



**Department
of Health**

**Office for People With
Developmental Disabilities**

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

DR. JOHN V. MCDONALD
Acting Commissioner, DOH

KERRI E. NEIFELD
Commissioner, OPWDD

February 2, 2023

John R. Drexelius, Jr.
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On behalf of:

Wendy McCarthy
DDAWNY President
DDAWNY
1219 North Forest Road
P.O. Box 9033
Williamsville, NY 14231-9033

Comment Date: January 6, 2023

Dear Ms. McCarthy,

Thank you very much for your comment submitted to the Department of Health (DOH) for the public comment period on the Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Final Rule Statewide Transition Plan. DOH forwarded your comments to OPWDD.

We appreciate your comments and your support of the OPWDD request for a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) in relation to the community integration and employment. The CAP request is pending review by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and we will share more information as it becomes available. Our impetus to request the CAP is based on the need to address the significant challenges our system faces. Many of these challenges were articulated in your letter and were also raised by stakeholders and providers during Summer 2022 when OPWDD conducted over 30 public opportunities for comment to support the 5.07 Plan development.

The OPWDD 2023-2027 Strategic Plan details the top priorities for OPWDD including challenges and actions we will take to improve the support we provide today and into the future. The Strategic Plan is our road-map, while OPWDD's section of the NYS HCBS Final Rule Statewide Transition Plan and the CAP are important milestone and necessary to ensure New York can maintain critical federal funding. OPWDD is planning additional training and outreach for the provider community for the larger efforts underway as part of the 5.07 and the on-going work to ensure the delivery of person-centered services are of the highest quality.

We look forward to ongoing collaboration between the DDAWNY and OPWDD. Thank you for your continued advocacy on behalf of individuals with developmental disabilities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "K. Marlay".

Katherine Marlay
Deputy Commissioner
Division of Policy and Program Development
NYS Office for People With Developmental Disabilities