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

October 2, 2020

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Deborah Pflieger

Dear Individuals, Families, and AHRC Suffolk Team Members:

In lieu of a traditional update last week, we asked to our families to use their voices to appeal significant budget cuts from OPWDD and the Department of Health that went into effect October 1st. These cuts greatly impact residential funding, as they cut in half the per diem agencies like ours receive when individuals who reside in an AHRC Suffolk residence visit their family's home, as well as when individuals in our residences are admitted to a hospital or rehabilitation center. It is of utmost importance to us that our individuals maintain important and meaningful connections with their loved ones, however families and the Chapter should not contend with such a negative and divisive impact as these financial implications to family visits. Despite the cuts going into effect yesterday, we ask for your support by continuing to appeal them -- it is never too late to have your voice be heard. You can find easy appeal tools **HERE**.

On a positive note, this week 40 individuals joined us from their homes via our MY Choice Virtual Day Hab, engaging in fun and exciting activities (including our very own version of *Carpool Karaoke*). Our on-site programs continue operating at Bohemia, Westhampton Beach, Knickerbocker and Shoreham. If you or your loved one have not yet returned to day program, either virtually or in-person, please reach out to your day program staff today. Our knowledgeable and helpful team members will assist you and provide you with the best options for a successful and beneficial return to program. They will provide technology assistance (it really is easy to connect to our virtual programs, and we can help show you that!) and they will also detail all of the safety, screening, cleaning protocols and social distancing procedures for transportation and on-site programs.

Thanks to the dedication and hard work of our staff, we have had a successful return to school and have revised our reopening plan to now include alternating Wednesdays for our school age students in 12:1:4 classrooms (Rooms 6-12) beginning next week. We have made every effort to balance the number of in-person days between the teams, accounting for school holidays and recesses. Our revised reopening plan is available in English and Spanish at the AHRC Suffolk website, [www.ahrcsuffolk.org](http://www.ahrcsuffolk.org).

As we continue to welcome more individuals safely back to in-person programs, our need grows for additional staffing. We currently have many openings in our Residential and Adult Day Services programs, with locations across much of Suffolk County. With various shifts and schedules available, we ask that you spread the word to your family and friends who are in need of meaningful employment right now. Visit our **WEBSITE** for current openings.

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

Paul H. Torres  
Executive Director



**Join the AHRC Suffolk Team!** Visit <https://www.ahrcsuffolk.org/careers> to see our current openings at various locations. Apply today!

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)