



New York State Association of  
Health Care Providers, Inc.

*Representing home care and related services since 1974.*

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## **Most Integrated Setting Coordinating Council**

The Most Integrated Setting Coordinating Council (MISCC) was established to explore and recommend ways to ensure New Yorkers with disabilities receive services in the most integrated settings appropriate to their individual needs. The Council, a statutorily established group, is charged with implementing the Olmstead Decision in New York State. (*Olmstead* requires states to administer their Medicaid services, programs and activities “in the most integrated setting appropriate to the needs of qualified individuals with disabilities.”) MISCC is committed to enhancing New York's commitment to developing an approach to providing services in integrated settings that are appropriate to the individual needs of citizens with disabilities. In forums conducted statewide over the summer of 2004, MISCC members noted the need for more opportunities for placements in community-based settings where appropriate, rather than in institutionally-based nursing homes.

Council members represent a variety of State agencies including: the Office of Mental Health, Department of Health, State Office for Aging, Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, Education Department, Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services, Division of Housing and Community Renewal, Department of Transportation, Office of Children and Family Services, Office of the Advocate for Persons with Disabilities, and the Commission on Quality Care for the Mentally Disabled.

In order to reach its goals, MISCC established four committees:

**Data**, charged with collecting data including waiting list data and recommended improvements to data collection.

**Assessment Procedures**, charged with taking inventory of current assessment procedures and recommending actions with regard to single assessment process.

**Community Services**, charged taking inventory of community-based services and their funding streams and recommending how to improve the system to ensure that it is comprehensive and accessible, including considerations of public information and outreach.

**Quality Assurance & Improvement**, charged with examining evaluation of services for each disability group to achieve most integrated setting.

MISCC held four Constituent Forums across the state in 2004 to ascertain community needs and best practices. At an Albany constituent forum in July, HCP President Phyllis Wang presented recommendations on to how to further enhance the State's existing home and community-based care system to best serve individuals with disabilities while allowing them to live safely and comfortably in their homes and communities. Her comments also focused on providing funding for the increased use of telemedicine technology, adequate reimbursement for home care to allow the services needed to be provided, and the creation of health and safety requirements for consumer directed care models similar to the requirements home care must follow. Wang also recommended that home care be given greater flexibility in the services it can provide to these individuals.

By the end of 2004, the various MISCC committees had submitted preliminary reports to the full council for review and discussion. The preliminary reports are not available, as MISCC would like to reach some level of consensus before distributing the report to the public. MISCC intends to release a report of its findings and recommendations in the near future. There was significant discussion among the group that the final report provide specific direction to State agencies and tangible goals rather than general guidelines and principles to ensure that agencies implement policy changes that both assist with the transition of patients out of institutional facilities and prevent institutionalization when that is appropriate.

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