



News Updates:

OPWDD to Provide New Draft Request for Applications (RFA) to Become a DISCO

OPWDD is revising the Draft Request for Applications to form a Developmental Disabilities Individual Support and Care Coordination Organization (DISCO) and will post an updated version on the [People First Waiver website](#). The updated draft RFA will contain greater detail about the operational, fiscal and reporting requirements that will govern specialized managed care operations for individuals with developmental disabilities. Later this summer, OPWDD will issue the final RFA, to which organizations will respond with applications, for New York State authorization to operate a DISCO beginning in 2014. OPWDD will review the applications it receives and assess the readiness of each applicant for operating a DISCO and providing person-centered, coordinated, long-term supports and services to individuals with developmental disabilities, including traditional OPWDD waiver services, State Plan services and long-term services provided by other state agencies under New York State Medicaid (e.g. home healthcare, personal care, behavioral health). OPWDD expects to post the updated Draft RFA this month.

Joint Waiver Discussion Board and Voluntary Agency Quarterly Videoconference set for July 15

On Monday, July 15, 2013 from 9am until 11am, OPWDD will host the next quarterly, joint statewide videoconference for both People First Waiver Discussion Boards and voluntary agency service providers to offer an update on key elements of the People First Waiver. A list of videoconference sites can be found on the [People First Waiver web page](#) under “***Latest People First Waiver News.***” Discussion Board members and staff from provider agencies should e-mail their [People First Waiver Liaison](#) to register for the videoconference. Following the videoconference, the PowerPoint and a video of the presentation will be posted on the [People First Waiver web page](#).

OPWDD is Establishing Workgroups to Guide System Transformation

OPWDD has convened three transformation workgroups to ensure thoughtful discussion and planning with stakeholders as it works to accomplish the goals in its [Road to Reform](#) and [transformation agreement](#) with the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). The workgroups will focus on Provider Efficiency and Innovation, Transformation of the Developmental Disabilities Service System, and the Transition to Managed Care. Steering committees for each workgroup will help organize the reform process, while subcommittees will recommend specific changes that are needed to ensure successful transition to a specialized managed care system; spread innovation; improve efficiency; and expand opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities in the areas of employment, integrated living, and self-direction of services.

The Provider Efficiency and Innovation Workgroup will focus on regulatory reform, rate rationalization and reform, and provider collaborations and innovations, and implement wide-ranging strategies to improve the service system. The System Transformation Workgroup is tasked with supporting implementation of the transformation agreement. It will develop strategies, dialogue with stakeholders, and track progress in achieving the quarterly benchmarks outlined in the agreement with CMS. It will engage subcommittees on Direct Support Professionals, Community-based Services and Supports, Individuals and Families, and Employment. The Transition to Managed Care Workgroup will plan for and develop strategies to accomplish a smooth transition to managed care. In the coming weeks, OPWDD will provide additional information on these Transformation Workgroups on the [OPWDD website](#).



Updated Timeline for Transition to Managed Care

| Action Item | Timing | Status |
|--|-----------------|--------|
| Waiver applications submission (1915 c amendment and 1915 b application) | April 1, 2013 | ✓ |
| Solicit letters of intent and post Medicaid data | Mid-April 2013 | ✓ |
| Hold statewide VC on Medicaid data | May 2013 | ✓ |
| Post final Request for Applications for DISCOs | August 2013 | |
| Anticipated approval of waiver applications by CMS | October 1, 2013 | |
| DISCOs begin <u>pre-enrolling</u> volunteer members | January 2014 | |
| DISCOs begin coordinating care for enrolled members | April 1, 2014 | |
| DOH duals demonstration begins enrolling members into the first FIDAs (fully integrated care for Medicare and Medicaid eligible individuals) | Fall 2014 | |

Frequently Asked Questions

What are OPWDD’s plans related to sheltered workshops?

As part of an agreement with the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), OPWDD has agreed to end new admissions to workshops effective July 1, 2013. OPWDD will also create a draft work plan and timeline related to the elimination of all funding for segregated employment settings. With input from families, individuals with developmental disabilities, and providers, the work plan and timeline will be finalized by January 1, 2014.

Is it OPWDD’s intent for all sheltered workshops to close?

It is OPWDD’s intent to fund employment that is consistent with the US Supreme Court Olmstead Decision; therefore, OPWDD’s priority is to transition employment funding from segregated settings to integrated settings. Workshops that shift from segregated to integrated business models will be consistent with OPWDD’s funding priorities. Examples of integrated business models include, but are not limited to, affirmative businesses and social enterprises.

More FAQs about OPWDD’s employment transformation can be found on the [OPWDD Website](#).

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People First Waiver Information:

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

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