



2900 Veterans Memorial Highway • Bohemia, NY 11716  
 P: (631) 585-0100  
 F: (631) 585-0233  
 Email: [Info@suffahrc.org](mailto:Info@suffahrc.org)  
 Web: [www.ahrcsuffolk.org](http://www.ahrcsuffolk.org)

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

December 18, 2020

**PAUL H. TORRES**  
Chief Executive Officer

**JOHN MCGUIGAN**  
Chief Operating Officer

**CHRISTOPHER VEROS**  
Chief Financial Officer

**OFFICERS**

**JOHN SMITH**  
President

**JOSEPH ZIFCHOCK**  
Treasurer

**JOSEPH CASSARINI**  
Secretary

**DIRECTORS**

Deborah Pflieger

Dear Individuals, Families, and AHRC Suffolk Team Members:

There is great news on the COVID-19 vaccine rollout. Thanks to advocacy efforts from The Arc NY, people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and the essential staff who support them have been prioritized to receive the vaccine in the first wave of availability. Governor Cuomo’s office and The NY Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) notified us that people in our residences and staff who work in residences will be eligible to get the vaccine starting on December 21. Pharmacies such as Walgreens and CVS will be contracted by New York State to either provide vaccinations on-site at residences, or at alternate locations. Currently, our homes who have more than 50% of their residents aged 65 or older will be prioritized in phase 1A, and the rest of our homes would be rolled out shortly thereafter. This criteria pertains to 10 of our 33 homes.

Individuals in our residences and their families should hear from us imminently on consenting or not to receiving the vaccine. The data has shown the disproportionate risk many of our individuals have to this virus and their vulnerability of contracting COVID-19. That, coupled with the greater propensity for adverse effects the virus can have on our individuals is reason to strongly consider taking the vaccine. The same is requested of our staff, particularly those working closely with individuals in our community residences. I ask you to please read the literature on the vaccine and inform yourselves, and have the necessary and vital conversations with our staff who will be reaching out to you. It is important for us to protect ourselves and our AHRC Suffolk family. Click [HERE](#) for comprehensive information on the COVID-19 Vaccination Plan for NY State. You can also access the following materials provided by OPWDD to help to understand the vaccine distribution process and what it means to you; they include a [plain language document](#) along with a [video explaining the vaccine](#).

This week we continue managing the ongoing pandemic, plus the upcoming holidays and the challenges that follow with regards to staffing and scheduled days off—why not throw in a snowstorm too? With the hit of our first snow of the season, I thank everyone who stepped up to the challenge and made sure our residences were supported and safe. Whether you hunkered down and stayed overnight or plowed through in the morning, I am truly grateful to residential and day services staff alike who stepped up in this moment! I also want to acknowledge our virtual day services team who seamlessly planned for and helped transition individuals who saw no loss in essential supports. Special thanks to the fortitude of our maintenance team who labored from the wee hours of the night all through the next day keeping our offices clear and safe. I have said it many times before—we would not be **incredible** if you all were not **incredible**!

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

Paul H. Torres  
Chief Executive Officer



**\*\*Want to make a tax-deductible year-end financial contribution to AHRC Suffolk? Click [HERE](#) to donate!\*\***

Join the AHRC Suffolk Team! Visit [www.ahrcsuffolk.org/careers](http://www.ahrcsuffolk.org/careers) to see our current openings at various locations. Apply today!