



Office for People With Developmental Disabilities

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

KERRI E. NEIFELD
Commissioner

WILLOW BAER
Executive Deputy Commissioner

January 5, 2024

(VIA USPS CERTIFIED MAIL & EMAIL)

Vanril Brown, Executive Director
Social Action Center, Inc.
665 Pelham Parkway North
Suite 401
Bronx, NY 10467

Una Wright, President, Board of Directors
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Re: Agency Placement on Early Alert

Dear Mr. Brown and Ms. Wright:

The purpose of this letter is to formally notify you that Social Action Center, Inc. was placed on Early Alert effective December 15, 2023, due to fiscal concerns identified by the Division of Fiscal Policy and Management and the Office of Audit Services regarding the agency's financial condition.

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 not achieved and maintained 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 following fiscal concerns identified by OPWDD's Division of Fiscal Policy and Management and the Office of Audit Services:

- The agency reported on their June 30, 2023, audited financial statements negative working capital of (\$19,557), negative net assets of (\$8,795), and a net deficit of (\$188,052). This is the sixth consecutive year-end deficit, along with three consecutive years of OPWDD operating losses.
- The agency appears to have used its Workforce Stabilization Initiative funding towards operations, rather than disbursing it for its intended purpose. Per the June 30, 2023, audited financial statements, total cash of \$161,001 was less than the amount reported on-line "Workforce Enhancement & Related Liabilities" of \$204,887.

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While on Early Alert, OPWDD will monitor the Agency's progress in remediating identified fiscal concerns and implementing systemic actions to effectively sustain agency operations and maintain the delivery of quality services. While in Early Alert status, OPWDD will not consider any Agency requests for expansion of services and suspend any expansion that is in process.

Representatives from OPWDD will meet with Agency leadership and the Board of Directors to further discuss concerns, 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 of Fiscal Reporting at: joanne.howard@opwdd.ny.gov and 518-402-4330 or Robert Borchers, Deputy Director, Office of Audit Services at: robert.borchers@opwdd.ny.gov and (518) 402-4259.

Sincerely,



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

Cc:

Agency Board of Directors
Kerri Neifeld, Commissioner
Willow Baer, Executive Deputy Commissioner
Brian O'Donnell, Statewide Director, Bureau of Program Certification
Maryellen Moeser, Deputy Director, Continuous Quality Improvement and Quality Strategies
Mary Jane Vogel, Deputy Director, Bureau of Program Certification, and Incident Management
Chad Mitchell, Regional Director, Bureau of Program Certification
Meg Adams, Director, Incident Management Unit
Robert Borchers, Deputy Director, Office of Audit Services
Richard Cicero, Director, Office of Internal Controls
Abiba Kindo, Deputy Commissioner, Service Access, Program Implementation & Stakeholder Support
Ann Marie Peterson, Associate Commissioner, Service Access, Program Implementation & Stakeholder Support
Earl Jefferson, Director, Central Operations
Delia Tucker, Regional Director, Region 4, Service Access, Program Implementation and Provider Relations
James Doherty, Deputy Director, Region 4, Service Access, Program Implementation and Provider Relations
Joanne Howard, Director, Fiscal Reporting
Kenneth Glindmyer, Assistant Director, Fiscal Reporting and Data Analysis
Josh Olsen, Deputy Counsel, Counsel's Office
Angela Hernandez, Senior Attorney, Counsel's Office
Ellie Smith, Director, Statewide Director, Continuous Quality Improvement and Quality Strategies
Michele Schwartz, Area Director, Continuous Quality Improvement
Karisa Capone, Director, Continuous Quality Improvement