

January 21, 2016

Transformation Panel  
OPWDD

Draft Recommendations

I am deeply concerned by the lack of specific details in your recommendations. Your recommendations are basically platitudes, which sound nice but do nothing. The Legislature needs everything to be quantified, for instance:

Residential

Every recommendation sounds nice - BUT without an estimate of the money needed to carry out the recommendations – the words are just words.

We all know there were 11,000 people on N.Y. State Cares that recently OPWDD was charged with contacting to verify they still needed a Residential Placement. We've all heard of people in crisis (because they were living at home and the parents had either died or become too ill to care for their I/DD son/daughter) who ended up in a hospital or a psych ward when the hospital staff did not know how to handle the highly stressed I/DD person.

New York State used to be an example of a State that had good services for the I/DD population but it no longer is.

Employment and Life in the Community

Again wonderful words

Develop retirement strategies for those who may not want to pursue employment - Can't get more vague than this!!!

Explore on-demand transportation – Sure, makes a lot of sense to have the I/DD population in cars that don't pick up other people that are disabled!!!!!!!

Self-Determination

From the public hearing I went to in Manhattan, self-direction isn't working because of problems at OPWDD so there can't be any changes until OPWDD's problems are corrected.

Supporting Staff

URGE FAIR COMPENSATION FOR DSP's. Are you kidding me????????? Without attaching the money needed – the Legislature has no idea what to do.

Supporting Families

Unless, Residential Beds are fully funded for the next 20 years to deal with all of the people that need it, Families will NOT BE SUPPORTED.

Funding and Performance

There are actually some very good ideas in this part – Develop a 'safety net guarantee' so that a person can try different things and know their former level of services can still be there for them if they need to step back to their old service arrangement. Very good idea.

Ensure accountability by providing online access to information, pricing, services, etc. via portals and individual accounts. Online accountability is a must!!

Care Management and Assessment

Managed care and the I/DD population makes as much sense as pigs flying.

Families have waited for this report for 11 months. To say it is a disappointment is the understatement of the year.

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