

OPWDD Money Follows the Person Demonstration Transition Center and Peer Notice to Families/Advocates

The U.S. Supreme Court's landmark decision in *Olmstead v. L.C.* (1999) requires states to support people in the most integrated settings possible. In accordance with that decision, New York State is offering people who reside in Intermediate Care Facilities (ICFs) and other institutional settings the opportunity to live and be supported in the community.

As part of this effort, New York Association on Independent Living (NYAIL) is offering transition assistance and peer support to individuals with developmental disabilities who reside in Intermediate Care Facilities and nursing homes and who will transition to community-based waiver services. Transition Specialists can assist with things like selecting a Medicaid Service Coordinator (MSC), identifying community resources that can help when someone is served in a community setting and planning for services that focus on each person's needs. Through NYAIL, you and your family member can also speak with others with developmental disabilities who are supported in community settings and who understand the transition. These peers can share their experience and answer your questions.

Your family member has been identified as someone who will transition to a community based program in the near future or who has expressed interest in doing so. **On (DATE) from (XXam/pm to XXam/pm), a Transition Specialist will visit (individual's name here) to discuss this opportunity.**

You are invited to attend this outreach visit to hear about the benefits individuals with developmental disabilities experience by living in community settings and to learn more about how NYAIL can help in the transition to community based services.

The purpose of the NYAIL program is to ensure that the transition from ICF services to community based waiver services occurs as smoothly as possible and focuses on the individual desires and needs of your loved one. Individuals who move to small community-based settings will also be invited to share their experience by participating in brief Quality of Life Surveys before and after they change their services.

If you have any questions about this upcoming visit, please contact Dixie Yonkers at Dixie.Yonkers@opwdd.ny.gov or (518) 402-4213.