

Office for People With Developmental Disabilities & Care Coordination Organization's

Chappaqua Central School District
Department of Special Education &
The Arc Westchester

December 15, 2021

Presentation Overview:

- Structure and Roles
 - New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH)
 - New York State Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD)
 - Care Coordination Organization/Health Homes (CCO/HHs)
- Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD)
 - Front Door Process
 - Eligibility
 - Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Waiver
- Care Coordination Organizations
 - Care Managers
 - Life Plans
- Upcoming Dates
- Questions

Note: Presentation slides will be shared via email. The resources Transition Planning Checklist & Independent Living Skills will also be provided by email after this presentation.

NYS Mental Hygiene Law

Counties are charged with fiscal and programmatic oversight, planning, and coordination of service needs for people in three areas:

- Chemical Dependency,
- Developmental Disabilities and
- Mental Illness



Office for People With Developmental Disabilities

SUPPORTING PEOPLE TO LIVE, WORK & TAKE PART IN THEIR COMMUNITY

The New York State Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) is responsible for coordinating services for New Yorkers with developmental disabilities.

It provides services directly and through a network of approximately 500 nonprofit service providing agencies.

FUNDING

Most OPWDD services are provided through New York State's Medicaid program, jointly funded by the federal and state government.

Medicaid pays for the following OPWDD supports and services:

- The **OPWDD Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waiver** (includes most OPWDD services, such as respite, supported employment, community habilitation, day habilitation and residential services)
- **Care Coordination**
- Residential care
- Additional health-related items and services

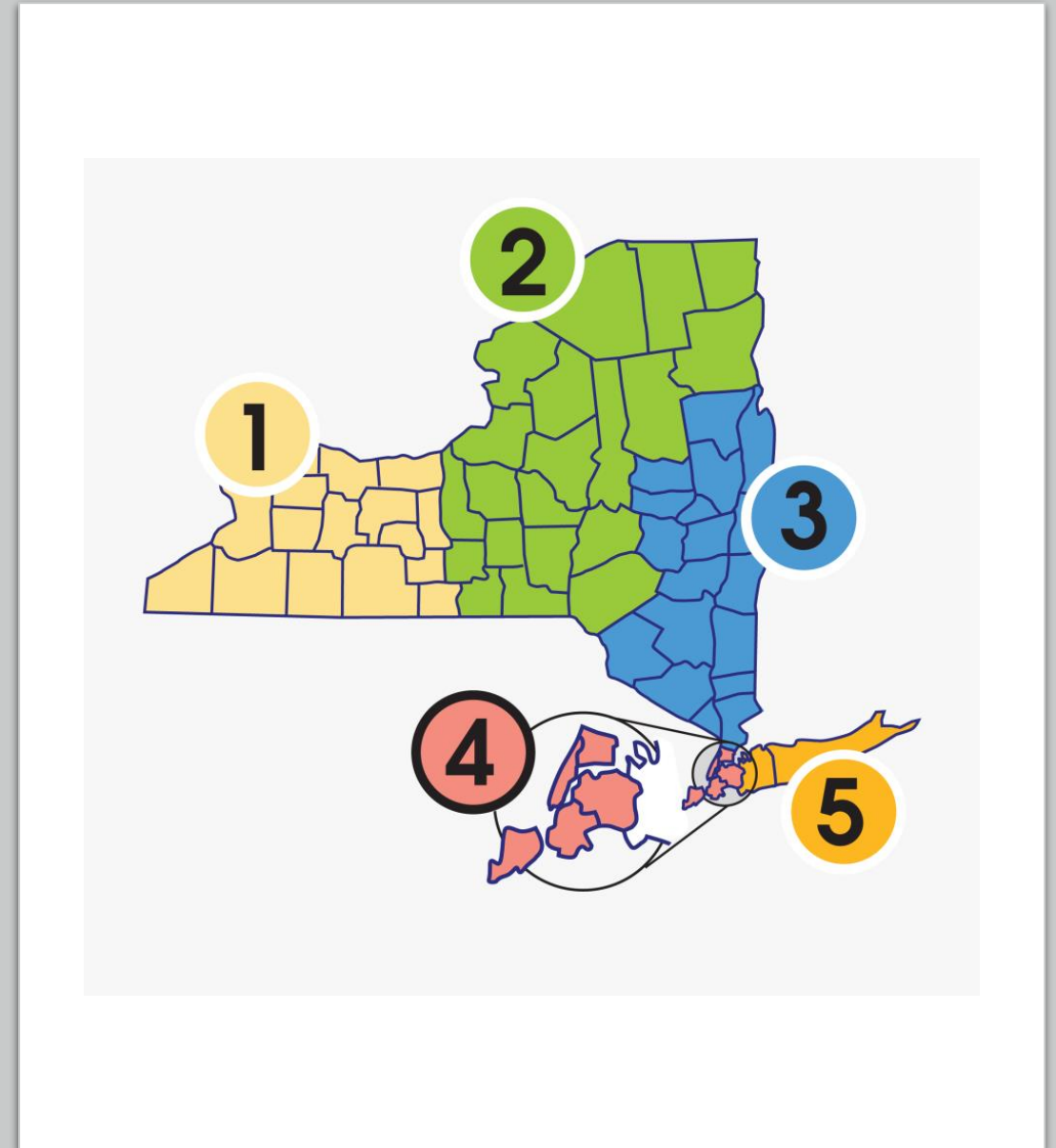
**OPWDD
Structure**

**People With
Developmental
Disabilities**

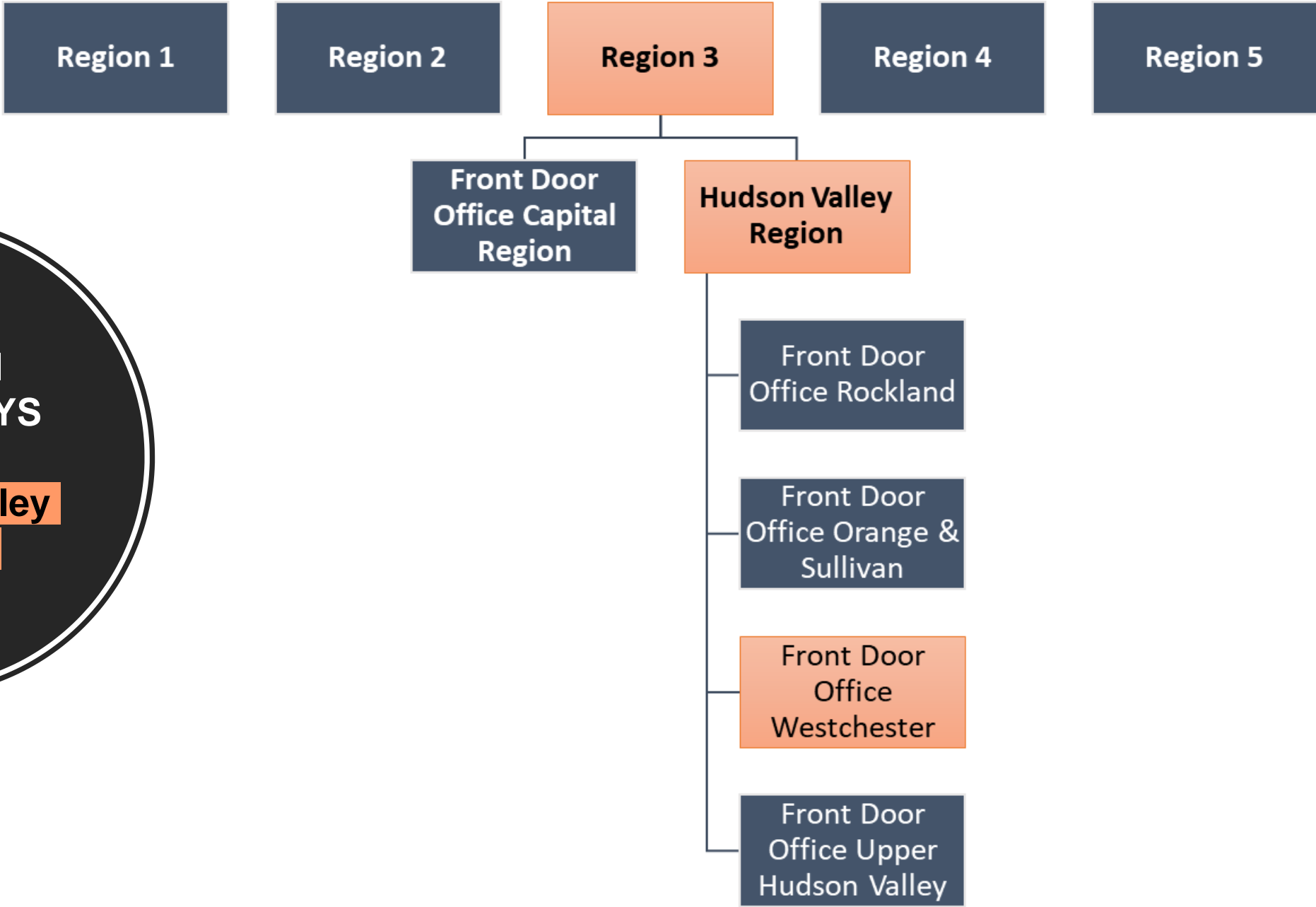


Developmental Disabilities Regional Offices (DDROs)

- DDROs are the regional offices of New York State's Office of People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD)
- DDROs work with local government (counties) and voluntary provider agencies to improve access to and coordinate services within a region



5 regional offices of NYS OPWDD
Hudson Valley Region 3

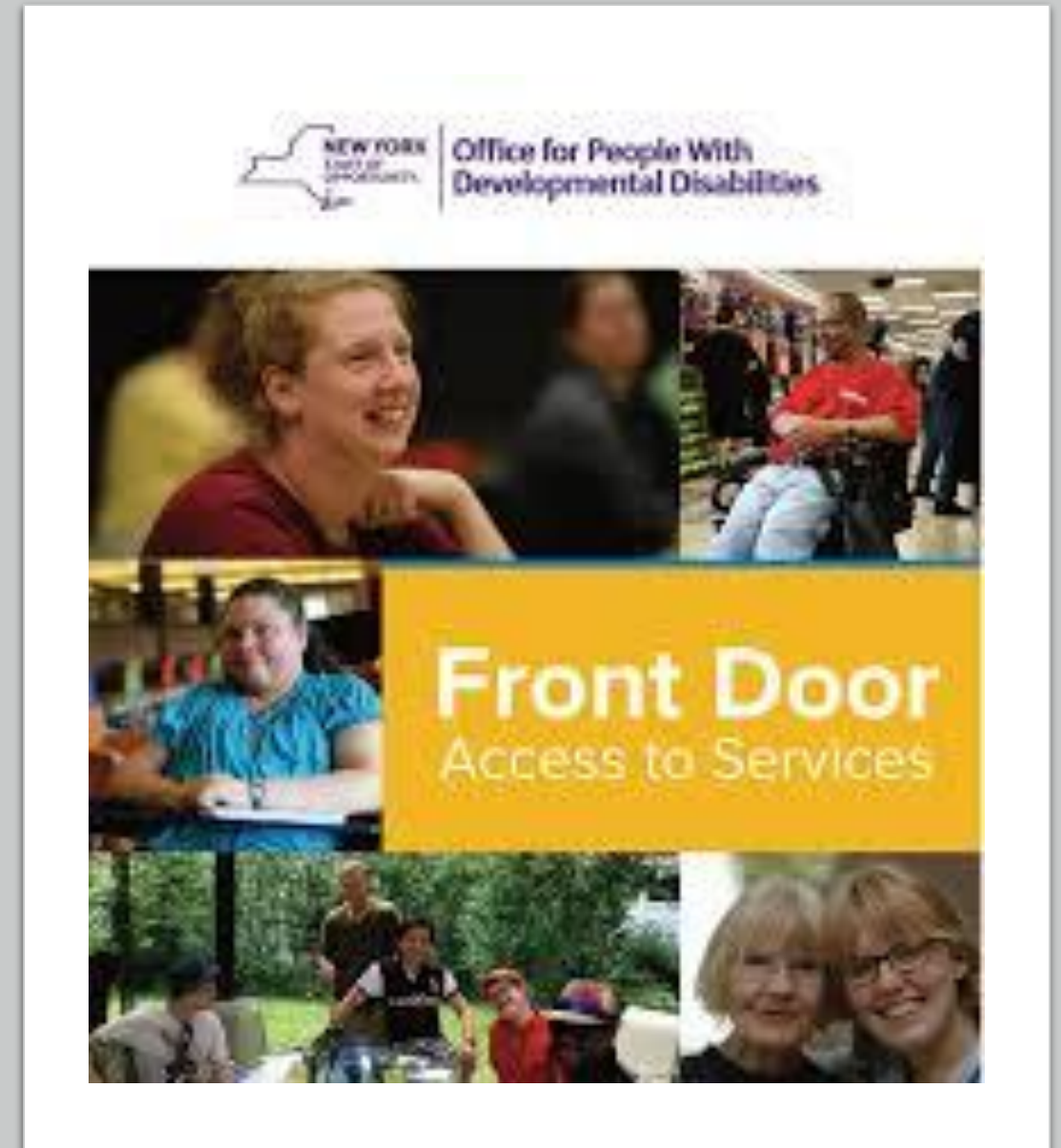


The Front Door

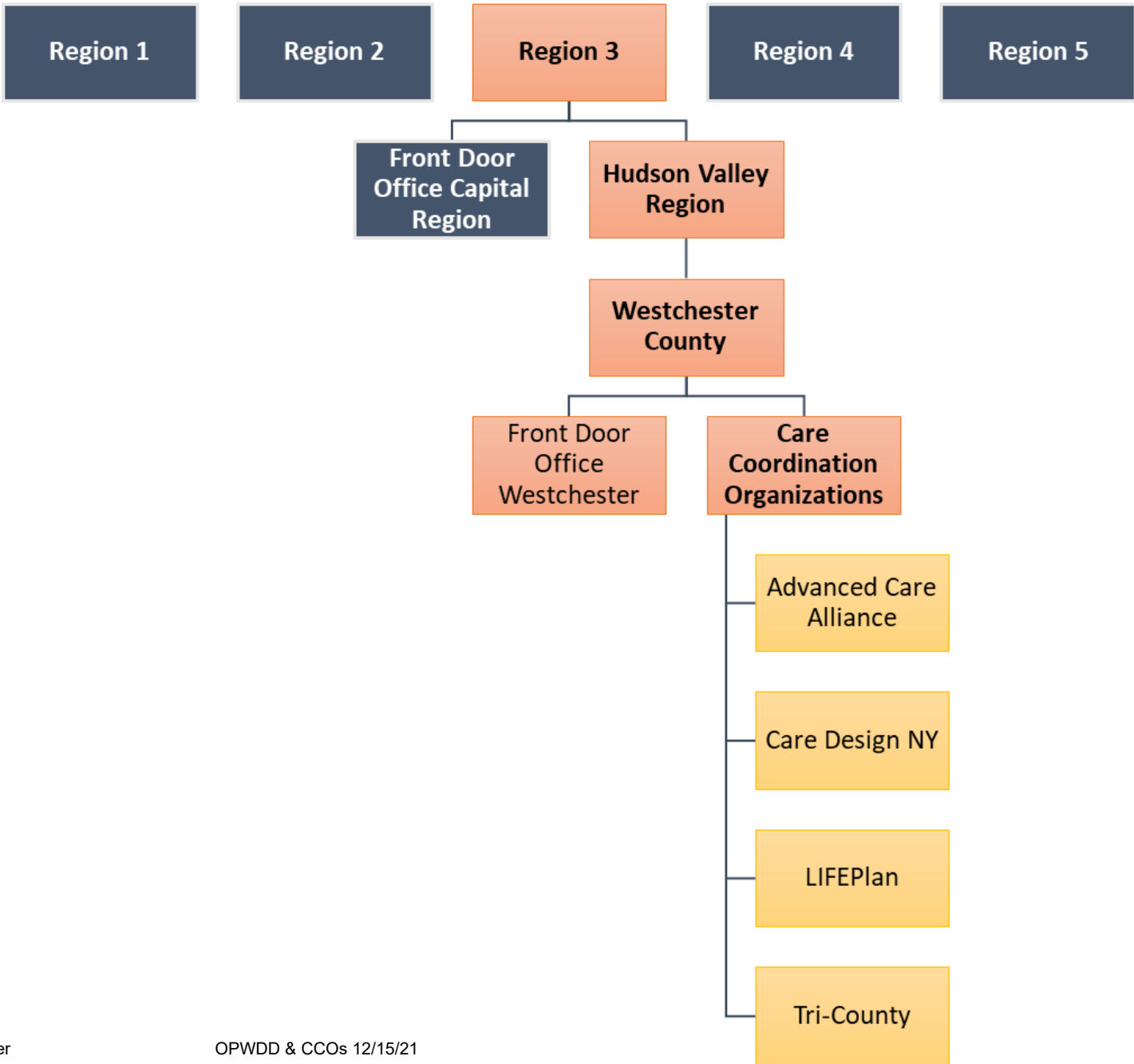
The Front Door is the way OPWDD connects you to the services you want and need.

Key components of the Front Door:

- Determining eligibility for services
- Assessments & Identify Support Needs
- Plan authorization and implementation



CCOs Serving Westchester



HOW TO GET OPWDD SERVICES

The Key to Accessing OPWDD Supports

To be able to access the majority of OPWDD services, most individuals will need to:

- Provide evidence that they have a developmental disability (eligibility)
- Enroll in Medicaid, and
- Enroll in the OPWDD Home and Community Based Services waiver



The Front Door

The Front Door is the way OPWDD **connects you** to the services you want and need.

Front Door staff will **guide you** through the steps involved in finding out if you are eligible for services with OPWDD, identify your needs, goals and preferences and help you work on a plan for getting those services.



What are the key components of the Front Door?

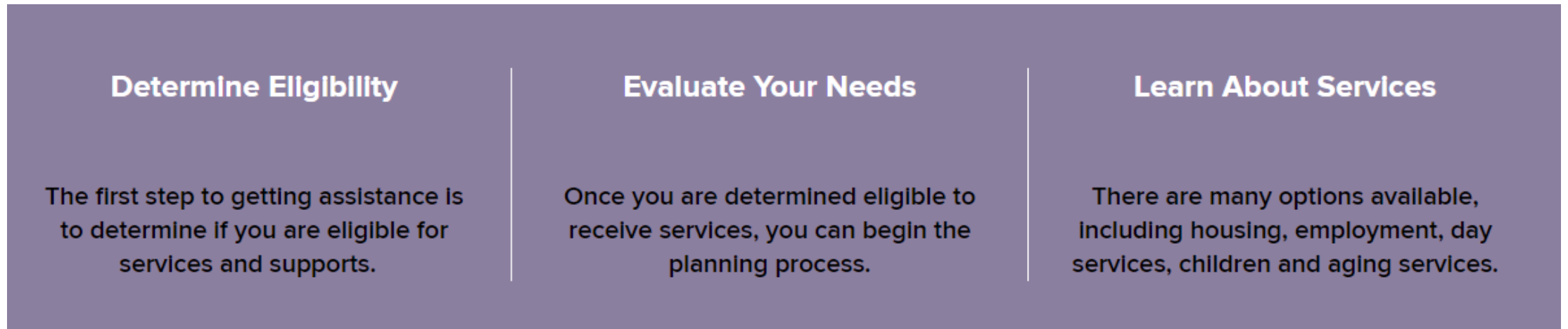
The key components of the Front Door process include:

- Initial contact for those who are new to the service system or seeking to modify existing services.
- Determining eligibility for services.
- Assessment of strengths.
- Identifying support needs.
- Plan authorization and implementation.



Getting Started

Eligibility is the first step of the Front Door process and to accessing services from OPWDD for individuals with developmental disabilities.



The OPWDD Eligibility Review

- The eligibility review process is the way OPWDD determines if you have a developmental disability and are eligible for OPWDD supports and services.
- Individuals or their caregivers, guardians, advocates or Care Managers may apply to get supports and services provided or paid for by OPWDD. The application and review process is called the **Eligibility Determination Process**.



What is required for a person to be eligible for OPWDD services?

For a person to be eligible for OPWDD services, New York State Mental Hygiene Law requires:

1. The presence of a developmental disability that is described by certain qualifying diagnoses or conditions,
2. The disability occurred before the person reached age 22,
3. The disability can be expected to continue indefinitely or permanently, and
4. The disability causes a substantial handicap to a person's ability to function normally in society



Who can assist families with applying for eligibility?

The Westchester Front Door Staff:

- Dr. Philip Bomzer (845) 947-6031 Philip.E.Bomzer@opwdd.ny.gov
- Dr. Janet Wright (845) 947-6215 Janet.Wright@opwdd.ny.gov

Westchester County Department of Community Mental Health (DCMH):

- Matthew Faulkner (914) 995-5253 or mqf3@westchestergov.com
- Michelle Armisto (914) 995-3009 or mif1@westchestergov.com



Care Coordination Organizations, Schools and some not-for-profit organizations



Required Documents for Eligibility Determination

- 1) **A medical assessment completed within 10 months including a physical evaluation.**
- 2) **A comprehensive psychosocial and developmental history completed within the past 10 months**
- 3) **A cognitive (FSIQ) evaluation** is required. Some acceptable test measurements are the WAIS-IV, WISC-V, WPPSI-IV, Stanford-Binet 5, Bayley-III, DAS-II, KABC-11).
- 4) **Standardized measures of adaptive functioning.** The most common measures are the Vineland-3 and the ABAS-3. OPWDD prefers 2 measures of adaptive functioning

Additional Documentation:

Current IEP, Current Service-related reports ((i.e., Speech, OT, and PT).



Three-Step Eligibility Review

The process for determining eligibility may involve multiple review steps and is designed to make sure that every person receives a fair and thorough review.

1st-Step Review

OPWDD staff review the eligibility request to make sure it is complete. After this first review, the regional office notifies you in writing that:

- (a) Eligibility or Provisional Eligibility has been confirmed; or
- (b) The request is incomplete and requires additional documentation; or
- (c) The request is being forwarded for a 2nd-Step Review



FAQs Eligibility

When is the best time to apply for OPWDD eligibility?

If the child/adolescent is in school, the best time is re-evaluation time when all evaluations/documentation are current and updated.

When can a packet be sent to the OPWDD eligibility office?

For the packet to be sent for determination, the DCMH registration form along with the required and additional evaluations if applicable must be in the packet. Only complete packets can be sent for determination.

Once a complete packet is submitted to OPWDD, how long does it take for a determination to be made?

A determination by OPWDD is usually made within a 3-month period but with the pandemic and with staff on a rotating basis in the eligibility office you must expect that it will take longer.



ATTEND AN INFORMATION SESSION TO LEARN ABOUT SUPPORTS AND SERVICES

- The OPWDD Front Door Information Sessions will outline the process of how you can become eligible for supports and services, the types of supports and services available and where you can go to get assistance.
- All sessions are presently offered remotely, either by WebEx or Phone Conference.
 - A Registration for a session is required.

Upcoming Dates:

- Front Door Info Session (Chinese)
December 22, 2021,
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
- Front Door Info Session (English)
December 28, 2021,
2:30 PM - 4:30 PM
- Front Door Info Session (English)
JANUARY 05, 2022,
11:00 AM – 1:00 PM
- Front Door Info Session (Spanish)
January 6, 2022,
4:00 PM – 6:00 PM



Helping You to Get the Supports and Services You Need

[Health Home Care Management services](#) are provided by Care Coordination Organizations (CCOs) to assist people with developmental disabilities and their families in gaining access to services and supports appropriate to their needs.

[Care Management](#) is the service that helps you and your family get the services and supports you need. Care management is provided by **Care Managers** who work for Care Coordination Organizations (CCOs).



Care Coordination a Comprehensive Model



Selecting a Care Coordination Organization

There are 4 Care Coordination Organizations (CCOs) serving Westchester County residents:

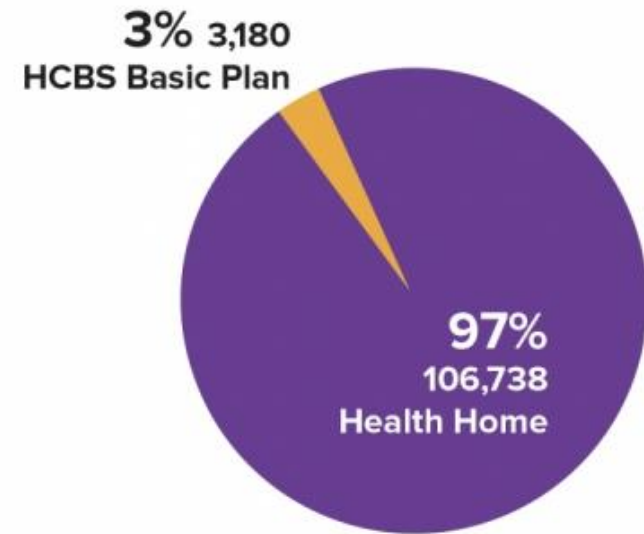


Basic Home and Community Based Services Plan Support

Comparison of Health Home Care Management & Basic HCBS Plan Support

	Health Home Care Mgmt.	Basic HCBS Plan Support
Coordinates OPWDD supports and services	■	■
Coordinates access to behavioral health services	■	
Coordinates access to medical and dental services	■	
Identifies community-based resources	■	
Uses technology to link your services	■	
Connects your care providers	■	
Takes burden of navigating systems from families	■	

Count and Percent of Total Enrollees as of December 31, 2020



Review: Getting Started, Determining Eligibility for Services

- ✓ Have been determined eligible for services
- ✓ Have attended a Front Door Information Session
- ✓ Have chosen a Care Coordination Organization (CCO), and
- ✓ Have enrolled with the CCO selected





Assessments & Identifying Support Needs

The Assessment Process

The purpose of the assessment is to identify your current strengths and needs and the natural or community supports you have or can get. This information is used to plan for services you need and to develop your person-centered plan.



The Assessment Process Cont.

OPWDD uses two tools when assessing your service needs:

- Developmental Disabilities Profile (DDP-2)
- Coordinated Assessment System (CAS)



Review: Assessments & Identifying Support Needs

- ✓ Developmental Disabilities Profile (DDP-2) completed and submitted to OPWDD by Care Manager
- ✓ Coordinated Assessment System (CAS) completed and submitted to OPWDD by Care Manager





Plan Authorization & Implementation

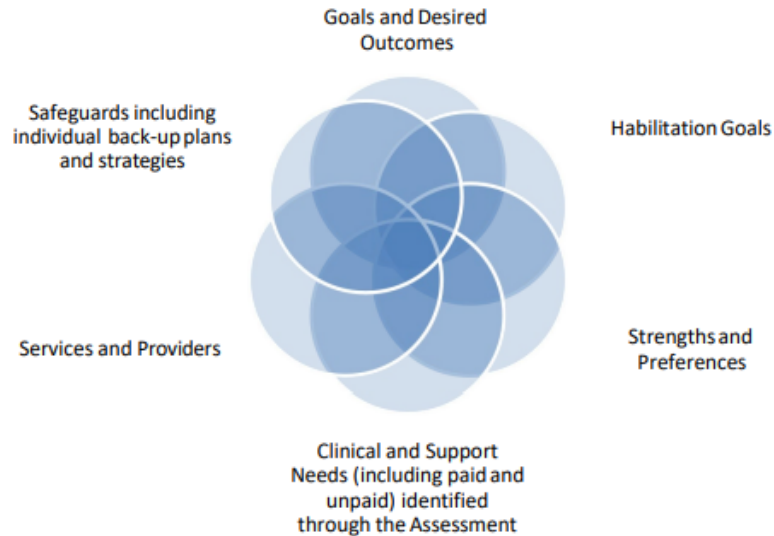
Planning

Your Care Manager will work with you and your family to develop a Life Plan. The Life Plan is a roadmap to your personal goals and includes the supports and services that will help get you there.

Your “Circle of Support” (the people in your life and the staff you want involved in helping you choose services), your Care Manager and treatment team will be there to help you figure things out and help you make informed choices.



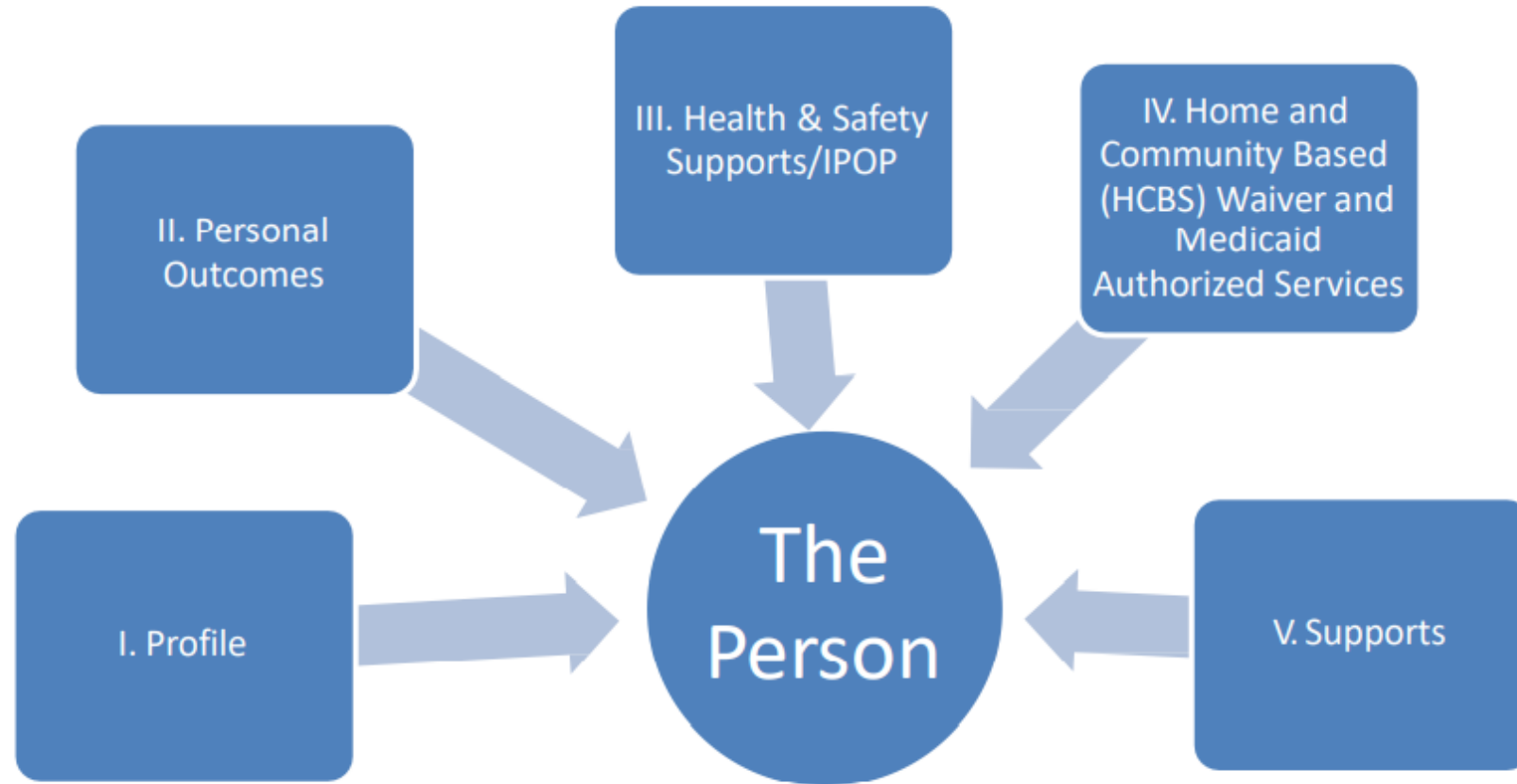
Person-Centered Life Plan Development:



- ✓ Collaborative and recurring process driven by the person
- ✓ Describes who the person is and what he/she wants to accomplish and who/what will help the individual accomplish their goals/valued outcomes
- ✓ Integrates all services and natural supports
- ✓ Understandable to the person
- ✓ Must be finalized and agreed to with the person's informed consent

The Life Plan is person-driven and a living document subject to continuous updating and monitoring by the Care Manager

Life Plan Sections



Medicaid

During this phase of the OPWDD Front Door process your Care Manager will assist you in obtaining Medicaid (if you do not already have it). This may include meeting with a Medicaid representative to discuss services.

Medicaid pays for the OPWDD Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waiver.

HCBS-Wavier includes most OPWDD services, such as respite, supported employment, community habilitation, day habilitation and residential services



Review: Plan Authorization & Implementation

- ✓ Life Plan Drafted
- ✓ Have Medicaid
- ✓ Care Manager has submitted the HCBS-Waiver application to HVDDRO for processing





Accessing Authorized Services & Supports

Accessing Services

- Once you have your letter notifying you of your HCBS-Waiver Authorization you will see which HCBS-Waiver services you have been authorized for
- Your Care Manager can help you to request or change services



Service Provider

Once you have received your HCBS-Waiver Authorization you will need to secure a service provider to provide the **authorized services**.



Onboarding and Enrollment

1

After choosing your service provider, or providers you will need to complete the onboarding and enrollment process for the agency (or agencies) selected to provide the service.

2

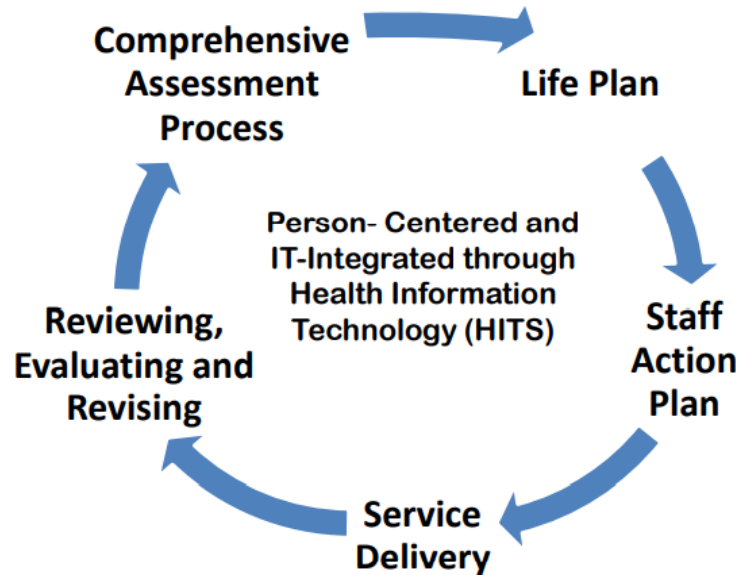
Most agencies have an application process before they start the enrollment. This may include, touring and meeting the applicant, completing an application, providing documentation (e.g., psychological evaluation, copy of life plan, physical, etc.).

3

The agency will then review and determine appropriateness for service and program availability. If accepted the service provider and Care Manager will work with the Front Door office to enroll the individual into the agency. The agency must be approved to provide the service by the front door staff before services can be provided to the individual.

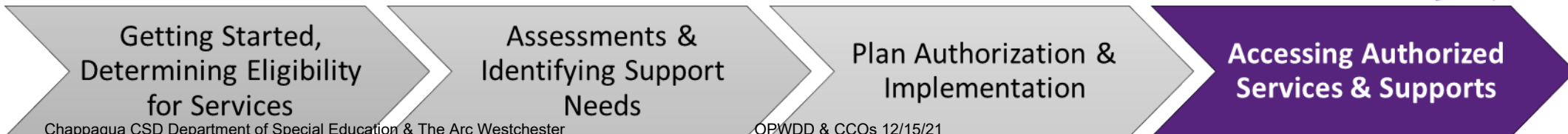
Updating the Life Plan and Life Plan Meetings

Review of the Life Planning Process Cycle The Person and Person-Centered Planning is Always the Driving Force



The Life Plan defines the Person's goals/valued outcomes and individual safeguards and how these relate to what is most meaningful to the person.

The Life Planning process is designed to create consistency at the point of service delivery by organizing goals within the 21 Personal Outcome Areas. This is one of the major reasons for the use of new technology.



Start Receiving Service!



FAQs

Can you change services you already received an authorization for? Yes

Can you receive different services from more than one provider? Yes

Can you receive the same service from more than one provider? It depends, but most adult services allow for one provider to provide specific service

Can you change your Care Coordination Organization? Yes

Can you change your Care Manager? Yes

January Dates

Next Information Meeting Wednesday, January 19th

Community Support Network Virtual Transition Institute – Dates in January,

- Pre-Registration Link: <https://www.wihd.org/what-we-do/community-support-network/our-events/community-support-network-2021-22-virtual-transition-institute/>

Questions?



Thank you

Jacie Feuer

Transition Services Director
The Arc Westchester

General Contact Information:

Phone: 914-949-9300 or 914-428-8330

www.arcwestchester.org

Sources

[Office for People With Developmental Disabilities | Office for People With Developmental Disabilities \(ny.gov\) Get Started | Office for People With Developmental Disabilities \(ny.gov\) Layout 1 \(ny.gov\)](#)

Another option for care management services is the [Fully Integrated Duals Advantage for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities](#) (FIDA-IDD).

[Plan Your Services | Office for People With Developmental Disabilities](#)

[Access Supports | Office for People With Developmental Disabilities \(ny.gov\)](#)

[Components of a Life Plan \(guideandconnect.org\)](#)

[Overview of Care Coordination Organization \(CCO\) Care Management \(ny.gov\)](#)

https://opwdd.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/05/040_front-door-access-to-services_342020_0.pdf [Front Door | Office for People With Developmental Disabilities \(ny.gov\)](#)

[School Transition | Office for People With Developmental Disabilities \(ny.gov\)](#)