



Cerebral Palsy Associations  
of New York State  
*Real people. Realizing potential.*



present the

## 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Quality & Compliance Challenges Conference for Providers Serving People with Disabilities

# REGISTRATION BROCHURE

When:

May 10, 2022

Where:

Saratoga Hilton Hotel  
534 Broadway, Saratoga Springs

Cost:

\$175 = CP of NYS Affiliates/The Arc NY Members  
\$225 = Non-Members  
\$100 = Video Access Only (available after the conference)

Register:

Registration deadline is April 29, 2022  
Register Online Now [HERE!!](#)

### SPONSORED BY:

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### A CONFERENCE FOR. . .

**Corporate Compliance Officers**  
**Corporate Compliance Committee  
Members**

**Quality Assurance Officers**  
**Board Members**

**Executive Leadership**

## GENERAL INFORMATION

WHEN:	<b>Tuesday, May 10, 2022, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Check-in begins at 8:00 a.m.)</b>
WHERE:	<b>Saratoga Hilton Hotel, Saratoga Springs, NY. A block of overnight rooms has been reserved at a special conference rate of \$155, plus applicable taxes. See hotel information below.</b>
WHO:	<b>This conference is intended for:</b> <b>Corporate Compliance Officers * Corporate Compliance Committee Members * Quality Assurance Officers * Board Members * Executive Leadership * HIPAA Privacy Officers</b>
REGISTRATION:	<b>Registration deadline is April 29. Registrations are being accepted online.</b> <b><a href="#">Register Now!!</a></b>

### **SEATING IS LIMITED – REGISTER EARLY!**

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** After April 19, no refunds will be made. However, registrants may send someone else in their place.

**VIDEO ACCESS:** For those who register for “Video Access Only”, **you will be sent a secure link and instructions on how to view the video, shortly after the conference.**

**PRESENTATIONS/HANDOUTS:** Presentations/Handouts will be posted by the close of business on May 12 on The Arc New York and CP of NYS websites ([www.thearcny.org](http://www.thearcny.org) & [www.cpstate.org](http://www.cpstate.org)).

**FOR YOUR COMFORT:** Please be aware that the temperature in meeting rooms can fluctuate; for your comfort, we recommend dressing in layers.

**COVID PRECAUTIONS:** There currently are no COVID restrictions or mandates in place. However, the hotel will have sanitation stations in meeting rooms, and we will have masks available should anyone need them.

**QUESTIONS:** Registration questions may be directed to (518) 439-8311. General conference questions may be directed to either (518) 436-0178 or (518) 439-8311.



**HOTEL RESERVATIONS:** We have reserved a block of rooms at the Saratoga Hilton Hotel for the night of May 9, 2022 at the discounted rate of \$155 (plus applicable taxes). To reserve a room at our special rate, please click on the link below. Don't forget a tax-exempt form if applicable. **THE CUT-OFF FOR MAKING HOTEL RESERVATIONS FOR OUR GROUP RATE IS APRIL 16. AFTER THAT TIME, RESERVATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY AT THE PREVAILING RATE.**

**<https://book.passkey.com/go/TheArcNYQC2022>**

### **DIRECTIONS:**

**From the South:** Take the NYS Thruway (I-87 North) to Exit 24. Take the Adirondack Northway (I-87 North) to Exit 15. Turn left off exit. At the 5<sup>th</sup> traffic light, turn left onto Rock Street. At stop sign, turn right onto Maple Avenue. The Saratoga Hilton parking lot is on your right just after The Olde Bryan Inn.

**From the North:** Take Adirondack Northway (I-87 South) to Exit 15. Take right at exit. At the 4<sup>th</sup> traffic light, turn left onto Rock Street. At stop sign, turn right onto Maple Avenue. The Saratoga Hilton parking lot is on your right just after The Olde Bryan Inn.

**From the East:** Take the Massachusetts Turnpike West to NY Thruway. Take Exit B-1 (I-90 Bypass) to I-787 North for approximately 6 miles to Route 7 West for approximately 2 miles to Adirondack Northway (I-87) for approximately 22 miles to Exit 15. Turn left off exit. At the 5<sup>th</sup> traffic light, turn left onto Rock Street. At stop sign, turn right onto Maple Avenue. The Saratoga Hilton parking lot is on your right just after The Olde Bryan Inn.

**From the West:** Take NYS Thruway (I-90 East) to Exit 24. Take Adirondack Northway (I-87 North) to Exit 15. Turn left off exit. At the 5<sup>th</sup> traffic light, turn left onto Rock Street. At stop sign, turn right onto Maple Avenue. The Saratoga Hilton parking lot is on your right just after The Olde Bryan Inn.



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### CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

8:00-8:45am	<b>CHECK-IN / CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST</b>
8:30am-4:00pm	<b>SPONSORS &amp; EXHIBIT VIEWING</b>
8:45-9:00am	<b>WELCOME &amp; OPENING REMARKS</b> <i>Mike Alvaro</i> , President & CEO, Cerebral Palsy Associations of NYS, Inc.
9:00-10:30am	<b>KEYNOTE: MODERNIZING OPWDD'S REGULATORY OVERSIGHT</b> <i>Hon. Kerri Neifeld</i> , Commissioner, NYS Office for People with Developmental Disabilities <i>Roger Bearden</i> , Executive Deputy Commissioner, NYS Office for People with Developmental Disabilities  OPWDD's Commissioner will discuss OPWDD's agency priorities and key initiatives. This session will also include a review of efforts to modernize and streamline OPWDD's regulatory structure to support person-centered outcomes for the people we serve. Topics covered will include growth of current regulatory structure, COVID lessons learned, and regulatory reform to support better systems outcomes.
10:30-10:45am	<b>BREAK</b>
10:45am-12:00pm	<b>PANEL DISCUSSION ON REGULATORY CHALLENGES AND CALLS FOR REFORM</b> <i>Mike Alvaro</i> , President & CEO, Cerebral Palsy Associations of NYS, Inc. -- <b>Moderator</b> <i>Ellen Gutmaker</i> , Executive Director, Onondaga <i>Maria Torgalski</i> , Chief Operating Officer, Aspire of WNY <i>Cathy Varano</i> , Chief Program Officer, NY Alliance for Inclusion & Innovation  Service providers find themselves facing numerous regulations and directives from various governmental agencies. The collective weight of mandates has impacted all areas of provider operation, with significant stress placed on Direct Support Professionals who must implement such mandates. In 2021, Provider Associations collaborated on regulatory reform proposals submitted to the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities. Panelists will discuss the challenges facing providers, our collective call for reform and process changes. The session will seek audience participation through interactive discussion about the regulatory challenges facing the field.
12:00-1:00pm	<b>LUNCH</b> (will be provided)
1:00-2:30pm	<b>PROTECTING THE INTEGRITY OF NEW YORK STATE'S MEDICAID PROGRAM: AN OVERVIEW OF OMIG'S PRIORITIES AND PLANNED INITIATIVES</b> <i>Frank T. Walsh, Jr.</i> , Acting Medicaid Inspector General, Office of the Medicaid Inspector General  Acting Medicaid Inspector General Frank T. Walsh, Jr. will discuss OMIG's 2022 agency priorities, key focus areas and new initiatives. Following his presentation, Mr. Walsh will address questions from participants regarding OMIG's program integrity efforts.
2:30-2:45pm	<b>BREAK</b>
2:45-4:00pm	<b>THE PENDULUM SWINGS: WHAT TO EXPECT AS WE PIVOT TOWARD A POST-COVID REGULATORY CLIMATE</b> <i>Linda Clark</i> , Partner, Barclay Damon, LLP  This session will provide a review of the impacts of mandates and review of audit and compliance risks as the emergency phase of the pandemic subsides and enforcement priorities re-take front stage.

## SPEAKERS



### **HON. KERRI E. NEIFELD**

Commissioner

NYS Office for People With Developmental Disabilities

[www.opwdd.ny.gov](http://www.opwdd.ny.gov)

Kerri Neifeld serves as the Commissioner of the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) following her nomination as Commissioner by Governor Kathy Hochul in early November of 2021. Prior to her nomination, Kerri most recently served as Assistant Secretary for Human Services & Mental Hygiene in the governor's office.

Before working in the governor's office, Kerri was Assistant Deputy Commissioner at the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) where she managed the Division of Shelter Oversight and Compliance. Kerri joined OTDA as Special Assistant to the Deputy Commissioner while serving as an Excelsior Service Fellow, before being promoted to Assistant Deputy Commissioner.

Prior to joining the Excelsior Service Fellowship Program, Kerri was a Fellow on Women & Public Policy at Rockefeller College's Center for Women in Government & Civil Society. A passionate advocate for others, Kerri also worked as a Project Manager at the Mental Health Association of Columbia-Greene Counties, a Child Protective Services Caseworker and a Foster Care Caseworker as well as a Youth Care Worker at WAIT House Homeless Youth Shelter. Kerri plans to use her years of public service experience to inform new and innovative ways to support and serve people with developmental disabilities.

Kerri holds a B.A. from Elmira College and an M.S.W. from the University at Albany School of Social Welfare.

## SPEAKER



### **ROGER BEARDEN**

Deputy Commissioner  
NYS Office for People With Developmental Disabilities  
[www.opwdd.ny.gov](http://www.opwdd.ny.gov)

Roger Bearden is the Executive Deputy Commissioner of the Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD). Mr. Bearden was Deputy Commissioner and General Counsel at OPWDD from 2014-2017. He has also served as the Chair of the New York State Commission on Quality of Care and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities from 2011-13, as Special Counsel for Olmstead from 2013-14, and as Assistant Counsel to the Governor for Human Services and Mental Hygiene from 2017-18.

Prior to entering public service, Mr. Bearden was Director of the Disability Law Center of New York Lawyers for the Public Interest in New York City. Mr. Bearden graduated from Brown University and Harvard Law School before clerking for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. He is married to Erin Tobin and the couple have three children.



### **LINDA CLARK**

Partner  
Barclay Damon LLP  
[www.barclaydamon.com](http://www.barclaydamon.com)

Linda Clark is Barclay Damon's health care controversies team leader and is a nationally recognized litigator with over 30 years of experience. She is a trusted advisor to health care providers, pharmaceutical companies, and pharmacies

nationwide in resolving high-stakes disputes and government investigations and regulatory proceedings. Linda represents health care professionals and entities in all types of civil, criminal, and administrative proceedings, hearings, and appeals before various federal and state regulatory agencies, including the NYS Office of the Medicaid Inspector General (OMIG), the NYS Attorney General's Office (OAG) the NYS Department of Health (DOH), and their federal counterparts, including the Office of Inspector General (OIG) and the United States Department of Justice (DOJ) among others.

Linda's practice additionally focuses on complex multiparty group and class-action litigation in state and federal courts in New York and beyond. She has extensive experience serving as regional, national, and trial counsel, representing drug manufacturers, product manufacturers, and contractors in the defense of class-certification applications and mass-tort claims.

In addition to her role at Barclay Damon, for over 20 years, Linda served as court-appointed defense liaison counsel for three jurisdictions in the Northern District of New York in asbestos litigation, working with hundreds of defense firms and the judiciary in the administration of these cases. She also currently serves as a court appointee to several high-profile administrative committees for the NYS and federal court systems and has served as a judicial hearing officer for five years, hearing cases involving alleged judicial misconduct by the judiciary.



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# SPEAKERS



### ELLEN GUTMAKER

Executive Director  
Arc of Onondaga  
[www.arcon.org](http://www.arcon.org)

Ellen Gutmaker has been supporting people with disabilities for four decades. Ellen started her career in the field while in high school, working in an overnight camp for children with disabilities operated by the Children's Aid Society in Westchester, NY. After college, Ellen began working for Ontario Arc providing direct supports in various areas including residential, community supports, day habilitation and day treatment. Ellen started worked at Arc of Onondaga in 1999 as the Director of Quality Assurance, implementing processes and systems to ensure that regulations were being met and that high quality of services were being provided to people supported through the agency. Ellen was integral to the development of the corporate compliance program and served as the Compliance Officer. Ellen has been the Executive Director at Arc of Onondaga since 2013. Ellen has served on a number of regional and statewide committees on issues of quality and compliance.



### MARIA TORGALSKI

Chief Operating Officer  
Aspire of WNY  
[www.aspirewny.org](http://www.aspirewny.org)

Maria Torgalski is the Chief Operating Officer for Aspire of WNY. As COO, Maria manages Agency operations and provides day-to-day leadership related to planning, developing, organizing, implementing, directing, and evaluating the organization's function and performance. Aspire's menu of services include educational, therapeutic, habilitation, and residential services.

Prior to serving as COO, Maria was Aspire's Vice President of Quality and Corporate Compliance Officer. Maria served as Co-Chair of CP State's and DDAWNY of WNY's Quality Committees. She is currently a member of OPWDD's Statewide Committee on Incident Review, Regulatory Reform and Stakeholder Committee, and Levels of Supervision Workgroup. Maria also CO-Chairs, the I/DD sub-committee of Erie County's Mental Hygiene Community Services Board.

Maria has over 20 years' experience supporting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. In 2021, Maria received her Master's Degree in Business Administration from the University of Buffalo.



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# SPEAKERS



### CATHY VARANO

Chief Program Officer  
NY Alliance for Inclusion & Innovation  
[www.nyalliance.org](http://www.nyalliance.org)

Cathy Varano has been active in the field of developmental disabilities since 1978. As a young person who loved the outdoors and staying active, she volunteered at the CT State Special Olympic games in high school and never looked back. She began her career as a student intern at a community-based organization, an opportunity that influenced her desire to learn more about the people she worked with. It didn't take long for this work to become her passion and full-time career. Beginning as a Direct Support Professional shaped her desire to lead teams and advocate for individuals with I/DD and the DSP's that support them.

Cathy's formal education is in social work and public health administration; however, she readily acknowledges, she has learned so much more from the people she's met along the way. Cathy has a unique perspective, having worked in the nonprofit sector in positions from Direct Support Professional to Executive Director, and the state operations sector in OPWDD as a State Operations Director, followed by serving as the Associate Deputy Commissioner for State Operations. A primary focus for Cathy has been one of advocate for the people supported and the staff that provide supports.



### FRANK T. WALSH, JR.

Acting Medicaid Inspector General  
Office of the Medicaid Inspector General  
[www.omig.ny.gov](http://www.omig.ny.gov)

Frank T. Walsh, Jr., Acting Medicaid Inspector General, has more than 25 years of professional public service within the New York State Division of the Budget, ultimately achieving the title of Chief Budget Examiner of the Health Unit where he served as the principal fiscal analyst for health care and health insurance policy with oversight responsibility for the Medicaid, Department of Health, the Office of the Medicaid Inspector General and the State Office for the Aging budgets. Over his career, Frank has promoted the efficient use of health care resources and the expansion of health care coverage and participated in the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, the development of the NY State of Health and multiple efforts to redesign Medicaid program financing and operations, including the establishment of OMIG. Frank is a graduate of Siena College and studied public policy at the Nelson A. Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy.