

George E. Pataki  
Governor

Neal E. Lane, Acting Director



Two Empire State Plaza  
Albany, New York  
12223-1251  
[www.aging.state.ny.us](http://www.aging.state.ny.us)

July 8, 2004

Dear Friend:

In order to ascertain community needs and best practices, the Most Integrated Setting Coordinating Council (MISCC) will be holding four Constituent Forums around the State. These forums and the planning that will result from them will set the stage for the continuing growth and improvement of New York's service system, and will further enhance our state's commitment to developing an approach to providing services in integrated settings that are appropriate to the individual needs of New York's citizens with disabilities.

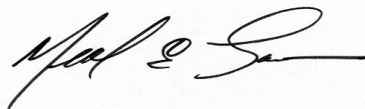
The Constituent Forums will provide the basis for future program and service development by focusing on several areas about which the MISCC is asking for input from the public. If you, your organization, or any interested party would like to contribute to the process by providing input at any of the forums or by submitting written comments, you are requested to register with Susan Peerless of the Department of Health. Contact information for Susan Peerless and instructions are listed on the attached schedule of Constituent Forums. The MISCC requests that you select one of the following themes for purposes of your presentation or written comments:

1. **BEST PRACTICES** – Identify and describe noteworthy practices that are currently in place and are effective in your area that may be duplicated in other areas of the State related to:
  - Natural Supports – Existing community services that people who have disabilities may avail themselves of
  - Access to Services – Services that are available through a formal care system
  - Transportation – local and/or networked transportation venues
  
2. **BUILDING COMMUNITY** – Identify and describe examples of collaborative efforts that are ongoing in your community to address the needs of people with disabilities with regard to:
  - Natural Supports – Existing community services that people who have disabilities may avail themselves of
  - Access to Services – Services that are available through a formal care system
  - Transportation – local and/or networked transportation venues

3. **IMPROVING QUALITY** – Provide constructive and practical ideas for innovations or give suggestions for improving the quality of services and supports for people with disabilities in New York State. These innovations or suggestions should be directed at improving the quality of life for people with disabilities, and should fall into one of the categories listed below.
  - Natural Supports – Existing community services that people who have disabilities may avail themselves of
  - Access to Services – Services that are available through a formal care system
  - Transportation – local and/or networked transportation venues
4. **LOOKING TO THE FUTURE** – Provide a constructive vision of what the future could look like with the collaborative and interactive approach to providing services to individuals with disabilities in New York State.

To help the MISCC develop statewide improvements and draft a plan for the future, it is important that MISCC staff receive your ideas, suggestions, and comments. Generally, forums will be three hours in length and speakers will be asked to limit their comments to five (5) minutes. The MISCC especially urges individuals with disabilities, organization representatives, family members of people with disabilities, advocates and other interested parties to participate.

Sincerely,



Neal E. Lane  
Acting Director

Attachment

## SCHEDULE OF CONSTITUENT FORUMS

- July 15, 2004      John Jay College (CUNY) 4:00PM - 7:00PM  
North Hall  
59th Street & 10th Avenue  
New York City
- July 22, 2004      Empire State Plaza            4:00PM – 7:00PM  
Meeting Room #5  
Concourse Level, Albany
- August 10, 2004    Senator Hughes State        4:00PM – 7:00PM  
Office Building (Main Hearing Room)  
333 East Washington Street  
Syracuse
- August 11, 2004    Erie County                    1:00PM – 4:00PM  
Community College  
City Campus – Atrium  
121 Ellicott Street  
Buffalo

***If you wish to present at a forum***, please contact Susan Peerless of the Department of Health who is staff to MISCC, to reserve a time to speak at a designated forum. Please reserve your time at least three weekdays prior to the forum at which you desire to speak so that you can be given a time to present and so that we can be assured there is availability in the schedule by contacting Ms. Peerless by Phone: (518) 474-7980, Fax: (518) 473-8652 or E-Mail at [slp07@health.state.ny.us](mailto:slp07@health.state.ny.us). Please let Ms. Peerless know if you require special accommodations to attend a forum or present testimony. You are also asked to please provide written copy of your statement no later than the time of your appearance at the forum.

***If you are unable to attend but would like to submit written comments***, please send them to the MISCC so that they are postmarked by Friday, August 13, 2004. Letters should be addressed to: MISCC Constituent Forums, c/o Susan Peerless, New York State Department of Health, Empire State Plaza, Corning Tower, Suite 1915, Albany, NY 12237 or may be faxed to the Bureau at (518) 473-8652. Statements may also be e-mailed to [slp07@health.state.ny.us](mailto:slp07@health.state.ny.us).