

2021 Legislative Priorities

FISCAL

- Reject the deferral of the Cost-of-Living Adjustment for OPWDD programs.
- Restore the proposed 1% targeted rate reduction on OPWDD supports and services.
- Restore the 5% cut on OPWDD non-Medicaid local assistance payments.
- Enact statutory protection to ensure that all cuts to the I/DD system are restored, if additional federal funds are received by the state.

RESIDENTIAL

- Enact statutory provisions that authorize OPWDD residential providers to accept into vacancies in their supervised residential programs any individual determined to require OPWDD supervised residential services and who is enrolled or eligible to be enrolled in the OPWDD HCBS waiver or otherwise eligible to receive OPWDD residential services AND provide additional/new funding to fully support such placements.
- Support OPWDD's Residential "FLOW" proposal to help individuals living in State-operated residences to transition, where appropriate, to voluntary-operated programs to accommodate young adults with more intensive needs that have aged out of residential schools.

BUDGET TRANSPARENCY

- Require OPWDD to comply with its statutory requirement to develop and implement a comprehensive statewide plan under section 5.07 of the Mental Hygiene Law.
- Enact OPWDD Budget Transparency – each year more fiscal and programmatic actions occur without discrete appropriation or Article VII language. Therefore, it is clear that it is necessary to require an OPWDD Budget Scorecard as well added transparency from the agency to the Legislature for the following:
 - **Residential Certified Capacity vs. the current Certified Residential Opportunity Request List**
 - **Year-Over-Year Spending for Each Specific Service and/or Support Program**



TELEHEALTH

- Support and amend Part F of the HMM Article VII bill – which put forth common sense reforms to the Telehealth program, to eliminate the current restrictions on "distant site" where the practitioner is located.

WORKFORCE

- Ensure the inclusion of I/DD providers and Direct Support Professionals in any workforce development, education and training initiatives enacted in the budget to address the significant workforce challenges that exist.
- Amend New York Paid Sick Leave Law to authorize paid sick leave for COVID-19 vaccinations.