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**2015 WORKS FOR ME INITIATIVE**

The Works For Me event is OPWDD's annual opportunity to highlight employment success stories by recognizing businesses that hire people with disabilities as well as the contributions these valued employees bring to the workplace. A Youth Transition award is offered as well, to showcase the positive work done in the schools to facilitate students transitioning to work. The 8th Annual Works For Me Event will be held on October 22, 2015 at the Albany Museum, Huxley Theater. For more information about the Works For Me event you may contact Daniel Prince at 518-474-9882 or [Daniel.m.prince@opwdd.ny.gov](mailto:Daniel.m.prince@opwdd.ny.gov). Further information on the Works For Me event can be found at:

[http://www.opwdd.ny.gov/opwdd\\_community\\_connections/works\\_for\\_me\\_event/main](http://www.opwdd.ny.gov/opwdd_community_connections/works_for_me_event/main)

**Proposed Regulations – Site Based and Community Prevocational Services**

On April 21, 2015 OPWDD issued notice regarding proposed regulations for Site Based and Community based Prevocational Services. OPWDD is proposing regulations that redesign its Supported Employment (SEMP) and prevocational services to improve employment services and better position individuals to obtain employment. OPWDD expects to finalize these regulations effective July 1, 2015. The deadline for public comment on the proposed regulations is the close of business on Monday, June 8, 2015. Please refer to the memo and text of the proposed regulations for more detail on the requirements, which can be accessed on the OPWDD website at the following link:

[http://www.opwdd.ny.gov/regulations\\_guidance/opwdd\\_regulations/SiteBasedCommunityPrevocationalService](http://www.opwdd.ny.gov/regulations_guidance/opwdd_regulations/SiteBasedCommunityPrevocationalService)

**Proposed Regulations – Supported Employment Services (SEMP) Redesign**

On April 21, 2015 OPWDD issued notice regarding proposed regulations for Supported Employment Services (SEMP) Redesign. OPWDD is proposing regulations that redesign its Supported Employment (SEMP) and prevocational services to improve employment services and better position individuals to obtain employment. The proposed regulations create two distinct phases of SEMP services: Intensive SEMP services, which includes job development and/or intensive job coaching and Extended SEMP service, which include ongoing job coaching and career development services for individuals who are employed. OPWDD expects to finalize these regulations effective July 1, 2015. The deadline for public comment on the proposed regulations is the close of business on Monday, June 8, 2015. Please refer to the memo and text of the proposed regulations for more detail on the requirements, which can be accessed on the OPWDD website at the following link:

[http://www.opwdd.ny.gov/regulations\\_guidance/opwdd\\_regulations/SempRedesign](http://www.opwdd.ny.gov/regulations_guidance/opwdd_regulations/SempRedesign)