

Executive Office

44 Holland Avenue
Albany, NY 12229-0001

TEL: 518-473-1997
FAX: 518-473-1271
TTY: 866-933-4889

www.opwdd.ny.gov

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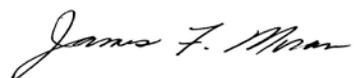
Dear Board President/Executive Director:

While the vast majority of providers consistently meet the New York State Office for People With Developmental Disabilities' (OPWDD) regulatory requirements to provide quality supports and services and be fiscally solvent, there are a small number of providers that at any point in time have difficulty in one or both of these areas. When such difficulties arise, OPWDD must be proactive. Accordingly, attached is a document that describes OPWDD's Early Alert Committee. The purpose of the Committee is to ensure that OPWDD is proactive in assessing and monitoring the quality of services, especially the health and safety and fiscal health of the agencies that provide supports and services to people with developmental disabilities. The Committee, led by the Deputy Commissioner for Quality Management, is charged with taking the appropriate actions necessary to maintain quality supports and services. While the Committee has been in existence since 1998, at Commissioner Burke's direction, it has been retooled and refocused, and in the spirit of transparency OPWDD is making this widely known to all providers and other stakeholders. This information is also being placed on the OPWDD website.

In addition, for the first time, we will be formally notifying providers when they are placed on Early Alert status and why OPWDD has taken such action. If the issues are successfully resolved by the provider, OPWDD will officially remove them from Early Alert status.

In closing, the provision of quality supports and services is paramount for OPWDD, particularly with respect to health and safety, and all providers must consistently be held accountable. This is critical in supporting our mission of helping people with developmental disabilities live richer lives.

Sincerely,



James F. Moran
Acting Deputy Commissioner
for Quality Management

Attachment