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

January 7, 2022

**PAUL H. TORRES**  
Chief Executive Officer

Dear Individuals, Families, and AHRC Suffolk Team Members:

**JOHN MCGUIGAN**  
Chief Operating Officer

I hope you all had a nice holiday season and Happy New Year. We are optimistic for a happy and healthy 2022 for you all.

**CHRISTOPHER VEROS**  
Chief Financial Officer

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**JOHN SMITH**  
President

**DEBORAH PFLIEGER**  
Treasurer

**JOSEPH CASSARINI**  
Secretary

**DIRECTORS**

Alden B. Kaplan

James P. O'Connor

Our leadership team and Board of Directors would like to publicly recognize our remarkable Residential staff, who didn't skip a beat in continuously operating our community residences in the recent weeks. In spite of a national staffing crisis, combined with the inherent challenges of holiday scheduling for these 24/7 programs, and on top of the exponential spike in statewide COVID-19 infections statewide, AHRC Suffolk's Residential team's Herculean efforts rose to the challenge! Throughout New York State, many other agencies have had to make the difficult decision to temporarily relocate and consolidate individuals in group residences in order to adequately provide appropriate staffing. There are even some organizations who are temporarily moving residents to Day Hab locations for the same staffing issues. Our workforce here at AHRC continued to work round-the-clock in order to ensure that all homes were properly staffed, keeping the residents safe and programs running consistently. "There are not enough accolades to bestow on each and every person on our Residential team for banding together and continuing to make it happen," said John McGuigan, Chief Operating Officer. "We all owe you our gratitude." #InItTogether

I am in awe of the resiliency of the AHRC Suffolk Team. Adult Day Services and our Seiff Educare Center are no strangers to the nationwide staffing shortage challenge. AHRC Suffolk program ingenuity and determination continue to stand up to staffing struggles, finding creative and successful ways to best keep our programs operational for those we serve. As part of this adaptation, this week we implored some individuals, in consultation with their families, to temporarily switch to virtual day programs to best keep themselves and their staff safe and protected during this current COVID-19 surge in our area. We are thankful for those individuals and their families for collaborating with us in this effort to increase safety.

Thank you to all who contributed to the smooth handling of this morning's snowstorm! Staff members stayed at residences to ensure coverage while relief staff made their way in. Our maintenance team helped with shoveling at program sites. The ADS ensured virtual services were available to those who could benefit from them, provided programming in residences and assisted with coverage where needed. Meanwhile, in the cloak of anonymity, our incredible administrative staff made sure all the critical background works ran smoothly. Again, we are strong together because of each and every one of you. Thank you.

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

Paul H. Torres  
Chief Executive Officer

