

# News Bulletin

October 12, 2021

**REGISTER: Care Design NY Online Meeting 10.14 @ 11am**



## Could Social Security Be Changing A Rule?

The next Care Design NY Member & Family Online Meeting and Information Session will take place on **Thursday, October 14 @ 11:00 am**. You'll want to attend and get the latest information from our leadership team! You'll want to hear the presentation from the Care Design NY Benefits & Entitlements Team, "Could Social Security be changing this rule after 32 years?"

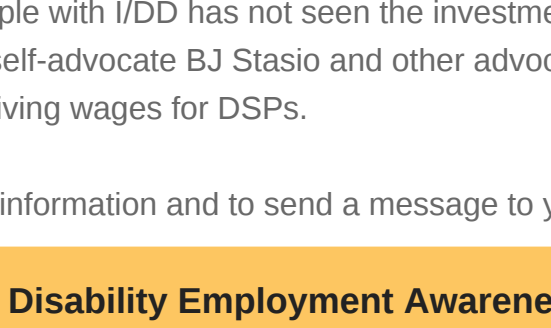
**TO REGISTER:** Please [click here](#).

You may submit a topic and/or question that you would like addressed during the event online registration process. Your feedback is very important to us!

The next and final Care Design NY online meeting for 2021 will be **December 16 @ 11:00 am**. Please [click here](#) to register.

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

## Rise Up Campaign

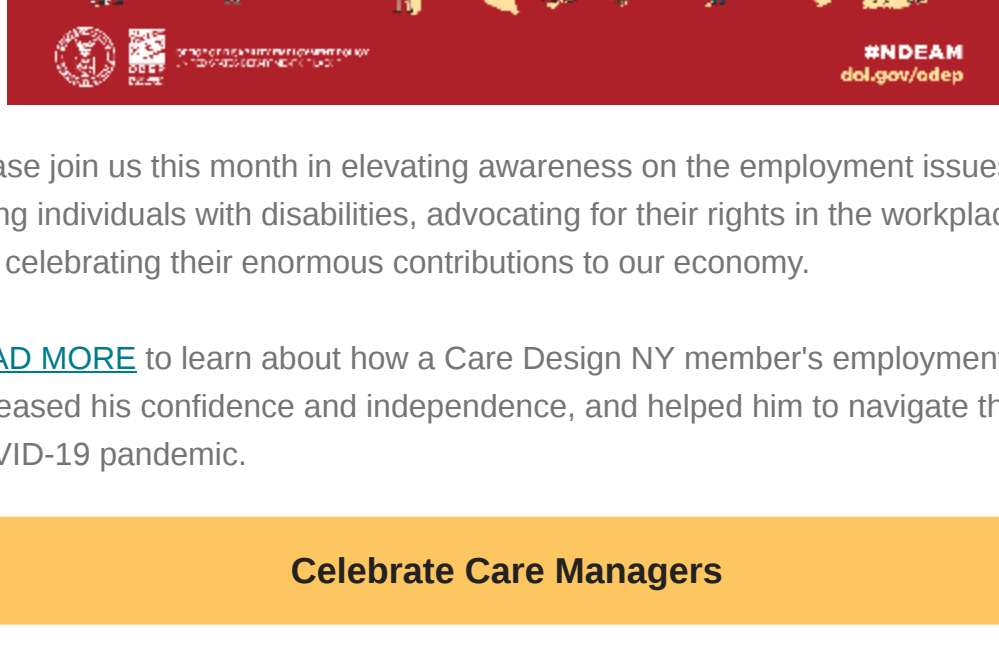


## Address the DSP Workforce Crisis

The time is now to "Rise Up" and invest in our Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) and our New Yorkers with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (I/DD). For far too long, the service delivery system providing essential supports and services to people with I/DD has not seen the investments necessary to sustain them. Join self-advocate BJ Stasio and other advocates across the state in rallying for living wages for DSPs.

[Click here](#) for more information and to send a message to your elected officials.

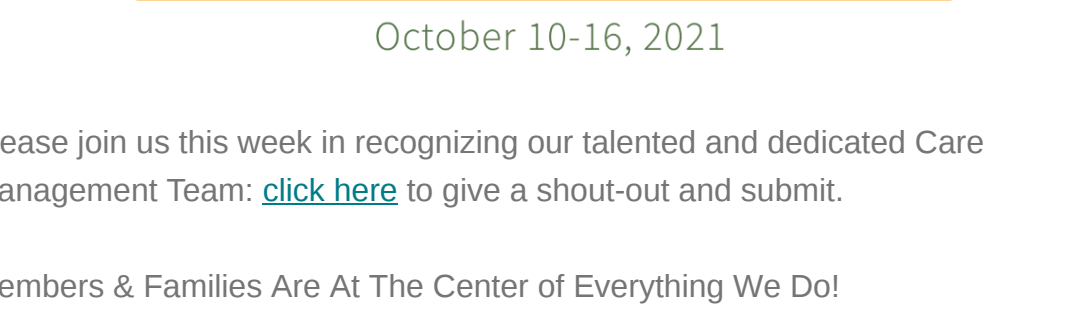
## National Disability Employment Awareness Month



Please join us this month in elevating awareness on the employment issues facing individuals with disabilities, advocating for their rights in the workplace, and celebrating their enormous contributions to our economy.

[READ MORE](#) to learn about how a Care Design NY member's employment has increased his confidence and independence, and helped him to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Celebrate Care Managers



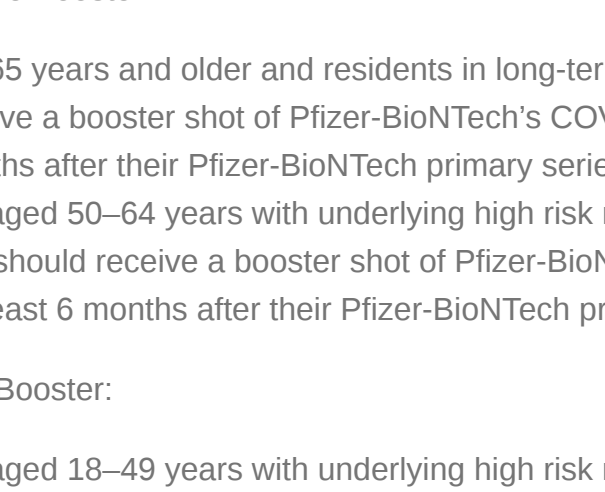
**INNOVATION THROUGH CARE, COMPASSION & COLLABORATION**

October 10-16, 2021

Please join us this week in recognizing our talented and dedicated Care Management Team: [click here](#) to give a shout-out and submit.

Members & Families Are At The Center of Everything We Do!

## COVID-19 Booster Doses: What You Need to Know



## GET A BOOST TO FIGHT COVID-19

People who are eligible for the booster fall into one of these groups:

Should Receive the Booster:

- Individuals 65 years and older and residents in long-term care settings should receive a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months after their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series.
- Individuals aged 50–64 years with underlying high risk medical conditions\* should receive a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months after their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series.

May Receive the Booster:

- Individuals aged 18–49 years with underlying high risk medical conditions\* may receive a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months after their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series. Consult your regular health care provider. *Note: The New York State Department of Health in a Health Advisory bulletin sent out on 9/26/2021 defined "Intellectual and development disabilities including Down Syndrome" as a high risk medical condition and therefore eligible for the booster.*
- Individuals aged 18-64 years who are at increased risk for COVID-19 exposure and transmission because of occupational or institutional setting may receive a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months after their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series.

At this time, individuals must have received the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for their initial vaccine series at least six months ago to be eligible. Individuals who received the Moderna or Janssen/Johanson & Johnson (J&J) vaccine are not currently eligible for a booster dose at this time.

Individuals should contact their healthcare provider if they have questions about whether getting an additional dose is appropriate for them. Free booster doses are already widely available statewide at state-run mass vaccination sites, pharmacies, local health departments, clinics, Federally Qualified Health Centers, and other locations across New York State.

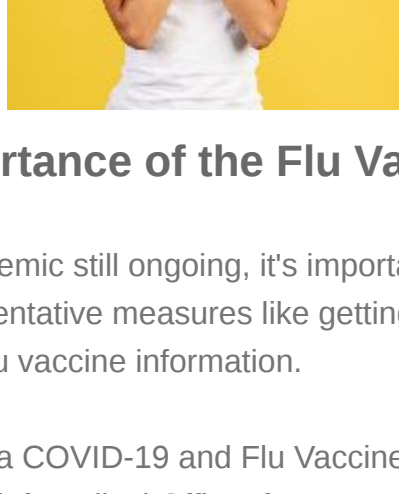
To schedule an appointment, New York State residents may choose from the following options:

1. Visit: Booster Doses: [Booster Doses | COVID-19 Vaccine \(ny.gov\)](#)
2. Text their ZIP code to 438829
3. Call either 1-833-NYS-4-VAX or 1-800-232-0233.

Please consult our [educational library](#) for new plain language information. Members and families are encouraged to contact their Care Design NY Care Manager with questions.

[Click here](#) for New York State information on booster shot eligibility, scheduling, safety, and efficacy.

## Flu Season 2021



## Importance of the Flu Vaccine

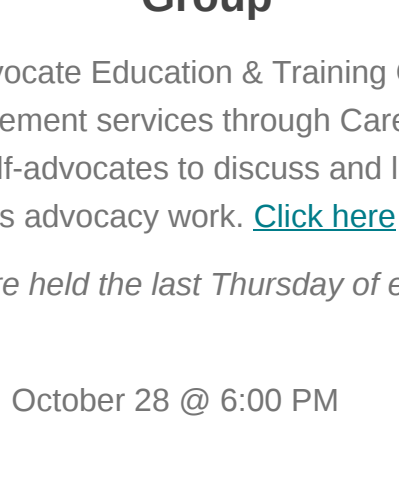
With the COVID-19 pandemic still ongoing, it's important to be aware of flu symptoms and take preventative measures like getting your flu vaccine. Please [click here](#) for important flu vaccine information.

You are invited to attend a COVID-19 and Flu Vaccine Information Session with Dr. Stephan Deutsch, Chief Medical Officer for Partners Health Plan will provide the latest information. Topics will include updates on the Coronavirus vaccines, mask-wearing, and preparing for flu season. A Q & A will follow the presentation.

**WHEN:** Wednesday, October 13 @ 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

**TO REGISTER:** Please [click here](#).

## REGISTER: Self-Advocate & Education Training Group



## Care Design NY Self-Advocate & Education Training Group

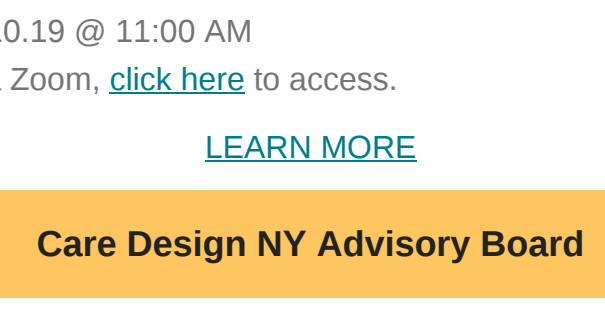
Care Design NY Self-Advocate Education & Training Group is for individuals who receive Care Management services through Care Design NY and would like to meet with other self-advocates through Care Design NY and individual & Family Advisory Board's advocacy work. [Click here](#) to learn more.

*These online meetings are held the last Thursday of every month from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM.*

**Next meeting:** Thursday, October 28 @ 6:00 PM

**TO REGISTER:** Please [click here](#).

## October 19 @ 11 am Virtual Rally



## Virtual Workforce Crisis Rally

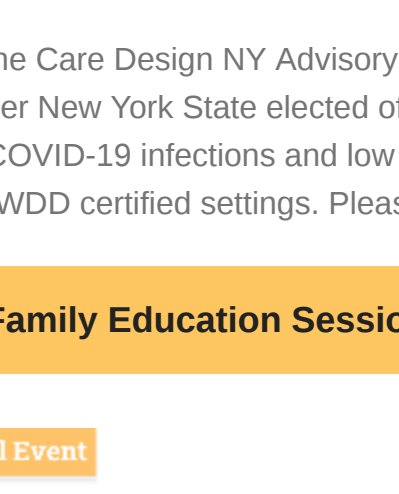
Join New York Disability Advocates, Hudson Valley Providers, family and self-advocates, DSPs, and other speakers to discuss the state's workforce crisis of Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) that is impairing the quality of care for New York's I/DD community.

When: Tuesday, 10.19 @ 11:00 AM

Where: Online via Zoom, [click here](#) to access.

[LEARN MORE](#)

## Care Design NY Advisory Board



## Letter on Staff COVID-19 Vaccination

A letter on behalf of the the Care Design NY Advisory Board was sent to Governor Hochul and the other New York State elected officials highlighting the concern over the rise in COVID-19 infections and low vaccination rates among direct support staff in OPWDD certified settings. Please [click here](#) to read.

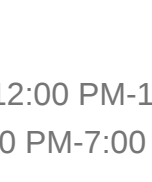
## Family Education Session

Virtual Event

## Family Education Drop-In Q&A Session

Wednesday, October 20  
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

Thursday, October 21  
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM



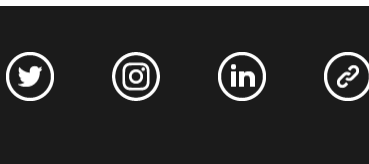
## Family Education Drop-In Q&A Session

Families with school age children are invited to join Sheri Gaylord, Director at Wildwood Programs and Danielle Wiltsie, Director of Individuals, Families, & Advocate Support at Care Design New York for an informal "drop-in" Q&A/troubleshooting session. Sessions will not be scripted and instead will address only those questions and challenging scenarios posed by the attendees. Sessions will focus solely on communication challenges and communicating effectively with school teams throughout the year, especially as it relates to special education and IEP related matters.

There are two session options:

- Wednesday, October 20 @ 12:00 PM-1:00 PM. [Register here](#).
- Thursday, October 21 @ 6:00 PM-7:00 PM. [Register here](#).

## Save the Date: About the CAS



## Hear from OPWDD About the Coordinated Assessment System (CAS)

The CAS is an Assessment Tool currently being utilized by the Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) to identify support needs and inform the LifePlan Process. The Five Boro Developmental Disabilities Councils is hosting a session with OPWDD on November 4 @ 2:00 pm to provide updates and ensure the assessments reflect the supports & services needed and desired.

When: Thursday, 11.4 @ 2:00 PM

Where: Online - registration & login information to come

[LEARN MORE](#)