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

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February 19, 2021

**PAUL H. TORRES**  
 Chief Executive Officer

Dear Individuals, Families, and AHRC Suffolk Team Members:

**JOHN MCGUIGAN**  
 Chief Operating Officer

Together we have navigated another week of snow and the logistical issues it creates for our agency. I again thank each of you who continue to help us push through the weather-related issues, and for adapting to changing formats and responsibilities. That flexibility is vital to best serve the individuals within our programs as well as their families and our staff, ensuring that we continue to operate safely to benefit those we serve. *#InItTogether*

**CHRISTOPHER VEROS**  
 Chief Financial Officer

**OFFICERS**

**JOHN SMITH**  
 President

**JOSEPH ZIFCHOCK**  
 Treasurer

**JOSEPH CASSARINI**  
 Secretary

Leading up to and during inclement weather, we are in regular communication with our transportation providers to best assess travel conditions. From those conversations we are able to evaluate the need for possible early closures or delayed openings. We are very limited in what can be posted on News12 and radio station snow emergency listings due to pre-set phrasings that we must select from. The best places to check for any closing updates are our [website](#) as well as our [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages. These are updated quickly and we are able to provide specific content for our programs.

**DIRECTORS**

Deborah Pflieger

As of today, we have knowledge that 191 individuals in residences and 221 staff have received the COVID-19 vaccine. Of those numbers, 180 individuals in residences and 128 staff have reported receiving the second dose. Earlier this week, we were contacted by a representative from Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone’s office regarding additional vaccine groupings being made available to individuals in our programs and our staff. This was in response to recent declaration that all of the individuals we support would now be eligible for the vaccine. Via Suffolk County Community College’s Brentwood and Riverhead locations, we were able to sign people up for pods of vaccination appointments, with one group of individuals receiving their vaccines on Wednesday. There was another group of appointments scheduled for today, but due to the recent weather conditions that has been postponed. We have been informed by the State that vaccine supply that was expected state-wide has been delayed due to the significant weather conditions across the country. We thank the County Executive’s office for partnering with us to help provide vaccinations to more of the individuals in our programs, and look forward to the continued partnership.

In recognition of Black History Month, this week I share another inspiring story of an individual who selflessly serves her peers and community. Shameka Andrews is a celebrated activist and author who, despite obstacles in her own life, tirelessly serves as a voice for equal rights and treatment for all. “It is the people I meet every day who strive to make this world a better place in their corner of the world,” Ms. Andrews says. Click [HERE](#) to read more about her remarkable work.

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](http://www.ahrcsuffolk.org/careers) to see our current openings at various day program and residential locations. Apply today!

**BECOME A MEMBER!** 2021 Memberships are now available! Help make our collective voice stronger. Visit [www.ahrcsuffolk.org/membership](http://www.ahrcsuffolk.org/membership) today!

**DONATE TO OUR COVID-19 FUND!** Our expenses continue to mount each day. Please click [HERE](#) to donate today!

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