



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

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New Fire Safety Plans for the Office of People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD)

SHIRLEY L. HUNTLEY June 23, 2011

| ISSUE: **FAMILIES, HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH, DISABILITY, HEALTH CARE**

News From New York State

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For Immediate Release: June 24, 2011

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****PRESS RELEASE****

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(D- Jamaica) The fire at Riverview Individual Alternative (IRA) was a tragic and unfortunate event that took the lives of several residents. Due to this event and to prevent other tragedies from occurring, several safeguards have been implemented for OPWDD facilities. Courtney Burke, Commissioner of OPWDD, has coordinated that all Life Safety code inspections will be performed by the Office of Fire Prevention and Control (OFPC).

Some of the safety measures that will be implemented with the help of OFPC will include fire and safety training programs, conducting random evacuation drills, review of evacuation plans, and assistance regarding emergencies and fire investigations.

As the Ranking Member of the Senate Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Committee, I commend Commissioner Burke for setting up the agreement with OFPC as it will ultimately save lives and ensure residents in OPWDD facilities will have extra safety precautions.

Additional news available at <http://huntley.nysenate.gov>

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