



**Office for People With  
Developmental Disabilities**

# **It Takes Everyone to Make a Community**

***Transforming Residential Supports to  
Serve People Better***

April 3, 2015

# Transforming Residential Opportunities

- Through its ***Transformation Agreement*** with the federal government, OPWDD is committed to increasing opportunities for people with all levels of need to be supported in their communities, in smaller, more homelike settings rather than in institutional settings such as Intermediate Care Facilities (ICFs) and Developmental Centers (DCs).
- The opportunity to be supported in the community will allow people and their family members to develop a ***personalized plan*** for experiencing greater enjoyment of their communities.



# Downsizing ICFs and DCs

- Over the next several years, OPWDD will reduce the number of ICFs and DCs and increase the number of more individualized living arrangements such as Individual Residential Alternatives (IRAs) and supportive apartments or homes.
- OPWDD will continue to provide 150 opportunities for campus-based care for individuals who require intensive treatment and planning for community placement.
- Residential services for children in Children's Residential Projects(CRPs) will continue as well.



# The Olmstead Ruling

- OPWDD's transformation of residential services supports the decision in the federal court case known as the ***Olmstead ruling***.
- The Olmstead court case ruled that... ***People should be served in the "most integrated setting" possible.***
- The federal government considers certain types of residential homes to be "institutions."
- The federal government does not consider institutions such as ICFs and DCs the most integrated settings.



# Why is an ICF Considered an Institution?

- ICF services are intended to be “all inclusive” meaning they provide all the ongoing services someone needs in-house.
- There is little or no opportunity for people to create person-centered plans to address their unique preferences.
- ICF plans are unable to respond uniquely to people’s needs and desires for their lives, to help them exercise choice in what they do and support people to get out into the community.

# Services Will be More Personalized

- More and more people who now live in ICFs and DCs will have the opportunity to experience person-centered planning (PCP).
- PCP means that individuals, their families, and their advocates will lead the development of individualized plans for community-based supports and services (an Individualized Service Plan or ISP).



# Community Integration Will Bring Positive Changes

The change to community supports could mean a person:

- Moves to a community home with fewer people;
- Shares a home with others, rents an apartment, even buys a home; or
- Chooses not to move at all. Instead, the current ICF home will change to the kind of home that supports people to experience greater community involvement and personal choice.



# What will Happen to Your ICF?

- By October 2018, OPWDD will no longer provide any services in State or Voluntary operated ICFs (except for the 150 campus-based openings and CRPs).
- Before then, **some ICFs will convert to IRAs** where supports and services are planned and provided according to an individualized plan for community-based services. Any ICF that supports 14 or fewer individuals can convert to an IRA without reducing the number of people they support.
- Plans for each existing ICF are unknown at this time, but we do know that **each agency will work with OPWDD, the people they support and their families and advocates** to determine what is best for each person and how their needs for supports and services can be met in a community setting.



# Home and Other Community Based Settings

The federal government is also requiring a greater focus on identifying what each person wants and needs in their Individualized Service Plan (ISP).



# Home and Other Community-Based Settings

- The federal government has new requirements for community homes for people with developmental disabilities.
- As people transition to community based services, service providers will ensure people are offered **more choices and control** in:
  - Where they live
  - What their schedule will be
  - What activities they want to pursue
  - How much privacy they have



# What is Required?

## ***Everybody will have:***

- A place to live where the right supports are provided to ensure his or her needs will be met.
- Individualized, person-centered service plans developed as directed by each person and the important people in their lives. Individuals, their family members and other advocates will lead the process.



# What About the Funding?

- OPWDD understands that people with significant needs for behavioral support or medical support may be concerned about these changes.
- OPWDD is committed to ensuring that funding is available to meet all of each person's needs in community settings.
- OPWDD is examining what financial resources are needed to assist service providers to downsize and close their ICFs.



# How Will This Change be Achieved and What Does This Mean for You?

Staff will help in this change by:

- **Talking with you** and your loved one about these changes and how and when they might happen;
- **Working with you to identify the supports** you or your loved one need to pursue his or her personal goals;
- **Working with you to select a service coordinator** who will help you develop service plans that will ensure your or your loved one's safety and success whether you choose to move or remain in the current home



# New York Association on Independent Living (NYAIL)

- NYAIL is assisting NYS in its Money Follows the Person (MFP) Demonstration.
- MFP helps people to transition from institutions such as nursing facilities and ICFs into qualified community-based settings. It assists people who want to leave institutional care and receive services in their community.



# Self Advocacy Association of New York State (SANYS)

- In 2013 & 2014, SANYS visited many people in ICFs to tell them about the opportunity to receive community based supports.
- If, during a visit by SANYS, a person expressed interest in moving to a community based setting, an Independent Living Center (ILC) staff person will visit and help that person plan for the transition to community based supports and services.
- A peer who also has developmental disabilities and now lives in the community can also assist you in the process of transition to a community setting.



# For more information or questions:

If you have any questions about these changes as they happen, contact:

- Your residential service provider or
- Your Developmental Disabilities Regional Office DDRO Front Door Team in your area.

You can find the list of those DDRO staff at [http://www.opwdd.ny.gov/welcome-front-door/Front\\_Door\\_Contact\\_Numbers](http://www.opwdd.ny.gov/welcome-front-door/Front_Door_Contact_Numbers)

