
Contact: Carol Wojtowicz
(585) 461 8975

Additional Videoconference Sites for September 17th

Finger Lakes-Elmira
Finger Lakes-Leicester
Finger Lakes-Newark (Vienna 1)

September 20, 2013-10:00am-2:00pm (Statewide Videoconference)

Finger Lakes- Newark (V131): 10am-2pm
Finger Lakes-Rochester (19 Fish):10am-2pm

September 20, 2013: 4pm-7pm (Statewide Videoconference)

Finger Lakes-Newark (V149): 4pm-7pm
Finger Lakes-Rochester (Room 3/4): 4pm-7pm

September 26, 2013-4:00pm-7:00pm (Statewide Videoconference)

Finger Lakes-Newark (V149)
Finger Lakes-Rochester (Room 3/4)

Region 2**Dates:**

Wednesday, September 18, 2013-1:00pm-5:00pm

Locations:**Syracuse, NY**

Central NY DDSO
187 Northern Concourse, North Syracuse, NY 13212
Regional Training Center
Contact: Sandy Smith at (315) 473-6371

Additional Videoconference Sites for Sept 18th

Broome- (Theater): 249 Glenwood Rd, Binghamton
Rome: 8163 Gore Rd
Utica: 118 Utica Business Park
Sunmount: Tupper Lake (Bldg 3, Courtroom): 2445 State Route 30

September 20, 2013-10:00am-2:00pm (Statewide Videoconference)

Syracuse: West Fayette Street

Broome- Tracy Creek Day Hab (Tioga County)
Broome- Ithaca
Rome: Liberty Street-North Conference Room
Sunmount: Tupper Lake (Bldg 3, 2nd Floor Conference Room)

September 20, 2013: 4pm-7pm (Statewide Videoconference)

Syracuse: Northern Concourse-Regional Training Center
Broome- Binghamton (Theater)
Broome- Ithaca
Rome: Liberty Street-North Conference Room
Sunmount: Tupper Lake (Bldg 3, 2nd Floor Conference Room
Sunmount: Potsdam

September 26, 2013-4:00pm-7:00pm (Statewide Videoconference)

Syracuse: Northern Concourse-Regional Training Center
Rome: 8163 Gore Rd
Broome: Binghamton (Theater)
Sunmount: Tupper Lake (Bldg 3, 2nd Floor Conference Room
Sunmount: Potsdam

Region 3

Thursday, September 19, 2013- 12:00pm-4:00pm
Friday, September 20, 2013-10:00am-2:00pm and 4:00pm-7:00pm (Statewide)
Thursday, September 26, 2013-4:00pm-7:00pm (Statewide Videoconference)

September 20, 2013: 10:00am-2:00pm (Statewide Videoconference)

Capital District-Schenectady (Bldg 10, Director's Conference Room A and
Bldg 1, Personnel VC Room
Central Office-Albany (3C)
Hudson Valley –Thiells (Bldg 9, OMEGA Room 123)
Taconic-Kingston
Taconic-Wassaic (Staff Conference Room)

September 20, 2013: 4pm-7pm (Statewide Videoconference)

Central Office-Albany (3C)
Capital District-Schenectady Building 3, Room 2
Hudson Valley –Thiells (Bldg 9, OMEGA Room 123)
Taconic-Kingston
Taconic-Wassaic (Staff Conference Room)

September 26, 2013-4:00pm-7:00pm (Statewide Videoconference)

Capital District-Schenectady Building 3, Room 2
Central Office-Albany (Conference Room 4B)
Hudson Valley –Thiells (Bldg 9, OMEGA Room 123)

Taconic-Kingston
Taconic-Wassaic (Staff Conference Room)

Contact Information:

Schenectady

Karen Francisco
(518) 370-7429

Kingston

Garry Krom
(845) 877-6821 Ext. 3451

Thiells

Allison Apt
(845) 947-6015

Region 4

Monday, September 16, 2013 - 12:00pm-4:00pm
Friday, September 20, 2013- 10:00am-2:00pm and 4:00pm-7:00pm (Statewide)
Thursday, September 26, 2013-4:00pm-7:00pm (Statewide Videoconference)

NYC- Metro DDSO

75 Morton Street
New York, NY 10014
Activities Center, 1st Floor
Contact: Evette Herdsman
(212) 229-3037

Additional Video Conference Sites for Sept 16th

Brooklyn- (Large Conf Rm): 888 Fountain Ave
Metro-Bronx (VC Rm 140): 2400 Halsey Street
Staten Island- (Bldg 13K Training Rm): 930 Willowbrook Rd
Bernard Fineson- (VC Room 1): 80-45 Winchester Blvd, Queens Village

September 20, 2013-10:00am-2:00pm (Statewide Videoconference)

Brooklyn- (Large Conf Rm): 888 Fountain Ave
Metro NY-Manhattan (Activities Center)
Staten Island- (Bldg 13K Training Rm): 930 Willowbrook Rd

September 20, 2013: 4pm-7pm (Statewide Videoconference)

Brooklyn- (Large Conf Rm): 888 Fountain Ave
Metro-Bronx (VC Rm 140): 2400 Halsey Street
Metro-Manhattan (Activities Center)
Staten Island- (Bldg 13K Training Rm): 930 Willowbrook Rd

Bernard Fineson- (VC Room 1): 80-45 Winchester Blvd, Queens Village

September 26, 2013-4:00pm-7:00pm (Statewide Videoconference)

Brooklyn- (Large Conf Rm): 888 Fountain Ave

Metro-Bronx (VC Rm 140): 2400 Halsey Street

Metro-Manhattan (Activities Center)

Staten Island- (Bldg 13K Training Rm): 930 Willowbrook Rd

Bernard Fineson- (VC Room 1): 80-45 Winchester Blvd, Queens Village

Region 5

Tuesday, September 17, 2013-1:00pm-5:00pm

Friday, September 20, 2013-10:00am-2:00pm and 4:00pm-7:00pm (Statewide)

Thursday, September 26, 2013-4:00pm-7:00pm (Statewide Videoconference)

Long Island, NY

Long Island DDSO

415 A Oser Avenue, Hauppauge, NY 11788

Multi-Purpose Conference Room

Contact: Stephanie Chatman

(631) 434-6136

September 20, 2013-10:00am-2:00pm (Statewide Videoconference)

Long Island- Commack (Small Conference Room)

September 20, 2013: 4pm-7pm (Statewide Videoconference)

Long Island-Commack (Large Conference Room)

September 26, 2013-4:00pm-7:00pm (Statewide Videoconference)

Long Island-Hauppauge (Large Conference Room)