



## *Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Association of New York State*

### **Talking Points - Save CDPA**

- New York has given seniors and people with disabilities options that empower them to take control of their care. The program allows people to take control of their life by taking control of needed services, from preparation of meals to complex nursing tasks. Now, because the program has gotten so popular, the State wants to take the choice away.
- CDPA is growing for two reasons. First, it works – research shows people get the same or better care for less money and are more satisfied. Second, it is the primary way in which the state and managed care plans are dealing with the worst in the nation home care workforce crisis, where parts of the state are already a “home care desert” and, by 2021, we are expected to be short 20,000 workers. This is not the time to endanger the jobs of about 110,000 workers doing this job today.
- Governor Cuomo’s proposed cuts would lead to the elimination of the program and be disastrous for the senior and disabled New Yorkers. Nine out of every ten agencies would be closed by the Department of Health right away – creating a devastating continuity of care issue for the tens of thousands of people who will lose their agency and sending waves of unease across local economies throughout the state.
- The Governor also proposes draconian cuts that he is trying to pass off as “restructuring.” In reality, this “restructuring” would cut the administrative component of the reimbursement rate by over 80% in the best case scenario, putting the few FIs that remain out of business.
- This cut comes from a lack of understanding about what it is that agencies actually do. The Governor maintains they are “just payroll;” but, in a FI does so much more. FIs help consumers work within the program and resolve issues, they protect taxpayers funds with increasingly complex Medicaid compliance and fraud detection services, they help consumers learn how to be better employers, and more. The FI is a full-service agency that, while it might not provide health care services, is a critical part of the consumer’s health care team.
- The ultimate goal seems to be for the state to contract with one Fiscal Intermediary. In other states, they have used Public Partnerships, Ltd., a Massachusetts company that just contracted with New York for the small Nursing Home Transition and Diversion Waiver and the Traumatic Brain Injury Waiver programs. A limited bid process with no defined criteria, as the Governor proposes for a “statewide entity” contracted to provide CDPA would easily allow the Governor to move this out of state company into CDPA here.
- Two of the biggest problems in healthcare – language barriers and cultural barriers – are eliminated by CDPA. When consumers hire who they want, they hire people that speak their language and understand their culture.

**ASK: Will you oppose the devastating cuts to Consumer Direction and make sure that the Assembly/Senate budget rejects them?**

*CDPAANYS is the only statewide association solely representing fiscal intermediaries, consumers and personal assistants in Consumer Directed Personal Assistance (CDPA). For more information, please contact us at 518-813-9537 or [bryan@cdpaanys.org](mailto:bryan@cdpaanys.org).*