



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

March 16, 2020

PAUL TORRES
Executive Director

Dear AHRC Individuals, Family Members and Staff,

I would like to take a moment to update you on the changes that have occurred in the recent days regarding COVID-19 (the new coronavirus). We have spent this past weekend making safety plans across programs to minimize risk and observe social distancing as quickly as possible. Please be assured that we are consistently evaluating best practices and the best course of action for all parts of the AHRC community.

BOARD MEMBERS
Joseph Cassarini
John Smith
Joseph Zifchock

We continue to follow procedures to clean and disinfect on a daily basis and ask that all individuals and staff frequently and properly wash their hands and/or apply disinfectant before entering facilities and programs.

Following Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone's directive, our Educare Center is closed for a period of at least two weeks beginning today. As this is a fluid situation, we plan to keep individuals, family and staff abreast of any changes in timeframes as they may develop.

Yesterday, a plan was developed to keep residents of our ICFs and several of our more medically-sensitive IRAs home, rather than send them to their day programs today. As of today, we have made plans for all individuals in all of our residences to remain at their homes and receive Day Hab services in their homes, beginning tomorrow, March 17th. These services will be provided by a small number of Day Hab staff members, specifically assigned by home to minimize the number of staff by program.

For individuals living in our residential programs who receive site based PreVoc, a temporary plan is being made to provide Day Hab services to those individuals in their residences in order to support and engage all individuals during this time. Once site based services can resume, our plan would be to return individuals to their PreVoc services as previously provided in their plans.

For those individuals in our Supported Employment program, they will continue to receive supported employment services in the community, as long as conditions allow them to still work at their job location.

For those individuals who reside with family members, we have reached out to each family to assess preferences for receiving continued services. A very small number of individuals will receive support at our programs in very small size settings.

On a personal note, I would like to say that the way in which all of those who make up the AHRC Suffolk family have pulled together to expedite a transition plan of this magnitude and under these circumstances, taking into account the care and needs of every individual, is something truly remarkable. The concern for getting it right while expediting as many moving parts to come together in as seamless a plan as possible is a testament to the heroic work staff and families perform together on behalf of our loved ones. I am proud of how this community has pulled together to support the safety and continuity of care that AHRC Suffolk represents, especially in such complex and rapidly changing times. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Paul Torres
Executive Director
AHRC Suffolk