



Sullivan-Orange Counties
New York

162 East Broadway
Monticello, NY 12701

Tel: 845-796-1350
Fax: 845-796-3213

A Chapter of The Arc New York

Steven Drobysch
President

J. Richard Schwartz
Executive Director

April 22, 2020

Dear Parents/Family Members/Staff and Friends:

I would like to again, provide an update on the agency as we navigate through this pandemic.

At times like these, people are put to the test, some rise and run to help, others choose a different path. I have heard the difficulties that some agencies have had from all around the state as this pandemic touches the staffs' lives. Difficulties with staffing, especially in quarantined houses, has plagued some agencies. The majority of staff at The Arc Sullivan-Orange have responded to this crisis in a far more compassionate and professional way. Many have volunteered to go where others would not, they worked their shifts and got the job done. I am incredibly proud of our team, and their commitment and dedication to the people we support. They have made clear that our highest priority is to the people we support.

Sadly, not all of the news we have to share is positive. With COVID spreading in our area, our agency, unfortunately, is not unscathed. We have had 25 staff that tested positive; five of which have recovered. We have 19 people we support that tested positive, four of which have recovered and are symptom free.

It is with great sadness that I report we have lost a second person who lived in one of our residences to the COVID-19 virus. Our hearts go out to their families and friends.

This is a very difficult time. We are working together to support each other and keep each other safe, while sharing positive experiences as much as possible.

In all that's going on, we continue to provide a wide array of modified services throughout this time. Education for our students is provided via remote technology, and our clinic remains open for telehealth appointments. We are able to provide Psychiatry, Counseling, Speech and Language services, and limited OT & PT services. Our residential program continues to operate 24/7 thanks to the many dedicated DSPs from our residential and day programs. Community Habilitation is taking place, and our employment services staff continue to support people.

Please know that, as always the health and safety of the people we support and of our staff is our highest priority. We remain vigilant in our efforts to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. We will continue to provide updates. Please check out our Facebook page to see all the good work of our staff, and the fun activities happening daily.

Be Safe.

Sincerely,

J. Richard Schwartz
Executive Director

Achieve with us.