



### News Updates:

#### Ongoing Dialogue with CMS on System Transformational Activities

The New York State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) continues to dialogue with the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to define the service system reforms embodied in the forthcoming People First Waiver agreements. Specifically, OPWDD is working to more clearly define system reforms that will support:

- Advancements in employment for individuals with developmental disabilities;
- Creation of additional housing opportunities for individuals, particularly in non-certified settings;
- Expanded opportunities for self-direction of services and supports as individuals come through OPWDD's front door; and
- Ensuring that people in OPWDD's care live the richest and most integrated lives possible by participating in the Governor's Olmstead plan which will move people out of institutions and into the least restrictive environments possible.

Greater coordination of care will be driven by transformational activities focused on: more equitable access to supports and services based on each individual's unique needs, strengths and interests; the measurement of outcomes for individuals; and the movement toward more autonomy and greater independence for individuals through the development of person-centered, self-directed services delivered in the least restrictive settings.

#### The Council on Quality Leadership's Personal Outcome Measures ® (CQL POMs)

It has been said that "the measure of quality is not the delivery of a support or service, but the results that the service or support provides for each person (Source: The Council on Quality and Leadership)." As OPWDD transitions to a managed care system for people with developmental disabilities, a measurement system is needed that will assess the quality and effectiveness of the Care Coordination function. One method for reviewing the effectiveness of care coordination is to assess how care coordination helps people achieve their personal outcomes. CQL has developed a set of 21 personal outcome measures (POMs) and a methodology for assessing the effectiveness of supports and services for people based on these measures. CQL developed the POMs to reflect outcomes that are meaningful to an individual and devised a methodology to assess how well the organization's provision of supports and services facilitate outcomes that are meaningful to each individual. Over the coming months, OPWDD will initiate a plan to integrate use of CQL's POMs into the expectations for DISCOs and the DISCO contract. Additional information on the POMs can be found at <http://www.thecouncil.org>.

#### Managed Care Informational Meetings Provide Roadmap for Implementation

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 sponsored a series of discussions in the fall of 2012 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. These conversations included a gathering of stakeholders in western New York in late November about the formation of DISCOs; a statewide videoconference in December highlighting the role of reserves in managed care and the challenge of accessing capital; and the first in a series of meetings facilitated by the United Hospital Fund (UHF) in New York City focused on the broad principles and desired outcomes associated with the current transformation in the developmental disabilities service system even in the midst of ongoing implementation work. A second UHF gathering has tentatively been scheduled for late February in an upstate venue focused on the mechanics of managed care and balancing the interests of multiple stakeholders around the areas of access, network adequacy and advocacy. Information shared at these meetings has been posted on the [People First webpage](#).



**Revised Implementation Timeline**

Milestone (Metric)	Date
Request Letters of Intent from DISCO applicants	February 2013
Issue Request For Applications to become a Pilot DISCO	March 2013
Select Pilot DISCOs	June 2013
Voluntary enrollment into MLTC Plan (Pre-FIDA)	July 2013
Initial voluntary enrollment into Pilot DISCOs	November 2013
Automatic transition of members from MLTC Plan to FIDA	January 2014

In early 2013, OPWDD will post a revised draft Request for Applications (RFA) for pilot DISCOs which will incorporate recommendations from the Targeted Work Teams. OPWDD will also issue a Request for Letters of Intent from DISCO applicants and submit a draft DISCO contract to federal CMS for review and comment. Later, following CMS review of the draft RFA and DISCO contract, OPWDD will issue the final RFA. OPWDD anticipates that it will review applications for pilot DISCOs in summer 2013, and initial voluntary enrollment into pilot DISCOs will likely begin in late 2013. OPWDD expects mandatory enrollment into comprehensive care DISCOs to begin sometime in 2015 and proceed regionally as capacity allows.

**Case Studies Update**

Case studies will soon be launched to test key People First Waiver reform concepts on a small scale. Among the concepts that will be tested include the coordinated assessment system (CAS), the care planning process, documentation practices and the new personal outcome measures (POMs) identified by CQL. Beginning in February 2013, high performing voluntary agencies will participate in one year of study. Provider agencies will offer feedback on how the CAS informs the care plan, and individuals and families will provide feedback on the CAS process. Agencies and OPWDD have begun proactive planning to identify the interests and support needs of people who wish to move to more integrated residential settings and to match those individuals with the desired vacancies when they occur.

**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)

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