



March 6, 2018

Dear Friends,

I am writing to bring you up to date on the continuing progress being made by New York State's Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) to convert Medicaid Service Coordination (MSC) to Care Coordination.

It is very likely that the conversion to Care Coordination will take place on July 1, 2018. On that date Catholic Charities and other similar agencies will no longer be able to offer MSC services. However, you or your loved one will be given a choice of several different levels of care coordination services to receive, and which Care Coordinating Organization (CCO) you prefer to receive these services from. Your service coordinator will visit you in the next couple of months, most likely April or May, to assist you in choosing a CCO. At this meeting, you will be asked to choose both the level of service you want as well as the CCO you want to provide those services.

The State has awarded preliminary approval to several CCOs to begin planning for operation. In our area, you will have a choice to enroll in one of three CCOs: Care Design New York (caredesignny.org), Life Plan (lifeplancony.com), or Tri County Services (tricountycare.org). I strongly suggest that you familiarize yourself with these agencies prior to the visit from your service coordinator.

Catholic Charities Disabilities Services has partnered with Care Design New York. This means that our current service coordinators will be offered positions with Care Design New York. If you want to keep your current service coordinator, and if the service coordinator decides to move to Care Design for employment, you can most likely keep your service coordinator if you choose Care Design. However, you are entirely free to go with another CCO if you want.

In closing, remember that between April and May of 2018 you will be approached by your service coordinator to choose both the level of services you want and the CCO you want to provide those services. Service Coordination will no longer be offered after July 1st so you will need to choose something different. I again urge you to educate yourself as much as possible. Review the websites of the CCOs. The Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) has a great deal of information on their website as well. Our own website has useful information, and can be found at www.ccdservices.org/msc-changes. Finally, if you have questions, ask! You can call your service coordinator, Denise LaBier, the Director of Service Coordination, or even me. We can all be reached at 518-783-1111.

Thank you again.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mark P. Keegan'.

Mark P. Keegan
Interim Executive Director