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March 11th, 2020

Dear Family Members and Other Potential Visitors,

We know some of you may be concerned about the spread of COVID-19 (the new coronavirus) and how it may impact us here at The Arc, Oneida-Lewis Chapter. Ensuring the people we support are safe and healthy is our greatest concern. We do not currently have any confirmed cases of COVID-19 at the Chapter. To help reduce the transmission of communicable diseases in our programs, we are implementing recommendations from The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). However, we need your help to support this goal.

In order to make sure that the people we support and our dedicated staff remain safe and protected from exposure, the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) is requiring providers to ask three screening questions of all visitors to our programs at this time. The screening consists of three questions that all visitors will be required to answer prior to visiting any of our programs. They include:

1. Have you traveled to a country within the last 14 days for which the CDC has issued a Level 2 or 3 travel designation?;
2. To your knowledge, have you had contact with any Persons Under Investigation (PUIs) for COVID-19 within the last 14 days, OR with anyone known to have COVID-19?; and
3. Do you have any symptoms of a respiratory infection (e.g., cough, sore throat, fever, or shortness of breath)?

If you would answer “yes” to any of these questions upon screening, we ask that you contact The Arc, Oneida-Lewis to discuss visitation options, so we can ensure the people we serve and the staff who serve them remain safe and healthy.

To help us meet this goal and comply with OPWDD policy, we respectfully request that visits be coordinated in advance with your primary contact at The Arc, Oneida-Lewis for the time being. If you do arrive unannounced, a staff member will ask you the screening questions above before permitting your visit. Based on your answers, your visit may need to be rescheduled.

We ask for your cooperation and understanding as we carry out this new screening process. We remain committed to ensuring that family and friends can visit with loved ones, with as little disruption to the normal visiting process as possible, while also actively working to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in New York state.

Please do not hesitate to reach out should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Karen Korotzer
Chief Executive Officer
The Arc, Oneida-Lewis Chapter

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