

Taking the First Step: Empowering Parents Through the OPWDD Process

Tuesday, December 2, 2025

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

* OPEN TO THE PUBLIC * FREE of Charge *

- This presentation will give parents and providers a clear, practical understanding of when, how, and why to begin the OPWDD eligibility process.
- Participants will learn what OPWDD is, the types of services it can provide for a child, and why applying early can make a meaningful difference in long-term support.
- The session will also cover how to recognize the right time to file, what OPWDD approval means for a child's future, and important considerations families should keep in mind throughout the application process.
- Families will leave with the confidence to take the first steps—and avoid common pitfalls—on the path to OPWDD eligibility.
- And so much more... **Come with questions!**

Presenter: Melissa Coyle, LCSW

As a clinical social worker, educational advocate, and owner of With Kids in Mind, LLC, I bring over 10 years of experience in both residential and public schools. Now specializing in special education advocacy, consulting, and clinical therapy, my goal is to empower families to confidently advocate for and support their child.

FREE - Registration required to receive an email with Zoom link and webinar call-in information:

<https://drny-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/o6r3NKnQSg-fq3QT3gDxng>

All SETF trainings will have closed captioning. ASL interpretation available upon request. Need additional information or any accommodations? Contact Nancy Nowak at Disability

Rights New York: Nancy.Nowak@drny.org or 516.238.1261

Websites: [NY Special Ed Task Force](#) [Disability Rights New York](#)