



44 Holland Avenue
Albany, New York 12229-0001
www.opwdd.ny.gov/MISCC/

Summary of Proceedings – August 17, 2011
Most Integrated Setting Coordinating 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

Courtney Burke, Chair
John Allen
Roger Bearden
Laurie Pferr
Tom Vaughan
Lisa Irizarry
Nancy White-Martinez
Mark Kissinger
Kevin Smith
Kathleen Caggiano-Siino

OPWDD
OMH
CQCAPD
NYSOFA
DOT
HCR
OCFS
DOH
ACCES-VR
OASAS

Ex Officio Members

Karen Jackuback
Russell Sykes
Mario Musolino

DDPC
OTDA
DOL

Public Members

Kimberly Hill

Judy Farrell
Lisa Holmes
Harvey Rosenthal

NYS Assembly
Taskforce on People with Disabilities
Visiting Nurse Services of New York
Tompkins County Office for the Aging
New York Association of Psychiatric
Rehabilitation Services

Commissioner Burke's Welcome Remarks

- The meeting was opened by acknowledging and thanking all in attendance. Commissioner Burke asked those who were making comments during the public comment period to keep them concise so as to allow ample time for everyone that would be speaking.
- OCFS was thanked for providing Braille translation of materials for the meeting.
- Commissioner Burke also welcomed Donna Frescatore from the Governor's office.

- Commissioner Burke provided an overview on the focus of the meeting which would be on progress to-date in implementing the short-term MISCC plan.

Implementation of the MISCC Plan – Status Reports

Each state agency provided an update on its progress to-date in implementing the short-term MISCC plan. The plan covers the two-year period of 2010 to 2012. Highlights of the agency reports include the following:

OPWDD

OPWDD discussed the 1115 People First Waiver which will enable them to redesign their system of services in order to provide more person-centered supports to individuals with developmental disabilities. In addition, there was an update on a number of activities outlined in the short-term plan. More information on the People First Waiver can be found OPWDD's new website: http://www.opwdd.ny.gov/2011_waiver/index.jsp

NYSOFA

NYSOFA summarized their efforts to partner with OMH and DOL on a statewide job bank (NYESS) that will help older adults to be matched with job openings and employers. NYSOFA also provided an update on new regulations that would provide opportunities for consumer direction. The initiative was initially piloted in Tompkins County. All AAAs will be able to offer consumer directed services.

OMH

OMH discussed its efforts to increase housing by more than 400 units. Next year, it is anticipated that more than 500 units will be available. An update was also provided on the OMH and DOL partnership related to NYESS. In the area of employment, OMH provided an update on efforts to better utilize the Ticket to Work initiative as a strategy in creating more employment opportunities for individuals with mental illness.

OASAS

In February, OASAS, OPWDD, and OMH convened a stakeholder focus group and developed a list of more than 30 recommendations on ways of making the service delivery system more efficient and outcome based. Several of the focus group members have also provided input on a number of other issues, including the 1115 Waiver and the Medicaid Redesign Team. OASAS has increased the number of housing units by 10% from 1,250 to 1,400 units. They are now working on an initiative to provide permanent housing for homeless families.

DOT

DOT provided an updated on its work in the area of mobility management. The number of counties currently doing some form of mobility management has increased from 26 to 35 counties. There was

also an update on a pilot covering the Hudson Valley Region to Glens Falls on regional transportation coordinators.

DOH

DOH provided an update on the activities of the Medicaid Redesign Team. Information is available at http://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/redesign/

An update was also provided on the Nursing Home Transition and Diversion Waiver which had 1,000 enrolled individuals as of August, 2011. Since 2009, the number of people receiving housing subsidies is almost 190.

State Ed/ACCES-VR

There was an update on recent Board of Regents activities focused on the educational needs of adults with disabilities, with a particular focus on assisting students who receive special education services to have meaningful plans for transition. The goal is to facilitate a smoother transition to adult life, adult services, and independence. Independent Living Centers continue to be a vital part of the work that ACCES-VR does, and clearly vital to the actions that are indicated in the MISCC Plan, so State Ed will continue to work closely with them.

OCFS

OCFS provided updates in the area of delinquent youth where the focus on intervention strategies has resulted in the placement of fewer than 500 youth in OCFS facilities last year. That is down from over a thousand in prior years. There was also an update on the downsizing of the OCFS system and re-alignment of clinical staff so that youth are closer to their home community. Finally, updates were also provided on Bridges-to-Health and an OCFS/OASAS residential treatment facility for youth. The Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped has been working on culturally competency issues in underserved communities in New York City and upstate.

HCR

As of July 1, there are 190 participants receiving the Nursing Home Transition and Diversion rental subsidy, a 110% increase. Efforts will continue to grow the program. An update was also provided on the housing search website <http://www.nyhousingsearch.gov/>

It has been maintained and updated by a call center. There are approximately 85,000 listings, with approximately 2,500 per day, and 800 searches per day. More than 2,975 people have received assistance in locating or modifying housing over the last six years.

DDPC

DDPC provided an update on its work with OPWDD on housing initiatives in New York City, which is a way to help people get more integrated, self-directed housing. In the area of employment of people with developmental disabilities, DDPC will be awarding Project Search grants focused on assisting young people transition from school into employment.

DOL

DOL provided an update on NYESS. Since the last meeting, the legal details have been worked out among the state agency partners. DOL and OMH are focused on training people so that they have an awareness of the system, understand the value and importance of the tool, and how it will help match individuals with disabilities with job opportunities all across the State. The goal is to conduct training so that users will be able to utilize the system without the need for a professionally-trained counselor to help them work through the smart technology.

CQCAPD

CQCAPD provided an update on its efforts to continue support for the network of protection and advocacy legal service providers throughout the State. They also discussed their work as the convener and coordinator of the Interagency Committee of the Deaf, Blind, and Hard of Hearing. Finally, an update was provided on CQCAPD grant-making activities related to technology- assistance to individuals with disabilities.

OTDA

OTDA provided an update on a new mental health screening tool that they are testing in four districts: Albany, Erie, Monroe, and Westchester. They also discussed the use of <https://www.mybenefits.ny.gov/> as a way to educate the public about their services. Since its inception, there have been more than 600,000 users of the website. OTDA has taken more than 123,000 food stamp applications through the site, and 69% of those applicants stated that they applied online because of some sort of hardship, which would have made an in-person application difficult, if not impossible.

Discussion Regarding Update on Short-Term MISCC Plan

While it was acknowledged that state agencies are accomplishing the goals outline in the short-term MISCC plan, there is much more work that needs to be done. The agency reports highlight incremental success but the time has come for more systemic changes that improve the lives of many more individuals with disabilities.

Public Members of MISCC expressed great concern about the pace, or lack of, progress being made by MISCC. While there are many good things happening across the member agencies, there are still many thousands of individuals in need of services – housing, transportation, long-term care, etc. There was a request that MISCC receive the same time, attention and resources as the Medicaid Redesign Team.

Public Comments

- A parent raised concerns about her son and the future she would like for him to have, one without institutionalization, segregated work programs or group homes.

- An individual spoke about his personal journey and the hurdles he had to overcome in order to move toward greater independence. He talked about how the system can be complicated and intimidating, and wished that changes could be made to make transitioning easier.
- An individual shared her experiences living in group homes, and the challenges that are faced by residents of group homes. She spoke of the need for easier and greater access to services and supports, making transition to greater independence less difficult.
- An individual talked about the difficulties of living in group homes and institutions, and about the importance of talking to and work with people with disabilities in order to learn about their needs and concerns. She also talked about how community living is less expensive than institutional settings and it's what individuals really want.
- An individual shared some of the challenges of receiving services if you live in rural counties of the state. She asked the MISCC to listen more to the needs and concerns of people with disabilities and make changes to the system.
- An individual spoke about the needs of people recovering from addictions in the areas of housing, job coaching and employment. She also stressed the importance of services and mentoring programs aimed at persons in recovery.
- An individual spoke about how he didn't see a sense of urgency in what MISCC was doing.
- An individual spoke about the special needs of people who are deaf and hard of hearing. He asked MISCC to also remember deaf people when talking about employment options and job training programs.
- An individual shared concerns with the location of the MISCC meeting, and the difficulties in parking and finding their way around the Empire State Plaza.

Closing Remarks

The meeting was concluded by thanking members of the public for their comments and the MISCC members for their participation.