



# Strengthening Services for the Future

## Understanding the People First Waiver

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INSTITUTE FOR  
COURTSHIP - LIVING



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# Introductory Presentation #2

In April 2012, OPWDD began development of a series of presentations to introduce stakeholders to the People First Waiver, recognizing that people have varying degrees of understanding about what the waiver will do, and what the process will be.

This is the second presentation in that series.

These presentations are available on OPWDD's YouTube channel, opwddvideo. They are also available by emailing [people.first@opwdd.ny.gov](mailto:people.first@opwdd.ny.gov) or calling 1-866-946-9733.



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## The People First Waiver will...

- Provide more flexible and person-centered services
- Develop stronger community-based services
- Enhance care coordination to meet all of an individual's needs
- Measure quality of care based on an individual's personal outcomes



# What does “Person-Centered” Mean?

- Understanding each individual’s needs by using a comprehensive assessment
- Providing greater flexibility— to allow more individualized service plans to deliver the right blend of services, at the right time, and in the right setting for each person
- Funding is for meeting needs, not for service categories; individuals don’t have to “fit into” what is already available.
- Accessing all service systems to better meet needs



# A Stronger Assessment Process

*A person-centered service system must consistently identify every individual's strengths, interests, and needs when developing a comprehensive life plan*

## **The InterRAI Assessment Suite Strengthens our System by:**

- Providing a reliable, standardized assessment of each person's strengths and needs
- Involving individuals, families, caregivers, and others in determining each person's needs
- Providing a comprehensive assessment that describes a person holistically
- Informing (not replacing) person-centered planning with detailed, comprehensive information



# A Stronger Assessment Process

## The new assessment process will also:

- Provide a consistent foundation of information for each individual that will support equal access to services according to need.
- Be implemented carefully over several years to ensure that people's needs remain fully supported and there is little disruption to their lives.
- Ensure that an individual's plan is working to meet their needs through ongoing reassessments that consider any new developments in someone's life, such as the state of their health.





# What do You Mean by Stronger Community-Based Supports?

- Utilizing habilitative supports that meet every individual's unique interests and needs
- Identifying when a “lighter touch” (a lower level of support) is needed, earlier in the process to avoid the need for more intensive services later on
- Increasing community-based clinical and behavioral support
- Developing a spectrum of residential support options that includes not only 24/7 support, but a range through complete independence
- Ensuring flexible, more responsive supports for families
- Reducing our reliance on institutional services



# Understanding the “DISCO”

- Developmental Disabilities Individual Services and Care Coordination Organizations (DISCOs) will provide comprehensive care coordination.
- DISCOs can be considered service networks.
- While the current system’s rigidity does not foster coordination among providers, DISCO service networks will ensure that all of an individual’s needs are being met.



# Understanding the DISCO

## Funding Supports Care Coordination and Individuals' Needs

- DISCOs will receive funds, provide person-centered planning, coordination of services, and ensure delivery of services.
- Funding is based on an individual's needs, not allocated based on general service categories currently offered.
- DISCOs manage per-member funds to meet the needs of all their members.
- There is no limit for spending on any individual – the “capitated” rate will not mean limited services.
- Critical funding is not eaten up by duplicative administrative functions.



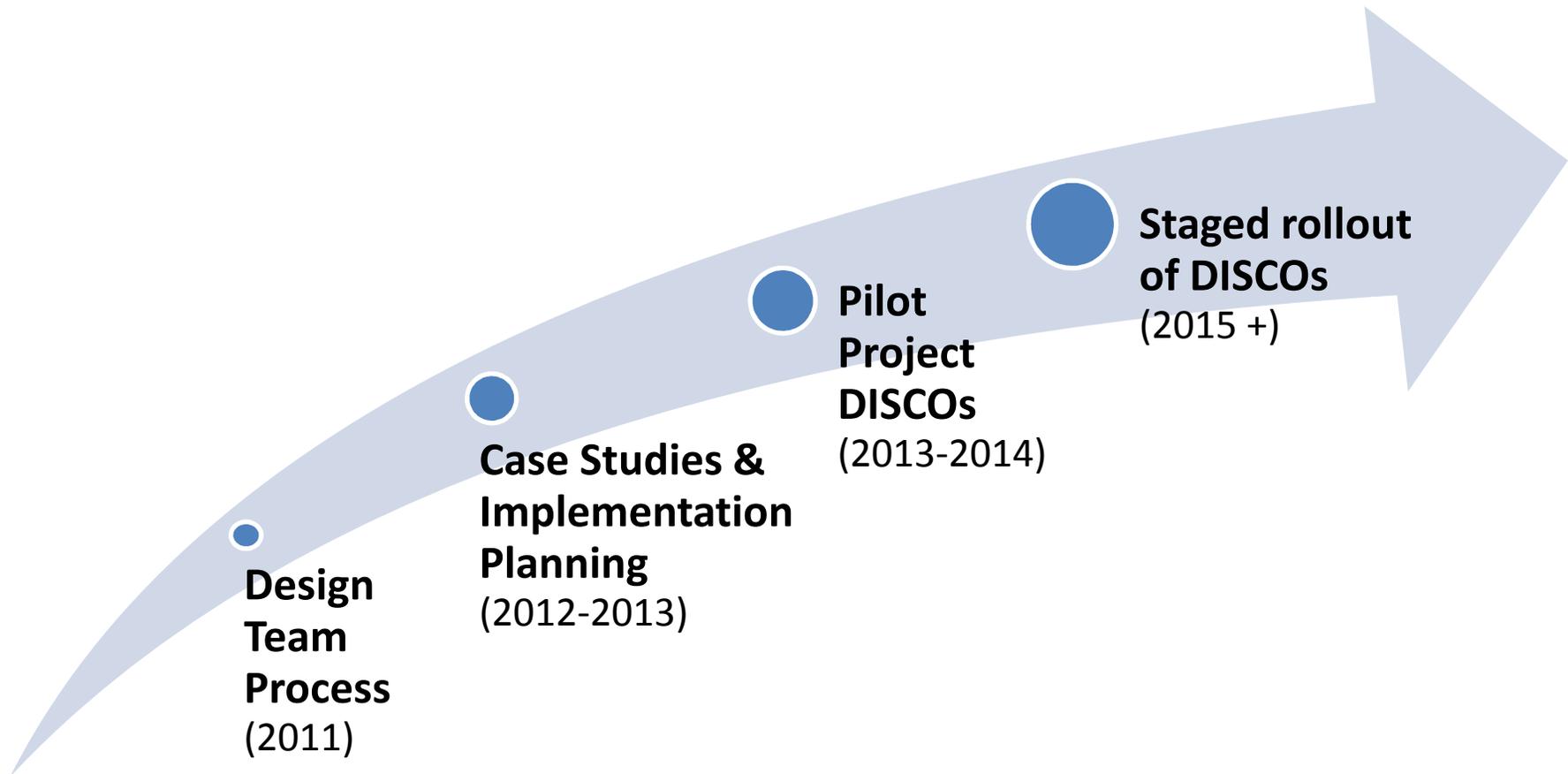
# Understanding the DISCO

## What should individuals know?

- Independent advocacy and due process rights are protected.
- DISCOs will be required to serve people with all levels of service need – no DISCO may drop people with higher service costs.
- Everyone will have a choice of providers within their DISCO.
- Every person will have the option to self-direct an individualized service budget.
- OPWDD will explore allowances for the continuation of current providers during DISCO rollout.

## The Waiver Process: A Multi-Year Reform with

← **Constant Evaluation** →





# The Waiver Process: Focused Case Studies

*Case studies will test key reforms on a small scale to ensure efficacy.*

## Concepts to be tested include:

- Assessment tool; care planning process; documentation practices; new measures of individual outcomes

## Participating Agencies:

- A total of 21 high performing agencies will work with OPWDD to assist in the tailoring of the assessment tool.

## The Schedule:

- There will be one year of study and formal evaluation.



# The Waiver Process: Developing the InterRAI for New Yorkers

To be chosen for participation in case studies, organizations:

- Achieved COMPASS designation or COMPASS-comparable practices
- Agreed to complete the study, provide focused feedback, and pursue full COMPASS status
- Agreed to support people leaving campus settings with no new “bricks and mortar”
- Demonstrated board support for the goals of the People First Waiver





# The Waiver Process: Next Steps

To prepare for DISCO pilot projects, OPWDD is currently developing:

## **Targeted Work Groups**

- to explore and define specific details of system reform
- will include individuals, family members and providers
- will meet from August through the fall

## **A Roadmap to Becoming a DISCO**

- will serve as a draft Request for Applications (RFA) to become a DISCO
- will inform providers and others on how a DISCO will operate



# How Can I Get More Information?

OPWDD webpage: [www.opwdd.ny.gov](http://www.opwdd.ny.gov)

Email comments and questions:

[People.First@opwdd.ny.gov](mailto:People.First@opwdd.ny.gov)

View video series on OPWDD's  
YouTube channel: opwddvideo

Contact OPWDD's information line:  
1-866-946-9733 or TTY: 1-866-933-4889