



**Coalition Of Provider Associations**

*Representing More Than 250 Provider Agencies in New York State*

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## **Provider Association Meeting Minutes – December 17, 2018**

- 1) **Key Staff Changes.** Kerry Delaney is moving on and no official announcement on her replacement; she will be checking her emails if anyone would like to send her a note wishing her well.

They announced staff changes and organizational restructuring to increase efficiency:

- Tamika Black – named Deputy Commissioner for Data Management and Strategy, She's the Chief Data Officer, and will relinquish her duties at DQI
- Leslie Fuld – Deputy Commissioner for DQI
- Abiba Kindo – Deputy Commissioner – Regional Offices (back from maternity leave in February)
- Jackie Best – Director Regional Office – OPERATIONS
- Sally Berry – Director Regional Office – PROCESSES
- Kate Bishop – Director Regional Office – PROGRAMS (she is retiring in late February, so she will transition in a new person)

The Policy Division is still Innovation and Person-Centered Supports (once a program is established it will go to the PROGRAM office).

- 2) **Status of SIP-PL.** The final document will be issued in the next few weeks and OPWDD does NOT EXPECT ANY TIMELINES that were originally announced to change.
- 3) **Workforce Summit.** Sharon Devine reviewed a workforce summit, Partnership for the Future held on 12/6; the Governor's office participated. Best practices from organizations inside and outside I/DD agencies were shared.
- 4) **CCO Update.** Training sessions were held to ensure families, providers and CCOs are aware of a number of changes. OPWDD made it clear that they will not be able to intervene on IT issues involving portals/integration of data feeds; this is a CCO operational issue that the CCOs must work out – the CCO vendor needs to work with providers. Many providers expressed a concern about the audit exposure this transition presents, and OPWDD said that within a month they will have more information on grace periods and other accommodations for providers that they can offer. The providers were clear that they want any direction from OPWDD on leniency/understanding that aspects

of the transition are outside providers' control to be put in writing so that providers can use that letter/document in future audits. Finally, there is likely to be some relief on Tier IV deadlines and an announcement will be coming out soon.

- 5) **CRO Update.** OPWDD has formed a committee to look at the residential opportunities placement process with providers, DDRO and state representatives. The initial meetings have been productive, and it appears some understanding of the flexibility needed will be implemented in a consistent way across all DDROs to improve appropriate placements and shorten the timeframes for filling beds. More work will be done in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2019.
- 6) **CFCO.** There is no official start date yet for when the process will be implemented, but it's likely to be around July 1, 2019 – it will **NOT** be January 1. OPWDD again confirmed that current providers of Community Hab will be authorized to provide SAME services under managed care for waiver eligible participants; OPWDD will be sharing a list of which managed care plans providers' participants are using within the next month. Further, OPWDD confirmed that providers who will be looking to provide Community Hab like services under CFCO to non-OPWDD eligible people must obtain DOH licensure as a CHHA or a LHCSA. Payments for the Community Hab services will be set by the state and a passthrough for providers under CFCO for two years.
- 7) **Medical Marijuana.** Josh Olson and Katherine Brown from OPWDD's Counsel's office reviewed the rules that established facilities as "designated caregivers" and were trying to understand/gather additional information on why no providers were able to implement the rules for people they support. Storage requirements, costs of the drugs, and staff licensure/exposure were all identified as barriers to implementation. It was noted that if the Governor's agenda item of legalizing marijuana passes, some of these issues will go away. A small group of providers will work with OPWDD Counsel's office to identify potential solutions.
- 8) **Rate Transformation Update.** Again, providers were reminded that the CFR on file with the State on 1/4/19 will be used for all rate calculations – there will be NO EXCEPTIONS – for 7/1/19 rates. DOH has posted the materials from its WebEx, including tools to help providers estimate their rates and identify any problems with their CFRs. The minimum wage adjustments for 1/1/19 are expected soon in the new year and there will be a reconciliation survey sent to all providers; previous minimum wage payments must be accounted for in the survey, and providers who either over- or under-spent the minimum wage funding will need to account for that spending; any adjustments are likely to be seen in the 7/1/19 rates. More information will be sent directly to providers in January.