



## Design Team Meeting Summary

**Benefits and Services Design Team**

**08/03/11**

**Design Team Members in Attendance:**

Pat Dowse, Susan Platkin, Sharon Rockwell Linne, Pasquale Ginese, Fredda Rosen, Karen Gillette, Max Donatelli, Amy Cohen Anneling, Suzanne Sennett, Joann Dolan, Diana McCourt, Debra Bojarski, Margaret Mikol, Laurie Kelley, Angela Lauria-Gunnink, Myrta Cuadra-Lash

**Absent:**

Kate Bishop

**Discussion Topics**

**Summary of Main Discussion Points, Considerations, Recommendations, Next Steps, etc.**

Presentation and Discussion of Research Assignments by Team Members (continuation from July 27, 2011 meeting)

The Team continued presenting and discussing their research question (or two) as they relate to the Benefits and Services Design Team Charter. Presentation and discussion encompassed the following research areas:

- *Complete a summary of strengths and weaknesses of the current service delivery system. Include a summary of services to be added which would eliminate the weaknesses of the current system.*  
Presented by Pat Dowse & Susan Platkin  
Benefits and Services Charter Questions: All

The Team discussed the following:

- Most supports and services are working well but we must develop a person centered planning process that allows seamless use by the individual and the family.
- Individual silos requiring specific service documentation of the individual services ultimately changes the focus from the person to the paperwork.
- Access to supports and services and how it should be based on a positive assessment of capacity versus a rating of deficits.





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- Specialized residential, community and behavioral services (and cross systems supports) are needed for people leaving institutional settings. There is an absolute need to develop cross systems communication between OPWDD, OMH, and OASAS about the services that are being offered in NY.
- Day Services must be different. Community inclusiveness and opportunities to be true citizens in their community need to be the focus for service planning.
- *Identify where technology can play a roll and research best practices where this has been successful.* Presented by Pasquale Ginese  
Benefits and Services Charter Questions: All

The Team discussed how the Waiver should incorporate the following:

- Provide supports so that existing voluntary and State housing can be retrofitted and made accessible for a person's lifetime;
- The administrative process of applying for and receiving environmental modifications needs to be simplified so that individuals can easily remain in family or community housing situations as their needs change;
- Make sure that all individuals with communication issues at least have access to some type of expression - communication boards, pictograms (PECS), signing, etc. and that these simple tools travel with them into the community;
- Provide access to computer connectivity in all residences, including text-to-voice capability, whether in IRA's, family settings or community apartments;
- Provide picture-based software tools that will allow those with more cognitive challenges to more fully participate in person-centered planning and choice-making exercises; and





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- Develop an OPWDD web-based system resource that will better explain services to people transitioning through the various parts of the care system, incorporating support blogs for individuals and their caregivers.
  
- *As we move to a more independent setting whereby people with DD are truly citizens of society, the roll that government plays should/must change. Describe what roll the governing body (OPWDD) will play.* Presented by Karen Gillette and Joann Dolan  
Benefits and Services Charter Questions: 1, 3
  - Coordinate with other agencies or partnerships and extend the capacities of individuals, families and staff;
  - Ensure service coordination has strong, established links to other government agencies for housing, home financing, entitlements, job training;
  - Provide capability for staffing and training that develops skills in social innovation (to support full citizenship, participating in neighborhood life at whatever level possible);
  - Create an efficient, timely system to get the money to follow the people, with flexible planning assistance;
  - Support employment of skilled staff devoted to developing business relationships for customizing jobs; and
  - Support development of a customized life and environment to improve behavioral changes.
  
- *Describe the essential safety nets required in the most independent citizen models.* Presented by Deb Bojarski.  
Benefits and Services Charter Questions: 1, 3

Based on nation-wide research and what is known about the current NYS OPWDD system, the following residential safety nets were discussed by the Team and are





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considered necessary as the waiver redesign moves forward:

1. Independent Living Skills Development:
  - a. Structured, temporary (time limited) residences are needed to assist people to develop independent living skills to enable them to move into independent residences. It will be necessary to train staff to ensure they do not provide “caregiving” services, but act as instructors.
  - b. A roommate partnering service should be implemented, as all people do not enjoy or value living alone.
  - c. The rate for these residences can more robust, as they are designed to provide more intense services, as well as a follow-along component as people move into their own apartments.
  - d. Program evaluations should be conducted to ensure quality of the services, as well as the carry-over of what is learned (as well as success) into the community.
  - e. These residences can also be used in emergencies, such as when a caregiver dies unexpectedly.
  
2. Mental Health Needs: Small, intense treatment units providing services to people with both DD as well as acute mental health needs will be needed to provide assessment, and treatment as well as assist people as they move back into the community. These units need to be designed to be short-term with the goal of return to community from day one. Program evaluations should be conducted to ensure quality of the services, as well as the carry-over into the community.
  
3. Behavioral Needs: Small, intense treatment units providing services to assist people with DD who have behavior needs. Treatment teams will be focused on methods proven by empirical evidence, and the expectation of return to previous residence. Program evaluations should be conducted to ensure quality of the services, as well as the carry-over into the community.





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	<p>4. <u>Respite services for Families:</u> Either in a site-based respite house, summer camp or as payment to a family member or selected other, must be available in a <u>predicted manner</u> (e.g. a set amount of money or number of days per month) to assist families who choose to remain living together.</p> <p>5. <u>Family Assistance:</u> Utmost in consideration of safety nets is to ensure families have supports available to keep persons served in their family homes when they choose. All of the aforementioned services can be designed and offered in the family home.</p> <p>6. <u>Strong Service Coordination:</u> This service, provided by licensed and trained professionals, is critical to ensure the needs of persons served are met. As resource allocation becomes more difficult due to fiscal constraints, as well as managed care oversight, strong assessment and treatment planning skills are necessary to ensure the safety and well-being of those persons served. In addition, short-term intensive programs require skills in planning (over the long-term) for the persons served in order to achieve success.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Identify models within DOH that should be folded into service delivery.</i> Presented by Suzanne Sennett Benefits and Services Charter Questions: 3, 4, 6, 8</li> </ul> <p>Discussion included an overview of the medical home and the process that DOH and OMH is pursuing with regard to its development and the path OPWDD has embarked.</p>
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Team members are to take all materials generated by the team and answer selected Charter questions by August 11 for our August 16 meeting.</li> </ul>

Action Items		
<u>Action Item</u>	<u>Owner</u>	<u>Due Date</u>
Team members to select top three charter questions they would like to answer and e-mail Angela. Angela will confirm which Charter question they will answer.	All Team Members	08/03/11





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Team Members are to research selected Charter question based on materials already generated by the Team for distribution to the Team before our August 16 meeting. Responses are to be sent to Angela for distribution to the Team.	All Team Members	08/11/11
Angela to distribute responses to Charter questions to Team.	Angela Lauria-Gunnink	08/12/11
Review Benefits and Services Design Team Preliminary Report to Steering Committee.	All Team Members	08/15/11

**Upcoming Team Meetings:**

- August 16, 2011      OPWDD Room 4B
- August 29, 2011      OPWDD Room 4B

