

MSC E-VISORY

Issue # 14-12

May 21, 2012

State of New York Office for People With Developmental Disabilities
Courtney Burke, Commissioner
Distributed by: Division of Person-Centered Supports
Gerald Huber, Acting Deputy Commissioner

The MSC E-Visory is an electronic advisory which 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 share this issue with all MSC Service Coordinators and others as appropriate.** In order to receive an email notification when a new MSC E-Visory is posted, please sign up for our mailing list (listserv). Listserv information and past issues can be accessed via the OPWDD website at www.opwdd.ny.gov or via the following link: http://www.opwdd.ny.gov/opwdd_services_supports/service_coordination/medicaid_service_coordination/msc_e-visories

In This Issue:

OPWDD's Health and Safety Alerts

During the fall of 2011, OPWDD launched "Health & Safety Alerts" on the website to raise awareness in identifying health and safety concerns throughout our system. These alerts are accessible at: http://www.opwdd.ny.gov/opwdd_resources/safety_alerts and include regulatory and or policy reminders, guidance, and best practices to ensure the safety of people we serve. Also included are Division of Quality Improvement (DQI) Alerts and other safeguarding alerts.

Past issues of these alerts have included information on "Keeping Individuals Safe by Following Their Plan" and "Best Practices for Individuals with Pica". The most recent issue, May 2012, talks about "Prevention of Heat-Related Illness". This information is especially timely during summer months when anyone could be susceptible to heat related issues. This "Health & Safety Alert" can be accessed via the following link:

http://www.opwdd.ny.gov/sites/default/files/documents/prevention_of_heat_related_illness.pdf

A critical role of the service coordinator is monitoring the health and safety needs of the person and working to improve the quality and safety of the person's living environment if necessary (e.g., through advocacy). The service coordinator should take all reasonable steps to ensure the health and safety of the individuals on their caseload. When a risk is identified, supports need to be in place to avoid or reduce that risk. Safeguards need to be reviewed and revised whenever a risk factor is identified or a person's needs warrant a revision.

These "Health & Safety Alerts" should be considered valuable resources for service coordinators in both assessing a person's health and safety risks and in developing safeguards as appropriate. Service Coordinators are also encouraged to share these alerts with the people they serve and their families.