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A Chapter of The Arc New York

Steven Drobysch
President

J. Richard Schwartz
Executive Director

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Dear Parents, Family Members, and Staff:

I would like to give you a brief update on the status of the organization during this COVID-19 pandemic. We continue to work with The Arc New York, OPWDD, CDC and Public Health Departments. To date, we have eight staff who have tested positive. We hope to have them back to work healthy and able to resume their normal duties in the near future. We have two people residing in our residential homes who also tested positive. We hope to see them make a full recovery. The majority of these positive cases are in the same residential home.

We are following all protocols set by CDC, OPWDD and Public Health including the use of personal protective equipment (PPE), temperature checks of staff at the start of their shift, vital checks of people supported, monitoring of COVID-19 symptoms, and the use of quarantine and isolation as warranted. In a number of situations, we have proactively used precautionary quarantines for the safety of those residing in the homes and the staff. We have also restricted the sharing of staff amongst homes to help limit the possibility of exposures. Access to a medical professional is critical at this time. Therefore, we have extended telehealth services as a benefit to all staff.

As you may know obtaining PPE has been difficult. Our Fiscal Department has been diligent in their efforts to acquire necessary supplies and The Arc NY has been a valuable resource to us as well. We have the supplies that we need to address our current situation. In anticipation of an increase of positive cases, we have additional supplies on hand with more on order.

Most recently, a person who resided in one of our residential homes passed away. Although his passing has yet to be attributed to the COVID-19 virus, we are using caution and treating it as such. The necessary measures have for safety and wellbeing are in place in the home. We are saddened by this loss and our hearts go out to his friends and family.

We have had so many dedicated staff members exemplify teamwork and provide support whenever and however needed. Some of the stories can be found on our Facebook page. We would like to thank our staff for balancing their safety and health with the tremendous responsibility of providing support and care to the people who receive our services. Please keep yourself healthy and safe during these times.

Sincerely,

J. Richard Schwartz
Executive Director

Achieve with us.