



News Bulletin

August 20, 2021

Care Design NY Individual & Family Advisory Board



Advisory Board: "Stronger OPWDD Support Needed"

The Care Design NY Individual & Family Advisory Board stated in their letter to OPWDD Commissioner Kastner, "It's been approximately ten years since OPWDD has benefited from the annual review process of a strategic plan. Many individuals and families are experiencing a system in crisis at the same time that OPWDD has been making efforts to remove resources from the system. As a result, the partnership between OPWDD and stakeholders has been eroding, as was evident from much of the testimony during the regional public forums. The goals and initiatives that we propose here are designed to place people's needs at the center of the strategic plan, and to advocate for those needs by bringing to light the disparity between them and the supports that are currently available. The process mandated by Section 5.07 creates an

opportunity for individuals and families to join with OPWDD in creating a vision of a system of care that above all else respects the people whose lives it will shape. Its success will depend on the commitment and transparency it has to the people it most directly impacts." [Click here](#) to access their letter.

Important Changes: SSA Economic Impact Payments (EIP)



SSA Makes Significant Changes to EIP

The Office for People With Developmental Disabilities recently distributed information and guidance regarding a significant change to the treatment of Economic Impact Payments (EIP) by the Social Security Administration (SSA) for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) eligibility purposes. The change and updated information includes:

- SSI recipients who received and saved their EIPs beyond the 12-month exemption period and who were ineligible for cash payments as a result of excess resources should have their SSI payments restored – this may result in receipt of retroactive SSI benefits, but further details need to be released by SSA to be certain that this is what they will do and how far back this will apply.
- SSI recipients who received and saved their EIP, but continued to receive SSI payments despite having excess assets and therefore may have subsequently received an overpayment notice should have the overpayments waived (this may depend on certain other factors yet to be determined).
- SSI applicants who were denied SSI due to conserved (saved) funds should be eligible for SSI if all other eligibility criteria are met.

- SSI applicants/recipients who are ineligible for cash payments due to receipt of Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits should become eligible for cash payments as a result of this change.
- SSA states that they will contact individuals that have been or are being impacted by this change.

For more information, please visit the Social Security Administration website: <https://www.ssa.gov/coronavirus/#receiveassistance> and additional updates and information will be shared with you as it is distributed by the NYS Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD). If you receive any notifications from SSA regarding these changes and have questions about the information you receive, please contact your Care Design NY Care Manager.

REGISTER: Care Design NY Online Meeting 9.23 @ 11am



Get Your Questions Answered!

The next Care Design NY Member & Family Online Meeting and Information Session will take place on **Thursday, September 23 @ 11:00 am**. You'll want to attend and get the latest information from our leadership team!

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!

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

Open Care Manager Positions: Sign-On Bonus

We're Hiring

Join the Care Design NY Team

Are you passionate about providing person-centered care? We are currently hiring Care Managers in all regions and are offering a sign-on bonus. Learn more about starting a career with Care Design NY, the largest Care Coordination Organization/Health Home in New York State: [click here](#).

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