



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

March 23, 2020

PAUL TORRES
Executive Director

Dear AHRC Individuals, Families and Staff,

BOARD MEMBERS

Joseph Cassarini
John Smith
Joseph Zifchock

As we enter another week of responding to the Coronavirus, AHRC Suffolk received confirmation of our first positive case for COVID – 19. The individual is being well cared for in their IRA and, as always, they are in our thoughts for a speedy return to good health. We have reached all the families of the individuals in the same home to make sure they know from us what is going on and how we are caring for their loved ones.

The staff in the program have been steadfast in their response to take care of everyone in the home. The House Manager has been inspiring in her commitment, and where there was a gap in the schedule, another staff member stepped up, out of her day to day role, and into a place where she was most needed at the moment.

It has truly been my honor to consider myself to be a part of the Suffolk team. Last week we witnessed the remarkable compassion, talent and responsiveness of our hundreds of staff while their lives and those of the individuals and families we serve have been put upside-down. Staff who are working overtime to attend to someone's needs; a manager that stays on the night at a residence to be sure that there is adequate supervision and coverage in the house; nurses that work tirelessly to monitor the health and wellbeing of people in our programs and staff; inventive staff who are using technology to strengthen connections among one another, support people in need and their families and provide training; industrious staff who scour the Internet in search of facemasks and other protective equipment and are successful in increasing our supplies; devoted administrative staff that ensure our day-to-day financial, human resources, facility and IT needs continue to be met; highly committed managers that provide the local leadership so desperately needed right now; and our COVID-19 leadership team that convenes every day to keep track of the myriad of issues and challenges we face and then deploys supports and strategies to the best of their abilities.

Every week I thank you all for your determined response to this never-before-seen challenge.

This week is no different.

It is times like these that we cherish the value in and capabilities of one another. Supporting each other is the only way that we can achieve our common goal of keeping everyone as safe and healthy as possible, especially the most vulnerable among us.

I'll provide you updates throughout the week. Many thanks again for your continued vigilance and best wishes for a safe and healthy week ahead.

#Inittogether

Stay Well,

Paul H. Torres
Executive Director