

OPWDD CARE AT HOME (CAH) Information Session



INFORMATION SESSION OBJECTIVES

At the end of the information session, you will walk away with an understanding of:

- The mission and purpose of OPWDD
- The process to become OPWDD eligible for supports and services
- How to determine if a child is eligible for CAH
- What types of supports and services are available as part of the CAH Program
- How to access your local CAH Coordinator



OPWDD – Who Are We?

- The NYS agency responsible for coordinating services to 126,000+ New Yorkers with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- The NYS agency responsible for certifying and overseeing approximately 800 voluntary agency providers.
- A provider of residential/day services for small percentage of people served.



OPWDD Mission

OPWDD helps people with developmental disabilities live richer lives.



OPWDD VISION

People with developmental disabilities have a chance to ...

- Enjoy meaningful relationships with friends, family, and others in their lives
- Experience personal health and growth
- Live in the home of their choice
- Fully participate in their communities



OPWDD PRINCIPLES



Put the person first



Maximize opportunities



Promote and reward excellence



Provide equity of access



Nurture partnerships and collaborations



Require accountability and responsibility



Front Door Toll-Free Contact Numbers:

Region 1 – Finger Lakes: #1-855-679-3335

Counties: Chemung, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne, Wyoming, and Yates

Region 1 – Western: #1-800-487-6310

Counties: Alleghany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, and Orleans



**Office for People With
Developmental Disabilities**

THE ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION PROCESS

Let's outline the 3-step Eligibility Determination Process and describe the type of information OPWDD will need to determine that an individual is eligible for OPWDD services.

3 STEPS IN DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION



1st Step Review

- DDRO clinical staff review the eligibility request to determine eligibility.

2nd Step Review

- If eligibility request is forwarded for a 2nd Step Review, a committee of DDRO clinicians evaluate the referral materials and any additional information that has been provided by the person.

3rd Step Review

- 3rd Step Reviews are done by an independent Eligibility Review Committee of licensed practitioners not involved in the 1st and 2nd Step Reviews.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

- ☐ Psychological reports which include an assessment of intellectual functioning (“IQ test”)
- ☐ For conditions other than Intellectual Disability, a medical or specialty report that includes health status and diagnostic findings to support the qualifying diagnosis
- ☐ A recent general medical assessment report should be included in all eligibility requests
- ☐ A developmental/ psychosocial history report, or other report that shows that the person became disabled before age 22 (this is required for all eligibility requests)
- ☐ Adaptive behavior functioning assessment
- ☐ In some cases, the DDRO may require additional information to determine eligibility

OPWDD CAH Waivers Programs (III, IV, VI)

OPWDD currently operates *three* Care at Home (CAH) Medicaid Home and Community Based Waivers.

The OPWDD CAH waivers (III, IV, and VI) provide services to children with developmental disabilities and complex medical conditions living at home with their families.

Katie Beckett's Story

- CAH waivers were originally referred to as the “Katie Beckett waivers.”
- Katie was born in March 1978 in Iowa.
- She was born 3 months premature and weighed just over 2 pounds.
- Shortly after her birth, Katie experienced grand mal seizures and severe respiratory distress.
- She slipped into a coma and was placed on life support.

Katie's Story Continues...

- Three weeks later, Katie opened her eyes, but was paralyzed and could not breathe nor swallow.
- A tracheostomy tube was placed in her throat and a gastrostomy tube in her stomach.



Katie's Journey Toward Home

- Katie remained hospitalized for approximately 3 years.
- Discharge planning began around her 3rd birthday, but became difficult because her insurance benefits had been exhausted.
- At that time, there was NO mechanism for home health care to be covered by either private insurance or Medicaid.
- Katie could NOT be safely discharged **without** home health care services.

Katie Finally Goes Home

- Through Katie's parent's desire to have her home, they politically advocated to their Congressman (Tom Tauke).
- In turn, Congressman Tauke raised the issue to the Presidential level (President Reagan).
- A special exception to the Medicaid policy was made for Katie with the support to develop a process to allow others to receive the same benefit.
- Katie was discharged from the hospital on 12/19/81 amidst a flurry of family, friends, and media.

The Lasting Impact of Katie's Journey...

- Through Katie's journey, the Katie Beckett waiver program was born (now known as the Care at Home Program).
- Medicaid waiver programs live on in every state today for individuals with special health care needs.



Care at Home (CAH) Waiver Program

- The Care at Home Waiver program allows Medicaid to pay for some services not provided through “regular” Medicaid, such as case management, respite, home modifications, and vehicle modifications.
- These services can make home care an option for children and their families.
- Although Medicaid funding applies only to the child, it can be used to help cover the costs of caring for the child at home.

Who is Eligible for the OPWDD CAH Program?

To be eligible for CAH, a child must meet **all** of the following requirements:

- Be under 18 years of age
- Have a developmental disability as defined by NYS Mental Hygiene Law
- Demonstrate complex health care needs that are expected to continue for at least 12 months
- Be eligible for the level of care provided by an intermediate care facility (ICF) for persons with developmental disabilities

Who is Eligible for the OPWDD CAH Program (Continued) ...

- NOT be in a hospital, skilled nursing facility, ICF/DD facility, or other institution
- Have an assessment indicating that the child is able to be cared for at home if the proper services are provided
- Be ineligible for Medicaid because of parental income and resources (child would qualify based on their income and resources only)
- Be able to be cared for at less cost in the family home than in an ICF facility

What Services Are Available to a CAH Child?

State Plan Medicaid:

- The CAH waivers provide coverage for all routine State Plan Medicaid services.
- This could include nursing or personal care aide services if deemed appropriate and approved.

Case Management:

- Case management services are provided at least monthly to assist and enable the child and family to access the full range of available services and resources.
- The CAH Coordinator will review available case management agencies upon enrollment.

Services available (continued) ...

Respite:

- Respite services are available to provide the family time to meet its other obligations as well as attend to the needs of other children living in the family.
- Respite services could include in-home, out-of-home, or therapeutic recreation.

Assistive Technologies and Home Modifications:

- Assistive Technologies and Home Modifications are available to help a child live safely at home with independence & dignity (application and approval process required).
- This could include accessibility into the home, bathroom/bedroom modifications, doorway widenings, van modifications, or ceiling tracks.

OPWDD CAH Coordinator Contact Information

Please contact your Regional CAH Coordinators for additional information and/or referrals....

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(Counties Served: Chemung, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne, Wyoming, and Yates)

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