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**Summary of Proceedings—January 26, 2011**  
Most Integrated Setting Coordinated Council (MISCC) Meeting  
Empire State Plaza, Meeting Room 6

**Agency Members**

*Commission on Quality of Care and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities*  
*Department of Health*  
*Department of Transportation*  
*Homes and Community Renewal*  
*Office for the Aging*  
*Office For People With Developmental Disabilities*  
*Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services*  
*Office of Children and Family Services*  
*Office of Mental Health*  
*State Education Department*

**Ex-officio**

*Department of Labor*  
*Developmental Disabilities Planning Council*  
*Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance*

**Public Members**

Patricia L. Fratangelo,  
*Onondaga Community Living*

Kimberly T. Hill,  
*NYS Assembly Task Force on People with Disabilities*

Lisa Holmes,  
*Tompkins County Office for the Aging*

Constance Laymon,  
*Consumer Directed Choices*

Dr. Karen Oates,  
*Mental Health Association of Rockland County*

Carol Raphael,  
*Visiting Nurse Service of New York*

Harvey Rosenthal,  
*New York Association of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services*

Members

Office for People With Developmental Disabilities, Chair	OPWDD
Office of Mental Health	OMH
Commission on Quality of Care & Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities	CQCAPD
Office for the Aging	NYSOFA
Department of Transportation	DOT
Homes and Community Renewal	HCR
Office for Children and Family Services	OCFS
Department of Health	DOH
State Education Department	SED
Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services	OASAS

Ex Officio Members

Developmental Disabilities Planning Council	DDPC
Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance	OTDA
Department of Labor	DOL

Public Members

Consumer Directed Choices  
New York Association of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services (NYAPRS)  
New York State Assembly Taskforce on People with Disabilities  
Visiting Nurse Services of New York  
Tompkins County Office for the Aging

**Chair's Welcome Remarks**

- The meeting was opened by acknowledging the advocates in attendance.
  - New Commissioners from DOH and OASAS were welcomed.
  - OCFS was thanked for providing Braille translation of materials for the meeting.
  - Former Commissioners of MISCC agencies were recognized for their efforts to help people with disabilities to live in the most integrated settings.
  - All Council members introduced themselves
  
- The representative from SED/ACCES (formerly VESID) briefly explained the change in the name of VESID and that it is now embedded under the P-12

section at the State Education Department. ACCES stands for Adult Career and Continuing Education Services.

### **Medicaid Redesign Team**

A brief overview of the Medicaid Redesign Team was provided. This included information on the seven public meetings held across the State designed to gather public input, feedback, and comment. The Team was looking to identify areas for improvement and efficiency and how Medicaid could continue to offer services and supports.

DOH shared that there were approximately 1,100 suggestions so far, and they expected that number to be around 20,000 in the end.

NYAPRS suggested a link between the Medicaid Redesign Team and the work of MISCC, and recommended that Gov. Cuomo appoint an at-large representative from MISCC to serve on the Team.

OASAS noted that ideas were coming from recipients of service, and felt that might be useful to the Team as well.

Consumer Directed Choices suggested that this created an opportunity to look at MISCC as the rubric and the insertion point for some real change.

The representative from Tompkins County Office for the Aging advised that she had attended one of the hearings and would be submitting written comments regarding the importance of home and community-based services for the aging population.

Tompkins County OFA questioned whether data that MISCC had already collected could be shared with and used by the Redesign Team. A general discussion ensued regarding the role that MISCC and their data could play. OPWDD concluded the discussion by noting that there was certainly material and information in MISCC that could be shared with the Medicaid Redesign Team.

DOH stated that there might also be recommendations that are considered “spend/save,” meaning that there might be a cost initially, but would generate savings in the end.

OPWDD asked the committee chairs to review the MISCC plan for recommendations that could be made to the Medicaid Redesign Team within the next two weeks.

OASAS said that a focus group had been convened with Medicaid recipients. The representative from Consumer Directed Choices attended the meeting and felt that MISCC should have been at the forefront of the meeting and it wasn't the driving force that it should have been.

## **SAGE (Spending And Government Efficiency) Commission**

A brief overview of the Sage Commission was provided specifically about the Health & Disabilities Restructuring and how that could impact disabilities services. It was noted that the Commission was looking at ways to make government more efficient and improve services to people with disabilities.

OMH spoke about the structure and membership of the SAGE steering committee. A brief overview was also given on the various options that were being reviewed by the Commission.

OASAS discussed their specific role on the SAGE Commission and reiterated that, although it would be an accelerated timeline, it would be a very thoughtful process and that there would likely be stakeholder engagement.

OPWDD said that the Council needed to look at how the MISCC Plan might affect the SAGE Commission recommendations.

NYAPRS commented that the Governor should engage the MISCC in these kinds of efforts.

## **MISCC Plan**

The chair of the MISCC Employment Committee, spoke about committee activities and opportunities for cross system collaborations that would help people with disabilities live in the most integrated settings. He spoke of the employment committee's support of OPWDD's Employment First goal of doubling employment for people with developmental disabilities from 8,500 to 17,000. He also mentioned support for OMH's review of sheltered employment and expansion of integrated employment opportunities.

The Employment Committee Chair also shared a concern about MISCC internal communication and operations. He asked that the full Council provide feedback on recommendations provided by the Employment Committee. The Employment Committee was also interested in making recommendations on issues related to the transition from sheltered to integrated employment.

In response to the communication concerns raised by the Employment Committee, OPWDD suggested that perhaps an Executive Group of the MISCC be created which could provide feedback to the committees between the quarterly MISCC meetings.

The Employment Committee Chair also suggested that there were agency voices missing from the Committee and perhaps OCFS and Special Education should be at the table, especially as it relates to issues of youth transitioning to adult services. It was also suggested that more employment related data was needed.

DOL advised that it was working to gather and disseminate better data statewide via their "One-Stop Operating System." It was explained that sharing the data was complex because of privacy protection

issues, and that attorneys at various agencies were working on developing data-sharing agreements within the laws and regulations that govern it.

DOL commented that the OS2 initiative may be very helpful in addressing the need for data.

OMH agreed that more communication between the committees and the full Council was needed, and that OS2 could provide much needed employment data. It was also noted that this would be a chance for people in the disability arena to get the same data related information related to employment. The data would be nice, but to give people access to all of this information would be a “home run.” It was suggested to possibly have an OS2 demonstration at the next MISCC meeting.

OASAS offered to share its NY/NY III housing data related to homeless individuals with the MISCC.

OPWDD noted that there may be challenges in identifying the best ways to measure whether the MISCC plan was being successfully implemented, and asked if the Committee had any thoughts on the type of metrics that should be used. OMH stated that there were still gaps in the data, and that everyone needed to be more responsive to requests for data. OPWDD concluded this discussion by stating that the Council needed to look at each agency’s status related to data gaps.

A lengthy discussion followed, with various agency members and at-large members reiterating the need to remember to engage their various constituent groups and communities. OPWDD concluded by asking everyone to be sure to advise MISCC of any gaps in data and to include this discussion on the agenda for the April meeting.

OPWDD asked that the housing and transportation committees be prepared to review the MISCC plan at the next meeting and make similar recommendations regarding cross system collaborations at the April meeting. OPWDD also asked the public members to take a look at the plan and see if there were gaps or barriers that MISCC might need to focus on and to share their findings at the April meeting.

HCR said that the housing committee would be able to report at the next meeting. There was a discussion of the housing search web site and how funding had been secured to continue the site for another year. It was mentioned that OPWDD was great in providing assistance through the CHOICES grant. They were working to get additional data into the site. The site was a priority for everyone, and it was a wonderful benefit to those looking for housing. It doesn’t cost agencies anything to put their information onto the site, so everyone was encouraged to use it. HCR also praised their great housing partnership with DOH.

## **Public Comments**

- An individual commented on the importance of OS2 and the need to focus more on integrated employment. OMH efforts to move away from sheltered workshops were applauded and OPWDD was encouraged to do more in this area. He asked if decisions to provide more opportunities for people moving into integrated settings could be made using the data that MISCC

currently had, in spite of the gaps. He also reiterated how MISCC could be a valuable ally to the Medicaid Redesign Team.

- A self-advocate commented that we still need a comprehensive MISCC plan and how pleased he was to hear the Governor reference Willowbrook in the State of the State. He hoped this meant that there was a commitment to end all forms of institutionalization.
- A self-advocate spoke about the difficulty in getting services when he first moved to the area. He was hospitalized for eight months, and wanted to get into the most integrated setting possible. He stated that no one should have to stay in a hospital while waiting for housing services.
- A father spoke about his experience with his son. The father felt that if agencies operated under the rule of law, 90% of the issues with special education and Medicaid would be addressed. The father said that his son was taken out of special education at age 21. He was concerned about possible violations of Special Education Law and about the bureaucracy of trying to get services for his son. He had received an “approved list of support agencies,” but none could provide services. He felt as if his son was “incarcerated” in a hospital, staring at the ceiling, not receiving services. MISCC agencies agreed to follow up on the issues raised.
- An individual discussed transition for youth. She spoke of a case in Herkimer County of a young woman who left school at age 18 and at age 21 is receiving no services. She asked the Council to please stress with schools and SED that advocates are available and ready to help transition youth into adult services. The speaker also talked about the need for more social centers for youth; home choice – help in getting and keeping their own apartment; reliable transportation – especially in rural areas; help with bullying; and more help with employment and employment training.
- A self-advocate spoke about his experience transitioning into employment. The individual stated that he had to go on public assistance just so that he could take advantage of a treatment program near where he lived. It has been a frustration trying to get his driver’s license back following a DWI conviction – which has been the biggest challenge for him. The individual was looking for employment and wanted to see employer incentives that could enhance employment opportunities. He stated that resources were limited in rural areas, especially child and family counseling. MISCC agencies agreed to follow up on the issues raised.
- An individual stated that they couldn’t believe that privacy issues were holding up data-sharing. He asked how MISCC could streamline services? He stated that MISCC needed to make sure that they improved the quality of care that agencies provide and needed to look at employment in terms of quality. He suggested that MISCC look at cost and how state funding is actually spent.
- An advocate raised concerns about the data discussion that had taken place during the meeting but encouraged members of the public and MISCC to submit ideas to the Medicaid Redesign Team. Concerns were also raised about the need for housing and it was suggested that agencies blend their funding and that agencies shift funding from segregated services to integrated services.

- An individual discussed inter-agency collaboration. He stated that at the regional level it seems that individuals need to “work around the system” in order to get the services that they need. He argued that the state has too many complicated systems, and that they are not designed to help the public.

### **Chair’s Closing Remarks**

OPWDD thanked all of the meeting attendees and those that participated in the public comment period. Everyone was reminded of the next MISCC meeting, which is scheduled for **Wednesday, April 27, 2011.**