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

July 30, 2021

PAUL H. TORRES
Chief Executive Officer

Dear Individuals, Families, and AHRC Suffolk Team Members:

JOHN MCGUIGAN
Chief Operating Officer

CHRISTOPHER VEROS
Chief Financial Officer

OFFICERS

JOHN SMITH
President

JOSEPH ZIFCHOCK
Treasurer

JOSEPH CASSARINI
Secretary

DIRECTORS

Deborah Pflieger

We continue monitoring the national impact of the COVID-19 Delta variant and other variants and how they are affecting regions with high spikes of positive cases. The Delta variant is at least five times as contagious as previous virus strains and is spreading rapidly across the country. The number of people becoming infected is more than doubling each week, with the majority of those inflicted being unvaccinated. Click [HERE](#) for more information on the Delta variant. Some parts of the U.S. have resumed previously-relaxed precautions, even for those who are vaccinated. While we observe the national trends and assess more accurate results of our own vaccination rates amongst our staff and the individuals we support, we will continue to require mask wearing within all of our programs.

It is our hope that with increasing vaccination rates locally and within our agency, we will be able to safely embrace more relaxed standards in the future. For our staff members, as part of our need to have a more accurate vaccination count and our reporting obligation to OPWDD, please anticipate your supervisor reaching out to you shortly to collect proof of your vaccination status. If you have received the vaccine, supervisors will need a copy of your vaccination card. For those looking for vaccine appointments, if the only appointment time you are able to schedule happens during a time you are regularly scheduled to work, the agency will, in accordance with NYS law, provide you with the required paid time off to get vaccinated, up to 4 hours for each vaccination. Please speak with your supervisor in advance of your appointments. Staff members will also reach out to non-vaccinated individuals and their family members to offer any support in exploring vaccination options, locations and appointments.

In response to last week's update, I received some questions and feedback regarding living wage availability for all staff, not just for those in Direct Service Professionals (DSP) positions. I want to be 100% clear, our commitment remains to do whatever we can to position AHRC Suffolk to offer the most competitive salaries across the board. We remain steadfast in our conviction that we have not done enough for all of our loyal and dedicated staff. However, we know that, as has been done in the past, some targeted funding may be earmarked to specific programs or job categories. That targeting is state-mandated when it occurs. Please know that we hear your concerns and frustrations and we are determined to improve our ability to recognize all staff. *#InItTogether*

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

Paul H. Torres
Chief Executive Officer



NEW STAFF NEEDED! Join the AHRC Suffolk Team! Visit www.ahrcsuffolk.org/careers to see our current openings at various day program and residential locations. Apply today!

BECOME A MEMBER! 2021 Memberships are available! Help make our collective voice stronger. Visit www.ahrcsuffolk.org/membership today!

DONATE TO OUR COVID-19 FUND! Our expenses continue to mount each day for PPE, cleaning supplies and extraordinary pay. Please click [HERE](#) to donate today!
