

# **The Developmental Disabilities System in Orange County**

## **Overview & Basic Information Session 2017**

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Thank You for Taking Time to  
View This Presentation

# PLEASE NOTE

Live presentations of this material provide clarification and greater detail.

If you would like a live presentation for your group, please call or email.

# Today's Presentation

Overview of the System

Service Providers & Funding

Specialized Services

Access & Eligibility

Systems Transformation

# Role of County Government

## NYS Mental Hygiene Law

Orange County Department of Mental Health (OCDMH) is charged with fiscal and programmatic oversight, planning, and coordination of mental health, chemical dependency, and developmental disabilities services.

# Role of County

- assist & advocate for individuals & families in need
- work closely with the NYS Office for People with Developmental Disabilities & Provider Network
- promote cross systems work with behavioral health & other human service providers, other county departments, other state offices & schools
- provide information & outreach to the public

**Much More**

# County Leadership

- continuous quality improvement efforts
- evidenced based practices
- technical assistance and guidance
- training and continuing education
- service planning for those with complex needs
- systems mediation and problem solving

Using the framework of WELCOME Orange

# The Developmental Disabilities System in Orange County How Can We Help?

- give caregivers a break
- ease the family stress and pressure
- help with skill building and reduction in problem behavior
- add structure to the home environment
- provide caregiver support and training



# Developmental Disability?

Diagnoses/Conditions May Include:

- Cerebral Palsy
- Epilepsy/Seizure Disorders
- Neurological and Chromosomal Disorders
- Autism Spectrum Disorders
- Intellectual Disability (IQ below 70)
- Onset Prior to Age 22
- Lifelong & Substantial

# Not a Developmental Disability

## Examples

- Visual or Hearing Impairment
- Bi-Polar Disorder
- Spinal Cord Injury
- Parkinson's Disease
- Lupus
- Special Education Classification, e.g., Other Health Impaired, Multiply-Disabled, etc.

# Overview of the System

The system is large, diverse and complex.

Services are delivered through a network of agencies that comprise the Orange County Developmental Disabilities Provider Network.

# **Overview of the System**

## **\$\$\$\$\$Funding\$\$\$\$\$**

### **Medicaid**

**The New York State Office for People with  
Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD)**

**County Government-Orange County  
Department of Mental Health**

# **What Does the System Offer?**

**Long Term Care, Specialized Supports &  
Meaningful Activities Across the Lifespan  
For Individuals (children and adults)**

**Support, Respite and Educational Opportunities for  
Family Members**

# Specialized Services

- Advocacy, Information and Referral
- Educational Advocacy
- Service Coordination
- Recreation and Social Activities
- Educational Opportunities & Support Groups
- Assistance with Challenging Behaviors

# Specialized Services

- Financial Assistance
- Family Support Respite Services
- Individually Planned Supports
- Adult Day Services & Work Supports
- Housing Options and Supports
- Supports for Individuals that are Pregnant or Parenting

# System Does *Not* Offer

Emergency Placement

Medical, Mental Health, Therapies\* or  
education services

System is **not a panacea** for solving every  
family issue-other systems are available

\*some exceptions



# **System Does *Not* Offer**

The Developmental Disabilities system does not provide Medicaid (MA)

To obtain MA

An individual must be eligible for MA on their own in accordance with MA criteria

OR

OPWDD eligible, in need of and approved for a MA funded service

# **Common Misconceptions About Who Can be Supported**

intellectual disability (formerly known as  
mental retardation) required

services are only for adults

services are entitlements

# FACTS

- people supported-normal or even high IQs
- many children receive services and supports
- services are not entitlements
- having a developmental disability does not equate to OPWDD eligibility
- some people have multiple developmental disabilities
- many also have a mental illness
- a smaller number struggle with substance abuse or addiction

# ACCESS TO SPECIALIZED SERVICES & SUPPORTS

[www.orangecountynyddconnection.com](http://www.orangecountynyddconnection.com)

Offers a point of access to comprehensive, objective information and assistance about local services for people with developmental disabilities with unmet needs and their families.

Information and assistance is offered online, in print, and live- in person.

# ACCESS

OPWDD eligibility is NOT needed for all services

OPWDD funded services to help obtain eligibility and provide crisis intervention

Services funded in part or entirely by your county government through its Department of Mental Health (OCDMH) or through funds raised by non-profit agencies

# ACCESS

Most services funded by NYS OPWDD require eligibility. *New Individuals* must go through the OPWDD Front Door Process which includes:

- eligibility deeming; and
- orientation, and
- assessment of need,
- and service authorization

# ACCESS

*If the service needed requires OPWDD eligibility, this process is key to moving forward*

- formal, multi-level review process
- additional information may be requested
- notification of status letters sent
- often lengthy process
- most people need assistance.

# OPWDD Eligibility

Diagnoses or conditions resulting from an assessment/evaluation that is a developmental disability such as:

Cerebral Palsy

Epilepsy/Seizure Disorders

Neurological and Chromosomal Disorders

Autism Spectrum Disorders

Intellectual Disability (IQ below 70)



# Eligibility Criteria

Documentation of a qualifying diagnosis or condition *plus*

Onset prior to age 22 *plus*

Life long, substantial needs

Some people may have a qualifying diagnosis but NOT meet the other criteria

# Documentation for Eligibility

## Measure of Intellect

- must be acceptable to OPWDD
- must be valid (hospitalization, adaptive equipment, glasses, hearing aids, state of person)

## Measure of Adaptive Behavior for IQ 60+

- must be acceptable to OPWDD
- assessed without adult prompts or intervention

and

# Documentation for Eligibility

Social History (pregnancy, milestones, current status)

and

Current Physical

and

For those with IQs of 70+, documentation of a qualifying diagnosis or condition

Note: For students, the first three items (IQ, adaptive, social history) may be contained within the school psychological.

# Re-Determination of Eligibility

Young children receive *provisional* eligibility with re-determination required by age *eight*

***Break in service*** may require re-determination  
e.g., incarceration, residential school placement, etc.

Eligibility is portable within New York State

# Orange County DD Provider Network

- ACCESS: Supports for Living  
(Formerly Occupations, Family Empowerment, Stony Ford Foundation)
- Ahivim
- Chemlu Developmental Disabilities Center, Inc.
- Crystal Run Village, Inc.
- Capabilities Partnership (Formerly Epilepsy Foundation of Southern New York).
- Greystone Programs, Inc.
- Hamaspik of Orange County, Inc.
- Hudson Valley Developmental Disabilities Services Office
- Independent Living, Inc.
- IKAN
- Inspire, The CP Center
- Jewish Family Services
- Mental Health Association in Orange County, Inc.
- Orange County Department of Mental Health
- Rayim of Hudson Valley, Inc.
- The Arc of Orange County

# Providers

- You get to select who to work with
- You can change providers
- You can work with multiple providers

# Considerations for Selecting Providers

- Response time to you calls or inquiry
- Quality of the interaction
- Do you feel respected and heard?
- Are they a WELCOME Orange Provider?

# **WELCOME Orange**

- **Working to**
- **Encourage**
- **Leadership and**
- **Collaboration**
- **Of**
- **Multi-Disciplinary Service Providers**
- **Enhancing healthy living in Orange County**



# **WELCOME Orange**

- **A philosophy for the work we do together with our community-for our community**
- System wide quality improvement partnership using evidenced based principles involving all levels of an agency, organization, entity
- **Changing the way people in need of support experience “the system”**

# **WELCOME Orange**

- collaboration of agencies and organizations whose doors are always open regardless of presenting issues or needs
- commitment to connecting people with resources available through partner agencies
- improved access in a welcoming environment resulting in better outcomes

# WELCOME Orange

- Complexity capable, welcoming, hopeful regardless of presenting issues or needs
- Connecting people with resources available through partner agencies
- Recognizing what it takes to get to the point of asking for help
- Understanding stages of change for each issue
- Meeting people where they are today

# Specialized Services

- Advocacy, Info & Referral, Family Assistance
- Educational Advocacy
- Service Coordination
- Recreation and Social Skill Building Activities
- Educational Opportunities & Support Groups
- Financial Assistance
- Assistance with Challenging Behaviors

# Specialized Services

- Individually Planned Supports
- -Adult Day Services & Supports
- -Housing Options and Supports
- -In Home Respite and Skill Building
- -Environmental Modifications
- -Adaptive Equipment
- -Supports for Pregnant or Parenting

# Self Direction

For those with OPWDD eligibility and waiver enrolled, this can be a great option

- design, control and manage a unique plan of services based on needs and goals
- mix and match services and supports
- employer and/or budget authority & oversight
- decide when and how delivered
- self hire or agency

Go to [www.opwddny.gov](http://www.opwddny.gov) for more information

# Other Important Considerations

Transition Planning

Guardianship, Wills, Trusts

Generic Services

GO TO

- [www.orangecountynyddconnection.com](http://www.orangecountynyddconnection.com)



# Systems Transformation

## Pushes and Pulls Causing Many Changes

- NYS Medicaid Re-Design Team Recommendations
- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
- Olmstead Decision
- Fiscal Realities & Sustainability

# Systems Transformation

## Some Anticipated Outcomes

- More Flexibility
- Greater Accountability
- Better Use of Funding
- Consistent Approach to Access & Authorization
- Agency Collaboration & Consolidation
- Fewer Segregated Settings
- Workshop Re-Design & Closure
- Increased Employment Status
- Increased Control of Services
- Wider Array of Supports
- Expectation of Outcomes vs. ongoing, “Forever” Services
- True community integration, not just community exposure

# OPWDD Front Door

- Eligibility
- Orientation
- Assessment
- Authorization

Hudson Valley Developmental Disabilities  
Regional Office 695-7330

# Alternative Paths

[www.orangecountynyddconnection.com](http://www.orangecountynyddconnection.com)

Click on *“I want to connect with services”*

We will give you a set of recommended services to pursue,  
assist with eligibility & connect you to the Front Door

Orange County Department of Mental Health

845-291-2620

OR Connect Directly with a Provider for Assistance

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**Regional Office**

**695-7300**