



Re-imagining What's Possible OPWDD's Transformation

In 2013, New York State and the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) identified a series of goals for the OPWDD service system that will improve opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities in the areas of *employment, integrated living, and self-direction of services*. These goals are captured in a transformation agreement and include:

- *Developing new service options allowing for more self-direction of services;*
- *Creating a specialized managed care system that recognizes the unique needs of people with developmental disabilities;*
- *Ensuring that people live in the most integrated community settings;*
- *Increasing the number of individuals who are competitively employed;*
- *Measuring quality of supports by looking at personal outcomes for people; and*
- *Ensuring sustainable and transparent funding.*

OPWDD is now working to achieve specific goals in each of the above areas. As always, individuals with developmental disabilities, family members, and service providers will be essential partners in transforming the system to be more person-focused – to support individuals to experience greater self-direction and personal choice in their lives, and to reach their own personal goals in the most integrated settings possible.

Residential Transitions

The U.S. Supreme Court's landmark decision in *Olmstead v. L.C.* (1999) requires states to support people in the most integrated settings possible. In accordance with that decision and its transformation agreement with CMS, New York State is closing its campus-based developmental centers and offering people who reside in other institutional settings like community-based Intermediate Care Facilities (ICFs) the opportunity to live more integrated lives. Over the next few years, OPWDD will offer opportunities for the individuals who currently live in these settings to move into group homes, Family Care homes, family homes and private apartments. In doing so, OPWDD is committed to ensuring that *individuals will continue to have their needs met, whether they choose to move to a smaller, more integrated setting or not*. For those who choose to move, however, this means that new kinds of supports will be available in community settings, allowing greater community integration and quality of life.

The Self-Advocacy Association of New York State (SANYS) is providing peer-based outreach to individuals with developmental disabilities who reside in ICFs and nursing homes to inform them of opportunities to move to community settings. Families and other advocates are invited to attend these outreach visits to hear about the benefits individuals with developmental disabilities have experienced by living in community settings and help their loved one understand what might be possible for him or her.

SANYS outreach visits will NOT automatically trigger a move for anyone. If someone expresses an interest in learning more about community living, his or her name will be forwarded to OPWDD and residential managers who will begin discussions about what kind of community supports might be possible for that individual.

Facts to Remember:

OPWDD is transforming its service system to support people in community settings and to provide greater opportunity for individuals to direct their own supports and experience employment.

Individuals will continue to have their unique needs met, whether they choose to move to a smaller, more integrated setting or not.

SANYS outreach visits will NOT automatically trigger a move for anyone.

For more information on OPWDD's Transformation and Residential Transitions, visit <http://www.opwdd.ny.gov/transformation-agreement/home>.