



**Public Briefings Announced**

Throughout April 2012 OPWDD will conduct a series of public briefings on the People First Waiver. These briefings are open to the public. They will provide an update on OPWDD’s development of the waiver and an opportunity to ask questions. OPWDD will be recording the presentation and distributing it system wide to assist those who are unable to attend in person. Registration is required to ensure room capacity. To reserve a seat at one of the briefings, please visit [www.opwdd.ny.gov/wp/wp\\_catalogz2407.jsp](http://www.opwdd.ny.gov/wp/wp_catalogz2407.jsp). Regional OPWDD waiver liaisons are available to assist with registration.

<b>Spring 2012 People First Waiver Public Briefings</b>			
<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Contact</b>
April 3, 2012	10 am - Noon	Southeast Works Depew, NY	<a href="mailto:Kevin.Penberthy@opwdd.ny.gov">Kevin.Penberthy@opwdd.ny.gov</a>
April 5, 2012	2 – 4 pm	Capital District DDSO Schenectady, NY	<a href="mailto:Cris.Christodulu@opwdd.ny.gov">Cris.Christodulu@opwdd.ny.gov</a>
April 5, 2012	1 – 3 pm	Long Island DDSO Hauppauge, NY	<a href="mailto:Lois.Kilkenny@opwdd.ny.gov">Lois.Kilkenny@opwdd.ny.gov</a>
April 11, 2012	1 – 3 pm	Central NY DDSO Cicero, NY	<a href="mailto:William.Bird@opwdd.ny.gov">William.Bird@opwdd.ny.gov</a>
April 17, 2012	1 – 3 pm	The Strong Museum Rochester, NY	<a href="mailto:Fran.Dubester@opwdd.ny.gov">Fran.Dubester@opwdd.ny.gov</a>
April 19, 2012	1:30 – 3:30 pm	Brooklyn DDSO Brooklyn, NY	<a href="mailto:Eric.Magwood@opwdd.ny.gov">Eric.Magwood@opwdd.ny.gov</a>
April 19, 2012	10 am – Noon	Price Center Lefrak Auditorium Bronx, NY	<a href="mailto:Lisa.Pesante@opwdd.ny.gov">Lisa.Pesante@opwdd.ny.gov</a>

**Broadening Waiver Communications:**

OPWDD has initiated activities to increase understanding about the waiver and its service system reforms. DDSO staff will begin meeting with interested individuals, family members and provider agencies to discuss the waiver.

**New Information on OPWDD’s Dialogue with federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services:**

Negotiations between New York State and the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) on the 1115 waiver agreement continue to move forward. In April, OPWDD will be posting on the waiver Web page written answers to the questions posed by CMS over the course of the last several months.

**Request for Information Update:**

The Request for Information (RFI) solicited input from interested stakeholders regarding the recommendations described in OPWDD’s October 2011 Statewide Comprehensive Plan (5.07 plan). The detailed RFI analyses and a summary of them will be available this month on the waiver web page. These analyses will inform the development of pilot projects that will test and demonstrate different care management models.



### Frequently Asked Questions:

#### **My home is a Supervised IRA and I want to stay here. What if the needs assessment indicates that I don't need a supervised residence?**

*The new needs assessment will not indicate where a person should live. It will result in information about a person's abilities, desires, interests and natural supports that will then be considered during an extensive process of person-centered planning with the individual, his or her family members and advocates and the care coordinator. Therefore, the waiver will not require that anyone leave their home. It is not intended to disrupt people's lives or to undo services that are working well to meet people's needs or, but rather, to ensure that people in all areas of the state are supported effectively in the most integrated settings and that they can experience better personal outcomes. The waiver will offer enhanced needs assessment, person-centered planning processes, and expanded community-based supports and services that will allow transition to more integrated service settings for those who desire and can benefit from them.*

#### **The 1115 waiver could be promising for people who are more independent and/or those with a strong natural support system, but as of yet, it has not addressed the needs of our more vulnerable people, who have nobody to assist them. Will this be addressed prior to the conversion to the 1115 waiver?**

*Contracts between care management organizations and New York State OPWDD will require that the care management organizations (known as DISCOs) operate sufficiently robust networks of provider partners to support people with all levels of service needs. The new uniform needs assessment protocol and enhanced person-centered planning process will also assure that even those individuals without family members or advocates receive a thorough assessment of all of their needs and that the resulting information is used to shape a life plan that will address their personal needs and goals. Care coordination staff will receive training in conducting person-centered planning that includes instruction in how to work with and determine the preferences of individuals who are unable to express their own desires.*

#### **Will DISCOs have the right to say they will not serve an individual due to his or her high level of need?**

*No. OPWDD will establish DISCOs through contracts. These contracts will require DISCOs to serve individuals with all levels of service need and to operate sufficiently robust networks of provider partners to do so. DISCOs will not be allowed to drop individuals due to their service needs. The per-person funds provided to a DISCO will be determined by OPWDD and the NYS Department of Health and will be actuarially sound, based on service cost data for individuals within the OPWDD system and other factors such as geographic location. The rates will accommodate the full range of service needs within the DISCO's service population. Having an independent needs assessment process will also help to ensure that DISCOs do not minimize anyone's service needs.*

### **People First Waiver Information:**

**Web Page:** [www.opwdd.ny.gov/2011\\_waiver/index.jsp](http://www.opwdd.ny.gov/2011_waiver/index.jsp)

**E-mail:** [People.First@opwdd.ny.gov](mailto:People.First@opwdd.ny.gov)

**Comment Line:** 1-866-946-9733 or TTY: 1-866-933-4889