

INFORMATION memorandum



NEW YORK STATE OFFICE FOR THE AGING
Bldg. 2, Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12223-0001

No: 90-IM-15		Date: 2/16/90	
TO: [*] AREA AGENCY ON AGING DIRECTORS [*] Nutrition Program Directors []		Programs Affected: [*] III-B [*] III-C-1 [*] III-C-2 [] III-D [] SNAP [] CSE [] ELSEP [] EPIC [*] RPE [] HEAP [] OTHER:	
Subject: A) SOA/OMRDD Memorandum of Understanding B) SOA Aging/DD Training & Tech. Assistance		Contact Person(s) - Phone Number(s) Philip LePore (518) 486-2727	
Response Due Date: February 28, 1990		For Your Information:	

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Information Memorandum is to announce:

- A. the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the State Office for the Aging (SOA) and the State Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (OMRDD) to cooperate on offering services to elderly persons with developmental disabilities.
- B. the provision of training and technical assistance by SOA and OMRDD, to assist Aging and DD Agencies interested in serving developmentally disabled older persons in community aging service programs.
- C. the intent of OMRDD to request its district offices (DDSO's) to solicit and enter into agreements at the local level to implement the planning, service delivery and cost sharing provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding.

SOA/OMRDD MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

The SOA MOU with OMRDD is the result of a successful 4 year interagency relationship designed to expand options and improve the quality of life for older persons with developmental disabilities. During that period SOA joined with OMRDD in conducting a project which tested the feasibility of serving older persons with developmental disabilities in community aging programs such as senior nutrition, senior center programs, and senior day care programs. The successful integration demonstration projects were conducted in Erie, Cattaraugus, Madison and Monroe counties.

The resulting SOA/OMRDD MOU affirms State statutes and Federal OAA amendments recognizing the eligibility of older persons who are developmentally disabled to participate and receive services in community aging programs. Key points addressed in the MOU (copy attached) concern the following:

- o covering additional costs of providing services for persons with developmental disabilities by OMRDD.
- o planning and coordination; sharing technical information and training resources.
- o advocacy on behalf of older persons with developmental disabilities.

The MOU, one of the first in the country, formalizes the cooperation and coordination which has existed between the SOA and OMRDD and establishes a model agreement which can be used to guide aging office efforts at the county and regional level.

ROLE OF LOCAL OFFICES FOR THE AGING

Under the MOU, local Offices for the Aging are encouraged to join with OMRDD district offices and community agencies serving the Developmentally Disabled, in planning and coordinating services for older persons who are developmentally disabled.

SOA AGING/DD TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE INITIATIVE

The SOA Training and Technical Assistance Initiative is a formal information and assistance effort designed to help both aging and DD community agencies serve older developmentally disabled people who have the potential to benefit from participation in nutrition programs, senior center programs and senior day care programs. The Initiative is being coordinated with State OMRDD and is funded by the State Developmental Disabilities Planning Council. It is an outgrowth of the successful SOA Integration feasibility project in which over 70 older persons with developmental disabilities were integrated into 17 community aging program sites.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

Under this Initiative, OMRDD Central and District Office staff and SOA staff will be available to provide on-site assistance to both local aging and disability programs to resolve problems and facilitate the coordination of services.

AGING/DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY REGIONAL WORKSHOPS OFFERED

Regional workshops are being scheduled to provide information about the process for integrating developmentally disabled older persons into community aging programs.

The workshops will:

- o **profile the successful aging program integration demonstrations.**
- o **explain the benefits of having older developmentally disabled persons participate in community aging programs.**
- o **examine the functional differences and similarities in normal and DD elderly which make aging program participation a benefit for some older developmentally disabled persons.**
- o **provide opportunity for aging and DD program people to share information about their systems and discuss how they can work together.**
- o **provide the "How to" information needed for aging program site selection, participant selection and integration methodology.**
- o **provide a regional forum for discussing barrier resolution and strategies which can expand programming opportunities for older persons who are developmentally disabled.**
- o **explore funding options and cooperative programming options such serving non DD elderly in new OMRDD senior day program models (OMRDD's demonstration senior day care programming).**

CALL NOW TO REGISTER INTEREST

Aging/Developmental Disability Integration Workshops are now being scheduled. If you would like more information or to attend a workshop in your area, please call Philip LePore, (518) 486-2727.

**Memorandum of Understanding
Relative to Older New Yorkers With a Developmental Disability
Between the New York State Office for the Aging
and
The New York State Office of Mental Retardation
and Developmental Disabilities**

This agreement is entered into by and between the New York State Office for the Aging (SOA) acting by and through the Director with Offices at 2 Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12223, and the New York State Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (OMRDD) acting by and through the Commissioner with offices at 44 Holland Avenue, Albany, NY 12229.

Whereas OMRDD is the state agency responsible for providing residential and community services for persons with a developmental disability in New York State, and

Whereas SOA is the state agency responsible for implementing and stimulating programs and policies both through the aging network and other state agencies on behalf of all older New Yorkers, and

Whereas aging network means agencies which receive monies administered by the SOA, and

Whereas the State and recent federal Older Americans Act amendments recognize the increasing number of older persons with a developmental disability, and

Whereas older New Yorkers with a developmental disability are eligible for aging network services, and

Whereas both agencies agree that the integration of capable older New Yorkers with a developmental disability within aging network programs is feasible and warranted, and

Whereas SOA and OMRDD believe a coordinated multi-agency approach can more effectively meet the needs of older New Yorkers with a developmental disability, SOA and OMRDD agree:

- to establish and maintain an interagency services coordination committee to address issues of common concern, coordinate planning and services, and resolve problems;

- to encourage local coordination of planning, needs identification, and development of services between local Offices for the Aging and OMRDD district offices and/or constituent provider agencies;

- to establish mechanisms for coordinating funding of services to older New Yorkers with a developmental disability including ensuring coverage of the additional costs stemming from provision of services such as supplemental staff assistance, transportation, or other activities within aging network services;

- to assist local Offices for the Aging and OMRDD district offices or its constituent agencies to develop arrangements for reimbursement of additional of aging network services;

- to establish mechanisms to cover services reporting and case record sharing requirements;

- to assist each other by sharing technical information, training resources, and providing cross-training to agencies providing services to older New Yorkers with a developmental disability within both networks; to cooperate on common projects involving grant or other external funding that would benefit older New Yorkers with a developmental disability; and

- to encourage New York's colleges and universities to address the issues of aging among New York's older population of persons with a developmental disability.

Therefore, SOA and OMRDD agree to the following:

Office for the Aging agrees, only to the extent resources are available, to:

- request the State's local Offices for the Aging to enter into a planning process with the relevant OMRDD district office on specific service projects, and such planning processes would include not only the local developmental disability and aging offices, but also older adults from the planning and service areas;
- share technical resources, such as videos, films and publications, free of charge, with OMRDD and its district offices;
- provide technical assistance in relevant areas to OMRDD, its district offices and constituent agencies;
- engage in advocacy activities on behalf of older New Yorkers with a developmental disability;
- facilitate the assimilation of disability agency senior programs into the local aging network;
- enter into cooperative endeavors that would benefit older New Yorkers with a developmental disability and their families; and
- request the state's colleges and university-based centers of aging or geriatric education centers to develop intramural and extramural activities related to aging and developmental disabilities.

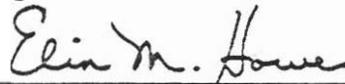
OMRDD agrees, only to the extent resources are available, to:

- request OMRDD district offices to enter into a planning process with the state's local Offices for the Aging on specific service projects;
- share technical resources, such as videos, films, and publications, free of charge, with SOA and the state's local Offices for the Aging;
- provide technical assistance in relevant areas to SOA and the state's local Offices for the Aging;
- engage in advocacy activities on behalf of older New Yorkers with a developmental disability;
- enter into cooperative endeavors that would benefit older New Yorkers with a developmental disability and their families;
- share information on available funding support to aging network programs specifically or individually serving older New Yorkers with a developmental disability;
- agree to assume the additional costs of providing services within aging network programs for older New Yorkers with a developmental disability;
- assume the responsibility of recordkeeping and reporting requirements, set by OMRDD, for older New Yorkers in aging network programs and services for whom such requirements apply; and
- to cooperate in cross-training endeavors directed toward local programs.

This memorandum of understanding is effective on the 31 day of JANUARY, 1990 and shall be in effect until terminated by mutual agreement.



by Jade G. Gould
Director, State Office for the Aging



by Elin M. Howe
Acting Commissioner, State Office of Mental Retardation
and Developmental Disabilities