



NEW YORK
**ALLIANCE FOR
INCLUSION & INNOVATION**

2022 Annual Meeting & Awards Ceremony

Wednesday, April 27



Agenda

Welcome and Introduction

Kirk Lewis, NY Alliance Board Chair

Board of Directors Membership Vote

*Evelyn Alvarez, NY Alliance Board Secretary &
Michael Seereiter, NY Alliance President/CEO*

Highlights of the Past Year

Michael Seereiter, NY Alliance President/CEO

Open Discussion Forum

NY Alliance Members

Excellence Awards Celebration

Board of Directors Membership Vote

Slate of Candidates:

Chair

Kirk Lewis, Executive Director, Schenectady ARC

First Vice Chair

Joy O'Shaughnessy, Chief Program Officer, East End Disability Associates

Second Vice Chair

Russ Hahn, Chief Operations Officer, Intandem

At Large

*Robert Budd, Chief Executive Officer,
Family Residences and Essential Enterprises*



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Highlights of the Past Year

2021-2022



2022-23 NYS Budget – The Most Significant Investments in OPWDD in Decades!

5.4% COLA

\$3,000 Bonuses

Healthcare Facility
Transformation Program

Nurses Across New York

Community Resilience, Economic
Sustainability & Technology
Program

Telehealth Parity



NY Alliance Policy Recommendations

SOC for DSPs

Affordable and Independent Housing Access

Rate Reform

Credential for DSPs

Person-Centered Thinking

Assistive/Enabling Technology

Commission on the Future of NY's System of Supports and Services

Supporting People with Complex Needs

Diversity & Racial Equity

Regulatory Reform

FOSTER THE PERSON-CENTERED THINKING EVOLUTION

IMPLEMENT SUPPORT PRO

Background:
Credentialed is one of the most... to decreasing unsustainable staff increasing DSP tenure. In 2017, t budget agreement charged the N People With Developmental Disa to undertake a study and submit for the design and implementatio credential program. To fulfill this contracted with the University o to develop the Recommendation: credentialing design (see link to f

The core components of the cred design include a multi-tiered... hybrid model of learning n must be achieved in sequen Credential I. The recomme

Background:
New York has come a long way to embed a person-centered philosophy into its supports and services. People with disabilities direct their support system, choose their path in life and identify the services they want and need. The importance of person-centered planning has been acknowledged over the past decade by the State of New York through regulations specific to the practice, NYS Department of Health sponsored trainings, and requiring it as the guiding process for care management services through the LifePlan.

Even with these efforts and a proclamation about having a system that is highly person-centered, our system's focus on the individual as the primary constituent from whom support designs flow and support designs flow years. Some of this c 19 and the need to mak

RECOMMENDATION:
As the NYS Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) develops new policy guidance and regulations always address the question "Does this support people with I/DD".

OPWDD should review policy, guidance and regulations against the question "Does this support people with I/DD".

Address and provide leadership around the constant tension in the service system around dignity of risk versus keeping a person safe. Keeping people safe is the clear default in the current system. Develop a stance that reflects and honors dignity of risk and that is based on stakeholder meetings such as the recommendation below.

Host a series of public sessions to update the I/DD field

BETTER ACCESS TO AI

Background:
New York is facing a housing crisis bc housing costs are high, housing is scz changes. It has been long noted that many younger individuals transition only option, to live in congregat cer

It must be acknowledged that suppo today's evolving systems, higher cos knowledge of housing systems, elit networks. The Community Transiti home. There is an emergent need for as part of care management activity provide assistance in securing housi housing.

RECOMMENDATION:
1. OPWDD might consider to address the housing c projects and promote n network for destitute i

ADVOCACY OCCUPATIONAL

Background:
The United States Department of L Labor Statistics (BLS) classifies wor occupational categories called the Occupational Classification (SOC). the SOC is to collect, calculate, or d valuable wage and occupation data classified into one of 867 detailed c according to their occupational def discrete SOC does not exist for Dir Professionals (DSPs) and therefore occupation data for the profession and the workforce data is not accur

BLS currently includes DSPs within Care Assistant (PCA) and classifications. While the some basic commonality the work is also different responsibilities are unique Perhaps most prominent supporting people with c maintain skills that maxi and ability to navigate a Additionally, the PCA an very different funding st the supports delivered b inaccurately reflecting e intellectual and develop sector.

Helpful Resources:
U.S. Senate Hearing on DSP: Role of Direct Support Professions
U.S. House of Representatives
National Alliance for Direct Support
American Network of Community Center
U.S. Senate on DSP
ANCOR On-Power on DSP SOC

Background:
Beginning in January 2021, the NY People With Developmental Disabi started a series of stakeholder eng meetings with a group of provider r association representatives with th goal of reforming the rate reimburs methodology for supervised/suppo Intermediate Care Facilities (ICF). Habilitation, and prevocational ser based methodology to that of an ac reimbursement methodology.

The **Coordinated Assessment Syst** utilized to determine the rel individual and thus how muc reimbursed for serving that methodology will assign indi tiers based on the CAS. The

COMMISSION ON SYSTEM OF

Background:
New York State's current system of sup that was built in a previous era and has very slowly over time. The system has b antiquated in its ability to meet the div evolving needs of a growing populatio with intellectual and developmental dis (I/DD). In its present state, the system I become increasingly unsustainable, an unstable, now jeopardizing the very; safety of the people it is intended to su significant portion of this instability res the unpredictability of the system, whic only to make erratic changes, instead o transparent about forthcoming change: permitting stakeholders to plan for a fu such changes in place.

The workforce challenges that existed I the pandemic have only worsened beca COVID-19. The pandemic has fundame altered major aspects of service deliv begs for a "rethink" of our entire systen Covid-19 world. And the question abou our system will indeed transition to ma has been pending for over a decade. We changes are needed to ensure our syste strong, people continue to get the servi need and want, and to ensure the short-term viability of the service delivery sys

Public input is essential to gain stakeho into the needs of people, parents, fami

SUPPORT

Background:
In the current service system, in complex needs are often left un underserved. The complexity of: with multiple diagnosis does not program design or the fiscal rein we currently utilize. Programs th responsibility for people with co require access to unique service complex needs include those ind I/DD-behavioral health issues, n medically frail, and those who ar workforce crisis and overly cum regulations exacerbate the chall the safety of the person receivi individuals around them, includ staff.

The situation that exists today fo complex needs and the agencies is untenable and dangerous. Th all involved parties pull together resources across services sector examined for developing more w replication. However, more ofte failure that requires immediate collaboration from a cross sectio and nonprofit experts. The contr numerous and themselves comp require a multifaceted solution, focused approach will lead to fur system lacking in sustainable res individuals and the communities

Resources such as high needs fur Services for Individuals with Inte Developmental Disabilities (CSII) assist agencies in supporting con appreciated, are not sufficient or practical during immediate, extreme, and prolonged periods of

Background:
The convergence of long-stanc and its disproportionate impac NYS Office for People With De

- identify and implement rec
- identify and eliminate barr services.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Share the OPWDD Diversity, E with the field.
- Organize a DEI Workgroup ma support professionals and othe developmental disabilities com
- Charge the Workgroup with de people, those who receive ser would be charged with develo system of supports, services a Indigenous, and People of Col
- Define a common set of Termi
- Document, both orally and wri to end prejudice, bias and ineq
- Create a Community of Practic charge webinars and the vario
- Host a series of listening sessi inform the types of training an

Background:
The current system of regulatory oversight was established decades ago, in an era where atrocities occurred, at a time when well-intentioned professionals sought to care for people and protect them from physical and emotional harm. It is time to balance rational protection and oversight with ensuring people live the lives they desire, the lives they deserve, recognizing that dignity of risk is an overarching principal when talking about quality.

Agencies are burdened with unnecessary administrative functions in order to remain compliant with a host of regulatory requirements. Too often quality improvement departments have been expanded, not to review best practice and perform self-evaluations for continuous improvement, but rather to keep track of the many requirements imposed from multiple state entities, including NYS Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD), Office of Medicaid Inspector General, and the NYS Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs. Often new and revised regulations are the result of a serious situation/incident. Unfortunately, the default response has been to overregulate in order to protect from all harm, all the time. This must stop as it continues to infantilize adults with I/DD.

We should move toward an expectation that minimum required oversight and support is the norm without micromanaging, as determined by provider history and record of excellence. We must shift from a compliance-based system to one that utilizes national standards measuring positive outcomes for people with I/DD.

REGULATORY REFORM

RECOMMENDATION:
1. OPWDD is urged to workgroup compo professionals, nat family and self-adv direct support pro a new set of regula guidance that inclu necessary to ensu maintained.
2. OPWDD should co the basic tenets of regulation that ref averse system to I/DD to consider r the greatest inde experience to info risk as something individually and ca rather than a blan
3. OPWDD is urged review of current directives based o but not limited to:
• a review 633, and provide fle requirements plans.
• Current traini more individua
• Remove the du OPWDD and A specialists.
• Hiring process having a high
• The need for O program plans

Conversations with OPWDD Commissioner Kerri E. Neifeld

Topics Included:

Complex Needs

Employment Supports

Re-Envisioning Housing Supports

Future of the System



“Instigator” for the 5.07 Plan



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New York Alliance 5.07 Plan Recommendations June 2021

On behalf of the not-for-profit agencies, and the people and families those agencies serve, the New York Alliance for Inclusion and Innovation is pleased to submit recommendations for the New York State Office for People With Developmental Disabilities' (OPWDD) Statewide Comprehensive Plan for Services. We commend OPWDD for embracing this strategic planning process, and thereby committing to collaborate with the field toward pursuing the future of I/DD services in NYS. We appreciate the opportunity to provide our suggestions as OPWDD sets the agency's statewide goals and objectives, as required through section 5.07 of New York Mental Hygiene Law.

The NY Alliance is the largest statewide association representing not-for-profit provider agencies serving people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) in the state. The NY Alliance envisions a society where people with disabilities are contributing citizens with equal rights and the ability to live full, productive and meaningful lives.

In its present state, the system has become increasingly unsustainable, and therefore unstable, now jeopardizing the very health and safety of the people it is intended to support.

New York State's current system of supports is one that was built in a previous era and has changed very slowly over time. The system has become antiquated in its ability to meet the diverse and evolving needs of a growing population of people with I/DD. In its present state, the system has become increasingly unsustainable, and therefore unstable, now jeopardizing the very health and safety of the people it is intended to support. A significant portion of this instability results from the unpredictability of the system, which seems only to make erratic changes, instead of being transparent about forthcoming changes and permitting stakeholders to plan for a future with such changes in place.

While the current system was built on a deficits-based philosophy, we have seen ample evidence in recent years that a strengths-based approach that emphasizes the talents and skills individuals have encourages people to strive, supports them to do so, and encourages them to try again when they fail – learning from their experience. This is not to say that the system shouldn't have

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Statewide Comprehensive 5.07 Plan Recommendations

NY Alliance Submitted to OPWDD June 2021

[Click Here to Read More](#)



NEW YORK
STATE OF
OPPORTUNITY.

Office for People With Developmental Disabilities



5.07 Strategic Plan 2023-2027



Supporting Members in Navigating COVID-19

Workforce Advocacy

Regulatory & Administrative Relief Advocacy

Risk Resilience Training and Toolkit



Defeat of Residential Rate Cuts

Stipulation of Dismissal without Prejudice

STATE OF NEW YORK
SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF ALBANY

NEW YORK DISABILITY ADVOCATES, INC.,
LIVING RESOURCES CORP., PEOPLE INC., and
UNITED CEREBRAL PALSY ASSOCIATIONS
OF NEW YORK STATE, INC. D/B/A
CONSTRUCTIVE PARTNERSHIPS UNLIMITED,

STIPULATION OF
DISMISSAL
WITHOUT PREJUDICE

Petitioners,

Index No. 6356/2021

-vs-

HOWARD A. ZUCKER, M.D., IN HIS CAPACITY
AS THE COMMISSIONER OF THE NEW YORK
STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, THE NEW
YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH,
KERRI NEIFELD, IN HER CAPACITY AS THE
ACTING COMMISSIONER OF THE NEW YORK
STATE OFFICE FOR PEOPLE WITH
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES, AND THE
NEW YORK STATE OFFICE FOR PEOPLE WITH
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES,

Respondents,

For a Judgment Under Article 78 of the New York
Civil Practice Law and Rules.

IT IS HEREBY

attorneys of record for

incompetent person for

interest in the subject

dismissed, without pre

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Committee Formed

Training Series for
Committee Members and
NY Alliance Staff

Learning Series Launched
for Members

Executive Session Hosted
Statement in Progress



NY Alliance Projects Highlights

Regional Centers for Workforce Transformation (RCWT)

NYS Developmental Disabilities Planning Council

Housing Education Opportunities through the Statewide Learning Collaborative & Regional Housing Collaboratives

New York Community Trust

Risk Resilience Toolkit for NYC
Emerging Leaders Webinar Series

Supported Decision-Making NY

PCG & Department of Health

Person Centered Training & Learning Institutes



Open Discussion Forum



NY Alliance FOCUS Now

Cultural Shift for I/DD Sector and Relationship with Government

"In its present state, the system has become increasingly unsustainable, and therefore unstable, now jeopardizing the very health and safety of the people it is intended to support."

"...we have seen ample evidence in recent years that a strengths-based approach that emphasizes the talents and skills individuals have encourages people to strive, supports them to do so, and encourages them to try again when they fail – learning from their experience."

"The flexibility you will read about throughout this document is a cry for relief, and for the opportunity for providers to find sufficient space in which to explore new and innovative ways to support people with I/DD."

NY Alliance Future FOCUS?

2021



Other?



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Excellence
AWARDS

Awards Include:

Community Advocacy Award

Public Policy & Social Justice Award

Distinguished Public Service Award

Leadership Award

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AWARDS

Community Advocacy Award

Max Donatelli and BJ Stasio

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Excellence
AWARDS

Community Advocacy Award

Max Donatelli



- ☆ Parent of an adult son with a developmental disability
- ☆ Active member of Person-Centered Services Care Coordination Organization's Family, Individual, and Caregiver Advisory Board (FICAB)
- ☆ Recognizes that systems need to work together and that improvements can be made with strong advocacy and partnerships

Congratulations!

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Excellence
AWARDS

Community Advocacy Award

BJ Stasio



- ☆ Past President of the Self-Advocacy Association of New York State (SANYS)
- ☆ Superlative leadership and advocacy skills
- ☆ Remarkable passion for self-advocacy and human rights served as a guiding light during both a pandemic and an acute staffing crisis which threatened (and continues to threaten) the quality of services for people with I/DD



Congratulations!

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AWARDS

Public Policy & Social Justice Award

James Hayes

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Excellence
AWARDS

Public Policy & Social Justice Award

James Hayes



- ☆ Served on the Board of Directors at ACHIEVE for over 45 years
- ☆ Partner in the law firm Hinman, Howard and Kattell
- ☆ Instrumental in the growth of special needs trust and guardianship services across New York State
- ☆ Namesake of ACHIEVE's Guardianship Committee, chairing it for over 25 years
- ☆ Served on The Arc New York's Guardianship Committee for 24 years

Congratulations!

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AWARDS

Leadership Award

Fredda Rosen

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Excellence
AWARDS



Leadership Award

Fredda Rosen

- ☆ Respected figure in the NYS disability advocacy community for more than forty years
- ☆ Led Job Path's spin off into an independent nonprofit
- ☆ Served on numerous advisory groups and boards, including serving as President of the NYSACRA (now NY Alliance) Board of Directors

Congratulations!

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Excellence
AWARDS

**Distinguished Public
Service Award**
Senator John Mannion

NEW YORK
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Excellence
AWARDS

Distinguished Public Service Award

Senator John Mannion



- ☆ Friend and advocate to the field of services for individuals with disabilities
- ☆ Lifelong Central New Yorker
- ☆ Teacher for three decades in public schools; spent the last 21 years as an Advanced Placement Biology teacher
- ☆ President of the West Genesee Teachers' Association
- ☆ Strong advocate for environmental protections

Congratulations!

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AWARDS



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**Thank You to all award
recipients and nominees
for your dedication to
the Soul of the Work!**