



OFFICE FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

All Abilities Newsletter

January 2024 Edition



Happy New Year and welcome to Putnam County's Office for Individuals with Disabilities All Abilities Newsletter, your quick reference for local happenings in the disability world and Putnam County, for disability professionals, family and care supports.



Public Meetings:

All information regarding these meetings, including times as they become closer, and links to the meetings can be found on the [OPWDD Events page](#).

February 13, 2024: Autism Spectrum Disorders Advisory Board Meeting

The Autism Spectrum Disorders Advisory Board provides guidance and information to New York policymakers, individuals with an autism spectrum disorder diagnosis (ASD), and families seeking reliable information regarding available services and supports.

March 5, 2024: Developmental Disabilities Advisory Board Meeting

The Developmental Disabilities Advisory Council (DDAC) provides recommendations for statewide priorities and goals for services for individuals with developmental disabilities in cooperation with the OPWDD (Office for People with Developmental Disabilities) commissioner.

March 6, 2024: Family Support Services Quarterly Meeting

The Statewide Family Support Services (FSS) has a representative from each of the local Family Support Services (FSS) Advisory Councils across the state. The local councils are made up of individuals with developmental disabilities and their family members. They plan, coordinate, and monitor the delivery of Family Support Services across the state.

Learning/Training Opportunities/Information Sessions:

Thursday, February 29, 2024 at 2:00 pm



Webinar through the Arc: Intersections of Disability and Rurality: Elevating Family Voices

- Participants will better understand the lived experiences of rural families in which both the caregiver and child have disability.
- Participants will be able to identify potential barriers to supports, resources, and services for caregivers with disabilities who are caring for children with disabilities.
- Participants will be equipped with suggestions for program, community, and policy changes to better support families with disabilities.

To register:

[Intersections of Disability and Rurality: Elevating Family Voices](#)



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From the NYS Department of Health

An Introduction to Working with People with Intellectual and/or Developmental Disabilities Across Health Care Settings

- This session outlines the barriers to care people with developmental disabilities face and introduce providers to working with people with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. Two experts in the field will speak to their experience working with people with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities and what providers need to do to treat people with culturally competent care.
- The session closes with a conversation with a person with lived experience so providers can hear directly from a person with a developmental disability on what they need when accessing the healthcare system.

How to watch the webcast/earn CE Credits:
[Recording from live Grand Rounds originally presented on December 15, 2023](#)

[Post test and Opportunity for Continuing Education Credits](#)

Disability Etiquette Public Health Training Course Description:

- Developed by the New York State Department of Health, this Disability Etiquette training provides information, tools, and strategies for everyone.
- If you interact with the public professionally, or personally, this training is for you. It will help you build confidence to interact with people with disabilities effectively and respectfully.

How to enroll:
https://www.health.ny.gov/community/disability/disability_etiquette_training.htm

Directions on how to enroll in the NYS Department of Health's Learning Management System (LMS) can also be found at this link.

OPWDD Front Door Information Sessions 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 offered remotely, either by WebEx or Phone Conference.

Upcoming sessions include:

In English:

- January 26, 2024
- February 1, 2024
- February 6, 2024

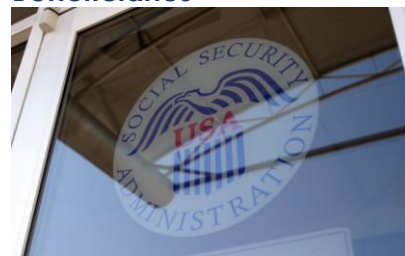
In Spanish:

- January 8, 2024

*Note: Information sessions are also available in other languages, including ASL.

To sign up for a session: [Front Door Information Sessions](#)

In the news:
Settlement Will Send Millions To SSI Beneficiaries



(via Disability Scoop)

"More than 2 million Supplemental Security Income recipients, including many with disabilities, who had their benefits reduced or discontinued during the pandemic will see relief under a new settlement.

The Social Security Administration has agreed to automatically waive many overpayments that occurred between March and September 2020 and the agency will refund individuals, as appropriate, if they have already repaid the funds.



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Remedies are also available for those who had benefit overpayments as recently as April 2023.

The steps are part of a nationwide settlement reached late last year to resolve a 2021 federal lawsuit that accused the Social Security Administration of wrongly slashing or cutting off SSI benefits during the COVID-19 pandemic."

For more see: [Settlement Will Send Millions To SSI Beneficiaries](#)

The Barbie Movie Adds A Unique Accessibility Option

In popular news, the Barbie Movie, which debuted on HBO Max added a new accessibility feature, an American Sign Language interpretation. The goal, to promote inclusivity to the deaf community. The movie was released on December 15, 2023 with this option featured for viewing.

For more see: [The Barbie Movie in ASL](#)

In the community:

Putnam Transition Consortium

On November 16, 2023, the Resource & Transition Fair was co-hosted by the Putnam Transition Consortium and Brewster Central School District. The fair included resources for education, recreation, training and employment, advocacy, etc.

Breakout workshops included the Transition Timeline, ACCES-VR, OPWDD and Mental Health Supports.

For access to the Putnam County Transition Guide: <https://www.putnamils.org/putnam-county-transition-resource-guide/>

Putnam County Sheriff's Office:



The Putnam County Sheriff's Office provides two services to individuals with disabilities in the community.

- **"Are You OK?"** is designed to help disabled citizens and seniors live their lives as they wish; safely and independently. The "Are You OK?" program is a telephone calling system operated by the PCSO. A computer system, or a member of the Sheriff's Office, calls each enrolled subscriber every day of the year at the same time of day. When the subscriber picks up the phone, they will hear a voice say, "Good morning, are you OK?" If the subscriber fails to answer the telephone after several attempts, or if there is a constant busy signal, a Sheriff's patrol car will be dispatched to the residence to check on the person's welfare.
- **Project Lifesaver** is a program designed to protect, and when needed, quickly locate individuals with cognitive disorders who are prone to wandering behaviors.

To inquire about these programs or obtain additional information, you can contact The Putnam County Sheriff's Office at (845)225-4300 or via website at [The Putnam County Sheriff's Office](#).