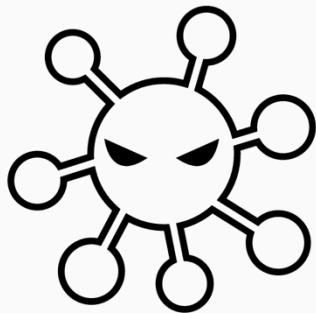


**April 4,
2020**

The Self-Advocacy Association
of New York State
(SANYs)

Advocacy Update

April 4, 2020



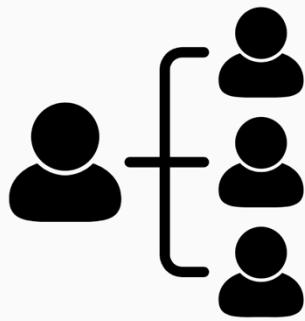
Office for People With Developmental Disabilities



The **COVID-19** crisis is difficult for people with disabilities

SANYS has been advocating with the **Office for People With Developmental Disabilities** (OPWDD)

We want to share some of the answers to our questions



We have heard from many people in group homes and self-direction who are worried about having enough staff



For many people, it is hard to find staff



We wanted to know what **OPWDD** is doing to help people find staff



OPWDD is talking to the Federal Government



They are negotiating about rules



OPWDD wants to make it easier and faster to hire staff



For now, **OPWDD** is not trying to get rid of background checks

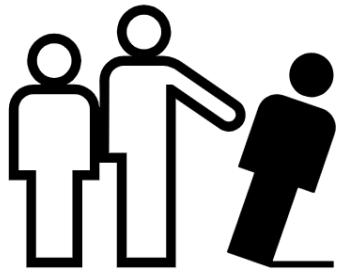
But they are trying to make it faster to hire people who already work in New York State systems



Some self-advocates are worried about not being able to come back from the hospital to their homes



OPWDD is working to find respite options for people getting out of hospitals who cannot return to their homes



Some self-advocates are worried that they may face discrimination when getting medical care



SANYS is working with other groups to protect people's rights



We are asking that **OPWDD** give hospitals guidance about people's rights



The federal government has already given guidance about discrimination:

<https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/ocr-bulletin-3-28-20.pdf>

SANYS is advocating for people's right to have support with them in hospitals if they want



SANYS has heard from self-advocates worried they are not allowed to go outside



You should talk to your service provider to answer any questions.

What they tell you should be based on OPWDD guidelines

**Office for
People With
Developmental
Disabilities**

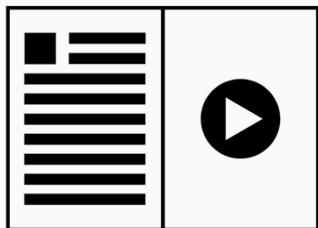


OPWDD has given some guidelines to your provider that can be found here:

https://opwdd.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/03/opwdd-guideline-for-containment_3-11-20.pdf



OPWDD has created an information page for “providers and families”, but **SANYS** wants them to make one for self-advocates



We are working with many groups to make sure information is easier to understand



SANYs knows people have questions about topics other than **OPWDD**



We have heard from self-advocates who have lost their jobs



The **Department of Labor** has a simple document that can help you understand how you can apply for unemployment and assistance at this time:



Department of Labor

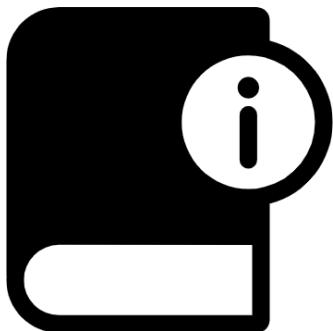
The link below will open that document for you.

<https://labor.ny.gov/ui/coronavirus-faq.shtm>



SANYS also works with a self-advocacy organization called The **Self-Advocacy Resource and Technical Assistance Center**

(SARTAC)



They have put together many guides for **COVID-19** that are easy to understand



You can find all of their guides on their website at:

www.selfadvocacyinfo.org/resource/



SANYS is working to advocate and answer questions for people with disabilities during this time

The **SANYS** board of directors is working with staff and talking to **OPWDD**

Keep talking to us and telling us what you're hearing. You can reach out to **SANYS** staff at any time