NEW YORK STATE | Office for People With Developmental Disabilities

Memorandum

April 8, 2025

Dear Esteemed DDAC Residential Committee,

Thank you for your thoughtful recommendations. OPWDD welcomes them as part of our ongoing efforts to meet the goals of the 2023-2027 Strategic Plan and beyond. We recognize that housing is a critical factor in a person's overall health and quality of life.

With that in mind, we remain committed to strengthening residential supports and improving outcomes for people with developmental disabilities. Your input is essential in helping us align services and build a stronger, more responsive system.

Below is OPWDD's response to the two recommendations from the Residential Committee:

1. **The Residential Committee recommends that Housing Navigation services be approved for inclusion in the Individual Directed Goods and Services (IDGS) lists of allowed expenses.**

    a. Response: OPWDD is supportive of the Housing Navigation concept but does not believe that Housing Navigation services should be limited to only people in self-direction, or even only people in the HCBS waiver. Therefore, OPWDD is working to identify other opportunities to make Housing Navigation available to people eligible for services, more generally.

2. **The Residential Committee recommends that the Commissioner of OPWDD convene a Commission as a companion to the State's 5.07 plan to focus on housing solutions for the next decades.**

    a. Response: OPWDD recognizes the importance of housing and the value that targeted conversations on the topic with key stakeholders would have. Therefore, in place of a commission, OPWDD plans to incorporate conversations specific to the topic in upcoming engagement activities for the 2028-2032 strategic plan which will begin later this year. We will also work with the Residential Committee to identify opportunities for long-term planning on housing supports and services.