



News Updates:

Progress Report on Transformation Agreement Deliverables

OPWDD has successfully met all of the benchmarks outlined in the Transformation Agreement with the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

Transformation Agreement Deliverable Met	
April	Waiver applications submission (1915 c amendment and 1915 b application)
	Approved protocol for Money Follows the Person
May	Submit educational/training materials for participant self-direction
	Report on the baseline count of enrollees receiving supported employment (8,773) and the number of people in competitive employment (5,882)
	Draft Cost Containment Strategy submitted (Now approved by CMS)
July	1,500 stakeholders educated on self-direction (actual number was 1,844)
	Draft Evaluation Plan
	No new admissions to sheltered workshops (Directive, FAQ and other guidance issued in June)
	First Quarterly Report on Transformation Agreement deliverables (Now approved by CMS)
August	Draft de-institutionalization transition timeline (campus and non-campus ICFs to community settings)
	Draft accountability plan
	Draft cost containment strategy (Now approved by CMS)
September	Draft Balancing Incentive Work Plan – baseline housing data, assurance of compliance with HCBS settings standards, review process for person-centered planning
	Progress Report – Practice Guidelines for CQL Personal Outcome Measures in care coordination
October	Draft Plan for Increasing Participation in Competitive Employment
	Second Quarterly Report on Transformation Agreement deliverables

Over the next several months, continued efforts will focus on the following deliverables:

- ✓ 425 new individuals to become self-directing
- ✓ Educating 1,500 additional stakeholders about self-direction
- ✓ Transitioning the remaining residents out of Finger Lakes and Taconic ICFs
- ✓ A net increase of 700 persons engaged in competitive employment
- ✓ Developing a finalized timelines for residential transitions



OPWDD TRANSFORMATION AGENDA STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

Committee	Transformation Steering Committee	Provider Efficiency and Innovation Steering Committee
Charge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop strategies, engage stakeholders and track progress in achieving quarterly benchmarks outlined in the Transformation Agreement (TA) with the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommend, develop, track and implement wide-ranging strategies to create system efficiencies that also benefit services for people with developmental disabilities.
Chairs	<p>Sally Berry, Acting Associate Commissioner, Service Delivery (OPWDD)</p>	<p>Megan O’Connor, Deputy Commissioner, Division of Quality Improvement & Kevin Valenchis, Deputy Commissioner, Division of Enterprise Solutions (OPWDD)</p>
Subcommittees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community-Based Services and Supports/ Transitions to More Integrated Settings – make recommendations on the nature of supports needed for individuals who have transitioned. Workforce Capacity – focus on changing OPWDD commitment to personalized supports and how this emerging culture change and support the entire workforce in moving the developmental disabilities service system to a self-determined, shared partnership among all stakeholders. Individuals and Families – focus on engaging families, securing their input, and ensuring their perspective is integrated into the TA. Employment – Assist in the redesign of OPWDD employment services and creation of strategies that create more employment opportunities for people with developmental disabilities.. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rate Rationalization – continue prior initiatives to promote equity, sustainability, and alignment of the financial platform. Monitor implementation of current efforts to standardize the reimbursement methodologies of the developmental disabilities service system. Regulatory Reform – make recommendations to create a regulatory environment that puts people first and ensures that services and supports funded by OPWDD are high quality, cost-effective, based on person-centered planning and promote OPWDD outcomes. Consolidations & Collaborations – identify opportunities to improve the overall cost-effectiveness of the DD service system through interagency consolidations, collaborations and, as appropriate, mergers.

Note: Once CMS approves the People First waiver application, a Managed Care Implementation Steering Committee will be formed and begin meeting.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the plan for IRAs with a capacity of more than 4 individuals? Will they be eradicated as is the plan for ICFs?

OPWDD does not have a plan for eliminating all IRAs with a capacity of four or more individuals. OPWDD’s participation in the NYS Money Follows the Person Demonstration requires that OPWDD create opportunities for a total of 875 individuals to move from institutional settings (including ICFs – both campus and community-based) and receive supports with a greater degree of community integration, which can include IRAs of four or fewer residents. This transition is expected to occur over the next three-plus years. IRAs for more than four individuals will continue to operate, and OPWDD will continue to assist people to access services that afford them greater individualization, community participation, and the option for greater control of their supports. OPWDD is currently discussing with CMS the transformation of its residential service options, including the ICFs, but there has not been a decision to eradicate all ICFs. It is expected that the number of ICFs will be reduced.

People First Waiver Information:

Webpage: www.opwdd.ny.gov/opwdd_services_supports/people_first_waiver/home

Email: People.First@opwdd.ny.gov

Comment Line: 1-866-946-9733 or TTY: 1-866-933-4889