

# CIVICS LEAGUE for DISABILITY RIGHTS

People with disabilities taking action together.



Testimony of Sharifa Abu-Hamda  
Civics League for Disability Rights  
169 Madison Avenue, STE 15744  
New York, NY 10016  
Senate Public Hearing on CDPAP  
July 9, 2025

My name is Sharifa Abu-Hamda and I am the co-leader of a grassroots advocacy organization called Civics League for Disability Rights. Made up of New Yorkers with disabilities, CLDR advocates for the rights of people with physical disabilities in several areas including healthcare. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. The mishandling of the CDPAS program is an issue that impacts me deeply as a person who relies on homecare to remain independent in the community

Public Partnerships LLC (PPL) is not doing the job they are being paid handsomely to perform. PPL has one job: to track time and pay workers. They are failing miserably. They are simply not up for the job. As a person with 24 hours of care, I employ several aids to support my activities of daily living. For this work, my aids are supposed to be paid.

Since the beginning of the transition, my aids have had issues being paid. As an example, In April my PCA, K.S., worked on 4/14 but has still not been paid. Meanwhile, PCA B.H. worked on 4/13 but was mistakenly paid for 4/14 instead. PPL has repeatedly asked K.S. to reach out to B.H. and request payment directly, which is inappropriate and illegal. And if she did pay K.S., B.H. will still need to be paid for the 13th.

B.H. did speak with PPL to help resolve the issue. PPL assured her they would pay K.S., but that still hasn't happened. When K.S. followed up, they asked to speak with me, and I spent about 1.5 hours on the phone with them. They said the issue would be escalated.

Since then, we've tried calling multiple times — including on Friday and again yesterday — but no one is answering the phone. K.S. also attempted to reach them directly without success.

I have been a CDPAS consumer for over 20 years. My former Fiscal Intermediary, Concepts of Independence, never failed to pay my aids and never asked that my aids fix their mistakes.

Governor Hochul and the Department of Health unilaterally made the decision to transition CDPAP to a single statewide fiscal intermediary under Public Partnerships LLC (PPL). The reason provided for this change was the cost of the large number of FIs. Yet, New York State approved each and every one of the FIs. They created this problem and then proposed a solution that is wholly inadequate. PPL had a terrible track record in other states and although alerted to these problems by the community of people with disabilities, NYS proceeded with the contract. We were told by NYS that our advocates were lying to us and we were misinformed. Every concern we expressed came to fruition.

CDPAS was created by and for people with disabilities. The switch to PPL was done without our input and when we raised red flags, we were ignored. Without reliable access to our chosen PAs, many of us will be pushed into institutional settings—nursing homes, group homes, long-term care facilities—places we fought for decades to avoid. This is not an exaggeration. This is a looming reality for many in our community. For some, it's already happening.

CDPAP is not just a program. It is a lifeline. It is the difference between dignity and dependence.

The CLDR calls on Governor Hochul to rescind the contract with PPL and work with the community to build a program that works for the community of people with disabilities. It is time to face the fact that a massive mistake was made and the Governor needs to admit it and clean up her mess.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharifa Abu-Hamda  
Civics League for Disability Rights  
169 Madison Avenue, STE 15744  
New York, NY 10016

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sharifa Abu-Hamda", written in a cursive style.