



June 30, 2011

Today, I am pleased to announce the members of the People First Waiver design teams that will make key recommendations that will shape the programmatic, fiscal and oversight reforms that will be embodied in the New York State's People First Waiver. These self advocates, family members and experts in developmental disabilities services, long term care and health care will spend the coming months examining new ways for delivering high quality, individualized supports and services with heightened efficiency, quality and effectiveness for those receiving services. The design teams will each focus on a key area of waiver design: Benefits and Services, Access and Choice, Care Coordination, Quality, and Fiscal Sustainability.

I see the members of these teams as ambassadors of the full range of people who depend on OPWDD services to support their lives and the many knowledgeable professionals that deliver care and support to individuals with developmental disabilities every day. It is imperative that input and feedback from those who receive and deliver OPWDD services inform the design of the future system.

The design teams will report the results of their work to the public through the People First Waiver Web page ([http://www.opwdd.ny.gov/2011\\_waiver/index.jsp](http://www.opwdd.ny.gov/2011_waiver/index.jsp)) and the People First Waiver Steering Committee. The teams will make their initial recommendations to the Steering Committee this fall after which they will continue to work on refining certain aspects of the waiver and begin planning for implementation. At each phase of this work, publicized opportunities for public input and comment through online surveys and face-to-face public forums will ensure the teams are responsive to the true needs of individuals and families.

The five design teams met for the first time June 20, 2011 and spent a full day discussing their charters and the work ahead. It was an exciting and productive day, signaling the energy and enthusiasm that exists for achieving the goals of the People First Waiver and preparing New York's developmental disabilities service system to be sustainable and effective for years to come. All team members received a report of the comments and stories I heard when I met with individuals and family members across the state earlier this year. They will soon receive an analysis of the full testimony presented at the People First public forums. As the work of designing the future service system unfolds, OPWDD will continue to provide opportunities for all those we support to contribute through a fully transparent and inclusive change process.

Courtney Burke, Commissioner  
New York State Office for People With Developmental Disabilities



## People First Waiver Design Teams

### Benefits and Services Design Team

**Suzanne Sennett**, Deputy Commissioner, OPWDD, Team Leader  
**Laurie A. Kelley**, Executive Director, Ulster-Green ARC, Co-facilitator

#### Team Members:

**Kate Bishop**, 1115 Waiver Implementation Unit, OPWDD  
**Debra Bojarski**, Office of Community Support, Central NY DDSO  
**Amy Cohen Anneling**, Licensed Psychologist, OPWDD  
**Myrta Cuadra-Lash**, Executive Director, Sinergia  
**Joann Dolan**, Parent, The Big Tent  
**Max Donatelli**, Parent, Department Head, Bridges to Health and Family Engagement,  
Baker Victory Services  
**Patricia Dowse**, Chief Operating Officer, New York State Rehabilitation Association, Inc.  
**Karen Gillette**, Self Advocate  
**Pasquale Ginese**, Self Advocate, Self Advocacy Association of New York  
**Richard Ianello**, Executive Director, Albany Guardian Society  
**Diana McCourt**, Parent, The Big Tent, Board Member, Job Path, Inc.  
**Margaret Mikol**, Executive Director, SKIP of New York  
**Susan Platkin**, Parent  
**Sharon Rockwell Linne**, Parent  
**Fredda Rosen**, Executive Director, Job Path, Inc.

### Access and Choice Design Team

**Gerald Huber**, Director, Long Island DDSO, Team Leader  
**Bradley Pivar**, Parent, Co-facilitator

#### Team Members:

**Shameka Andrews**, Self Advocate  
**Al Coley**, Chief Operating Officer, Maranatha Human Services, Inc.  
**Joe Gerardi**, Parent  
**John Gleason**, Director, Broome DDSO  
**John Maltby**, Parent, Director of Community Support Programs, Westchester  
Institute for Human Development  
**Christine Muller-Dahlmann**, Planning and Research, OPWDD  
**Shelly Okure**, HCBS Waiver Bureau, OPWDD  
**Wendy Orzel**, Self Advocate, OPWDD  
**Roger Sibley**, Executive Director, Franziska Racker Centers  
**Peter Smergut**, Executive Director and CEO, Life's WORC  
**Barbara Wale**, President and CEO, ARC of Monroe



### **Care Coordination Design Team**

*Jill Gentile, Associate Commissioner, Downstate Region, OPWDD, Team Leader*

*Robert Budd, Executive Director, Family Residences and Essential Enterprises, Co-facilitator*

#### Team Members:

***Maria Bediako**, Deputy Director NYCRO, OPWDD*

***William Bird**, Director, Community Support, Central NY DDSO*

***Nick Cappoletti**, Executive Director, Advocates Incorporated, Member, NYS Developmental Disabilities Advisory Council*

***Donna Colonna**, Executive Director, Services for the Underserved*

***Jane Davis-Bunt**, Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Ability Beyond Disability*

***Patrick Dollard**, Executive Director, Center for Discovery*

***Marcia Heckel**, Developmental Disabilities Program Specialist, OPWDD*

***Paloma Hernandez**, President and CEO, Urban Health Plan*

***Maggie Hoffman**, Parent*

***Michael Kennedy**, Self Advocate, Self Advocacy Association of New York State*

***Hope Levy**, Assistant Executive Director for Workforce Development, Interagency Council of Developmental Disabilities Agencies, Inc.*

***Robert Lopez**, Deputy Director of Community Services, OPWDD*

***Michael Mascari**, Executive Director, AHRC Nassau County Chapter*

***Michael Northrop**, Self Advocate, Self Advocacy Association of New York State*

***Eric Pasternack**, Statewide MSC Coordinator, OPWDD*

***Carol Rodat**, New York Policy Director, Paraprofessional Healthcare Institute*

***Susan Wanamaker**, Parent, Speech Pathologist, Broome DDSO*

***Sheryl White Scott**, Medical Director, Brooklyn DDSO*

***Jeff Wise**, Chief Executive Officer, New York State Rehabilitation Association, Inc.*

### **Quality Design Team**

***Stan Butkus**, Director, Metro NY DDSO, Team Leader*

***Jan Abelseth**, Associate Executive Director, AHRC Nassau County Chapter, Co-facilitator*

#### Team Members:

***Judith Berek**, Consultant*

***Kate Bishop**, 1115 Waiver Implementation Unit, OPWDD*

***Deborah Burkhardt**, Director, Quality Management Strategies Unit, OPWDD*

***Bridget Cariello**, Parent, Long Island Regional Coordinator, Self Advocacy Association of New York State*

***Michael A. Doherty**, Executive Director, Chemung ARC*

***Marisa Geitner**, Executive Vice President and COO, Heritage Christian Services*

***Maxine George**, Executive Director, The Alternative Living Group, Inc.*

***Robin Hickey**, Parent, Program Planner, NYS Developmental Disabilities Planning Council*



**Louie Lopez**, *Self Advocate, Board Member, Self Advocacy Association of New York*  
**Neil A. Mitchell**, *Senior Administrative Analyst, OPWDD*  
**Richard Monck**, *Director, Staten Island DDSO*  
**Douglas Patterson**, *Self Advocate*  
**Stephen Glicksman**, *Women's League Community Residences*

**Fiscal Sustainability Design Team**

**Jay Kiyonaga**, *Acting Deputy Commissioner, Fiscal and Administrative Solutions, OPWDD*  
*Team Leader*  
**Michael Rogers**, *Self Advocate, Self Advocacy Association of New York State*  
*Co-facilitator*

Team Members:

**Tina Chirico**, *Chief Financial Officer, Anderson Center for Autism, President, Financial Managers Association of New York State*  
**Henry Hamelin**, *Director, Property Services, OPWDD*  
**Steve Holmes**, *Administrative Director, Self Advocacy Association of New York State*  
**Alden Kaplan**, *Senior Policy Advisory, AHRC New York City*  
**John Kemmer**, *Associate Executive Director of Program Services, NYSARC, Inc.*  
**Anne Klingner**, *Parent, CAPIS Coordinator, Mental Health Association*  
**David Liscomb**, *Jefferson Rehabilitation Center/Self Advocate*  
**Keith McGriff**, *Parent, Program Director, DePaul Developmental Services*  
**Ramon Rodriguez**, *Chief Executive Officer, Home Helpers & Direct Link of Amsterdam*  
**Pat Sarli**, *Director, Fiscal and Community Development, OPWDD*  
**Jeff Sinsebox**, *President, People Rebuilding and Living in Dignity*  
**Seth P. Stein**, *Executive Director and General Council, Alliance of Long Island Agencies*  
**Louis Tehan**, *President and CEO, Upstate Cerebral Palsy*