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September 29, 2014

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Hello:

OPWDD Administrative Memorandum #2014-03

*Service Provider Implementation of Ethics, Core Competencies and Performance Evaluations
Implementation Start Date: July 1, 2014 / Implementation Effective Date: March 31, 2017*

The State of New York has taken a significant step toward enabling people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) to lead richer lives, now and in the future. Through the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD), all state-operated and voluntary-operated services and supports that employ Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) were directed to begin implementing the NADSP Code of Ethics, the NYS DSP Core Competencies, and conduct DSP Performance Evaluations.

The DSP training component of the directive requires that service providers implement the practice of core competency learning beginning July 1, 2014. In an effort to assure provider compliance in this area, the New York State Association of Community and Residential Agencies (NYSACRA) is offering all service and support agencies the opportunity to provide employees with core competency training through the nationally-recognized, on-line College of Direct Support (CDS). The content of the training aligns with the state-required implementation criteria.

CDS is a learning gateway for contemporary best practices in the support of individuals with developmental and other disabilities. It is made possible through the collaboration of the Research and Training Center on Community Living at the University of Minnesota (RTC) and Elsevier.

Since 2006, NYSACRA has served as the state-wide administrator for CDS, thereby offering individual programs cost effective access to the curriculum by eliminating administrative expenses. The curriculum is a web-based learning management system that is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, enabling learners to hone their skills at times, locations, and at a pace convenient to their employers and themselves. The attached booklet provides you with background, process, curricula, cost and registration information (also available on-line at www.nysacra.org).

NYSACRA urges you to consider CDS as your core competency learning partner and be in the frontline of assuring quality services and support for people with ID/DD.

If you have any questions regarding the program, please contact Lisa Mount, Director of Education and Administration at lisam@nysacra.org or 518-449-7551.

Sincerely,

Ann M. Hardiman
Executive Director

Attachment: ***Investing in a Professional Workforce:
A Guide to Core Competency On-line Learning***