NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY. Office for People With Developmental Disabilities

Memorandum

September 23, 2024

Dear Esteemed DDAC Self-Direction Committee,

OPWDD is delighted to accept the recommendations from the DDAC Self-Direction Committee as a significant aspect of the ongoing efforts to advance the objectives outlined in the 2023-2027 Strategic Plan. We are eager to enhance alignment and collaboration and to implement initiatives that provide increased flexibility, encourage improved personal outcomes for individuals with developmental disabilities, and fortify the infrastructure of OPWDD's Self-Direction methodology.

Keeping this in consideration, OPWDD offers the following response to the three recommendations put forward by the DDAC Committee:

1. The Five OPWDD Self Direction introduction checklists should be completed in the person's primary language with the start-up budget submitted by the participant, Care Manager, Support Broker, and Fiscal Intermediary.

OPWDD agrees that the checklists for participants, Care Managers, Support Brokers, and Fiscal Intermediaries are a valuable resource for establishing baseline expectations. Furthermore, we recommend that the broader implementation of these checklists should also encompass an existing checklist for Circle of Support members. OPWDD will assess the current versions for necessary updates, then share draft revisions with the DDAC for feedback. Once finalized, OPWDD will produce versions in common non-English languages. These documents will be made available on the public-facing website, and OPWDD will notify stakeholders, including FIs and Support Brokers, about their availability through quarterly SD WebEx sessions and email distribution, while expressing the expectation and encouragement for their use.

2. OPWDD will partner with the Self Direction Committee of the DDAC to develop information and training for people in Self-Direction and their families and Circles of Support.

OPWDD welcomes the opportunity to collaborate with the Self-Direction Committee of the DDAC to explore and implement enhanced information and training for individuals in Self-Direction, their families, and Circles of Support. Currently available resources include Self-Direction Information Sessions, Circle of Support Trainings as part of the Broker Training series, and information accessible on the OPWDD website. As part of the Guidehouse Self-Direction evaluation, a written guide for individuals who Self-Direct and their families will be offered as a resource in the future. OPWDD plans to involve the Self-Direction Committee of the DDAC in developing strategies to enhance these resources and assess the need for additional guidance.

3. OPWDD to partner with the Self Direction Committee of the DDAC to raise standards and quality for annual reauthorization of Support Brokers

OPWDD is committed to continuous improvements for Support Broker professional development. OPWDD will engage the Self-Direction Committee of the DDAC to explore reviewing existing authorizations standards for areas that would improve the quality of Support Broker services. In addition, we welcome collaboration to explore, develop and share resources to be utilized for Brokers to meet professional development.