



*Coronavirus (COVID-19)*

# News Bulletin

September 23, 2020

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You are invited to join us for an online meeting **tomorrow, September 24 at 1:00 pm**. Please [click here](#) to register.

This will be an opportunity for you to ask the Care Design NY leadership team questions as OPWDD resumes their in-person and service delivery operations (see the OPWDD guidance documents below). Your feedback is crucial to influencing our most important priorities!

We have recorded the online meetings for your convenience. Please [click here](#) to access.

[Click here](#) to see all of the upcoming meetings.

## **UPCOMING: ONLINE MEETING IN SPANISH**

We will be hosting an online meeting on October 1 @ 1:00 pm with a Spanish translator. Please help us get the word out! [Click here](#) to register for the online meeting in Spanish.

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## **Tomorrow, 9.24 @ 11:00 am: DDAC Quarterly Meeting**

The next public meeting of the Developmental Disabilities Advisory Council (DDAC) Quarterly Committee will be held tomorrow, September 24, 2020 at 11:00 am via WebEx. To join the meeting, [click here](#).

The DDAC was established pursuant to [section 13.05 of the Mental Hygiene Law](#). It provides recommendations for statewide priorities and goals, resource allocation, and evaluation processes for state and local services for people with developmental disabilities.

[Click here](#) for the full schedule of OPWDD public meetings.

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## **NYC FAIR and LIANDD UPDATE: A Success!**

The September 17 mobile rally and car rally sponsored by NYC FAIR and LIANDD on the 33rd anniversary of the closure of Willowbrook was, according to the event organizers, a great success!

They stated, "There were people and cars everywhere, from Long Island to Hudson Valley, Staten Island, and Albany." The media covered the event and the various regional activities. [Click here](#) for news coverage. You can also learn more about this event on our website's event page: [click here](#).

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## **Independent Housing Subsidies in Jeopardy**

The seven Care Coordination Organizations/Health Homes (CCO/HHs) CEOs wrote to OPWDD Commissioner Kastner asking him to extend the date to waive the 20% withhold of all housing related payments (rental subsidies, utilities, etc.) being made by OPWDD to support individuals living independently in their own apartments. The current waiver expires the end of this month.

If OPWDD does not extend the date, there are 5,000 individuals, currently receiving housing related subsidies, that could lose their apartment, rendering them homeless and impacting their independence.

[Click here](#) to read the 9.18 letter to Commissioner Kastner from the CCOs/HHs.

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## **Appendix K Extended thru March 6, 2021**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) approved New York's request to amend the waiver with Emergency Preparedness and Response Appendix K in order to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Click here](#) for the approved Appendix K waiver and [click here](#) for frequently asked questions (FAQs) on Appendix K that Care Design NY prepared.

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## OPWDD Administrative Directive Memo (ADM)

Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities living in certified residential settings receive nursing services. To assure that all individuals have access to necessary nursing services, while managing staffing shortages and increasing immediate clinical response needs, OPWDD posted an administrative directive, "Performing Nursing Services and Duties Remotely in OPWDD Certified Programs and Settings," to offer the option of delivering nursing services remotely, when appropriate, and also sets the guidelines for delivery. [Click here](#) to read the ADM.

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## ***SPECIAL SECTION: OPWDD SERVICE DELIVERY REOPENING GUIDANCE***

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### **COVID-19 Interim Guidance Re: Non-Emergency Site Visits of Certified Facilities**

OPWDD has released an interim guidance for providers regarding non-emergency site visits of certified facilities. [Click here](#) to access. [Click here](#) to find more OPWDD guidance on COVID-19.

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### **Guiding A Reopening Conversation Checklist**

The collective community of the I/DD care delivery system is working through an unprecedented COVID-19 public health emergency. Care Design NY worked with members and families to develop guidance documents to inform the New York State I/DD community on what is critical from their perspective in reopening OPWDD services and programs. Please click on the following:

1. A [checklist](#) of considerations and questions to guide conversations with providers and/or Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs) as the OPWDD service delivery system begins to resume in-person support and operations.
2. A [reopening narrative](#).
3. An [easy-to-read](#) visual reopening overview.
4. We've created a one-page summary, *OPWDD "COVID-19 Safety Plan for Certified Day Program Reopening" Template for Individuals and Families*.

Please [click here](#) for the Care Design NY summary document.

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## **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](mailto:memberfeedback@caredesignny.org).

Please click on the Frequently Asked Questions button below. We will continue to update this FAQ list, so please check back frequently!

**Frequently Asked Questions**

**Emergency Resource Search (COVID-19 SOS)**

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**COVID-19 Resource Center for Members**