



Member and Family News Bulletin

February 10, 2021

OPWDD Slashes 39% From CCO/HHs Budget

Devastating Cuts in FY 2021 - 2022 Proposed Budget

Once again the Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) targets New Yorkers with disabilities in the Governor's FY 2021 – 2022 proposed Executive Budget! This has major implications for all 110,000 members and families enrolled in the seven Care Coordination Organization/Health Homes (CCO/HHs), including the 27,000 members supported by Care Design NY. [Click here](#) to read the Daily News story on the impact of these CCO/HH cuts to individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families.

Despite still being in a pandemic, the Governor has proposed a \$93 million CCO/HH funding cut on a full annual basis or 23% which is on top of a \$73M or 16.2% cut taken in the current state fiscal year. This amounts to \$166M or more than a 39% reduction in two budget years. Should this funding cut be implemented on July 1, 2021, the negative impact on service delivery and the workforce, that includes 4,000 CCO/HH Care Managers, will be significant and devastating.

[Click here](#) for the letter to Care Design NY members and families from James

Moran, CEO. [Click here](#) for the key points on the total funding slashed from the budget. We will be sending information in the coming days on what you can do to advocate against these proposed cuts to CCO/HHs. In the meantime, please visit the [Care Management Alliance of New York, Inc. website](#) to sign-up for news alerts and follow the CCO/HHs on Facebook and Twitter.

Rachelle Kivanoski, Parent, Care Design NY Individual & Family Advisory Board Chair from Manhattan provided written testimony on 2.5.21 to the Joint Legislative Mental Hygiene Hearing advocating that New York State restore the funding to the FY 2021 - 2022 budget to allow CCO/HHs continue to do the job of protecting New York's vulnerable, high-risk population. [Click here](#) to access her full testimony.

IMPORTANT COVID-19 Vaccination Update

I/DD Community Approved For Vaccine Eff. 2.15.21

On 2.5.21, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced that individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (I/DD), including Down Syndrome, living in non-certified settings will be added to the State's 1b vaccination prioritization tier and **will be eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine as of February 15**. [Click here](#) to read the press release.

The COVID-19 vaccine distribution plan in New York State (NYS) is constantly evolving. The Federal government determines how much vaccine states will receive for distribution. According to New York State officials, supply is very limited. Therefore, it will take time for all that are eligible to actually obtain an appointment and get the vaccines. *Note: An appointment will be required and if you visit a vaccination site without one, you will not receive a vaccine.*

We have been informed that the Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) is working with County Department of Health officials to appropriately allocate the State's vaccination supply based upon where individuals with I/DD live in the community. We are awaiting more information on the Point of Dispensing (POD) site locations and timeline these sites will be up and running. Care Design NY Care Managers will notify and assist members living in the community to access COVID-19 vaccinations.

OPWDD stated that everyone who receives the COVID-19 vaccine will need to

complete a consent form. You can find the Department of Health (DOH) form and other information concerning the COVID-19 vaccines on the OPWDD website, including plain language materials, a screening check list, and the vaccine fact sheets. The provider of the vaccine should accept the DOH form; however, they may require their own consent form as well.

[Click here](#) to visit the OPWDD website to access this material.

[Click here](#) to get the current updates and facts from the New York State Department of Health on the COVID-19 vaccine.

[Click here](#) to visit the Care Design NY FAQ vaccination web page for the latest information. Watch our video for tips on scheduling an appointment by phone or online.

Questions? Please email: memberfeedback@caredesignny.org

Upcoming Events & Online Meetings

You are invited to join us for the next Care Design NY online meeting tomorrow, **Thursday, February 11 @ 11:00 am - 12:30 pm**. Please [click here](#) to register. You may also submit a topic and/or question that you would like addressed during the event online registration process. Your feedback is very important to us!

We are recording meetings for your convenience. If you would like to listen to a past meeting, please [click here](#) to access.

2.11 @ 1:15 pm: Virtual Advocacy Rally

Join the New York Disability Advocates in a virtual rally via Zoom tomorrow, Thursday, 2.11.21 @ 1:15 pm for a virtual rally urging State Legislators and the Governor to prioritize people with disabilities. [Click here](#) for more information and to join the rally. If you are unable to join the Zoom



link, visit the [NY Alliance Facebook page](#) to participate and watch live.

2.25 @ 4pm: Making Sense of Vaccines

Please join us for a discussion with Dr. Stephan Deutsch, PHP's Chief Medical Officer on Thursday, 2.25 @ 4:00 pm. Click to register: [2.25 @ 4:00 pm](#). We will be sharing the latest information about the COVID-19 vaccines. Topics will include: history of vaccines, how vaccines work, as well as benefits & risks of COVID-19 vaccines. Presentation will conclude with a Question & Answer session.



Black History Month

The month of February is an annual celebration to recognize and honor the accomplishments of African and Black Americans.

Please [click here](#) to read a letter from James Moran, Care Design NY CEO, on Black History Month.



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Care Design NY is committed to getting answers to your most pressing questions! We have documented the answers from our subject matter experts.

Have a question? Please email: memberfeedback@caredesignny.org.

[COVID-19 Vaccination FAQs](#)

[COVID-19 Resource Center for Members](#)

[Emergency Resource Search \(COVID-19 SOS\)](#)