



**Office for People With
Developmental Disabilities**

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

KERRI E. NEIFELD
Commissioner

VIA USPS CERTIFIED MAIL & EMAIL

March 23, 2023

Ms. Lorecilda Barcelona, Executive Director
2082 Lexington Ave
4th Floor
New York, NY 10035

Mr. Johnny C. Rivera, Board President
333 East 100th Street
New York, NY 10029

Dear Ms. Barcelona and Mr. Rivera:

The purpose of this letter is to formally notify you that Sinergia, Inc. was placed on Early Alert effective March 17, 2023, due to significant compliance issues identified by the Bureau of Fiscal Reporting and Data Analysis.

To ensure that individuals with developmental disabilities in New York State receive appropriate services and protections, the Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) has established an internal Early Alert Committee. The purpose of the Early Alert process is to monitor the performance of a provider that has been unable to sustain compliance with applicable laws and regulations and/or has significant fiscal issues that may affect the health and safety of individuals receiving services. OPWDD has placed your agency on Early Alert due to the fiscal concerns detailed below:

A review of Sinergia's July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022, Financial Statements identified the following issues:

- A "Going Concern" issue was disclosed.
- Sinergia, Inc. is out of compliance with a DASNY Bond covenant. The agency has until June 30, 2023, to prove compliance.
- Sinergia, Inc. reduced their net assets to \$682,602 which represents a 50 percent decrease in one year. The agency has negative working capital of (\$1,653,235). The Agency's Current Ratio is 0.648:1.
- Sinergia, Inc. realized its eighth consecutive deficit from OPWDD services.

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Additionally,

- The billing and claims audit resulted in a \$762K disallowance pending OMIG release. There was a 59% error rate found in the sampled claims. Recoupments will have an impact on Sinergia's cash flow.
- Sinergia, Inc, is unable to provide first and second quarter financials until March 2023.

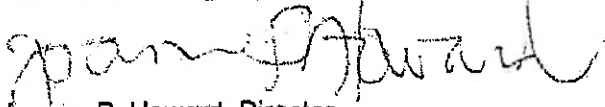
While on Early Alert, OPWDD will monitor the Agency's progress and will determine whether your agency can remediate deficient practices and maintain compliance going forward. While in Early Alert status, OPWDD will not consider any Agency requests for expansion of services and may suspend any expansion that is in process.

Representatives from OPWDD will meet with Agency leadership and the Board of Directors to further discuss the Early Alert process and OPWDD's expectations. This meeting will be scheduled at a time that is convenient for the agency and the Board. If you have any questions prior to the meeting, please contact Joanne P. Howard, Director, Fiscal Reporting at: Joanne.Howard@opwdd.ny.gov or (518) 402-4275.

Sincerely,



Megan O'Connor-Hebert
Deputy Commissioner
Division of Quality Improvement



Joanne P. Howard, Director
Fiscal Reporting

cc: Sinergia, Inc. Board of Directors
Kerri E. Neifeld, Commissioner, OPWDD
Mary Jane Vogel, Deputy Director, Bureau of Program Certification, and Incident Management
Maryellen Moeser, Deputy Director, Continuous Quality Improvement and Strategic Initiatives
Brian O'Donnell, Statewide Director, Bureau of Program Certification
Abiba Kindo, Deputy Commissioner, Service Delivery
Deborah Ellis, Director, Statewide Operations
Eileen Haynes, Deputy Commissioner and General Counsel, OPWDD
Joshua Olsen, Deputy General Counsel, OPWDD
Robert Borchers, Deputy Director, Office of Audit Services
Joanne Howard, Director, Fiscal Reporting and Data Analysis
Delia Tucker, Region 4 Director, Service Delivery
AnnMarie Peterson, Associate Commissioner, Service Delivery
Barbara VanVechten, Statewide Director, Continuous Quality Improvement, and Incident Management
Ellie Smith, Director, Continuous Quality Improvement
Michele Schwartz, Area Director, Continuous Quality Improvement
Meg Adams, Assistant Director of Incident Management Unit
Richard Cicero, Director of Internal Controls, Office of Audit Services
Earl Jefferson, Director, Central Operations

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