

TIOGA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HYGIENE  
**PWDD SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING**  
OF THE TIOGA COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD

**PENDING APPROVAL**

Subcommittee meeting date: May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Via Hybrid

Member Evelyn Vavra  
Attendance: Tina Lounsbury  
Kim Bailey Poreda  
Gabiella Ayers

Guest Karen Warfle  
Attendance: Teresa Edwards  
Tricia Tom  
Kim Cary  
Casey O'Reilly  
Brittany Gayner  
Jamie Kelly  
Carley Hoover

Mental Hygiene Lori Morgan, Director of Community Services  
Staff Attendance: Susan Graves, Secretary to the Director (minutes)

Meeting called to order at: 9:05am

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Topic: Review of April 2023 Minutes – approved as written

Category: Reports

Topic: DDSO/DDRO Report – Jamie Kelly & Casey O'Reilly

Discussion: Updates

- Public Health Emergency - COVID
  - Thursday, 5/11/23 unwinding COVID changes
- Appendix K in effect through 11/11/23
- Waiver Amendment out on website for the public
  - Copy (attached) to be sent to subcommittee
    - A lot of changes
    - Changes to Day Hab for seniors
- Strategic Plan
  - Quarterly report released
  - Forwarding link to subcommittee

Status: Informational - Complete

Category: Director's Report – Lori Morgan

Topic: Updates:

- Discussion:
- Waverly Site
    - Lease not renewed
    - Temporarily moving to the Owego clinic
    - Vacant Veteran's space to become part of the Owego clinic
    - Clients being notified
    - Moving forward on a perspective property for Waverly site
  - County Plan
    - New documents not released to date
  - Workforce recruitment & retention still a challenge
  - Lori will be attending the CLMHD Spring Conference in Saratoga May 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Status: Informational - Complete

Topic: Achieve Report – Carley Hoover & Brittany Gayner

- Discussion: Updates:
- 17 individuals in Day Hab
  - 5 intakes
  - Maximum 25-30 individuals

Status: Informational - Complete

Topic: FSS Report - Not Present

Topic: CCO Reports

- Discussion: Updates:
- Prime Care – Tricia Tom
- Preparing for the Public Health Emergency to end
  - CCO's in good shape
  - Two open Care Manager positions filled

ST Connects – Not present

- Life Plan – Kim Carey
- Preparing for the Public Health Emergency to end
    - Biggest change - face to face meetings with individuals
    - Wet signatures instead of verbal
    - Will still have Telehealth but must be chosen by the families
  - Tragically lost one of the Care Managers

Status: Informational - Complete

Topic: Rackers – Not Present

Topic: Self-Advocacy – Not Present

**Topic:** Catholic Charities – Not Present

**Topic:** Other Business

**Discussion:** Next month, Residential Coordinators Nicole Nucci and David Kudus will be presenting information on local school transitions.

**Status:** Informational - Complete

**Adjournment:** There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:23am. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, 0023 at 9:00am.

DRAFT

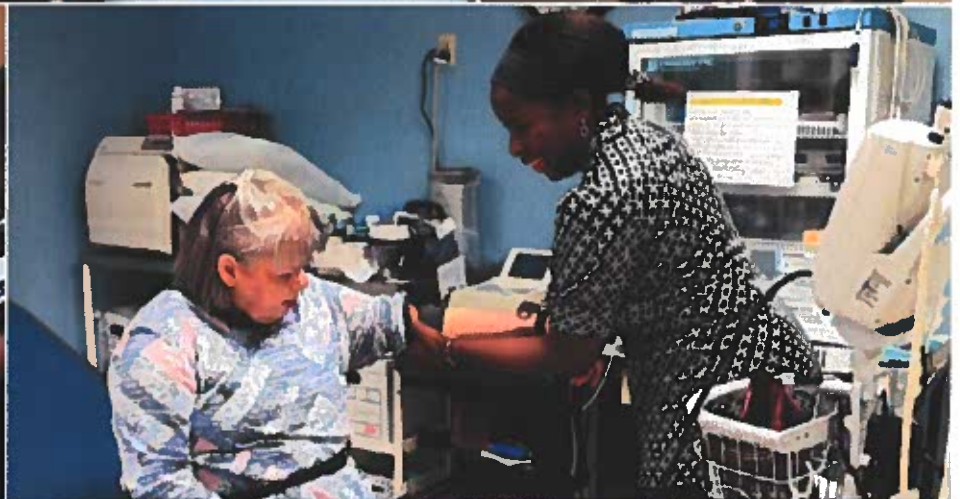
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Office for People With  
Developmental Disabilities

# HCBS Waiver Amendment

April 2023



Plain Language

# The HCBS Waiver

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OPWDD and the Department of Health (DOH) have an agreement with the federal government called the Home and Community-Based Services Waiver.



OPWDD wants to make some changes to the agreement.

These changes are called an amendment to the Waiver.

The changes would go into effect on October 1, 2023.

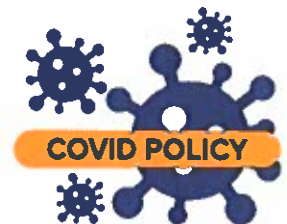


## The Changes Being Talked About Include

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### Continuing COVID-19 Policies

OPWDD created temporary rules for providing services more easily during COVID-19. These temporary rules were part of a federal agreement called an Appendix K.



The Appendix K will end on November 11, 2023.

OPWDD wants to keep the temporary rules that worked well during the COVID-19 pandemic.

OPWDD wants to add these temporary rules to the permanent waiver agreement.



Appendix K will end

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**If approved by CMS (Federal Government), changes to the permanent Waiver agreement to continue COVID-19 rules would include:**

- Continuing to pay more money for Intensive Behavioral Services.
- Adding remote service to Family Education and Training.
- Continuing to pay service providers a higher amount for group home services to cover the days when not everyone is present in the home.
- Delaying the date for changing the amount paid to service providers to bring people to and from day programs to July 1, 2024. The date is being changed so that payments are not based on the services used during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Changing how long OPWDD has to determine service provider payment amounts from four years to five years starting July 1, 2024, so that payments are not affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Delaying plans to limit reimbursement for providers to 15% of their total costs to cover administration.



## **Self-Direction**

Removing the tables of fees and funding information for the Self-Direction Program to the Department of Health website.

This will mean the State can easily update this information when needed without changing the Waiver.



## Service Payment Rates

Changing the rate setting section of the Waiver to include the cost of living adjustments that are required by New York State law.

These changes will allow payments to increase more quickly as the cost of providing services increases.



## Provider Cost Reporting

Removing language that says providers will have their payments cut in half if they send a financial report late to OPWDD.



## Service Changes

Adding "home-enabling supports" to Assistive Technology-Adaptive Device Services.

Home-Enabling Supports will cover services, equipment or supplies that help people take part in their community.

Home-enabling supports will be for people who live in the community.



## Environmental Modification, Assistive Technology and Adaptive Devices and Vehicle Modifications

Increasing payment limits for Environmental Modifications, Assistive Technology and Adaptive Devices and Vehicle Modifications based on what things cost now.

The higher limits are called "hard limits."

Hard limits mean the Waiver cannot pay more than these limits for any changes or devices.



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## Respite For Seniors

Providing people over age 60 the choice to retire from Day Habilitation and stay active in their community through respite.

This change will allow people who live at home and in group homes to choose a respite program to go to outside of their home, instead of a day program.



## Quality Changes

OPWDD visits all group homes and day programs to make sure everything is working well.

This amendment will change the schedule for these visits.

OPWDD will spend more time visiting group homes and day programs that are having problems.

OPWDD will spend less time visiting group homes and day programs that are doing well.

All group homes will still be visited by OPWDD to make sure we improve services when we need to.





## Waiver Priority

Some people need services right away.

In the waiver agreement, OPWDD needs to tell the federal government how we decide who needs these services the most.

In this amendment OPWDD will make a change so that people in residential schools, developmental centers and nursing homes who are ready to move are considered highest need.



## Language Access

Many people who receive OPWDD services speak languages other than English or need help to read or listen.

OPWDD is adding changes to the Waiver to make sure people are able to understand information OPWDD shares.



## Tell Us What You Think

If you have comments on these changes or amendments, please share them with us.

Send your comments on the proposed Waiver changes before May 12, 2023, to [peoplefirstwaiver@opwdd.ny.gov](mailto:peoplefirstwaiver@opwdd.ny.gov) or mail them to:

NYS Office for People With Developmental Disabilities  
Division of Policy and Program Development  
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Office for People With  
Developmental Disabilities

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

NYS Office for People With Developmental Disabilities  
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