



2023 SANYS Policy Statement

Increased Pay for Direct Support Workers

The direct support workforce for OPWDD services and for CDPA continues to be in absolute crisis, and many people are struggling without staff.

We want:

- An 8.5% Cost of Living Adjustment increase for service providers to pay staff
- A Direct Support Wage Enhancement to directly fund increases in DSP wages
- Increased wages for direct support staff working under the CDPA Program

Medicaid Buy-In

The Medicaid Buy-in program helps people with disabilities to continue to receive services while being employed in their community. This program should be expanded, and not limited.

We want:

- No cap on the number of participants
- No increased premiums

Housing and Transportation Investments

A lack of affordable housing and reliable transportation is putting people with disabilities at risk and making it harder for them to live in community settings.

We want:

- Increased funding for affordable housing that is accessible and in mixed-income communities of people's choice
- Increased funding for transportation and paratransit infrastructure, especially in rural communities
- Transportation and housing planning that includes people with developmental disabilities

CDPA Eligibility

The ability of people with disabilities to use CDPA services and supports to live in the community is at risk because of eligibility restrictions and changes.

We want:

#RestoreHomeCare by repealing recent eligibility changes that make it more difficult for people with disabilities to receive this service

Cameras in OPWDD Programs

Advocacy to mandate cameras in OPWDD programs has come about because of concerns about abuse prevention and detection, but these proposals would harm people's right to privacy. Choice, Equality, and Respect are core values at SANYS, and mandating cameras would not be consistent with those values.

We want:

- Cameras should only be used in programs at the request and with the consent of the people served in those spaces.
- Review and improvement of staff sensitivity and abuse prevention trainings.
- Offer abuse prevention, awareness, and reporting training to people receiving services, family members, and advocates
- Investments in a stable, professional workforce to prevent stressors which contribute to abuse and neglect.

Ombudsman Program

We fully support the Governor's proposal to establish an ombudsman program to provide advocacy services for people receiving services from OPWDD.