OPWDD Family Stakeholder Meeting  
6/15/2022  
NYADD RL Katy Faivre and Tara Klein attended  

**OPENING DISCUSSION:**  
Housekeeping: Barb DeLong (facilitator) asked that members email her with questions about meeting details or questions, rather than to OPWDD invitation or “reply all.” She went on to say that agenda items from past meetings will be addressed at a later date so today can focus on 5.07  

**5.07 PLAN:** Barb then asked the Commissioner for clarification on the DEADLINE FOR 5.07 PLAN COMMENTS: The Commissioner confirmed that the deadline for WRITTEN comments is July 29, but because there are public forums scheduled in August, ORAL comments will also be reviewed for the final report after that date. Public forum dates have been announced posted and are on the OPWDD website (and the NYADD Facebook page) Barb also requested that ALL public forums be help in ACCESSABLE facilities, i.e. wheelchair and public transportation. OPWDD agreed.  

OPWDD expects to deliver the completed 5.07 Plan to NYS Legislature by November.  

**QUESTIONS FROM THE CHAT:**  
1. **MANAGED CARE:** Barbara M/GROW asked what was the est. cost of the “study” of managed care? OPWDD estimated $250,000, noted that this was FMAP/ARPA funds, not program funds  
2. **WORKFORCE CRISIS STATUS:** Max D/WNY- asked for an update on the long term plan for recruitment and retention. Response: No specific time line right now. Max said that families in his son’s group home are covering shifts for DSP’s when necessary. Adrienne Maseau/OPWDD: We are building the pipeline, developing curriculum that will go into HS/BOCES and SUNY programs. Katy F/NYADD asked about timeline: aiming for 2023 school year. Planning on contracting with a curriculum developer. This will tie into OPWDD’s DSP marketing recruitment campaign, which will include state and voluntary providers. No specific time line. The Commissioner urged families and advocates to continue to contact legislators and congress on workforce issues saying, “Advocacy is not part time!” Federal Advocacy needed as well- ANCOR is working on the $150B HCBS Funding Bill and we need to engage Senators Schumer and Gillibrand on this important issue.  
3. **RESIDENTIAL RATE SETTINGS:** Kathy B.- asked about residential rate setting plans, would transition to be based on individuals’ needs rather than current cost-based system? Question of when: no specific timeline or implementation plan as of yet. Kevin Valenchis/OPWDD reply: Rate setting based on CAS (and other measures) of the individual. Looking at IRAs (supervised and supported) and ICFs, 9 Tiers, 9 is most
complex. Goal to develop a natural flow, incentive to less restrictive tier as individual becomes more independent. Funding goes to provider to decide on actual/individual spending. “Can’t force providers how to use their funding” as directly related to individual’s funding.

4. **EQUITY ISSUES:** Chat question on language equity policy- what is the requirement for implementation of Title 6. Commissioner replied that Title 6 ONLY applies to state agencies, NOT voluntary agencies. She will look into this issue and respond at the next meeting.

5. **WORKFORCE BONUS ISSUES:** Leslie/SOYAN asked about bonus payments not provided by agencies/FIs, who “chose” not to participate/apply for bonus funding for their workers. Commissioner stated- this was an unexpected issue, and is “unacceptable”; looking into ways to alleviate discrepancy for workers.
   Outcomes: Some providers report increases in retention (mentioned state) while some report increase in staff losses.
   It will be “a few more months’ before it is clear if bonuses had desired impact.

6. **ADVOCACY:** Roy P/parent made a statement to continue advocacy through the year.
   Federal Advocacy to Schumer and Gillibrand for $150 Billion HCBS

7. **5.4% COLA:** Karen asked about “fall DSP bonuses.”
   Yes, additional bonuses via the Governors healthcare workforce program will be distributed for DSP/SD staff by the End of Quarter (est).
   OPWDD reiterated that they have “no control” over how the provider agencies use the COLA or FMAP funds, but the hope is that the funds will go into DSP pockets
   Encouraged families to ASK the providers how the funds will be spent.

8. **WORKFORCE PIPELINE/SHORT TERM FUNDING:** Tara K/NYADD asked about OPWDD/CMS increasing FSS/CDPAP funds as a short term goal while workforce is being rebuilt.
   “Families are holding the system together right now.” Pay them.
   In many cases families are filling in for DSP shortages (like Max D), doing the support for day and residential, medical appointments, etc. Have had to quit jobs. How can funding be redirected to support them NOW? Current 5.07 workforce pipeline plans are long term. What can be done in the short term to provide relief?
   Commissioner responded, “I don’t have an answer for that.”

Barb ended the meeting by asking that all of those in attendance go back to our groups and raise the volume on our advocacy efforts. Just because the legislature is out of session, doesn’t mean the work is done. Many representatives are out campaigning. Go talk to them! Tell them what’s happening and make calls to Sen. Gillibrand & Schumer.

Meeting ended.