

# LEXINGTON NEWS



## A NEWSLETTER FOR FAMILIES & ADVOCATES

JULY 2, 2020

### MESSAGE FROM SHALONI



Dear Families and Advocates of the People We Support,

I hope each of you is doing well, as are your families.

First of all, we want to thank those of you who were able to attend our Town Hall meetings via Zoom on Monday, June 22 and Tuesday, June 23. We were so happy to be able to meet with many of you—about 50 families from both Schoharie Arc and Lexington joined us over those two days. It was an opportunity to share information not only about family visits that were just starting, but also about other re-opening information that we are in the midst of planning. As a reminder, the only guidance that we have received from OPWDD about reopening is what we received on June 19 about family visits. As soon as we receive further guidance about visits to your homes, community activities, opening our day program sites, employment supports, transportation and other programs that were either curtailed or closed, we will be sure to share that with you.

A common thread in both of these meetings was the support, patience and understanding that you showed in the face of the challenges and hardships that this pandemic has thrust upon all of us. Thank you for your understanding that the safety and well-being of your loved ones is always in the forefront of everything that we do. We cannot even begin to understand how hard it has been for you over these past months not being able to see your loved one or bring them home, what it's been like to interrupt their routines, and more. Knowing all this and that you are behind us in our efforts to keep everyone safe is at the heart of what we do and just confirms for us that we are doing the right thing. Thank you for your unending support; it means the world to us and to our staff members.

If you were not able to join us at these initial Town Hall Zoom meetings, you are welcome to watch a recording of the Tuesday meeting that is available. The information for that recording is included in the Zoom Meeting section of this newsletter. During those Town Hall meetings some of you asked for additional meetings for updates and questions. We have scheduled those and the information for those is also included in the Zoom Meeting section that you will find later in this newsletter.

These first weeks of family visits have resulted in some very exciting, happy, emotional visits at our homes. There have been some challenges that have tested our procedures but overall, the visits are going well.

Thank you for helping us keep people safe and healthy using guidance from OPWDD, from the Centers for Disease Control, and from New York State.

We look forward to staying in touch with you as we get further guidance from OPWDD and continue to reopen our programs and services. Please be assured that our staff are doing their best to ensure that your family members are able to enjoy the outdoors and the community in some way while staying within OPWDD mandates.

Please take care of yourselves and your families. Should you have any questions, please contact me at [shaloni@thearclexington.org](mailto:shaloni@thearclexington.org) or (518) 775-5383.

Thank you for your trust in us.

Sincerely,



Shaloni Winston  
Executive Director

## FAMILY VISITS VIDEOS

- At this link, please find a video that takes you through an actual visit that took place at one of our homes. We hope it will help you visualize what happens during these visits, and will take you through our new screening protocols and visit procedures. This video can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nK5ParApPc4&t=3s>
- Here is a video that shows you our preventative measures against COVID-19 for face masks, hand sanitizer and social distancing. This video is at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E93qDZWAolo&t=4s>

## ZOOM MEETING INFORMATION

Follow this link to a recording of the Town Hall Zoom Meeting for Families and Advocates that took place on **Tuesday, June 23**. In it, there is a discussion and questions about Family Visits to Lexington Homes as well as our initial plans for re-opening: [https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/play/6MB5du-v\\_D03GoCWtgSDVqUvW43peP-sh3dIrKENnkfjAiYHNAWhZLcaNuaGOsTTwDTasQmtJTPPEULD](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/play/6MB5du-v_D03GoCWtgSDVqUvW43peP-sh3dIrKENnkfjAiYHNAWhZLcaNuaGOsTTwDTasQmtJTPPEULD)

There are two new Town Hall Zoom meetings scheduled for Families and Advocates that will be a forum for questions and answers with Lexington leadership and will discuss any new guidance from OPWDD that may have been received for reopening:

**MONDAY, JULY 20 at 6pm**

**TUESDAY, JULY 21 at 1:30pm**

*Please contact Terry Williams to register at [williat@thearclexington.org](mailto:williat@thearclexington.org) or call (518) 775-5382.*

## #RISINGTOGETHER AT LEXINGTON!



*We thought we would share here some photos from some of our first family visits to our homes. Although most are wearing masks, you can still see the joy and happiness in the faces of family members and the people we support:*

*Clockwise, from top left: Nathan visits with his family for the first time in months. He is super excited to see his parents and to get some gifts from them during the visit that took place on a beautiful summer day.*

*A basket of items put together for family visits at Eagle Mills. From a suggestion by a family member, two personal fans were added to keep everyone cool during their visits.*

*Karen, who lives at Krumkill in Albany, gets a visit from her niece and shows off her new craft work.*

*Alan hasn't been able to see his mother for months, not only due to the pandemic, but she has had some medical challenges as of late. Alan was reunited last week not only with his mother, but his sister also came for the visit.*

*A screen shot from one of the Town Hall Family and Advocate Zoom meetings.*

*Brianna and her mother have been visiting for the last few months only through a window. They were excited to finally be able to see each other in-person!*

### LOOKING FOR FAMILY/ADVOCATE EMAIL ADDRESSES

In order for us to provide you with information in a timely manner, we are asking for you to provide an email address for correspondence if you have not already done so.

Please send this information to Terry Williams via email at [williat@thearealexington.org](mailto:williat@thearealexington.org).

***Thank you!***

## PROCEDURES FOR FAMILY VISITS

- Please call your Residence Manager, or Assistant Director in his/her absence, to schedule a visit. Please provide 24 hours notice so that residence teams can support the visit as needed.
- For health and safety reasons, at this time we are encouraging visits in outdoor areas of the home.
- Also for health and safety reasons, we are only able to allow two visitors at a time, and only one person in each home can receive visitors at any given time.
- The Residence Manager and staff have made sure to set up outside areas at the homes for your visit to occur comfortably and safely. The area will provide protection from the elements, a sanitizer and personal protective equipment (PPE) station and comfortable, physically-distanced seating.
- When you arrive, please ring the doorbell/knock on the door. Our staff will greet you and direct you to the visit area. For the safety of everyone who lives in the home, at this time no visitors are allowed inside the residence.
- Before your visit begins, you will be asked to sign in on the home's Visitor Log and answer screening questions.
- If during screening it is discovered that the visitor has symptoms or any of the exposure concerns noted then Residence Manager or staff will reschedule your visit.
- The staff or Residence Manager will offer you hand sanitizer prior to the beginning of the visit, as well as provide you with a mask to use for the visit. Your loved one will also be encouraged to use a mask for the visit, unless he/she is medically unable.
- Seating will be provided that will allow you to maintain six-feet social distancing during the visit. Our staff will be available to provide any supports needed to help you and your loved one enjoy a safe visit.
- After your visit, our staff will disinfect and clean visit areas to ensure safety for the next visitors.

*If you have any questions or need further information about visiting our homes, please contact your Residence Manager or reference the videos in the "Family Visits Videos" section of this newsletter.*

## TRAVEL ADVISORY FOR TRAVELERS/RESIDENTS ARRIVING IN NEW YORK STATE

For our families and advocates, we wanted to make you aware of a new travel advisory for New York State that went into effect on June 25, 2020: In response to increased rates of COVID-19 transmission in certain states within the United States, and to protect New York's successful containment of COVID-19, New York has joined with New Jersey and Connecticut in jointly issuing a travel advisory for anyone returning from travel to states that have a significant degree of community-wide spread of COVID-19. This advisory states that if you have traveled from within one of the designated states with significant community spread, you must quarantine when you enter NY for 14 days from the last travel within these designated states, unless you are passing through these states for a limited duration (under 24 hours). As of July 1 these states are Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Idaho, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nevada, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Utah. The travel advisory requires all New Yorkers, as well as those visiting from out of state, to take personal responsibility for complying with the advisory in the best interest of public health and safety. For questions about the travel advisory visit [coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-travel-advisory](https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-travel-advisory)

## RESOURCES

- The Arc Lexington website: <https://thearclexington.org/>
- Lexington's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/LexingtonArc/>
- OPWDD website: <https://opwdd.ny.gov/>
- Residential Services—(518) 736-4200—Fulton
- Albany office—(518) 218-7315
- General email: [info@thearclexington.org](mailto:info@thearclexington.org)
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