



April 30, 2013

Courtney Burke
Commissioner
NYS Office of Mental Retardation & Dev. Disabilities
44 Holland Avenue
Albany, NY 12229-0001

Dear Commissioner Burke:

I am writing to express our organization's intent to establish a Developmental Disabilities Individual Support and Care Coordination Organization under the new Public Health Law 4403-g. The DISCO we intend to establish and operate will provide services to individuals residing in the five boroughs of New York City and in Nassau and Suffolk counties. Our initial pilot will focus on individuals residing in Staten Island, New York.

The Staten Island Opportunities Alliance was formed in 2011 and is now incorporated as a 501c3 not-for-profit corporation. Nine agencies that currently provide supports and services to people with developmental disabilities are members of the Alliance. The Executive Directors of each of these nine agencies are currently members of the Board of Directors. These are as follow:

Genevieve Benoit, A Very Special Place, Inc.
Dana Magee, Community Resources
Theodore Ericson, Crossroads Unlimited, Inc.
Joanne Gerenser, Eden II
Donna Long, Grace Foundation
Richard Salinardi, Lifestyles for the Disabled, Inc.
Sully Bunkeddeko, Modest Community Services Association, Inc.
John Bilotti, On Your Mark, Inc.
Cris Marchionne, Person Centered Care Services Inc.

This group of agencies currently provides services to 2,000 Staten Islanders and as such we provide a unique opportunity to conduct a DISCO pilot within a smaller, more manageable environment while still operating within the boundary of New York City. Since our target population has fewer individuals and our geographic boundaries are more compact and limited, many of the agencies in Staten Island share individuals who are currently receiving Medicaid waiver services. Moreover, individuals and their families are accustomed to selecting different agencies to provide each of the services that they

need. Over the next three to six months, we intend to increase the membership of the Alliance to include agencies, hospitals and clinics that provide services to the general public as well as individuals with developmental disabilities. In addition, once the DISCO is approved, we intend to identify self-advocates and families who are willing to serve on the Board of Directors of the DISCO.

We look forward to your response at your earliest convenience. Thank you for your consideration of our project.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Genevieve R. Benoit', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the left.

Genevieve R. Benoit