



VINCENT W. COLONNO
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

ANNE M. OGDEN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

October 5, 2017

Dear Friends,

I am writing to provide you with some preliminary information about a change in how Service Coordination services will be provided and received in New York State in the future.

What? The New York State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD), the entity that provides the funding and regulates the provision of Medicaid Service Coordination, plans to transition Medicaid Service Coordination and Plan of Care Supports (PCSS) to a new model of service delivery. Medicaid Service Coordination and PCSS currently provided by agency providers, like Catholic Charities Disabilities Services (CCDS), will move to new providers known as “Care Coordination Organizations” (CCOs) or “Health Homes” (HH).

Why? In order to comply with federal regulations/guidance, OPWDD has agreed to restructure the delivery of Medicaid Service Coordination and PCSS to meet the criteria of “Conflict Free Case Management.” Thus, Medicaid Service Coordination and PCSS will only be provided by organizations that do not provide other Medicaid Waiver Services, such as Community Habilitation, Waiver Respite or Residential services.

When? This change will occur on or about July 1, 2018.

What can I expect? Medicaid Service Coordination and PCSS will be provided in a manner similar to how it is currently provided. Currently, services for people with developmental disabilities are coordinated by Medicaid Service Coordinators (MSCs). The transition of Medicaid Service Coordination to Care Coordination will have as its foundation the creation of Care Coordination Organizations (CCOs). CCOs will coordinate a variety of healthcare, wellness and developmental disabilities services to achieve a holistic and integrated approach to meeting an individual’s full range of needs.

Your current Medicaid Service Coordinator (MSC) will be offered employment at a CCO as a Care Coordinator/Care Manager. Plans are being developed for our CCDS MSCs to be hired by a newly created CCO in the Capital District. You may likely be able to keep your current MSC if you wish in their new role as a Care Coordinator/Care Manager.

Will my family member or I have a choice? We believe that individuals will be initially enrolled into the CCO that is accepting the Medicaid Service Coordination staff as employees from our agency. If you are not satisfied with the services from the CCO you can select an alternative, although we anticipate that the CCO will be a high quality service provider. OPWDD has indicated that there will be at least two CCOs



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in each region, so you will have a choice regarding which CCO will ultimately provide you or your family member with Care Coordination/Care Management.

How are CCOs being developed? Multiple agencies, such as ours, are joining to create these new organizations. CCDS will have input into their development and initial operation.

CCO/HH applicants must demonstrate they are controlled (at least 51 percent) by one or more non-profit organizations with a history of providing or coordinating developmental disability, health, and long term care services to persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities(I/DD).

Where can I get additional information? Our Medicaid Service Coordinators have been made aware of what we know, and will do their best to answer any questions you may have; however, they do not have comprehensive information because decisions are still in the process of being made by OPWDD and by the CCOs.

Additionally you can always contact Paula Jubic, our Director of Service Coordination at paulaj@ccdservices.org or at (518) 783-1111.

As more information becomes available, we will share it with you in further correspondence as well as periodic meetings that we will hold.

We will be **holding our first informational sessions on October 25th 2017 at 12pm and 6pm.** We anticipate the meeting will take approximately an hour but we will be available to stay longer to answer questions if needed. Please rsvp to Mary O'Brien at (518) 783-1111 x1226 or at maryo@ccdservices.org by October 20th if you plan to attend one of these sessions.

Finally, the OPWDD website (OPWDD.NY.Gov) offers a great deal of information on this and other transitions.

In closing, please be assured that we will continue to provide the same quality of services you have come to expect as the system goes through this transition.

Sincerely

Anne Ogden
Executive Director