



**The State of New York
Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities**

***Announces a series of Public Forums for the
Statewide Comprehensive Plan: 2009 – 2013***

“We help people with developmental disabilities live richer lives.”

The New York State Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (OMRDD) is pleased to announce that it will be conducting a series of Public Forums to gather information for the development of the

OMRDD Statewide Comprehensive Plan for Services for the Period 2009 through 2013.

OMRDD will incorporate the ideas, suggestions, and comments received through these Public Forums to update the 2008 Statewide Comprehensive Plan to cover the upcoming five year period 2009 through 2013. The 2008 Plan documented OMRDD’s strategic mission and vision. As a result, OMRDD developed many activities and initiatives that reflect its mission statement, “We help people with developmental disabilities live richer lives” and its vision to assist people to enjoy meaningful relationships, experience health and growth, live in the home of their choice, and fully participate in their communities. The 2008 Comprehensive Plan, corresponding Strategic Framework and subsequent Interim Report can be reviewed on the OMRDD web site at <http://www.omr.state.ny.us/507plan/index.jsp>.

Now OMRDD wants to hear from self-advocates, parents of people with developmental disabilities, other family members, non-profit providers, professionals, advocates, and other interested parties about how well our system of services and supports is achieving its mission, and how the system can further improve. OMRDD is particularly interested in hearing about the following themes, but commentary is not limited solely to these themes.

- 1. Given the current fiscal downturn the federal and state governments are experiencing, what are the most important needs we should be addressing?**
- 2. Tell us about what is working well across the state. What should we be trying to do more of?**
- 3. What steps can we take to make the developmental disabilities service system more person centered and individualized? How can we make change happen?**
- 4. How can we support more people with developmental disabilities to be employed?**
- 5. How do we achieve quality delivery of services while maximizing cost effectiveness and efficiency?**
- 6. If you are a person with a developmental disability, what supports do you most need to live the life you want?**

Speakers will be asked to register in advance of the forum, limit their comments to no more than three (3) minutes, and bring two (2) copies of the testimony. Written testimony can also be submitted to Cynthia Redshaw at OMRDD, 44 Holland Avenue, Albany, NY 12229.

Please also note that for the first time, OMRDD is collecting information for the Plan through a very brief survey of priorities that can be accessed at its website www.omr.state.ny.us. Please take a few minutes to complete that anonymous survey, especially if you cannot participate in the Forums or do not wish to submit written testimony.

State of New York Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities

PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST



A schedule of the Public Forum dates, times and locations is listed below.
Please register using the following contact information. Speaker opportunities are limited; the DDSO will confirm individuals and times prior to the Forum.

A video synopsis of the forums can be viewed online at www.omr.state.ny.us following the events.

*For general information about the Public Forums, please contact
OMRDD's Bureau of Planning:*

Phone: (518) 474-4904 Fax: (518) 473-0054 E-mail: cynthia.redshaw@omr.state.ny.us

2009 – 2013 OMRDD Statewide Comprehensive Plan: Public Forum Schedule

(To register, obtain more information or directions to the hearing location, or to arrange for a special accommodation, please contact the person for that forum as noted below.)

These Forums will be held at multiple locations in the state and will be conducted as live video conferences with Commissioner Diana Jones Ritter. * The Commissioner will be in attendance at the New York City, Schenectady and Rochester locations and will be participating via video-conference at all other locations.

Monday, June 8, 2009 – 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm

NYC*: Metro NY DDSO, Activities Center, 75 Morton Street

(Contact: Yvonne Anglero (212) 229-3081 or yvonne.anglero@omr.state.ny.us)

Tupper Lake: Sunmount DDSO, Main Video Conference Room, 2445 State Rt. 30

(Contact: Jacci Gardner (518) 359-4125 or jacqueline.gardner@omr.state.ny.us)

Syracuse: Central NY DDSO, Auditorium, 800 South Wilbur Avenue

(Contact: Valerie Bushey (315) 473-6976 or valerie.bushey@omr.state.ny.us)

Wednesday, June 10, 2009 – 4 pm to 6 pm

Schenectady*: Capital District DDSO, Building 3, Room 2, Balltown and Consaul Roads

(Contact: Karen Francisco (518) 370-7429 or karen.francisco@omr.state.ny.us)

Hauppauge: Long Island DDSO, Multipurpose Room, 415-A Oser Avenue Building

(Contact: Dave Robbins (631) 493-1769 or david.a.robbins@omr.state.ny.us)

West Seneca: Western NY DDSO, Samuel Feinstein Building 16, Room 1-153, 1200 East and West Road

(Contact: Debby McElwain (716) 517-3831 or deborah.mcelwain@omr.state.ny.us)

Monday, June 15, 2009 – 3 pm to 5:30 pm

Rochester*: Finger Lakes DDSO, Room 3/4, 620 Westfall Road

(Contact: Tracey Scott (585)241-5729 or tracey.l.scott@omr.state.ny.us)

Pamela Lane (585)241-5768 or pamela.lane@omr.state.ny.us)

Kingston: Taconic DDSO, 521 Boices Lane

(Contact: Ann Woody (845) 471-9226 x142 or ann.woody@omr.state.ny.us)

Binghamton: Broome DDSO, Theatre, 249 Glenwood Road

(Contact: Joseph Mahon (607) 770-0255 or joseph.mahon@omr.state.ny.us)

Thiells: Hudson Valley DDSO, Room 11, 5 Wilbur Road

(Contact: Rodger Hughes (845) 947-6076 or rodger.hughes@omr.state.ny.us)