



# People Inc

Where your world opens up.

October 21, 2013

Mr. Maggie M. Graham, APRN BC MSN  
DCS Greene Co. Department of Mental Health  
905 Greene Co. Office Bldg  
Cairo NY 12413

Dear Ms. Graham,

As you know, supports for individuals with mental health concerns who also have a developmental disability (dual diagnosis), have presented a challenge to our service systems for decades. Developmental center closures, lack of access to community in-patient mental health services, condensing of healthcare systems and more recently, NYS budget issues, have further strained our ability to support individuals adequately. As part of CMS involvement in movement to a managed care system for developmental disability services, NYS OPWDD has decided to implement an evidence-based model of intervention called START (Systemic, Therapeutic Assessment, Respite and Treatment), and to begin with our Region 1 (all Western and Finger Lakes counties of NYS).

The RFP came out days ago, and is due October 31. We are under a very short timeframe as regional providers to respond. As leaders in the DD system, People Inc. offered to be lead applicant/contact for the Western counties, and Hillside Family of Agencies for the Eastern. The START Model of crisis response, intervention and prevention is highly prescribed, requires model-fidelity and specifies all the clinical elements; the "design" is pre-written. The START team awarded via this grant will be required to respond to crises throughout the 17-county region, within prescribed timeframes. *Individuals you serve will have access to these services, based on clinical priorities. The program anticipates both emergency and "planned"/scheduled interventions. START provides a promise of additional clinical/staff supports to work alongside other system supports, to address crises. In an otherwise stagnant or dwindling resources environment, START aims to support those in most critical need.*

Our regional application requires community partnerships of various types, including providers in the I/DD system, MH system, healthcare/hospitals, law enforcement, etc. **We are requesting your letter of support for this regional application, by October 20th.** If awarded, we welcome and will pursue opportunities to meet personally with your organization, discuss what resources may be available locally, Advisory Board participation, and other thoughts on working together. **Time is limited; your letter of support is requested by 10-20-13. If you have clinical questions, please don't hesitate to contact Dr. Lizbeth Booth, at (716) 880-3711.** Attached is a summary of START and sample letter of support, along with Region 1 map. Thank you for your timely consideration to this limited opportunity to bring NYS resources to bear upon our mutually-experienced challenge.

Sincerely,

James M. Boles, Ed.D. President & CEO  
People Inc.

Dennis Richardson, President & CEO  
Hillside Family of Agencies



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