

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

## **Overview & Basic Information Session 2018**

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# 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 County's Role

Overview of the System

Service Providers & Funding

Specialized Services

Access & Eligibility

Systems Transformation

# **Role of County Government**

## **NYS Mental Hygiene Law**

Counties are charged with fiscal and programmatic oversight, planning, and coordination of service needs for people in three areas:

Chemical Dependency, Developmental Disabilities and Mental Illness

# Role of County Government

In Orange County, the Department of Mental Health is the designated “Local Government Unit “ under this law

# Developmental Disabilities Division

- advocate for individuals & families
- promote cross systems work with behavioral health, other county departments & schools
- provide information to the public
- promote continuous quality improvement efforts

# Developmental Disabilities Division

- promote evidenced based practices
- provide technical assistance and guidance
- training and continuing education
- service planning for those with complex needs
- systems mediation and problem solving



# Developmental Disabilities Division

- assist with NYS service eligibility process
- provide clinical support for children on the autism spectrum
- Young Adults Breaking the Ice

# HOW?

Work closely with:

NYS Office for People with  
Developmental Disabilities

&

Orange County Provider Network

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?

Qualifying Conditions –One or More

Cerebral Palsy

Epilepsy/Seizure Disorders

Neurological and Chromosomal Disorders

Autism Spectrum Disorders

Intellectual Disability (IQ below 70)



Onset Prior to Age 22 &

Lifelong & Substantial Support

# 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.

# Common Misconceptions About Who Can be Supported

Must Have an Intellectual Disability  
(formerly known as mental retardation)

Services Are For Adults

Services Are Entitlements

# FACTS- See Complexity Wheel

- 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

# 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 (children and adults)

Support, Respite and Educational Opportunities for Family Members

# Types of Supports

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

# Additional Supports

- 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

OR

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

# Specialized Services

- Advocacy, Info & Referral, Family Assistance
- Educational Advocacy
- Service Coordination
- Recreation & 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



GO TO

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

# Self Direction -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-hired

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

# 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 Required for Most  
But NOT All OPWDD Supports and  
Services Funded or Certified by OPWDD

Exceptions: Refer to  
[www.orangecountynyddconnection.com](http://www.orangecountynyddconnection.com)

# The Front Door

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

# Eligibility Process

*If* the service needed requires OPWDD eligibility, this 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

# NYS OPWDD Eligibility

Qualifying Diagnoses or Condition(s)  
resulting from an  
assessment/evaluation

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 an OPWDD accepted test
- must be valid

## Measure of Adaptive Behavior for IQ 60+

- must be acceptable
  - assessed without adult prompts or intervention
- and

# Documentation for Eligibility

Social History; and

Current Physical; and

For those with IQs of 70+, the assessment concluding with another qualifying diagnosis

# Re-Determination of Eligibility

Eligibility is Lifelong and Portable in NYS Except:

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

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

# Providers

- People select who to work with
- People can change providers
- People can work with multiple providers for any one or more services

# 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

# Considerations for Selecting Providers

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

# Other Important Considerations

Transition Planning

Guardianship, Wills, Trusts

Generic Services

# 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

## Moving Toward Managed Care

- More Flexibility
- Greater Accountability
- Better Use of Funding
- Consistent Approach to Access & Authorization
- Increased Agency Collaboration & Consolidation
- Value Based Payment
- 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

# Movement Toward Managed Care Care Coordination Organizations

- CCOs are DD-Led Health Homes
- Six Designated in NYS
- Four will Cover Orange County
- Effective July 1, 2018 Medicaid Service Coordination Ends
- Effective July 1, 2018 Care Management Starts
- What's Changing?

# 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

- 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
- Meeting people where they are today

# 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

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# Thank You!

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NYS OPWDD  
Hudson Valley Developmental Disabilities  
Regional Office  
695-7300