

Registration Now Open: New Series – Office of Developmental Programs’ (ODP) Policy Division Virtual Meeting & Conversations with Individuals & Families

ODP Announcement 23-052

AUDIENCE:

Individuals, Caregivers, Family Members, and/or Legal Guardians (referred to as “individuals and families” throughout the communication) who wish to learn the basics about the services available through ODP’ Home and Community-Based Services Waivers (HCBS) for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and/or Autism (IDD/A)

Please note:

- This webinar/conversation is not for professionals, it is specifically for the stakeholders listed above.
- ****ODP is asking and encouraging Supports Coordinators, Administrative Entities, Individual and Family Organizations, etc. to share this communication with any individual and family they support.***

PURPOSE:

Information is often delivered in a way that makes more sense to providers than to individuals and families. ODP wants to begin closing that gap by providing a series of meetings intended for individuals and families to provide an opportunity for them to learn about topics of interest and ask questions or provide comments to people who work in ODP policy.

This series of virtual meetings and conversations will be on topics prepared by ODP through a webinar format (using a PowerPoint) but will be a conversational event between individuals and families and ODP’s Policy Division. These meetings are intended to be informal, meaning the conversation will not be recorded and rules will

be set before the meeting starts to ensure everyone feels comfortable and safe to provide questions, comments, etc. relating to the topic.

DISCUSSION:

ODP is excited to announce the first meeting and conversation event with individuals and families who are interested in learning more about the basics of ODP. These sessions will provide a general overview of topics such as (but not limited to):

- What is ODP?
- What is an HCBS Waiver and why do we have them in Pennsylvania?
- What is policy and why is it important to and for you?
- What types of services are available in ODP's waivers?
- Who is eligible to receive the services in the waivers?
- What is a waiver amendment?
- Why is it important for me to share my thoughts about policy changes?

ODP intends to have one of these sessions every couple of months, with a new topic each time. At these meetings, individuals and families can expect to be provided educational information by ODP Policy in a conversational environment specifically about the topic discussed.

The first topic will be: "What is ODP? What is an HCBS Waiver and Why do We Have Them?" and will be held **Tuesday, July 25th, 2023** from **5:30 PM - 7:00 PM**. The link to register is at [Virtual Conversations and Meetings: What is ODP? What is an HCBS Waiver and Why Do We Have Them?](#)

Topics and links to subsequent sessions will be provided at a later date.

Questions about this Individual & Family Conversations with ODP Policy Staff Series can be directed to: [RA- ODPCOMMENT@PA.GOV](mailto:RA-ODPCOMMENT@PA.GOV).