



Thank you to our Westhampton Beach program staff and individuals who contributed to this week's story.

AHRC Suffolk's Westhampton Beach program, which was closed due to the current pandemic, began the process of reopening programs on July 22nd. Our Westhampton program provides services to individuals living at home as well as those from our Westhampton ICF and the ICF located in Shoreham, some of whom have complex medical needs. Prior to opening, all program rooms were sanitized, rearranged to allow for proper distancing, and all personal items were separated and labeled for each person. The East End Day Programs arranged to provide limited transportation to individuals who live at home and to a couple of the residential programs as this was the only way in which the individuals would be able to attend program. Maurisa M., Program Administrator for the Reach and Seniors Programs was in close contact with Shoreham each day to arrange who was coming in for the day and to ensure proper distancing on the vans.

On Friday, August 7th, Maurisa M. was informed that the bus company, DBA Transportation, would be able to provide limited transportation beginning the following Monday which would allow essentially double the amount of people to come to program from Shoreham. There was only a short time to prepare for the additional individuals attending program and ensure safe programming to almost double the amount of people. Denise C., Assistant Program Administrator, stated that once her Reach/Seniors staff were informed that their program would double in size she received text messages stating "We Can Do This". In the short period of time that they had, the staff did an amazing job preparing two additional program rooms to accommodate the new people coming in, and the challenge even seemed to bring the team closer together. The nursing department also went above and beyond ensuring that they had the most updated doctors' orders and medications and making sure to check if there were any other medical changes to anyone during their time at home.

Maurisa worked closely, and quickly, with DBA Transportation to develop a transportation schedule based on transporting people who lived together and would be taking the same bus or appropriately distancing people if they did not live in the same home. That Monday morning when everyone returned proved to be challenging, but the smiles on many of the individuals' faces as they entered the building was worth it. By Monday afternoon, with the support of the entire team including the Program Coordinators and clinicians assisting in the program rooms, it became a fine tuned machine and the Westhampton Beach program was "Alive Again".