



Office for People With Developmental Disabilities

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

KERRY A. DELANEY
Acting Commissioner

CERTIFIED RETURN RECEIPT

January 30, 2015

Ms. Kellie Spsychalski, Executive Director
Niagara Co. NYSARC, Inc.
1555 Fashion Outlet Boulevard
L.P.O Box 360
Niagara Falls, NY 14304

Marie-Therese Frieri
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear Ms. Spsychalski and Ms. Frieri:

The purpose of this letter is to notify you that, Niagara Co. NYSARC, Inc. (Opportunities Unlimited of Niagara) is being placed on Early Alert due to its inability to achieve and sustain compliance with OPWDD regulatory requirements.

In order to ensure that New York State (NYS) citizens with developmental disabilities receive appropriate services and protections, the Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) has established an internal Early Alert Committee. The committee is made up of OPWDD senior leadership and managers. The purpose of the Early Alert process is to monitor the performance of a provider that has been unable to sustain compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

OPWDD has a number of concerns with your agency and the lack of compliance in the following areas:

- The need to continue to issue 45 and 60 day letters at two sites related to provision of services
- The agency's inability to develop and implement effective plans of correction

Staff from OPWDD will work with you to address the areas which have made it difficult for your agency to sustain compliance so that you may arrive at a solution that will be in the best interests of the individuals you serve and their families. During this time, OPWDD will make a determination regarding whether your agency has the ability to remedy the deficient practices and sustain compliance. If the agency can demonstrate the ability to sustain compliance over a significant period of time, the Early Alert committee will consider potential removal from Early Alert and you will be notified accordingly.

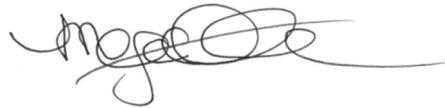
While Opportunities Unlimited of Niagara is on Early Alert, OPWDD will not consider any requests for expansion of services and may suspend any expansion that is in process. Representatives from OPWDD will

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meet with Executive Staff from Opportunities Unlimited of Niagara and its Board of Directors to discuss the Early Alert process further and OPWDD's expectations. That meeting has been scheduled for **February 9, 2014, from 4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.** at WNY DDSO, 1200 East & West Road, West Seneca, Building 16, Video Conference Room 1-153. All Board members are strongly encouraged to attend, however it is essential that Ms. Frieri, as Board President, be in attendance. If you have any questions, please contact Michael Savery, DQI Regional Director at (518) 474-3625.

Sincerely,



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

cc: Board of Directors
Kerry Delaney, Acting Commissioner
Helene DeSanto, Deputy Commissioner
Abiba Kindo, Associate Deputy Commissioner
Kirk Maurer, Region 1 DDRO Director
Roger Bearden, General Counsel
James Nellegar, Director, Audit Services
Tamika Black, Deputy Director, DQI
Cheryl Mugno, Deputy Counsel
Michael Savery, Regional Director, DQI