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

November 6, 2020

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Executive Director

JOHN MCGUIGAN
Chief Operating Officer

CHRISTOPHER VEROS
Director of Finance

OFFICERS

JOHN SMITH
President

JOSEPH ZIFCHOCK
Treasurer

JOSEPH CASSARINI
Secretary

DIRECTORS

Deborah Pflieger

Dear Individuals, Families, and AHRC Suffolk Team Members:

To help contain and eliminate spread within the state, Governor Cuomo recently provided metrics to track New York State’s COVID-19 micro-clusters, which are defined as areas which are experiencing outbreaks of new cases within a limited and definable geographic area. This system utilizes red, orange and yellow color-coding to track outbreaks in regions and provides restrictions based on designated color zoning. Click [HERE](#) for maps of current micro-cluster zones and to type in specific address to see if they fall within current zones. Click [HERE](#) for additional information on micro-cluster metrics and impacts.

This agency serves all of Suffolk County. We are proud to have the strong county-wide presence to support individuals living all across the county, and we have 40 residences/program sites within our communities. Our dedicated staff members travel from their homes to our buildings and community residences. If we do not all remain vigilant of protecting ourselves, we risk opening our communities up to the potential of becoming micro-clusters which could interfere with our ability to keep day programs operating, could force limitations on community outings our individuals look forward to and depend on, and could impact visitation to our residences. Any local micro-clusters of enough severity could influence our need to conduct weekly COVID testing of individuals and staff. As the numbers of positive COVID-19 tests continue to climb statewide, it is of utmost importance that we all continue to do the necessary work to ensure our individuals, ourselves, and our communities remain safe. By taking every precaution including social distancing and avoiding large gatherings, wearing proper PPE, and maintaining proper cleaning and disinfecting procedures, we not only protect our own health, we also safeguard the health of our friends and family members, our colleagues and of course the individuals we love and serve. This also helps ensure that the programs we have fought to reopen and maintain these last few months remain open. *#InItTogether*

I would like to welcome John McGuigan, who has joined the AHRC Suffolk leadership team as Chief Operating Officer. John comes to us with a mix of strategic management and hands-on leadership experience. John has a reputation for focusing on impact and building trust within his organization. With years of experience in agencies very similar to AHRC Suffolk, he notes “I really like to enjoy myself at work and appreciate being surrounded by hardworking, fun-loving dedicated professionals.” John originally hails from Newcastle upon Tyne, United Kingdom, and he and his wife reside on Long Island with his four children. In his personal time, John is involved with his children’s sports and musical endeavors while he *tries* to maintain a vegan lifestyle. We are thrilled to have John join our leadership team and to help take us into our next phase of growth.

After over a year and a half of not filling the position, John’s critical addition to the AHRC Suffolk team means we officially take leave of our management services agreement with AHRC NYC, a significant milestone in our organization’s advancement as a strong, independent and freestanding Chapter. I want to thank AHRC NYC’s CEO, Marco Damiani, for his and his team’s incredible support over the last 15 months. They have been a stabilizing force and a much needed resource of knowledge and expertise. I especially want to recognize and thank Kathy Broderick for all that she has given to our team here. Words cannot do justice to what Kathy has meant to me, the leadership team and by extension the family of AHRC Suffolk. We will miss them and they have helped set us upon our own new path.

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

Paul H. Torres
Executive Director



Please help us celebrate our essential staff on December 9th at our virtual **Candlelight Ball: Highlight Our Heroes**. Visit our website, www.ahrCSuffolk.org/60th-annual-candlelight-ball, for more information.

Join the AHRC Suffolk Team! Visit www.ahrCSuffolk.org/careers to see our current openings at various locations. Apply today!