

September 2018

ISS Newsletter

An Independent Support Services Publication

Self-Direction: Make Your Own Path



Hi everyone! Welcome to the September ISS Newsletter. A quarterly summary of recent news, helpful hints, tips and inspiring stories.

***Note:** We have signed you up for our newsletter in the hopes that you will find value in its content and that it will aid you in your goals to grow and thrive. You may opt out at any time by clicking on 'unsubscribe' at the bottom of this newsletter.*

IN THIS ISSUE

I Am Self-Directed

QA/CC News

In the Spotlight

Family Liaison

HR Buzz

FAQs

Announcements/Events

I AM SELF-DIRECTED

Marisa Rubin



What Self-Direction means to me

Self Direction for me means that I am able to do the things I want, which is working at my 2 jobs and planning regular social events with my friends. My staff make it possible for me to get around.

A key event in my life

The key event in my life was moving in to my own apartment. I love working in my kitchen practicing my culinary skills. I also know mostly everyone in my community,

because I see people at the community pool and while jogging in my community.

My favorite recreation

My favorite recreation is jogging around my community. I know this is a healthy activity for fitness.

My latest accomplishment

My latest accomplishment is baking cookies and no-bake truffles that I give as gifts when I'm invited to a friend's house.

One thing most people do not know about me

The one thing most people don't know about me is that I work very hard at practicing healthy eating habits and staying in shape.



Advice I would give someone thinking about or starting in Self-Direction

Definitely do it! I wish all my old friends that are not in Self Direction would join. It's a great way to learn new things and grow!

Where do I see myself in the future

In the future, I would like to be able to take trips with my family and friends, and continue to work and save money to do the things I enjoy.

Quality Assurance/Corporate Compliance

Our new confidential hotline # 833-477-7287

External Email Address: qualityassurance@issny.org; Internal ISS Admin.

Contact Group: "ISSQACC"



Everyone deserves the right to choose their own path in life, to follow their dreams and desires unique to their interests and goals, and to be independent thinkers and doers. This is one of many Self-Direction stories that demonstrates the success of providing individuals with the opportunity to pursue their own happiness and choose their own path.

Rachel Kaplan



Tell us a little bit about yourself

I began Self-Direction when it was just beginning as an official program. We wanted to find a way for me to go to college after leaving high school. A camp I decided to go to was on a farm and I really liked working and living there. I like everything about farming because there is always something new to do. You waste no time at the farm. I am also interested in tai chi and in baking and in the sciences.

How long have you been Self-Directing?

I have been self directing for almost twelve years.

What is your favorite thing about Self-Direction?

Sheila and I met at the farm.

Is there anything you don't like about it?

No

If you could pick one thing in self direction that's made a difference in your ability to be independent , what would that be?

Farming has taught me to give back to the community.



What advice would you give others who are considering Self-Direction?

Self-Direction is the single most important thing that you will ever do in your life. it gives you the ability to live independently.



Family Liaison

Highlights from the ISS Parent Council meetings held on March 29 and July 24

In March 2018, Independent Support Services launched its first ever Parent Council, with the purpose of bringing representatives from ISS families and ISS together. The goal is to discuss common issues encountered while receiving services, collaborate and brainstorm practical solutions. The response to the past two meetings has resulted in some immediate changes, while other concerns are being addressed.

Finding Staff

In response to this concern, ISS has amended Opportunities, the weekly eblast to families looking for support staff, to include more regions with an emphasis on specific counties. Additionally, we are now accepting “job wanted ads” from families or participants in search of staff. These eblasts are distributed to all those who subscribe to Opportunities, every Friday afternoon. Other options are also being explored.

ISS Portal Difficulties (on the website)

The budget expenditure summary has been updated.

Staff Clearance – between FI’s and/or other agencies

Protocol for staff clearance is under the category of “not in our control.” Each FI must clear their own staff regardless of previous clearances. Support staff serving participants under 18 years of age need further clearance. These criteria are set by New York state. Clearance times are also beyond our control. However, when support staff are diligent with answering requests from the ISS Human Resources (HR) department, the clearance time can decrease significantly.

Staff Trainings

As the FI, we are not responsible for the individual training of support staff,

based on the need of the participant. In Self-Direction, it is the responsibility of the circle of support (COS) to address the individual training needs required to support them. Budget lines such as, clinical and non-direct are available should staff require training beyond what the COS can provide.

Support staff training is a requirement of The Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD). All new staff are required to complete eleven trainings, which are sent by HR 90 days after their date of hire. These trainings must be completed within 45 days of receipt. These online trainings relate to OPWDD guidelines. Annual updates are required as well.

Additional mandatory training is required for Supported Employment (SEMP) Job Developers and Job Coaches. These are offered by OPWDD. Four, six hour sessions, totaling 24 hours are required within the first year. Six hours of maintenance training is required annually, thereafter. If trainings are not completed, the Job Developers and Job Coaches will lose the ability to work until they satisfy the requirements.

Parent Training

As a result of parent council brainstorming, the inception of the **Parent Training Committee** has been established. The committee consists of members across all ISS departments, with the goal of designing user friendly resources for participants and caregivers, to help them maintain their individualized plans. While this committee is in its infancy stage, input from the parent council is a vital component to ascertaining the most common obstacles and difficulties faced in Self-Direction.

Thanks to all the volunteer parents who attended these meetings.
Your input is of great value to us.

Interested in volunteering for the ISS Parent Council? Stay tuned for emails coming your way about a month prior to the scheduled meeting date, which will convene either in late October or early November.



Payroll/Human Resources

Please remember:

- For participants that live in IRAs, Community Habilitation staff cannot provide over 6 hours of Community Habilitation service on any day. Services must be provided on weekdays and the services must start before 3pm.
- If a participant is hospitalized for any reason, Community Habilitation or

Respite Services cannot be provided while the participant is in the hospital.

- Supported Employment Staff (Job Developers and Job Coaches) are required to take OPWDD's Innovations in Employment Support Training's to maintain their position. In addition to the initial training's, they are required to annually take 6 hours of continuing education. All Staff that provide these services have been sent information to complete these training's. Please contact Human Resources for additional information.

Resources

Need more information? Click on a link below:

Corporate Compliance Hotline:
833.477.7287

www.siblingresources.org

[OPWDD Self Direction](#)

[Social Security](#)

[SANYS](#)

[NYS Self-Determination Coalition](#)

[NYS Parent to Parent](#)

Announcements

All New and Improved Website is now **LIVE!**
WWW.ISSNY.ORG

// CONNECT WITH US //



Newsletter comments or suggestions welcome:
Newsletter@issny.org

Independent Support Services provides self-directed, person-centered, individualized supports to people with developmental disabilities, to assist them in making choices that will lead them to realizing their dreams and improving their lives.