

# Transition for Alternatively Assessed Students: What Happens When the School Bus Stops

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# Westchester and Putnam Independent Living Centers

- The Westchester Independent Living Center, Inc. (WILC) was founded in 1980. WILC is a not-for-profit, community-based advocacy and resource center that serves people with all types of disabilities
- WILC's mission is two-pronged:
  - 1) to assist **individuals** with disabilities to become as independent as they can be and
  - 2) to work within the **community** to provide Education, Disability Awareness, and Advocacy for the Removal of Barriers.
  - <https://www.wilc.org/about-us/>
- List of WILC's Services and Programs
  - <https://www.wilc.org/>

# Parent Training and Information Center (PTIC)

- Our PTIC Services Include:
  - **Assistance with EI/CPSE/CSE Process Through Technical Assistance (via Phone and Email)**
  - **Training for parents & teachers**
    - <https://www.wilc.org/training-center/>
  - **Family Empowerment Advocacy Series**
    - (March 2024)



# Areas we cover

WILC/PILS covers the 7 counties of the lower Hudson Valley

- Dutchess
- Orange
- Putnam
- Rockland
- Sullivan
- Ulster
- Westchester



# Considerations before the Bus Stops

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- School Considerations
  - Skills and Achievement Commencement Credential (For Alternatively Assessed Students)
  - Students can remain in school until the day before they turn 22.
    - Waiting for state guidance on whether students can remain until June of the year they turn 22.
  - Review and make sure the coordinated set of transition activities on the IEP is appropriate to your loved one's situation. (age 15 and up)
- Why students should not age out early
  - School is an entitlement Adult Services are not
  - OPWDD will not allow early entrance into day habilitation programs
  - Lack of Day Habilitation Programs
  - Less Therapies in the Adult World
  - Not as much support available compared to public school



# Suggested Documents

- Guardianship or Supported Decision Making
- Driver's license
- Nondriver's ID (DMV)
- Males proof registered for draft
- Passport
- Medicaid Card
- Extra Insurance Card
- Last IEP
- Most Recent evaluations from the school
- Exit Summary
- Life Plan (CCM)
  - <https://opwdd.ny.gov/providers/what-life-plan>
  - [https://opwdd.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/01/4.12.19-staff-action-plan-adm-final\\_0.pdf](https://opwdd.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/01/4.12.19-staff-action-plan-adm-final_0.pdf)





# Activities to Consider While Still in School

- Meet with Care Coordination Manager
- Get a list of Day Habilitation Programs in your County
- Attend Transition Fairs
- Visit Day Habilitation Programs
  - Get on Waitlist
- Develop or Change Self-Direction Budget

# Key Players for Life After School

- **Person receiving services**
- Parents
- OPWDD – Office of People with Developmental Disabilities
  - <https://opwdd.ny.gov/>
- Care Coordination Organization (CCO)
  - <https://opwdd.ny.gov/providers/care-management>
  - [https://opwdd.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2021/05/cco-coverage-chart-5\\_4\\_21-.pdf](https://opwdd.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2021/05/cco-coverage-chart-5_4_21-.pdf)  
(CCO phone and website information)
- Care Coordination Manager (CCM)
- Agencies
  - <https://providerdirectory.opwdd.ny.gov/> (Can search by County)



# OPWDD Supports and Services:



- Family support services (Swim & Gym, Horseback Riding, Reimbursement)
- Therapies e.g. PT, OT, ABA
- After-school programs and summer camp
- Day and community habilitation programs
- Reimbursement for clothes
- Nursing services
- Medical, dental, and mental health services
- Residential programs
- Housing (at home, Independent, group homes)
- On-the-job coaching
- Behavior support
- Equipment e.g. oxygen tanks, crutches, wheelchairs
- Modifications to home
- Transportation to and from services
- Care coordination
- [https://opwdd.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2023/10/040\\_front-door-access-to-services\\_9\\_7\\_23.pdf](https://opwdd.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2023/10/040_front-door-access-to-services_9_7_23.pdf)

# Family Support Services (FSS)

Supports and services available for persons with a disability that are still living at home. Examples include:

- Therapeutic horseback riding
- Family reimbursement
- Swim & gym programs
- Parent & sibling support groups
- Respite
- Information & referral
- Social Group



# Care Coordination Agencies – Hudson Valley

- Care Design NY (Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster & Westchester Counties)
- LIFEPlan CCO (Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster & Westchester Counties)
- Tri-County Care (Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster & Westchester Counties)
- Advance Care Alliance of NY Inc. (Orange, Rockland & Westchester Counties)

[https://opwdd.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2021/05/cco-coverage-chart-5\\_4\\_21-.pdf](https://opwdd.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2021/05/cco-coverage-chart-5_4_21-.pdf)

# Day Habilitation and/ Or Self- Direction Combo

## Day Habilitation Programs

- OPWDD Eligibility
- Care Coordination Organization (CCO) – Care Coordination Manager (CCM)
- Males register for draft – age 18
- Visit Potential Day Habilitation Programs – CCM coordinates
- CCM Applies to Day Habilitation Programs – many have wait lists

## Type of Day Habilitation Programs

- Center Based
- WOW – Without Walls in the community

## Skills Needed for Acceptance into a Program may Vary

- ADLs and ADLs Assessment
- <https://opwdd.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/05/cas-summary-guidance-document-05.2020.pdf>

## Paid by

- Straight Medicaid
- Self-Direction
- Combo

# Activities of Daily Living Skills



<u>Daily Function</u>	<u>Independent</u>	<u>Needs Assistance</u>	<u>Dependent</u>	<u>Cannot Do</u>
Getting Dressed				
Bathing				
Oral Healthcare				
Brushing Hair				
Using the toilet				
Eating				
Walking				
Climbing Stairs				
Getting into/out of bed or a chair				

# Self- Direction

- OPWDD Eligibility
- Care Coordination Manager Assist with Application
- Once Approved by OPWDD Need
  - Fiscal Intermediary
  - Broker
- Available to all with OPWDD Eligibility
- Can be utilized while in School for after-school/weekend activities/programs
- Can be utilized after aging out of school

# Issues Parents Face when Their Loved One is High Needs and/or Behavioral

- Waitlists for Existing Day Habilitation Programs
- Not enough Day Habilitation Programs for those with High Needs and/or Behaviors
- BCBA's not on staff
- Most New Programs were WOWs – Without Walls
- Day Habilitation Programs are short-staffed
- Direct Service Personnel (DSP) low pay rate
- Per ZipRecruiter NYS DSPs
  - The average hourly pay for a Direct Support Professional is \$17.56/hr.
  - The majority of DSPs make between \$15.77 - \$19.18/hr.
  - Target Cashier in Rockland County \$17.25/hr.
  - Fast Food Team Member \$17 – 18.50/hr.
- Lack of appropriate Group Home Spots
- Increase in the number of persons needing support and services

# Be a Voice for Change



- Join NYADD  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/NYADD>
- Meet with your Assembly Member
  - <https://nyassembly.gov/mem/search/>
- NYS Assembly Committees
  - People with Disabilities
  - <https://nyassembly.gov/comm/?id=158>
- Attend OPWDD Meetings
  - Developmental Disabilities Advisory Council (DDAC)
    - <https://opwdd.ny.gov/developmental-disabilities-advisory-council-ddac>
  - Statewide Family Support Services Committee (FSS)
    - <https://opwdd.ny.gov/statewide-family-support-services-committee-fss>
  - Parent Advisory FSS Councils

# Parent Advisory FSS Councils

FSS Advisory Councils meet quarterly to represent the needs of local individuals and families and to work in partnership with the DDRO to plan, develop and monitor FSS programs in that area. To learn more, contact your regional office:

## Front Door Office Rockland

[845-947-6390](tel:845-947-6390)

County served: Rockland

## Front Door Office Orange & Sullivan

[845-695-7330](tel:845-695-7330)

## Front Door Office Westchester

[914-332-8960](tel:914-332-8960)

## Front Door Office Upper Hudson Valley

[845-473-5050](tel:845-473-5050) x 167

Counties served: Columbia, Dutchess, Greene, Putnam, Ulster



