



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

---

June 19, 2020

**PAUL TORRES**  
Executive Director

Dear AHRC Suffolk Individuals, Families and Staff:

Tomorrow is the official first day of summer; there is great hope and optimism in a new season and with the progress our communities have made in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. The hard work we are all putting in is keeping us safe and helping to move us forward.

**OFFICERS**  
John Smith  
President

Joseph Zifchock  
Treasurer

Joseph Cassarini  
Secretary

**DIRECTORS**

Deborah Pflieger

The enjoyable weather also provides us with additional opportunities to facilitate much-anticipated visits for families with loved ones living in our residences. We recognize that families want to see their loved ones and that individuals want to see their families. While Governor Cuomo announced earlier this week that family visitation to residences may be allowed with health and safety precautions in place, we are developing our own safety standards and will work in accordance with state guidance to develop guidelines that best serve individuals and families while keeping safety as our top concern. In the meantime, we continue to work with families to be creative with ways to enable these interactions, including visits on the porch, across the lawn, across the driveway, outside a window, wearing a mask and staying apart but taking a walk together and more. We know families hope for more contact and would like to take their loved ones out or to their private homes, and we anticipate guidance from OPWDD that will specifically address these requests.

We are working on preliminary plans for how we will gradually and safely reopen day programs and are awaiting official guidelines from OPWDD. We are taking a survey of intent and concerns/questions from families and will plan to engage families in workgroups to help us design a reopening plan that makes sense. We will share further information as it is available.

I would also like to recognize that June is LGBTQ Pride Month. As an agency built on the principle that all should be treated fairly and equally, we recognize the importance of embracing and respecting all. *“Diversity is the one true thing we all have in common. Celebrate it every day.”* - Author Unknown

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

Paul H. Torres  
Executive Director



Your gift to our **COVID-19 Relief Fund** helps us purchase personal protective equipment, provide expanded medical and mental health services, increase our technology, and so much more. To donate, visit [www.ahrcsuffolk.org/covidrelief](http://www.ahrcsuffolk.org/covidrelief) (donations, marked **COVID-19 Relief Fund**, can also be mailed to the address at the top of this page)

---