



## Office for People With Developmental Disabilities

ANDREW M. CUOMO  
Governor

KERRY A. DELANEY  
Acting Commissioner

December 22, 2015

### Re: **HCBS Settings Assessment Reports**

Dear Executive Director:

The purpose of this letter is to notify you that the Division of Quality Improvement (DQI) has concluded the Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Settings Assessment of a sample of certified Individualized Residential Alternatives (IRAs) for the 11/1/2014-9/30/2015 survey cycle. In the packet of information included in this communication, you will find **HCBS Settings Assessment statewide aggregated results and results that are specific to your agency** (if your agency had any settings reflected in the statewide sample). Attachment A includes a description of the reports found in your packet and also provides suggestions for using these reports.

As you may recall, the main purpose of the HCBS Settings Assessment was twofold: (1) to compile baseline data for use in further developing OPWDD's HCBS Settings Transition Plan; and (2) to identify system-wide challenges and develop the timelines needed to achieve full system compliance within the five-year time period outlined in the Federal Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) (42 CFS 441.301 (c)(4)(6) regulations.

DQI completed these Assessments using a sample based methodology and therefore not all providers had persons sampled (Part I Person Centered Assessment) and/or sites (Part II Site Assessment) included in the statewide sample.

While reviewing the reports and information included in this communication, it is important to note the following:

- The information collected represents one point in time when the survey team was completing their review activities. It is not meant to be a reflection of your agency's overall compliance with HCBS Settings. It is one snapshot in time;
- The HCBS Assessments were designed to provide OPWDD with baseline system level information, therefore the agency specific aggregated information is not statistically valid and should be considered more of an environmental scan;

- The past year of HCBS Assessment survey activity has served as a learning experience for all involved in the process, including people supported; OPWDD providers (voluntary and state operated); and DQI's survey teams;
- While the HCBS Assessments were not designed to provide agencies with compliance information, OPWDD is making these reports available to agencies that had people or sites in our sample to use in overall agency quality improvement efforts towards the transition to full compliance with the HCBS Settings Rules.

For further information and/or background on the HCBS Settings Assessment please see the HCBS Settings Toolkit on OPWDD's website:

[http://www.opwdd.ny.gov/opwdd\\_services\\_supports/HCBS/hcbs-settings-toolkit](http://www.opwdd.ny.gov/opwdd_services_supports/HCBS/hcbs-settings-toolkit).

Specific questions can also be directed to [quality@opwdd.ny.gov](mailto:quality@opwdd.ny.gov) or by contacting your DQI Area Director.

Please extend our thanks to everyone who participated in this important discovery process.

Sincerely,



Megan O'Connor-Hebert  
Deputy Commissioner  
Division of Quality Improvement