

Emeritus Center Panel Description

“The Challenges of Providing Services to the Intellectual and Developmental Disability (I/DD) Community Within Today’s Political Environment”

Over 119,000 individuals within New York State alone have some form of Intellectual and Developmental Disability, (I/DD), according to the NYS Office of People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD). Through the NYS OPWDD’s oversight, services are provided to New Yorkers with developmental disabilities through a network of over 500 nonprofit service providing agencies, with about 80 % of services provided by private nonprofits and 20% provided by state-run facilities¹.

There are many challenges facing these organizations in a traditional budgetary year – overall governmental budget cuts, changes in legislative mandates, rate rationalization, and the high turnover rates of their most critical workforce of direct support personnel (DSPs). Add now to this mix, living through the challenges that faced all healthcare systems – COVID19 and the aftermath of having to protect a most vulnerable population. This year’s budget crisis has also laid a heavy burden on these organizations as they continue to see budget cuts across the board.

This panel will explore the political and policy environments organizations face as they adapt to this new landscape with the ultimate goal of non-interrupted services to the individuals they continue to serve.

Panel Make Up

The panel will be made up of a moderator (Ed or Dean), and 4 panelists – two from the provider community (state level organizations and a CEO from a county provider) and two from the academic community (public policy and administration and social work.) The panel timeframe will be:

Introduction and Welcome – Moderator	3 mins
Opening statements from each panelist	15 mins each (60 mins)
Moderated discussion – Moderator	10 mins
Closing and thank you	2 mins
Total time (75 Mins)	

¹ <http://opwdd.ny.gov>