



Office for People With Developmental Disabilities

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

KERRY A. DELANEY
Acting Commissioner

12/31/2015

VIA USPS CERTIFIED MAIL and REGULAR MAIL

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William F. Green, Executive Director
Paul J. Cooper Center for Human Services
510 Gates Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11216

Mary R. Joyner, President



Dear Mr. Green and Ms. Joyner:

The purpose of this letter is to notify you that, Paul J. Cooper Center for Human Services (Paul J. Cooper) is being placed on Early Alert due to serious fiscal viability issues.

In order to ensure that New York State (NYS) citizens with developmental disabilities receive appropriate services and protections, the Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) has established an internal Early Alert Committee. The purpose of the Early Alert process is to monitor the performance of a provider that has been unable to sustain compliance with NYS laws and regulations and/or has been unable to demonstrate sound governance practices, including management of fiscal resources, so that OPWDD can take appropriate action as necessary to ensure continuity of care.

OPWDD has a number of concerns with Paul J. Cooper's fiscal viability as well as the awareness of the agency's Board of Directors of these issues, as illustrated by the following:

- Paul J. Cooper's audited financial statement for fiscal year 2013/14 includes a going concern declaration which cites a net deficiency in net assets as raising substantial doubt about its ability to continue as a going concern.
- Financial statements for fiscal year 2014-15 also include a going concern declaration.
- Current cash flow projections indicate Paul J. Cooper will no longer have cash to sustain programs and services by mid to late January 2016.

Staff from OPWDD will work with you to address the issues so that you may arrive at a solution that will be in the best interest of the individuals you serve and their families. During this time, OPWDD will make a determination as to whether the Agency has the ability to institute a plan to remedy deficient practices and sustain compliance.

Executive Office

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If your agency can demonstrate the ability to implement and maintain sound fiscal practices and sustain viability for a considerable period of time, OPWDD may reconsider your placement on Early Alert. While Paul J. Cooper is on Early Alert, OPWDD will not consider any requests for expansion of services and may suspend any expansion that is in process.

Representatives from OPWDD will meet with Paul J. Cooper's Board of Directors and Executive Staff to further discuss the Early Alert process and OPWDD's expectations. All Board members are strongly encouraged to attend.

Prior to that meeting, please provide us with the following:

1. Minutes of the Board of Directors meetings and Board Sub-Committees meeting minutes for the past year.
2. Agency organization chart.

Please contact Robert Borchers, Office of Audit Services, Regional Supervisor at (646) 766-3308, within five business days of receipt of this letter, to come to a mutually agreed upon date where representatives from OPWDD Regional Office, DQI, OAS and Executive Staff from Paul J. Cooper and its Board of Directors can meet.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Borchers at robert.borchers@opwdd.ny.gov or the number listed above.

Sincerely,



Megan O'Connor-Hebert
Deputy Commissioner
Division of Quality Improvement

cc: Board of Directors
Kerry Delaney, Acting Commissioner
Helene DeSanto, Deputy Commissioner
Abiba Kindo, Associate Deputy Commissioner
Donna Limiti, Regional DDRO Director
Roger Bearden, General Counsel and Deputy Commissioner
James Nellegar, Director, Audit Services
Robert Borchers, Supervisor, Audit Services
Tamika Black, Deputy Director, DQI
Elizabeth Matthews, Assistant Counsel
Brian O'Donnell Regional Director, DQI