

March 11, 2021

Dear Parents/Family Members/Staff and Friends:

As you know, as of January 1, 2021, we are officially The Arc Greater Hudson Valley serving children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Dutchess, Sullivan and Orange Counties. While this last year significantly challenged our financial position, we are definitely better together than we would have been as separate agencies. I thank our Board of Directors and all the staff for their dedication and hard work in making our unification a success.

It has been a while since I have shared an update regarding COVID-19 as it relates to our agency. As we all know, this past year was unpredictably difficult for everyone. While we truly hope to move past this pandemic soon, I would like to share some of the impact to our Arc Greater Hudson Valley family over the year.

We are sad to report that we lost 6 people we supported to COVID-19 since last year. One person lived in Dutchess County, 2 lived in Orange County and 3 in Sullivan County. There are 110 people supported and 178 staff that have recovered from COVID-19.

As of today, we have 1 person supported and 8 staff that have an active case of COVID-19. On a more positive note, almost 95% of the people we support have received their COVID-19 vaccine. Now that staff are eligible, 33% have received the vaccine.

I hope to see those percentages increase; which will help to ensure the safety of the people we support, our staff, and our community.

We are aware that the CDC has new guidelines for vaccinations, and for those vaccinated for travel, however; we have not received guidance from OPWDD to reflect that update. As soon as we receive updated guidance from OPWDD, we will post that.

If you would like to be added to our email list for agency updates, please send your name, email address, and relation (parent, family member, friend, staff) to JGlase@arcghvny.org. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Stay safe and healthy.

Sincerely,



J. Richard Schwartz Executive
Director