NEW YORK STATE | Office for People With Developmental Disabilities

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

WILLOW BAER
Commissioner

March 6, 2026

VIA USPS CERTIFIED MAIL & EMAIL

Stachee Matthew, Executive Director
Paul J. Cooper Center for Human Services. Inc.
630 Flushing Avenue
Mailbox #66
Brooklyn, NY 11206

Essie Duggan, Vice Chairperson (Acting Chair)
[redacted]

Re: Notification of Intent to Impose a Fine

Dear Ms. Matthews and Ms. Duggan:

This letter constitutes formal notification of New York State Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) imposing a fine in the amount of $15,000 on your agency, Paul J. Cooper Center for Human Services. Inc. for the continued and ongoing failure to sustain regulatory compliance at the community residence located at [redacted].

Pursuant to Mental Hygiene Law Section 16.17(g), the Commissioner may impose a fine upon finding the holder of an operating certificate has failed to comply with the terms of the operating certificate or with the provisions of any applicable statute, rule, or regulation.

During the completion of a site review conducted from August 21, 2025 to September 4, 2025 at [redacted] the Bureau of Program Certification (BPC) issued an Adverse Action Statement of Deficiencies (SOD) on September 15, 2025 due to serious, systemic deficiencies identified in the areas of Health Supports and Medications, Individual Choice, Autonomy and Satisfaction, Rights Protections, and Diabetic Care and Treatment. The agency submitted a Plan of Corrective Action (POCA) on October 9, 2025 detailing the immediate, systemic, and monitoring actions to be completed by the agency.

During the first validation visit conducted by BPC on November 18, 2025 at [redacted] it was determined that the agency failed to implement the corrective actions identified in the approved October 09, 2025 POCA. A second Adverse Action SOD was issued on December 01, 2025 which included repeat deficiencies previously identified in the areas of Health Supports and Medications, Risk Areas, Discharge From Hospital, and Diabetes. The agency failed to provide a POCA in response to the November 18, 2025 survey, despite BPC meeting with agency management and sending a formal letter requesting the outstanding POCA. The POCA was not received prior to BPC's January validation visit, as requested.

During the second validation visit at [redacted] 13, 2026, it was determined that the agency again failed to implement the corrective actions included in the initial October 9, 2025 POCA. This survey resulted in a third Adverse Action SOD being issued on January 22, 2026.

The Adverse Action SOD issued on January 22, 2026 is evidence of the agency's continued failure to correct the serious, systemic deficiencies. Specifically, the SOD includes deficiencies in previously identified areas of concern, including Health Supports and Medications, Risk Areas, Discharge from Hospital, and Diabetes. In addition, two new areas of concern were identified in the areas of Personal Funds and Rights Protections. Included in the SOD were egregious findings related to the continued failure of staff to take appropriate action for out-of-range blood glucose readings for an individual with uncontrolled diabetes. This individual has other health concerns for which there was no care plan or training provided for staff, to ensure the person's health and safety.

The issuing of these three Adverse Action SODs which include repeat deficiencies demonstrates the agency's continued failure to effectively remediate deficient practices, and this failure has put individuals' health and safety at risk.

You have the right to an administrative hearing to appeal the imposition of this fine. You also have the right to be represented by an attorney at such hearing. If you are requesting a hearing, you have 30 days from service of this proposed action to submit your request. Your request must include a declaration of the issues alleged to be involved and documentation of the agency's position as to each identified issue.

Send your request to:
Willow Baer, Commissioner
NYS Office for People With Developmental Disabilities
44 Holland Avenue
Albany, New York 12229

In accordance with 14 NYCRR 602.5, your written request for the hearing must include a copy of this letter and a declaration of the issues alleged to be involved and documentation of your position on each issue. If you decide not to request a hearing, please remit payment of your fine immediately. Payments should be made within 30 days of receipt of this notification. Payment must be made by check payable to OPWDD and be for the total amount of the fine. Partial payment will not be accepted without written authorization from OPWDD.

Send your payment to:
Eileen Haynes, Deputy Commissioner and General Counsel
NYS Office for People With Developmental Disabilities
44 Holland Avenue, 3rd Floor
Albany, New York 12229

Please be aware that the imposition of this fine does not preclude OPWDD from taking further adverse action if your agency fails to maintain compliance with OPWDD regulations.

Sincerely,

Megan O'Connor-Hebert
Deputy Commissioner
Division of Quality Improvement

cc: Agency Board of Directors
Willow Baer, Commissioner
John Barbuto, Executive Deputy Commissioner
Deborah Ellis, Chief of Staff
Eileen Haynes, Deputy Commissioner and General Counsel
Joshua Olsen, Deputy General Counsel
Abiba Kindo, Deputy Commissioner, Service Access, Program Implementation & Stakeholder Support
Ann Marie Peterson, Associate Commissioner, Service Access, Program Implementation & Stakeholder Support
Delia Tucker, Statewide Director, Service Access, Program Implementation & Stakeholder Support
James Doherty, Director, Regional Field Office 4
Kevin Valenchis, Deputy Commissioner, Division of Fiscal Policy and Management
Joanne Howard, Director, Fiscal Reporting
Richard Cicero, Director, Office of Audit Services
Robert Borchers, Deputy Director, Office of Audit Services
Mary Jane Vogel, Deputy Director, Division of Quality Improvement
Maryellen Moeser, Deputy Director, Division of Quality Improvement