C.A.R.E.S. PLAN

Championing Aid, Rights, Equality and Services

A REPORT ON THE OLMSTEAD DECISION & ITS IMPACT ON THE STATE'S DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY COMMUNITY

From the Assembly Minority Task Force on Protecting the Rights of People with Developmental Disabilities

Assemblyman
BRIAN M. KOLB
Assembly Minority Leader

Assemblyman
CLIFFORD W. CROUCH
Task Force Chairman

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Assembly Minority Task Force on Protecting the Rights of People with Developmental Disabilities was formed in response to numerous calls and complaints from constituents to members of the Assembly Minority Conference concerning the announcement by the governor that sheltered workshops would be closed in order to bring New York State into compliance with the federal Department of Justice's interpretation of the U.S. Supreme Court's *Olmstead Decision*. The term sheltered workshop refers to an organization or environment (typically a business) that employs people with disabilities in a "sheltered" environment. The overarching decision required states to place persons with mental disabilities in community settings rather than in institutions. However, people have argued, there were several factors to the requirement of moving individuals to community settings that state governments, including New York, have overlooked. With this in mind, the Assembly Minority Conference conducted a series of statewide hearings to gather information from parents, service providers and individuals with developmental disabilities to determine if there are policy changes that can be made or new laws that can be enacted to help provide for people with developmental disabilities in the most caring and cost-effective manner possible.

Among those with firsthand experience, the belief that there has been a misinterpretation of the *Olmstead Decision* has caused a ripple effect throughout the developmental disability community as it pertains to the integration of employment and how individuals will find and get to employment outside of sheltered workshops. To meet the state's requirements, sheltered workshops have changed their business models to incorporate non-disabled individuals into the workforce. This change has raised questions as to what happens to individuals in the developmental disability community who worked in these former sheltered workshops who can no longer perform their jobs in these facilities.

The deinstitutionalization requirements of the *Olmstead Decision* also impact housing for the developmental disability community. While many individuals live with their families, parents are concerned with what will happen to their children when they can no longer care for them or they should die. While New York State's Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) conducted a survey of individuals who contacted the agency with concerns about housing for their family members, their findings do not seem to help those who are actually looking for housing. A prominent finding in the "Residential Request List" (RRL) report by OPWDD concludes that there is enough housing for the 11,000 who want housing statewide, but this may not benefit each individual locally.

Numerous issues were raised during the Task Force's forums. This report outlines some of the major problems that the developmental disability community is dealing with, including jobs and housing; services for families; and salaries and compensation for those who work with individuals with disabilities.

OLMSTEAD MISINTERPRETATION

On June 22, 1999, the United States Supreme Court held in *Olmstead v. L.C.* that unjustified segregation of persons with disabilities constitutes discrimination in violation of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The Court held that states are required to place persons with developmental disabilities in community settings rather than in institutions when **(1) such community placement is appropriate; (2) the affected persons do not oppose the transfer from institutional care to a less restrictive setting; and (3) the placement can be reasonably accommodated, taking into account the resources available to the state and the needs of others with mental disabilities.**

In 2009, President Obama directed federal agencies to vigorously enforce the civil rights of Americans with disabilities. Since then, the Department of Justice (DOJ) has made enforcement of the *Olmstead Decision* a top priority. As such, the DOJ has created a technical assistance guide to assist individuals in understanding their rights under Title II of the ADA and its integration mandate. However, when explaining what factors are relevant in determining whether an individual does not oppose an integrated setting, the DOJ simply states that in cases where the individual wishes to stay in an institutional setting, that such individuals who have been institutionalized or segregated have been given very little information and are unable to make an informed decision. Therefore, public entities must take "affirmative steps" to remedy this history of segregation regardless of the individual's wishes to stay in institutionalized care.

The DOJ also states that segregated settings include, but are not limited to: (1) congregate settings populated exclusively or primarily with individuals with disabilities; (2) congregate settings characterized by regimentation in daily activities, lack of privacy or autonomy, policies limiting visitors, or limits on individuals' ability to engage freely in community activities and to manage their own activities of daily living; or (3) settings that provide for daytime activities primarily with other individuals with disabilities. Therefore, any community service that provides day habilitation services for individuals with disabilities is considered segregation, according to the DOJ, and must be discontinued.

In October 2013, Governor Cuomo's Olmstead Cabinet (Cabinet) released a report and recommendations titled "A Comprehensive Plan for Serving People with Disabilities in the Most Integrated Setting" which also ignores the second prong in the *Olmstead Decision*. The Cabinet made a blanket recommendation to "assist in transitioning people with disabilities into the community from developmental centers, Intermediate Care Facilities, sheltered workshops, psychiatric centers, adult homes, and nursing homes," giving no deference to an individual's wishes to stay in institutionalized care. **In some cases, families have never been asked if moving their family member out of institutional care is even in the best interest of the individual.**

"The *Olmstead Act* really seems in theory like the right thing to do…the deinstitutionalization and moving dozens and dozens of people into homes, for some it was really expansive for them and wonderful, for others it really took away their freedoms."

- Elise Gold, Jewish Family Service of Orange County

This "one-size-fits-all approach" does not work in the developmental disabilities community as every person has different abilities and different wishes. Testimony was shared at each forum from people with disabilities currently employed at sheltered workshops and individuals expressed their passion for working there, seeing their friends, and receiving a pay check. If sheltered workshops are closed entirely, some parents of individuals with developmental disabilities are concerned that their child will not be able to be integrated into the community workforce since they will not be competitive with other available employees in the community. If sheltered workshops remain open, creating an integrated work environment, it will result in jobs being taken away from individuals with disabilities. At the Task Force forums, some individuals with disabilities stated that they prefer being with their friends in the sheltered workshops.

EMPLOYMENT

Between 1948 and 1976, the number of sheltered workshops in the U.S. increased from 85 to about 3,000. In 2007, an estimated 136,000 adults with disabilities attended sheltered workshop in 42 states across the country. In recent decades, a debate has developed around whether sheltered workshops should be replaced by employment in the open labor market.

As stated in the previous section, the DOJ believes that sheltered workshops are segregated facilities which fly in the face of the *Olmstead Decision* and the ADA. The DOJ believes that people with disabilities should live and work in the "most integrated setting" defined as "a setting that enables individuals with disabilities to interact with non-disabled persons to the fullest extent possible," regardless of what the specific individual wants, which may directly conflict with the *Olmstead Decision*. Therefore, the DOJ wishes to end sheltered workshops.

> ". . . I've got 45 years of experience in this field and the stuff that's going on now is troubling. It's obviously very troublesome to those of us who've dedicated our careers to creating opportunities for people and now we're seeing those opportunities disappear."
>
> - George Suess, ARC Delaware County Special Advisor

In New York State, OPWDD, following the DOJ's lead, is mandating that all workshop providers submit a proposal by January 2017, outlining how they will transform the sheltered workshop either into an "integrated business," a business which employs disabled and non-disabled individuals, or how they will assist in creating transition plans for every individual currently employed in the workshop. The movement to close sheltered workshops is also part of a larger issue to end any sub-minimum wage employment, since sheltered workshops are allowed to pay workers according to their productivity rate.

At one sheltered workshop, Production Unlimited in Watertown, individuals make office supplies, safety equipment, and binders for the U.S. Army. Production Unlimited has already reduced its workforce from 200 people to 65 people over the past few years due to the amount of pressure that has trickled down from the federal government to New York State. While some current employees of Production Unlimited have expressed an interest in eventually working in an integrated setting, they do not yet feel

confident enough to do so. One employee asked, "Who's going to trust us? And if we screw up, think of how the customers would feel. And who's going to get blamed for it? We will, probably."

Sheltered workshops not only provide comfort and a sense of purpose for individuals with disabilities, they also serve as respite services for caretakers and family members of individuals.

While closing sheltered workshops may benefit some individuals who are able to make the transition to integrated employment, parents who know their adult children are unable to compete in an already competitive job market provided testimony to the contrary. To those parents, closing sheltered workshops means that their child would be without a job that gives them a sense of purpose, a social outlet to see friends, and a sense of pride from collecting a paycheck. Additionally, testimony shared by sheltered workshop employees indicated that they felt safer in the workshop since they were among their friends.

HOUSING

The 2015-16 Enacted Budget required OPWDD to issue a report on its statewide review of individuals with developmental disabilities who are on the residential registration list. The report was designed to include information on ways to expand housing alternatives, increase access to rental units, and find ways to create a sustainable living environment. The report was the State's response to families that expressed concerns that they did not have access to appropriate levels of services or housing needs for their family members with developmental disabilities.

In February 2016, OPWDD published its "Residential Request List" (RRL) report to the Legislature, which identified two major concerns: the inability of those requesting housing to get a housing placement when they needed it; and how long an individual will spend on a waiting list. These concerns were expressed by parents at the Task Force forums. Parents also testified that they were concerned about where their child would live when they are no longer around. Additionally, parents believe the State needs to do more to provide housing for individuals with developmental disabilities, especially when parents die and there is no other family member to take care of the individual. In order to determine the extent of the concerns within the developmental disabilities community, OPWDD surveyed a waiting list of more than 11,000 people who contacted OPWDD for disability housing assistance.

"Our son Ryan is 35 years old and intellectually challenged, blind, non-verbal and requires 24/7 care. . . for the past three years (we) have attended countless teleconferences, seminars and the only change is my tears get bigger and my voice gets louder."

–Sandy Williams, Parent

The overarching goals for OPWDD as stated in the RRL report were to ensure that there is a sufficient amount of certified residential opportunities and invest in new certified residential opportunities as needed; increase the number not amount of non-certified residential options for those who can live in their own apartments; and increase the availability of respite services, day habilitation services, and crisis services to help family caregivers with their family members living at home.

The survey results showed the average age of individuals on the RRL is 34 years of age and the average length of time on the RRL is seven years. A significant number of caregivers stated that if they could receive services, or get additional services, they would be able to care for their family member longer at home. In fact, a number of parents who testified believe that residential placements are all about choices of services and types of services, and that one approach doesn't fit the needs of all individuals with developmental disabilities.

In the report, day services and respite services were two areas identified as those most in need. Caregivers were also surveyed about the ability to obtain services they believe they needed in order to help

their family member stay at home, with many responding they needed more respite and day services. When asked what type of housing they would like to see their family member in, about two-thirds preferred a residential setting where services are provided by an agency. About one-third of those surveyed responded that owning and renting with services available to them would be most desirable. However, there were parents who testified that county developmental centers were the best option for their children, but noted that the state is closing these centers and moving residents into group homes.

The RRL data showed that more of the older caregivers were offered the opportunity to have their family member move to a group home or an apartment staffed by an agency. However, 23 percent of caregivers 60 years and older declined the opportunity stating there was no urgent need to move their family member or they were not satisfied with the option offered. This indicates that older caregivers surveyed still felt they were able to care for their family member at home. In fact, the vast majority of these older caregivers, according to the report, believe that additional respite services and additional day services would allow their family member to continue to live at home with them. However, at one of the hearings, a parent relayed a conversation he had with a state official stating he was told there were no group home openings for his child, but was told that there would be something for his child when he dies.

As stated in its report, OPWDD is attempting to determine whether there is enough capacity to meet the needs of the individuals seeking residential placement for those who need immediate placement and those who will need housing in the future. OPWDD states that, "[b]ased on 2015-16 trends, it is projected that 1,421 certified residential opportunities in the existing system will become available in fiscal year 2016-17. In 2016-17, an additional 302 opportunities for rental subsidies are anticipated to become available, based on historical usage trends. Thus, total residential capacity in the existing system anticipated to become available is 1,723 housing opportunities for 2016-17." Even though OPWDD may be able to meet the total demand for residential placements statewide, its ability to appropriately place individuals in specific parts of the state or in appropriate levels of housing may be in question.

OPWDD has identified five strategies it will use to assess and achieve the needs of those who require or request housing, particularly those needing immediate support. At the same time, OPWDD must continue to plan for the needs of individuals who are not currently identified as a priority, but will be once they, and their families, age and require additional care. The availability of housing must continue to expand by maximizing existing capacity and investing in new resources. Along with the increase in certified housing placement, there is a continued need for an increase in non-certified residential units. Finally, OPWDD must increase the availability of respite care for individuals and their families, as well as increase day services and crisis support to allow individuals to live longer in their homes with their families.

Finding appropriate housing options for individuals with developmental disabilities will require a large amount of money to ensure the type and amount of housing and services that are needed are always available. Parents and caregivers will want to care for their loved ones for as long as possible before needing housing options, but the availability of housing, while adequate statewide, may not solve individual needs in specific parts of the state.

SERVICE NAVIGATION

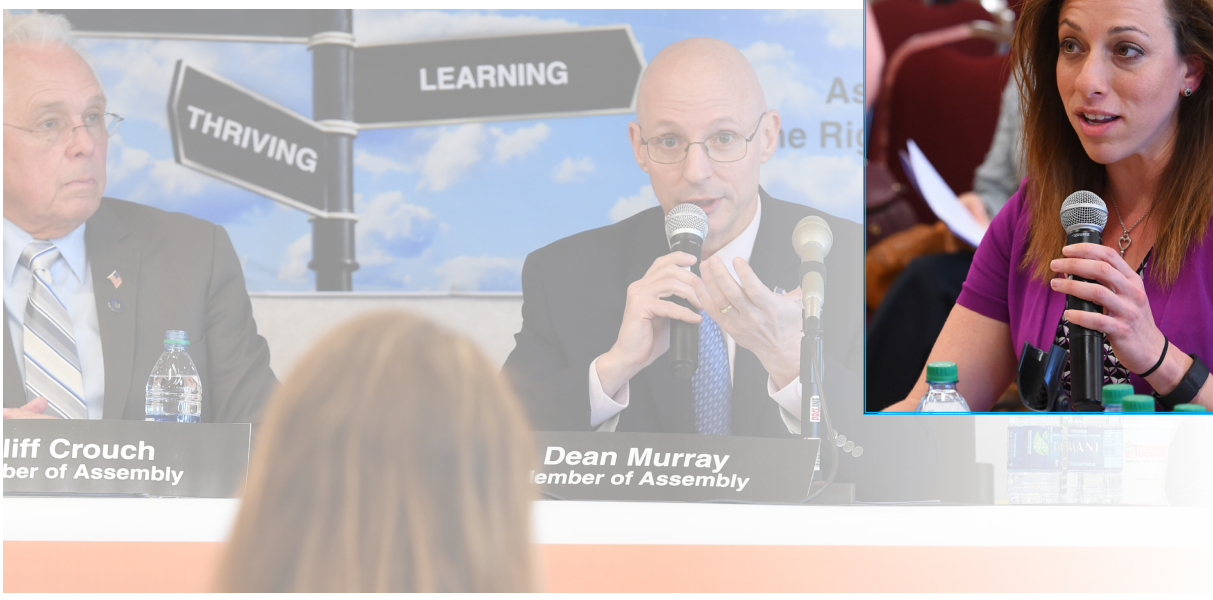
Issues regarding individuals with developmental disabilities are wide-ranging and unique. One of the many unifying issues identified at the forums was concern from parents in regard to services and the coordination between them that an individual with a developmental disability might need. One parent testified that "there needs to be a balance between self-direction and care coordination for individuals who need assistance and help and those with the ability to live on their own; one size does not fit all." This is an important point – how can we, as a state, help individuals achieve self-direction and more independent living if there isn't a clear and direct path to achieve it?

Service navigation is an important component in helping individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. Individuals and parents, at any point, deal with various agencies and organizations across different fields, including health, mental health, education, and insurance. Much like other issues, these fields often run separate operations, making coordination difficult for parents and individuals, and requiring them to negotiate and navigate multiple paths on their own. In order to help streamline the process, the Task Force proposes creating a family navigator whose responsibilities would focus on helping parents and individuals navigate the multiple systems, thereby making the process easier and less challenging.

"We need to put people and their families first. . . we cannot continue to do business the way New York was doing business with people who have disabilities. There has to be a change; people need to be supported differently.

- Beverly Burke, Parent/ Advocate

As mentioned, parents and individuals constantly are navigating various systems. Early Intervention (EI), for example, focuses on helping eligible babies and toddlers learn the basic and brand-new skills that typically develop during the first three years of life. In New York, the EI program is managed by the Department of Health. Once a child prepares to enter school and leave the EI program, the Office of Special Education, within the Department of Education, works to promote educational equity and excellence for students with disabilities. Even within the NYS education system, a variety of programs exist for children depending on their specific needs. Some students might be able to attend the local public school



while others, due to their needs, attend a Special Act School. Special Act Public School Districts and 853 Schools provide education to students with disabilities and students at risk. These schools operate similarly to public school districts, but lack the ability to receive State aid and levy taxes. They receive tuition funding from local school districts and county departments of social services.

Following the completion of schooling, many parents expressed concerns over the next steps for their children. Many programs and services are closing due to increasing costs and stagnant reimbursement rates. More opportunities need to be available for individuals transitioning out of school and into the workforce. These opportunities should be tailored to each individual allowing them to have employment, socialization, and independence. As one parent expressed during the forums, "Some individuals do well with self-direction, some individuals succeed in sheltered workshops, and some individuals need round-the-clock care."

The work doesn't stop with the creation of family navigators, however. With the continued focus by OPWDD to transform services and move toward integration, a greater focus needs to be, on how to improve current systems, while helping individuals and their families navigate different services, and give all individuals with developmental disabilities a greater sense of personal independence, rather than the current blanket approach.

STAFFING

Proper staffing of programs serving individuals with developmental disabilities has been an issue of prolonged concern, dating back at least to the revelations surrounding the severe abuse and neglect inflicted by staff on the residents of the Willowbrook State School in the 1970s. Yet despite the widespread acknowledgement by all stakeholders that proper staffing is an essential component of protecting the rights of individuals with developmental disabilities, staffing difficulties continue to dominate and threaten the existence of many non-profit service providers.

Many of the staffing issues raised during the Task Force forums could be described as being chronic in nature. Non-profit providers and their employees described direct care staff as being woefully underpaid when compared to employees in other industries requiring a similar level of education, with fast food and retail work being offered as two of the more common examples of competing industries. The near-complete dependence of non-profit providers on state and federal financing gives them limited flexibility to provide increased wages to attract and retain qualified employees, with some agencies reporting their staff went as long as six years between raises. One testifying provider reported that the failure of financing to increase had resulted in 40 staffers being laid off in recent years, while another reported that they continue to face an annual staff turnover rate of 30 percent. Among those workers remaining in the field, it was commonly reported that direct care workers were often working multiple jobs in an effort to generate enough income to support themselves and their families. Additionally, parents of individuals with developmental disabilities expressed concerns that underpayment of staff could lead to situations where care was being provided by individuals who were poorly educated and temperamentally unsuited to perform the required work.

> ". . . The special needs community, or the developmentally disabled, are one of the most vulnerable populations in this country. Unfortunately the very systems in place to handle their ever demanding needs are either outdated, understaffed, underfunded and now in extreme chaos."
>
> –Beth Wolert, Arc Community League

At the statewide forums, the largest staffing-related issue mentioned by providers was the upcoming series of minimum wage increases that were approved in the 2016-2017 Enacted Budget. These increases, set to raise the minimum wage from the current rate of $9 an hour to $15 an hour over the next several years, were a source of major anguish for providers, both in terms of the direct increase in the wage and the related "wage compression" resulting from workers currently making a wage close to the new minimum demanding increased pay. Given their dependence on government financing, most providers said that unfunded increases in the minimum wage would result in cuts to both staffing levels and the variety of services provided. In just one example, a mental health expert testified that his organization would likely have to eliminate its pre-school services entirely if they were forced to cover the cost of the increased minimum wage without additional funding. Most providers expressed concern that the increased minimum wage in competing industries (such as fast food, retail, and entertainment) would only accelerate the movement of the best qualified and most experienced individuals out of the often physically and emotionally demanding field of direct care work.

While the issues mentioned above would present a serious challenge at any time, numerous individuals with developmental disabilities, parents, and service providers expressed frustration with the fact that service providers are having new demands placed on them to provide more individualized services (such as community-based supportive employment instead of sheltered workshops) that will require them to hire and train additional staff. Unless the staffing challenge can be met, it is likely that efforts to provide services in more integrated settings will ultimately fall short of their potential.

TRANSPORTATION

Concerns regarding adequate transportation for individuals with developmental disabilities were raised at almost every forum. This concern loomed especially large at forums held in the more rural areas of the state. Not only do these areas typically lack the network of public transportation that exists in the major metropolitan areas, but the distances between the residences of persons with developmental disabilities and the services they need are often significant, with some people having to drive an hour or more to receive necessary employment or health care services.

While rural areas have always faced transportation issues, many individuals testified that the problem has gotten significantly worse since approval authority for non-emergency Medicaid transportation services was removed from the local Departments of Social Services and given to private third-party transportation managers as part of the actions of the Medicaid Redesign Team (MRT). The general perception among individuals testifying was that this action, while it may generate short-term savings for the Medicaid program, had ultimately compromised the public transportation systems of rural counties by allowing the third-party transportation managers to steer Medicaid recipients away from public transportation and toward private transportation. Several testifying individuals urged the Task Force to reverse this change and return decision-making authority for non-emergency Medicaid transportation to the counties, which would then be able to incorporate non-emergency Medicaid transportation funding into larger county or region wide transportation planning.

At the Long Island forum, a unique concern was raised regarding the ability of paratransit providers to cross county lines. Individuals reported that persons taking paratransit from Queens to appointments in Nassau County were required to take paratransit from Queens to the Roosevelt Fields Mall in Nassau County, where they were then transferred to a second paratransit vehicle that would take them to their ultimate destination in Nassau County. Similar difficulties were reported by individuals travelling between Nassau and Suffolk counties.

> "I for one would love to go to more of these meetings, but unfortunately, there's a transportation issue. I can't even get to meetings in Suffolk because Able-Ride, which is in Nassau, won't cross the border."
>
> – Meryl Jackelow, Cerebral Palsy Association of Nassau County

In both rural and suburban areas, concerns were raised about how the lack of adequate transportation services would affect the current efforts to move individuals with developmental disabilities from sheltered workshops to integrated employment opportunities in the community. Testifying individuals characterized existing public and paratransit services for individuals with developmental disabilities as ranging in quality from partially to completely inadequate. Testifying individuals often expressed skepticism that a transportation infrastructure could be quickly developed to transport individuals who are currently employed at centralized sheltered workshops to integrated employment opportunities (often during non-traditional hours) at sites scattered throughout a county or region. The ultimate end result would be increased isolation of individuals with developmental disabilities who had previously been employed in the sheltered workshop environment.

TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

The challenges that individuals with developmental disabilities and their families face are many and varied. The 1999 *Olmstead Decision* stated unjustified segregation of persons with developmental disabilities constituted discrimination; however, the ruling forced individuals out of state-run facilities and segregated work environments into group homes and integrated employment settings, even though those settings may not have been the best options for the concerned individuals. As a result of *Olmstead*, broad, sweeping decisions were made as to how and where people with developmental disabilities should live and work, but in some cases these decisions left them without ways of getting to and from work, and limited the number of hours the individual wanted to work or services needed to help them be productive. In an attempt to resolve the perceived institutionalization of the developmentally disabled community, New York State's interpretation of the *Olmstead Decision* has produced some unintended consequences that impact individuals and their families. Below are recommended solutions to the problems individuals with developmental disabilities and their families expressed during the statewide task force forums.

C.A.R.E.S. (Championing Aid, Rights, Equality, and Services) Plan

Reinterpreting *Olmstead Decision*

- Require the Attorney General to reevaluate the State's interpretation of the *Olmstead Decision*.
- Work with the federal government to prevent the State from losing funding as a result of the interpretation of the *Olmstead Decision*. This would allow local governments and OPWDD to keep sheltered workshops open for individuals with developmental disabilities who wish to continue to work there.

Employment

- Create post-schooling training programs for individuals with developmental disabilities to better prepare them for employment.
- Establish incentives for sheltered workshops to hire individuals without developmental disabilities.
- Coordinate potential internship opportunities for individuals without developmental disabilities in sheltered workshops or other business models to promote integration.

TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS (CONTINUED)

Housing

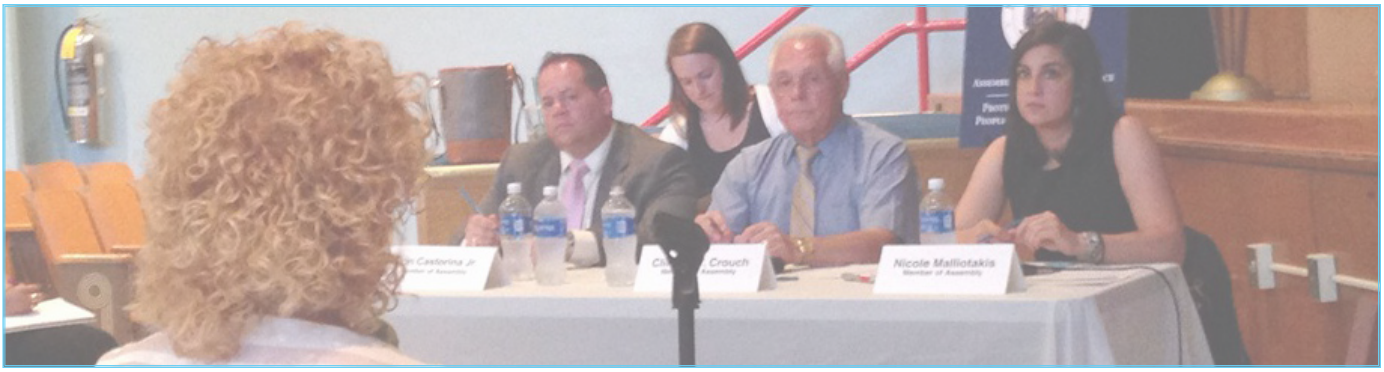
- Repurpose closed developmental centers to provide apartment-style housing for those who have the ability to live on their own, and create smaller group home housing for those who may need more services in their daily lives.
- In an attempt to reduce the seven-year wait for housing options, establish a housing dashboard, similar to the OASAS Bed Availability Dashboard, that would identify where in the state beds are available for those needing housing. The dashboard should include the types of services that are provided with each housing option.
- Require OPWDD to post on a map its website indicating where individuals requesting housing for a family member are located. This would give the Legislature the ability to see where the need for housing is throughout the state.

Service Navigation

- Establish a family navigator/ombudsman to help families and individuals navigate the various organizations, agencies, and requirements.
- Require the Commissioner of Education to set tuition rates for Special Act Public School Districts and 853 Schools based on the same annual percentage rate increase provided for general support for public schools (school aid).
- Create a Bill of Rights for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities to outline in statute their rights.

Staffing

- Fully fund the increase in minimum wage for direct care workers employed by non-profit service providers and determine an appropriate wage for direct care workers for the work and services they provide to the individuals they aide.
- Create a Commission to study and report on what wage levels would need to be in order to recruit and retain an adequate number of qualified direct care workers in the various regions of the state, with a special focus on making sure that staffing levels are adequate for the transition to integrated employment (possibly piggybacking on the direct support professionals report required by A.10409, which passed both houses).
- Ensure that savings from cuts to the state direct care workforce are reinvested in the non-profit direct care workforce.



Transportation

- Require OPWDD, in consultation with the Interagency Committee on Rural Public Transportation, to provide a report demonstrating that adequate transportation resources exist to support integrated employment in a particular area prior to the closure or downsizing by attrition of any sheltered workshop.
- Require non-emergency Medicaid transportation managers to offer counties the option of coordinating transportation services and additionally require public transportation to be utilized whenever feasible (Same as Section 1 of S.4107 of 2016 by Seward, no Assembly Companion).
- Require the Interagency Committee on Rural Public Transportation to study and report on the management of non-emergency Medicaid transportation in rural counties to ensure that public transportation is being appropriately utilized whenever feasible (Same as Section 2 of S.4107 of 2016 by Seward, no Assembly Companion).
- Require the Interagency Committee on Rural Public Transportation to review and make recommendations to the Commissioner of Health regarding proposed payment rates for non-emergency Medicaid transportation in rural counties (Same as S.5794 of 2016 by O'Mara, no Assembly Companion).

TASK FORCE EVENT SUMMARY

Plattsburgh

Date/Venue: April 7, 2016 at West Side Ballroom in Plattsburgh
Scheduled Time: 6 – 8 p.m.
Assembly Members Present: Clifford W. Crouch, Janet Duprey
Crowd: Approx. 85
Speakers: 16
Media: Press Republican: http://www.pressrepublican.com/news/local_news/advocates-for-disabled-integration-not-the-answer/article_de987a3a-8e1b-5947-925d-9e6408b3c531.html

Sun Community News: http://www.suncommunitynews.com/articles/the-sun/individuals-speak-out-about-developmentally-disabled-persons/

Adirondack Daily Enterprise: http://www.adirondackdailyenterprise.com/page/content.detail/id/561587/Duprey-hosts-forum-on-developmentally-disabled.html?nav=5008

Binghamton

Date/Venue: April 14, 2016 at SUNY Broome Community College in Binghamton
Scheduled Time: 6 – 8 p.m.
Assembly Members Present: Clifford W. Crouch
Crowd: Approx. 35
Speakers: 8
Media: WBGH: http://www.binghamtonhomepage.com/news/local-news/group-looks-to-stand-up-for-disability-rights-after-closing-of-bdc

Corning

Date/Venue: April 18, 2016 at Corning-Painted Post High School in Corning
Scheduled Time: 6 – 8 p.m.
Assembly Members Present: Clifford W. Crouch, Phil Palmesano, Christopher S. Friend
Crowd: Approx. 35
Speakers: 10

Suffolk County

Date/Venue: April 20, 2016 at Medford Fire Department in Medford
Scheduled Time: 12 – 2 p.m.
Assembly Members Present: Clifford W. Crouch, Dean Murray, Al Graf
Crowd: Approx. 40
Speakers: 13

TASK FORCE EVENT SUMMARY (CONTINUED)

Port Jervis

Date/Venue: April 21, 2016 at Greenville Town Hall in Port Jervis
Scheduled Time: 12 – 2 p.m.
Assembly Members Present: Clifford W. Crouch, Karl Brabenec
Crowd: Approx. 25
Speakers: 11

Watertown

Date/Venue: May 12, 2016 at Village of Lowville Office Building in Lowville
Scheduled Time: 12 – 2 p.m.
Assembly Members Present: Clifford W. Crouch, Ken Blankenbush
Crowd: Approx. 30
Speakers: 10
Media: TWC: http://www.twcnews.com/nys/watertown/news/2016/05/12/assembly-minority-creating-report-on-rights-of-developmentally-disabled.html

Rome Sentinel: http://romesentinel.com/meetings-events/task-force-to-hold-forum-on-protecting-rights-of-disabled/QBqpec!1AGRnLmtuAKGWZaNNS5H7A/

WWNY/WNYF: http://www.wwnytv.com/news/local/Forum-Addresses-Problems-Facing-Those-With-Developmental-Disabilities-379243071.html

Camillus

Date/Venue: May 12, 2016 at West Genesee High School in Camillus
Scheduled Time: 6 – 8 p.m.
Assembly Members Present: Clifford W. Crouch, Gary D. Finch, Will Barclay
Crowd: Approx. 50
Speakers: 22
Media: WXHC: http://www.wxhc.com/?p=16400

Rochester

Date/Venue: May 19, 2016 at Town of Perinton Town Hall in Fairport
Scheduled Time: 12 – 2 p.m.
Assembly Members Present: Clifford W. Crouch, Mark Johns, Bill Nojay, Peter Lawrence
Crowd: 85
Speakers: 20
Media: TWC: http://www.twcnews.com/nys/rochester/news/2016/05/19/developmental-disabilities-forum-fairport.html

TASK FORCE EVENT SUMMARY (CONTINUED)

Batavia

Date/Venue: May 19, 2016 at Genesee Community College in Batavia
Scheduled Time: 6 – 8 p.m.
Assembly Members Present: Clifford W. Crouch, Steve Hawley, Bill Nojay
Crowd: Approx. 40
Speakers: 10
Media: The Batavian: http://www.thebatavian.com/billie-owens/assembly-minority-task-force-on-protecting-the-rights-of-people-with-developmental

Batavia Daily News: http://www.thedailynewsonline.com/bdn01/task-force-assembly-group-taking-anecdotes-of-frustration-back-to-albany-20160520

Orleans Hub: http://www.orleanshub.com/news2016/Assembly-GOP-discuss-services-for-developmentally-disabled-at-task-force-in-Batavia.htm

Buffalo

Date/Venue: May 26, 2016 at Museum of disABILITY in Buffalo
Scheduled Time: 5 – 7 p.m.
Assembly Members Present: Clifford W. Crouch, Raymond Walter
Crowd: Approx. 45
Speakers: 12

Staten Island

Date/Venue: June 30, 2016 at I.S. 24 Myra S. Barnes Intermediate School in Staten Island
Scheduled Time: 7 – 9 p.m.
Assembly Members Present: Clifford W. Crouch, Nicole Malliotakis, Ron Castorina Jr.
Crowd: Approx. 50
Speakers: 10
Media: Staten Island Advance: http://www.silive.com/news/index.ssf/2016/06/developmental_disabilities_hea.html