



### News Updates:

#### **OPWDD's Participation in Olmstead Cabinet Activities**

In November 2012, Governor Cuomo signed Executive Order 84 creating an Olmstead Plan Development and Implementation Cabinet. The Cabinet will make recommendations by May 31, 2013 to the Governor regarding the development, implementation and coordination of the New York State Olmstead Plan. Roger Bearden, former Chair of the Commissioner on Quality of Care and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities (CQCAPD), has been appointed to oversee development of the Olmstead Plan, which will ensure that New York State provides supports and services to individuals with disabilities in the most integrated settings appropriate to their needs. The process of soliciting feedback from various stakeholders across disability groups has begun, along with a review of information obtained from the Olmstead Public Engagement Forums held from August to October 2012, where over 200 people provided comments on what should be in the Olmstead Plan. Additional stakeholder roundtables will be convened during the month of February to solicit additional ideas related to the New York's Olmstead Plan. Commissioner Courtney Burke will serve on the Cabinet. Ensuring that individuals with developmental disabilities are supported in the most integrated settings possible will be a pillar of OPWDD's continuing efforts to transform its service system and develop a new People First Waiver agreement with the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The Most Integrated Settings Coordinating Council (MISCC), under Commissioner Burke's leadership, will also continue to meet and serve as a vehicle to provide additional feedback on development and implementation of the Olmstead Plan.

#### **Information Now Available on the Council on Quality and Leadership's Personal Outcome Measures ®**

In February 2013 OPWDD announced that it is exploring use of the Council on Quality and Leadership's Personal Outcome Measures (POMs) methodology in its quality expectations for managed care entities' quality improvement plans to better reflect the true impact of services on people's lives. OPWDD has issued a Fact Sheet that explains the POMs initiative in greater detail. A copy of the [Fact Sheet](#) can be found on the People First Waiver Web Page. In addition, a statewide videoconference to offer an overview of how CQL POMs will be integrated into OPWDD's new managed care infrastructure has tentatively been scheduled for Monday, March 4 from 9am to 11am. Additional information on this gathering, including a list of site locations and how to register to attend the videoconference, will be posted in the coming weeks on the [People First Web Page](#).

#### **Next Innovative Ideas Workshop Set for February 28**

On February 28, from 9:30 am to 12:00 pm, OPWDD will hold the fifth in a series of statewide videoconference workshops showcasing some of the innovative ideas collaborating groups of nonprofit agencies are developing as they seek ways to support people with developmental disabilities under the People First Waiver. These workshops, which have been held via statewide videoconference, have presented general information on collaborative initiatives underway by groups of providers that have joined together -independent of OPWDD- in anticipation of service delivery changes. Two groups are scheduled to deliver presentations. Representatives from the **Interagency Coordinating Council** (IAC) will highlight its efforts to leverage the purchasing power of member agencies to access pricing and service contracts, as well as plans to share resources to maximize efficiencies in its administrative and operational systems. In addition, staff from **Happiness House**, a western New York based nonprofit agency affiliated with the Finger Lakes Cerebral Palsy Association, will provide an overview of its partnership with the B. Thomas Golisano Foundation on a non-certified transitional residence consisting of eight efficiency apartments. This home, which serves adults with Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBI) as well as adults with intellectual/developmental disabilities, has been a catalyst in providing lifelong opportunities for individuals with disabilities as they strive toward independence in the community. Further information on the February 28 workshop and how to register to attend the videoconference will be posted in the coming weeks on the People First webpage at [www.opwdd.ny.gov/opwdd\\_services\\_supports/people\\_first\\_waiver/innovative\\_ideas\\_workshops](http://www.opwdd.ny.gov/opwdd_services_supports/people_first_waiver/innovative_ideas_workshops).



### Managed Care Informational Meetings Continue

To support the transition of the developmental disabilities service system from today's fee-for-service operation to a managed care operation under the People First Waiver, OPWDD has recently sponsored a series of discussions among OPWDD providers, individuals with developmental disabilities and their families, advocates, and outside organizations with expertise in managed care, behavioral health care, and health care. The next managed care forum – featuring discussion on integrated service delivery, health information technology and medical homes – will take place Friday, March 8 from 11am to 1pm at the Westchester Institute on Human Development (WIHD) in Valhalla. Although the gathering will be by invitation only for Region 3 stakeholders, OPWDD will post a summary of information shared at this meeting on the [People First webpage](#).

### Questions & Answers

***If someone elects to "opt out" and not have a DISCO in place (self direct their own services) would their budget be the same? And would this person's services all be considered "out of network" or could they still receive services directly from their current providers at the same rate the DISCO would get?***

The pilot DISCOs will operate with voluntary enrollment, meaning only those who choose to participate in managed care will do so. However, beginning in 2015, OPWDD will establish permanent DISCOs across the state as provider capacity allows. At this time, enrollment will be mandatory, and all individuals receiving HCBS waiver services will begin to be served through a DISCO. At this time, we don't anticipate that individuals will have the opportunity to "opt out" of managed care once mandatory enrollment has begun. Self-direction will also be provided and funded through the DISCO.

***In rural areas, will DISCOs actually be able to achieve a robust network of providers?***

The DISCO contract will require a DISCO to demonstrate the adequacy of its network to meet the anticipated needs of its enrolled members. Specifically, the DISCO must meet the standards required by 42 CFR 438.206 for availability of services; 42 CFR 438.207 for assurances of adequate capacity; and applicable sections of Mental Hygiene Law, Public Health Law and regulations. Each DISCO is required to have a minimum of two (2) providers that are accepting new enrollees in each county in its service area for each type of service, unless the county has an insufficient number of providers licensed, certified or available.

In addition, providers of covered services to which an enrollee must travel must be geographically accessible for the enrolled population. Acceptable travel times will be described in the DISCO contract in the coming months. Exceptions will be allowed in cases where the needs of the person require service delivery from a provider with specialized skills and that provider is not located in the service area.

### Join the People First Waiver Mailing List

Receive notice of new developments related to the People First Waiver! Join the People First Waiver Mailing List at [http://www.opwdd.ny.gov/opwdd\\_services\\_supports/people\\_first\\_waiver/home](http://www.opwdd.ny.gov/opwdd_services_supports/people_first_waiver/home).

### People First Waiver Information:

**Webpage:** [www.opwdd.ny.gov/opwdd\\_services\\_supports/people\\_first\\_waiver/home](http://www.opwdd.ny.gov/opwdd_services_supports/people_first_waiver/home)

**Email:** [People.First@opwdd.ny.gov](mailto:People.First@opwdd.ny.gov)

**Comment Line:** 1-866-946-9733 or TTY: 1-866-933-4889