

**QUEENS COUNCIL OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**  
**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2016**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

Introductions & Program Announcements were made. 58 people were in attendance.

**NYC. DEPT. HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE**

Lisa Bernard

There were no updates to report.

**OPWDD**

Liz Cambra, Deputy Director DDRO Region IV

- 1- High needs funding for individuals leaving OPWDD Developmental Centers and residential schools to assist with medical & behavioral challenges will sunset in June, 2017 (Template Funding). “High needs funding” will be available, but agencies will have to meet with families and OPWDD to assess the staffing needs of the residence. The CAS- will eventually be the assessment tool that will determine the funding need for individuals receiving services.
- 2- As stated in previous meeting/minutes, the NYC funds allocation for housing for individuals living at home is 2.8 million. 50% will be for non-certified settings, 40% certified and 10% for a Transition Home (6 months in a residence for an individual transitioning to a permanent placement, but not back home). RFA coming out soon. A group has been developed with a parent from each borough, 3 OPWDD regional staff, 1 NYC staff, 1 agency housing advocate.
- 3- The START program began and some of the staff (case workers) are present at today’s Council meeting.
- 4- Conflict Free Case Management—Individuals will no longer be able to receive service coordination from the same provider that they receive waiver services from. Being implemented within the next 1-2 years.

**IAC**

Chris Trieber

The State recommended a 4% increase but pre-schools only received a 2% increase for 2017. School age (853) programs received the 4%.

Below are some articles and cases concerning children with special needs and accommodations in the classroom.

**United States Supreme Court to Hear the Most Important Special Education Case in 35 Years**

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he U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to hear a case *Endrew F. v. Douglas County School District RE-1* that will determine the level of educational benefit a student with a disability is entitled to receive as required by the IDEA. The last time that the Supreme Court ruled on the level of benefit was in the *Board of Educ. V. Rowley*, 458 U.S. 176,

207 (1982). In that decision the court held that "the IEP must be reasonably calculated to enable the child to receive some educational benefit." Since 1982 the "Rowley" FAPE standard has applied to all special education cases but in recent years the Federal Circuit Court of Appeals has started to apply a higher standard of benefit. The Federal Circuit Courts are now divided, with some applying a higher standard of educational benefit than "Rowley" and others continuing to apply the "Rowley" standard. The acting Solicitor General of the U.S. requested that the Supreme Court hear the appeal and determine the level of educational benefit the law requires.

The case that the Supreme Court will hear is from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit in Colorado. In this case the court rejected the parents' claims that their son was entitled to "meaningful educational benefit" and refused to authorize reimbursement for a private school that specialized in educating children on the autism spectrum. The parents appealed the decision to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The U.S. Supreme Court will also hear a second special education case from Michigan, Fry v. Napoleon Community Schools that involves a young girl diagnosed with cerebral palsy and her right to bring a service dog to school. Both of these cases will likely be heard early next year. We will keep you informed as they proceed.

See Chalkbeat article in link below: "New York City promised free preschool to every family, so why do some students with disabilities struggle to find seats?"

<http://www.chalkbeat.org/posts/ny/2016/09/30/new-york-city-promised-free-preschool-to-every-family-so-why-do-some-students-with-disabilities-struggle-to-find-seats/#.V-6LYGDrvxN>

There are some upcoming NYC Dept of Education workshops "Orientation from Preschool: see attached calendar with dates and location:

- Parent Orientation Meeting Schedule  
[http://schools.nyc.gov/NR/rdonlyres/93818675-A411-4433-851D-CAE113B842CC/0/SY17T5EventSchedule\\_English.pdf](http://schools.nyc.gov/NR/rdonlyres/93818675-A411-4433-851D-CAE113B842CC/0/SY17T5EventSchedule_English.pdf)
- Transition Services  
<http://schools.nyc.gov/Academics/SpecialEducation/Graduation/transition-services/default.htm>

## **PRESENTATIONS**

Annette Deinzer from the YMCA of Greater New York, Flushing share about programs and resources offered by the YMCA. Every Tuesday for the month of November membership fees will be waived. For more information please contact Annette at 718-551-9350.

Alex Schartschmidt from AHAVA Medicaid & Rehabilitation share about the programs and services offered by AHAVA in all 5 five. For individuals without Medicaid or insurance they offer a sliding scale fee.

## **COUNCIL CHAIR'S REPORT**

Lisa Veglia, Co-Chair, thanked the NYC. Dept of Health and Mental Hygiene for their financial support of 3,000 that help to offset some of the cost for the Family Support Conference on Friday, October 28, 2016.

Lisa asked membership for feedback from the conference as the committee starts planning for next year's conference.

Mary Knox, Vice-Chair announced that there were 582 individuals registered and in attendance at the Family Support Conference. There were 389 individuals/family members present. There were 81 vendors that included the "Get Smart Get Connected" section.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### QCDD Children's Committee Meeting

Thursday, November 17, 2016 from 10:00 am to 12 Noon. Topic: Transitioning from CPSE to CSE; So your Child is Turning 5: Going to Kindergarten! Presenter: Joanne Buccellato from Advocates for Children. Location: HeartShare Early Childhood Center, 82-12 151<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Howard Beach, NY, 718-848-0300.

Family Mini Resource Fair at P255Q at P57—80-55 Cornish Avenue, Elmhurst, NY 11373. Date of Event: Thursday, December 8, 2016 from 6:00-8:00 pm. Open to all families and agencies who would like to present can contact Yocasta at [ypena6@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:ypena6@schools.nyc.gov).

Representative from Assemblyman Mike Miller- Please send job announcements for constituents seeking employment to Carmela Isabella at [isabellac@nyassembly.gov](mailto:isabellac@nyassembly.gov).

### NYCTRC- Chris Grief

The W train has returned. Reduce fare bus van located in 5 boroughs.  
Reminder to please Vote tomorrow, very important for our Disabilities community.  
Note: If you did not register, you can walk in to a poll site and get a ballot.

### HAUP – Myriam Hector

Openings in MSC; Community Habilitation; Respite and Afterschool. Contact Myriam Hector at 718-527-3776, ext 24.

### Heaven's Hands Community Services.- Karen Humphrey

There are openings in Brooklyn and Queens for after-school respite program. There are openings in our Queens and Brooklyn Day Habilitation programs. For information please contact Karen Humphrey at 718-969-2304.

### Maranatha - Marcia Tippet

- Openings in Skills Building program (Community Habilitation) for those individuals that do not have Medicaid (6-8 hours weekly).

- People Embracing People (PEP)
- Family Care Program for individuals looking for alternate living arrangements in private homes. Currently seeking Family Care Providers & individuals wishing to live with caring and reliable families.
- Non-Medicaid program- help families navigate OPWDD system & Front Door process. Help Families obtain waiver medicad.

New York Families for Autistic Children (NYFAC)- Mary Rendeiro

NYFAC has immediate availability for Psychological and Psychosocial evaluations for individuals in Queens and Brooklyn that do not have Medicaid. NYFAC has openings in their After-School respite and Day Habilitation Without Walls located in Howard Beach Queens. Openings in the Friday Evening Socialization program for Teens and Adults (Teens 13-21/Adults 21 and above), In-home respite, Community Habilitation and Family Reimbursement up to \$500 per individual & family annually. Openings in MSC and Non-Medicaid Service Coordination for Brooklyn & Queens.

QSAC: Call (718) 728-8476 with inquiries for all boroughs:

- For Early Intervention Service Coordination and ABA Private Insurance contact Johanna Artega ext. 1317
- For SEIT, SETTS, EI Evaluations, CPSE Evaluations, Psychological/Psychosocial Evaluations (for individuals without Medicaid), and Early Intervention (Center- and Home-based) contact Rhodie Volpe ext. 1512
- For Day Habilitation and Medicaid Service Coordination contact Farzana Karim ext. 1233
- For Queens Social Skills Group contact Dita DeSena ext. 1418
- For Family Reimbursement Services and Manhattan Parent Support Group contact Annie Washington ext. 1219
- For Queens and Long Island Parent Training/Parent Support Group/Sibling Support Group contact Cherisse Hutcherson ext. 1430
- For Housing Advocacy (Brooklyn) and Non-Medicaid MSC (Queens/Brooklyn) contact; Andrew Toscano ext. 1268
- For Manhattan Social Skills Group contact Rocio Chavez ext. 1414
- For Preschool center-based openings contact Larisa Muratov ext. 1513
- For Day School Openings in Queens & the Bronx contact Todd Merritt ext. 1420

Life's WORC- Linda Renyi

Openings in the Stepping into Adulthood after school program for ages 14-20. Days/hrs: Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 3:30pm-6:00 pm. Saturday 10:00am-2:30pm. Program is open to waiver eligible ambulatory individuals and helps to develop the skills needed to transition to adulthood including money management, meal preparation, music and art therapy, social skills and community integration. The school provides transportation to the program at 3:30pm, but families must provide transportation at 6:00pm and on weekends. Part time attendance is available.

Openings in our day habilitation programs in Queens Village & Glendale location for individuals that are ambulatory & 18 +. Our programs provide vocational training,

socialization and life skills training. Individuals participate in volunteer jobs at various sites in the community. They must be able to stay on task and follow directions. Door to door transportation and part time attendance is available. For information contact Linda Renyi at 516-741-9000, ext 8120 or [lrenyi@lifesworc.org](mailto:lrenyi@lifesworc.org).

HeartShare- Dianne Cattrano

Respite program during school vacations for children ages 3-5 years old who are diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder. Beginning December 26 through Dec 30. For information contact Dianne Cattrano at 718-441-5333 or [Dianne.cattrano@heartshare.org](mailto:Dianne.cattrano@heartshare.org).

Queens openings-Self Direction contact Laurie Yankowitz @ 718-422-3271; MSC Melissa Giuffra @ 718-422-3336; Reimbursement program Linda Rasport @ 718-422-3290:

YAI- Caroline Dunn

All referral can be done through YAI LINK @ 212-273-6182.

- Afterschool program
- Center for Specialty Therapy (Free psychological and psychosocial evaluations)
- Crisis Intervention
- Day Habilitation (limited / accepting referrals)
- Emergency Respite Reimbursement
- Family Reimbursement
- Medicaid and Community habilitation Program
- Non-Medicaid Community Habilitation
- Overnight Respite
- Parent Training: Sexuality and Relationships
- Parent Training: Parents w/special needs
- Supportive Employment
- Workshops for Professionals

NYSID- Elizabeth Sunshine

Free In-home psychological and psychosocial evaluation to determine eligibility for OPWDD services, for individuals that do not have Medicaid living in Queens, Brooklyn, Staten Island & Bronx. Please contact Elizabeth Sunshine @ 917-699-0578.

**CLOSING REMARKS**

Next meeting is Monday, December 5, 2016 at 9:30 am @Queens Borough Hall, Room 200, 120-55 Queens Blvd, Kew Gardens, NY.

Marieta Austin,  
QCDD Secreatry