



Office for People With Developmental Disabilities

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

KERRI E. NEIFELD
Commissioner

WILLOW BAER
Executive Deputy Commissioner

May 30, 2024

VIA USPS CERTIFIED MAIL & EMAIL

Shaneika Ford, Executive Director
H.O.M.E., Inc.
831 James Street
Syracuse, New York 13203

Marion Ervin, President, Board of Directors
[REDACTED]

Re: Agency Placement on Early Alert

Dear Ms. Ford and Mr. Ervin:

The purpose of this letter is to formally notify you that Humanitarian Organization for Multicultural Experiences, Inc., DBA H.O.M.E., Inc. was placed on Early Alert effective May 17, 2024, as a result of concerns regarding the agency's financial condition identified by OPWDD's 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 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 Bureau of Fiscal Reporting and Data Analysis and the Office of Audit Services:

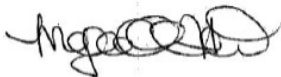
- Continued deficit from operations and an extremely low net asset position. Review of financial statements for the year ending December 31, 2023, identified a deficit of (\$255,428), working capital of \$17,372, and net assets of \$3,578.

- For four consecutive years, financial statements were issued noting a "going concern".

While on Early Alert, OPWDD will monitor the agency's progress in remediating its financial condition and will determine when the agency has demonstrated sufficient financial progress and has effective systems in place to maintain on-going fiscal health. While in Early Alert status, OPWDD will not consider any agency requests for expansion of services and will suspend any expansion that is in process.

Representatives from OPWDD will meet with Agency leadership and the Board of Directors to further discuss these 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 Howard, Director of Fiscal Reporting at: joanne.howard@opwdd.ny.gov and 518-402-4275 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: Board of Directors
Kerri Neifeld, Commissioner
Willow Baer, Executive Deputy Commissioner
Brian O'Donnell, Statewide Director, Bureau of Program Certification
Mary Jane Vogel, Deputy Director, Division of Quality Improvement
Meg Adams, Director, Incident Management Unit
Abiba Kindo, Deputy Commissioner, Service Access, Program Implementation & Stakeholder Support
Ann Marie Peterson, Associate Commissioner, Service Access, Program Implementation & Stakeholder Support
Joanne Howard, Director, Fiscal Reporting
Earl Jefferson, Director, Central Operations
Josh Olsen, Deputy Counsel, Counsel's Office
Angela Hernandez, Senior Attorney, Counsel's Office
Erica Pandolfo, Deputy Counsel, 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