



**Joint Legislative Budget Hearing Testimony  
State Fiscal Year 2016-17 Executive Budget  
February 3, 2016**

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Good morning Senator Young, Assemblyman Farrell, Senator Ortt, Assemblywoman Gunther and other distinguished members of the Senate and Assembly. I am Kerry Delaney, Acting Commissioner for the New York State Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD). I would like to thank you for the opportunity to testify regarding Governor Cuomo's 2016-2017 Executive Budget proposal for OPWDD.

The Governor's Executive Budget supports the ongoing transformation of OPWDD's service delivery system and the implementation of recommendations advanced by the Transformation Panel, a group of individuals, parents, providers, Legislators and other experts in the field who were called together to provide their insight and advice on implementing sustainable system-wide change and the priorities that have emerged from this year of unprecedented public outreach and engagement. Working in close partnership with our network of voluntary provider agencies, OPWDD ensures that quality services are delivered to over 130,000 people with developmental disabilities in New York State as we continue work to design the system of the future. The budget provides more than \$4.2 billion dollars to continue providing services in integrated, community-based settings, and supports OPWDD's vigilant oversight of state and not-for-profit agency providers. This represents an increase of \$175 million dollars, or 4.3 percent, over last year's budget.

The Governor proposes making significant investments in new service opportunities by supporting up to 6,000 new or expanded services, including certified and non-certified residential supports, day programs, employment, case management and respite. These new opportunities will support people currently living at home whose needs have changed. The additional resources are separate from a reinvestment of \$24 million dollars to support the transition of individuals from developmental centers and intermediate care facilities to more integrated, community-based supports. The Governor's budget also provides \$15 million dollars to expand OPWDD's successful START crisis intervention program, invests \$15 million dollars in affordable housing development opportunities, and supports a cost-of-living adjustment and Medicaid trend to increase reimbursement levels of non-profit providers.

This new funding will allow OPWDD to continue to expand services to meet the growing demand. We are currently providing residential supports for nearly 38,000 of the 130,000 people with disabilities that receive our services. In the past 18 months alone, OPWDD has provided certified, community-based residential supports to 2,600 new people who required a more supportive living environment, including 1,525 who moved from home to OPWDD certified housing for the first time. In addition, OPWDD offered 3,800 people the opportunity to receive employment supports, helped 2,300 new people to self-direct their services, expanded respite services to 5,500 people who were new to that service and enrolled 6,400 new people in day services. These

service expansions would not be possible without strong legislative support and we look forward to continuing that partnership.

As you know, last year's budget agreement provided OPWDD with the resources and responsibility to undertake a year of significant public outreach, data collection and analysis in order to better plan for a sustainable future. On behalf of all of OPWDD's stakeholders, I would like to thank you for supporting this outreach, which included statewide public forums to help inform the recommendations of the Transformation Panel and Integrated Employment forums which gave stakeholders the opportunity to provide input into integrated employment opportunities.

In addition, with your support, OPWDD worked this year to contact every person who had indicated an interest in residential services through the Residential Request List initiative to determine if they have immediate needs that must be met and help OPWDD plan its future for residential services. More than 24,000 outbound calls were made and more than 12,000 letters were sent out as a part of this very successful effort.

Information, feedback and data gathered in the various public forums and from stakeholders is currently being used to develop written reports to the Legislature which will be submitted on February 15th. These reports will provide the results of this outreach and analysis in areas such as self-direction efforts, workshop transformation, and residential services as well as lay out a plan to implement the Transformation Panel Recommendations and the path forward for our service delivery system.

Much of OPWDD's transformative efforts in 2016 will be based on the feedback we received from our valued stakeholders, most importantly the people who receive our services and supports, and their family members, as well as the work of the Transformation Panel. We are in the process of studying all of the public comments on the Panel's draft recommendations and will soon be issuing a final report incorporating their feedback.

OPWDD looks forward to working with our partners in the legislature, and all of our stakeholders, in the continuing effort to achieve real and lasting transformation in our system. I welcome your questions.