**Report on Statewide Family Support Committee Meeting, 12/5/18**

By Margaret Puddington

**Update by Roger Bearden, Acting Executive Deputy Commissioner, OPWDD**

* Roger Bearden reported that Acting Commissioner Kerry Delaney was unable to attend because she was preparing for the budget hearing on OPWDD the following day. The Governor’s budget will be released in the mid-January.
* Roger also reported on restructuring within OWDD:
	+ New division of “Data Management and Strategy” to be headed by Tamika Black, who was head of Division of Quality Improvement (DQI)
	+ Leslie Fuld will be DQI director.
	+ Kate Bishop will be statewide director of Program Development and Implementation (self-direction, housing, START, etc.); these were previously under the policy department, but are fully operational and therefore no longer under policy, which deals with innovation.
	+ Kate Bishop is retiring soon. Her replacement has not been named.
	+ Jackie Best is statewide director of day to day operations in Regional Offices.
	+ Sally Berry is director of Service Access and Authorization (CRO, Front Door)
	+ Kate, Jackie, and Sally report to Abiba Kindo, Deputy Commissioner, who is on maternity leave until March.
	+ Eventually, there will be a Family Support Services program head, who will report to Kate Bishop’s position.
* Subsequent to the meeting, Acting Commissioner Kerry Delaney left OPWDD and Dr. Ted Kastner, of Albert Einstein College of Medicine, has been nominated to replace her.

**Managed Care Presentation, Kate Marlay & Jennifer O’Sullivan**

* Kate showed a video on the evolution of OPWDD’s plan for managed care. The same video was shown at the OPWDD regional forums. Managed care was defined as a payment system responsible for providing access to services a person needs according to the person’s plan.
* OPWDD will be posting an FAQ on managed care.
* Our Statewide FSS Committee will be submitting a list of managed care questions from parents and family members, which will also be posted.

**I AM Presentation, Kate Bishop**

* I AM is an assessment tool based on person-centered principles that gathers in-depth practical information about a person’s needs and preferences as well as the specific services associated with the needs and preferences. The goals identified are the person’s goals, not the provider’s goals. The provider is assigned a goal that support’s the goal of the person. I AM offers a list of preferences for people who are unable to communicate their wishes.
* I AM drives the Life Plan, which includes goals, strengths, preferences, clinical and support needs, safeguards, services, and providers. All are integrated: e.g., a person’s safeguards will be the same for all his/her services.
* A person’s progress is shown through the I AM updates. At the I AM update meeting, the Life Plan may be changed accordingly.

**Supportive Housing Presentation, Alex Brooks**

* There has been increased demand for community-based integrated housing options.
* Supportive Housing combines affordable housing assistance with wraparound services. Waiver services are separate from housing.
* The primary funding agencies for supportive housing are NYS Homes and Community Renewal (HCR) and NYS Housing Finance Agency (HFA). OPWDD has a limited amount for funding for such projects.
* OPWDD will consider no more than 25% of supportive housing units for people with IDD in a particular housing development. Low-income tax credits are offered to developers as an incentive. Residents must pay 30% of their income for rent. OPWDD’s ISS (Individual Supports and Services) money pays the balance.
* 600 OPWDD units have been developed since 2012.
* Another source of supportive housing is Empire State Supportive Housing Initiative (ESSHI), which focuses on homelessness. ESSHI has provided $2.6 billion over 5 years for service and operating funds, aside from Medicaid, for services like housing navigators, etc. OPWDD-eligible people who can qualify for ESSHI housing are individuals transitioning from institutions, young adults aging out of residential schools, and people at risk of homelessness.

**Waiver Respite Oversight, Tamika Black, Barbara Van Vechten**

* The Division of Quality Improvement has committed to providing the Statewide Family Support Services Committee with a biannual update on deficiencies across the state in free standing respite and hourly respite services. The December report is nearly finished.
* The Statewide FSS Committee will participate in the DQI surveyor webex training on February 19, offering families’ perspectives on oversight of waiver respite programs. The training will be recorded so that new DQI staff can benefit as well.
* The above efforts are in place of the monitoring visits to waiver respite programs that the local FSS Advisory Councils are no longer permitted to do.

**Housing, Sally Berry**

* OPWDD serves about 130,000 individuals, of whom 37,000 receive certified residential services, 3,600 receive ISS-funded housing, and 90,000 live either at home with families or in some other type of uncertified residential setting.
* The Statewide FSS Committee had previously requested information about the number of new residential opportunities over a recent 12-month period, as well as a breakdown of the number of placements that were backfills vs. newly developed residences, and the number of placements in certified settings vs. uncertified settings. At the last meeting OPWDD reported that 1,311 people were placed over a 12-month period but did not provide the requested breakdowns. At this meeting, Sally Berry explained that there is no mechanism at present to track this information. The Committee requested that OPWDD develop the IT to track this going forward. Sally committed to trying to do so.

**New Business, Evelyn Bale, parent representative from Broome County**

* Evelyn report that her local FSS Advisory Council has conducted satisfaction surveys of family support programs by e-mail with results better than, or comparable to, those from mailed surveys. The agencies provide the e-mails and the surveys are returned to a drop box. The Council tallies the answers and presents the results to the agencies. This is an enormous time-saver over the labor-intensive, and costly, mailing of surveys to families.
* The only drawback is that the online survey did not offer space for families to comment on their answers. But it might be possible to provide that going forward.