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Serving Children and Adults with Intellectual and Other Developmental Disabilities for over 70 Years

August 21, 2020

PAUL TORRES
Executive Director

Dear Individuals, Families, and AHRC Suffolk Team Members:

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While many days our to-do lists seem never-ending and the days feel long, the weeks seem to keep flying by at rapid speed. Each new day on the calendar seems to bring new challenges and opportunities to programs throughout the agency. I am pleased that I have been able to share updates on our progress and advancements, speaking on what has been hopeful in the midst of all that we have overcome these last five months.

Cautious and careful expansion continues in our adult day services programs, as the newly-approved Appendix K Waiver allows for more flexibility for individuals to attend programs on-site, with bussing provided by our transportation services. Starting yesterday, individuals can come to programs for reduced hours, where they are receiving essential in-person services. As part of the waiver, there is a morning shift and an afternoon shift, thus allowing for more people to benefit while still maintaining appropriate space and health precautions within rooms. As a result of the waiver, our Shoreham Day Hab will welcome back 8 individuals on Monday; 12 individuals returned to our Bohemia and Knickerbocker locations for half-day service delivery this week, and we are expecting this number to grow next week. Additionally, our MY Choice Virtual Day Hab continues to grow in unique and engaging ways, providing great opportunities for individuals at home to connect with their peers who are attending on-site programs.

The Extended School Year program concluded yesterday at our Saul & Elaine Seiff Educare Center. Students, families and staff all put in great time and hard work over the course of the summer session, and I hope all find time in the coming weeks to enjoy the remainder of the summer. School administration hosted three Zoom meetings for Educare families to discuss the reopening plan, and they are continuing to work on class assignments and schedules in preparation for the students' return. Staff orientation day will be on September 8, with the first day of school on September 9.

Individuals living in our residences continue to receive Day Hab services in-home and are planning some fun activities in the coming weeks, and just the other day, many residents attended a virtual "oldies dance" coordinated by Day Hab staff. Safe community outings and visits with family and friends continue, which help to keep spirits and morale high. As summer winds to a close, we can look back on the last few months and be proud of the way we have continued to remain safe. We currently have no positive COVID-19 cases in our residential program.

As you enjoy the last few weeks of summer, please continue to be diligent. Please also recognize how valuable each and every one of you are in not only keeping our AHRC Suffolk family safe, but just as importantly, in supporting our continued progress with your patience and creativity while we navigate ever-changing state-wide regulations and guidance. As integral parts of this Chapter, we all share a universal mission and we are all learning and evolving together for the greater good. #InItTogether.

Stay well, stay safe and thank you for all you do,

Paul H. Torres
Executive Director



Are you a member of AHRC Suffolk? An active, strong membership provides our chapter with a louder voice to our elected officials when advocating for policies and services that directly impact and benefit individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Become a member [HERE](#).

Your gift to our **COVID-19 Relief Fund** helps us purchase personal protective equipment, provide expanded medical and mental health services, increase our technology, and so much more. To donate, visit

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(donations, marked **COVID-19 Relief Fund**, can also be mailed to the address at the top of this page)