



## NEWS

**TO: NEWS Editor**

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**FOR RELEASE: Immediate**

**Agency-wide MRDD Training  
Held May 10, 2007**



**AUBURN** – An agency-wide training held May 10, 2007 at the First Presbyterian Church’s main conference room on South Street in Auburn, NY drew over 50 Unity House of Cayuga County Inc. program directors, residential and day habilitation managers, Medicaid Service Coordinators, nursing staff, quality assurance staff, and employment services managers involved with providing services and programs to individuals with developmental disabilities.

Unity House Director of MRDD Support Services Amber Amidon, Director of Quality Assurance Steve Pearlman, Quality Assurance Specialist Tina Morrissey, Medicaid Service Coordinator Connie Fritts, and Assistant Director of MRDD Residential Services – Tompkins County Louis Pelino conducted the two hour training entitled ‘Valued Outcomes – The Individual Service Plan and Habilitation Plans.’

“Our training was intended to bring all of our MRDD staffs together and review and improve upon our understanding of valued outcomes and their importance to and relationship with consumers’ individual service and habilitation plans,” Amidon said. “We reinforced with

staff the components of a good valued outcome and how collaborative planning with the consumer per New York State Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (OMRDD) policy is integral to a successful valued outcome, one that moves a consumer's life forward by having him or her experience things and opportunities that do not simply repeat his or her past."

Amidon added that the training further educated staff about New York State's Home- and Community-Based Waiver Habilitation service (HCBS) requirements regarding valued outcomes, and how a consumer's habilitation plan has to include mechanisms that help that consumer pursue at least one of his or her valued outcomes.

"The training maintained and advanced what staff needs to know and do with the consumer, his or her valued outcomes, and their part in an individual service plan and a habilitation plan," she said.