

# MSC E-VISORY

Issue # 09-11

March 10, 2011

State of New York Office for People With Developmental Disabilities  
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Distributed by: Division of Policy and Enterprise Solutions  
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The MSC E-Visory is an electronic advisory distributed to MSC Supervisors. Each issue provides pertinent and timely information about programs and services available to individuals receiving MSC. Announcements about MSC training, conferences and meetings appear regularly. **MSC Supervisors: Please forward this issue to all MSC Service Coordinators and others as appropriate.** Past issues of the MSC E-Visory can be accessed via the following link:

[http://www.opwdd.ny.gov/wt/publications/wt\\_publications\\_mscevisories\\_index.jsp](http://www.opwdd.ny.gov/wt/publications/wt_publications_mscevisories_index.jsp)

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## In This Issue:

### **OPWDD's EMPLOYMENT FIRST – Helping People With Developmental Disabilities Lead Richer Lives Through Employment**

The Office For People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) has joined the national movement called Employment First, which states that all people, including people with developmental disabilities, are capable of using their talents for community contribution through employment. Individuals with developmental disabilities often gain confidence through being members of the workforce; developing new relationships, earning wages and learning new responsibilities as financial independence increases. And, New York's communities are enriched by having direct interaction with individuals with developmental disabilities, getting to know people on a personal level, and seeing beyond disabilities to each person's abilities.

At OPWDD we think work is an important part of a person's life. Many people with developmental disabilities want to work, but don't know how to find the information and resources to support their goals. OPWDD believes that every individual with a developmental disability who wants a job should have an opportunity to become employed. Service Coordinators can play an integral role in helping individuals with disabilities connect with the resources which help them plan for and achieve their employment goals.

The Center for Employment Excellence will offer OPWDD's "Employment First" training for Service Coordinators during the Spring 2011 Catalog of Training and Talent Development. This training is designed to support the Service Coordinator's role in assisting individuals to understand their options for employment and will provide information on employment services, supports and other resources in their districts. The second half of the training will include a question and answer session to provide Service Coordinators with an opportunity to communicate with local stakeholders who have firsthand experience with supported employment services.

We hope that you will consider joining us for the training. For more information or to register for a training session in your area, please visit the following link:

[http://www.opwdd.ny.gov/wp/wp\\_catalogy0004.jsp](http://www.opwdd.ny.gov/wp/wp_catalogy0004.jsp)

For questions or additional information on the training, please contact Nicole Suto via e-mail at: [nicole.l.suto@opwdd.ny.gov](mailto:nicole.l.suto@opwdd.ny.gov)

## Training Opportunities on the MSC Redesign

MSC E-Visory #08-11 discussed upcoming opportunities for training on the MSC Redesign. There is an additional session on April 28, 2011 in the New York City area: To register for “MSC Changes: How to Incorporate New Requirements into an Existing Program” go to:

<https://www.iacny.org/calendar/258/msc-changes-how-to-incorporate-new-requirements-into-an-existing-program.aspx>

## The New York Deaf-Blind Collaborative

The New York Deaf-Blind Collaborative (NYDBC), is a five-year federally funded project which provides technical assistance – a system of program development and support – to improve services for children and youth who are deaf-blind (ages 0-21). The NYDBC is housed at Queens College in Flushing, NY. The NYDBC provides technical assistance to educators, administrators and related service providers as well as information, support, resources, training, networking opportunities, and family-to-family linkages to family members of children who are deaf-blind. The NYDBC acts as a resource to assist individuals who are deaf-blind in being connected to the appropriate resources within their local community.

For further information on this project, go to: [www.qc.cuny.edu/hydbc](http://www.qc.cuny.edu/hydbc)