

Citizens Options Unlimited COMPASS Semi-Annual Report

Advocacy Did Not Stop During the Pandemic



“My mom is only able to see me through the window, she puts her hand up like this. I can’t go out and hug her nothing,” said Robyn Lipschutz.

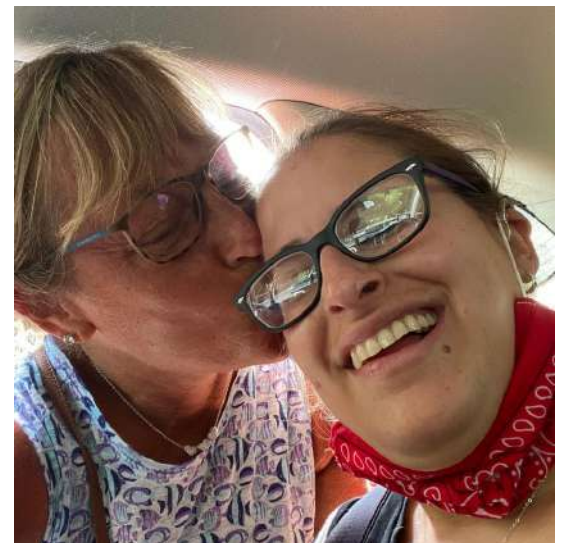
In June, Robyn spoke to CBS News 6: CBS Investigates about her months of isolation while not being able to visit with family and friends due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Strict safety guidelines to mitigate the spread of the Novel Coronavirus put a pause on all visitation to group residences, which was devastating to the people we support and their families.

Robyn, and her twin sister, who also lives in a home supported by Citizens, felt trapped. Robyn told CBS News 6, that her sister, who has more severe disabilities, does not understand what’s happening. “If I get on the phone with her she will say ‘when is mommy coming to get me’,” Lipschutz said.

Skype, Zoom, and Facetime kept families virtually connected during this time — but that’s nothing compared to the real hugs and kisses that Robyn needed.

On July 15, 2020 everything changed. It was the day Robyn had been waiting months for — a return to the comfort of in-person visits with loved ones and getting out into the community for some of the activities that she missed.

Robyn was thrilled!



Personal Missions — Pot of Gold Poster Contest

What does your Pot of Gold look like at the end of the rainbow?

We're all waiting for a better tomorrow with our family, friends and community.

Take a look at two inspiring submissions from our Pot of Gold poster contest.



Ontario



Bourne Court

The overwhelming theme was family and friends—two things that were most missed.

Happily, in July, visits with family and friends resumed.

Here are some of the joyous reunions!



Ontario



Amos

A Parade of Thanks! By Jerri Walker

Camp Loyaltown camper, Gina Barbara, is awed by the amazing work that direct care workers do! Gina is one of many who rely on support from direct care workers to be as active and independent as possible.

To show her appreciation and honor ALL direct care workers, care managers, community habilitation workers and social workers, Gina arranged a drive by parade that took place on Sunday, May 17, 2020 in Wantagh. All were welcome to participate.



Many members of the community participated, including the Wantagh Fire Department. The Camp Loyaltown team was honored to be a part of this event and received a lovely thank you sign!

Gina's gratitude for the people who support her to live an independent life shined at this parade. A world of thanks Gina, for orchestrating such a beautiful event!



Mission Statement and Management Plan Annual Review

The annual review of the Mission Statement and Management Plan began in September 2020 by Citizens Council. This is completed each year as part of our COMPASS commitment and execution of the COMPASS Management Plan.

After the Council's review, the COMPASS Committee will review the Mission Statement and COMPASS Management Plan, followed by the Citizens Board of Directors review.

If you have suggestions for changes to the mission statement or management plan, please contact Colleen Tapia at 516 293-2016 extension 5492 or at ctapia@ahrc.org. Everyone's input is valuable and welcomed.



Vision Statement
A world where all people
are valued.

Citizens

Citizens supports people to live
the lives they choose.

Acts Of Kindness by Roberta Romano



In a world where the continuous updates of the coronavirus frequently seem to dominate the headlines, and the devastating effects of this horrible disease are impossible to ignore, it is worth remembering human beings capacity for love and generosity to renew our faith in humanity. Acts of kindness don't have to be grand gestures. Showing someone that you care could be as little as paying for their coffee or wishing them a good day.

Mark is a Community Habilitation staff in Citizens Family Support. Due to social distancing requirements during the pandemic, he is unable to work with the person he assists with self-direction. Sadly, Mark's father recently passed away, and he is currently caring for his mother, Pat, to ensure she has everything she needs.

Despite his own troubles, Mark volunteers his time delivering items when needed to anyone within the agency. He also makes sure his mother is not trapped at home alone, and everyone is kept safe, as together they deliver PPE to families who truly need self-direction help from the community habilitation staff.

This welcomed gesture is exactly what the world needs right now, as it brings hope to a person's heart and a smile to their face.

Spreading Cheer

Behavior Specialists Chris Polistena and Kristyn Matovich spread cheer by arranging flowers for all rooms at Citizens Shoreham residences.

What a beautiful way to brighten everyone's day!



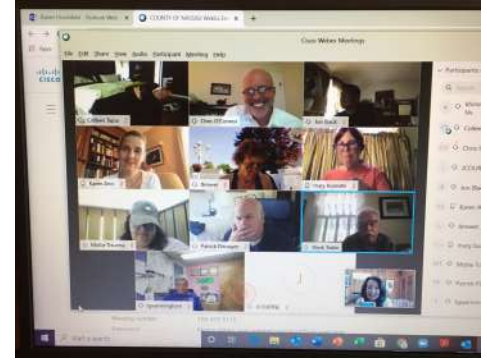
The Sibling Group Stays Connected

In March, in response to the pandemic, the Sibling Group began holding virtual meetings that have proven to be an invaluable way to come together, share information and support their siblings.

At the first meeting, during the height of the pandemic, the group recognized the importance of easing the daily strain at their siblings' homes and saying thanks to the staff. Meals and treats were delivered (some every day!), and thank you cards sent. This effort has expanded to all of Citizens' residences. These unexpected acts of kindness are feeding body and soul.

Paul Giordano, AHRC Board President and founder of the group, encouraged all in attendance to remain involved. As parents age, the role and responsibilities of siblings increases and becomes one of the strongest natural supports for their brother or sister. Citizens strongly encourages these long lasting, positive, loving relationships, and enjoys working with so many engaged siblings.

Chris O'Connor, Pam Boyle and others joined the meeting to keep all informed and offer their support and leadership.



2020 SIBLING GROUP

Please join us for virtual meetings!

Contact ctapia@ahrc.org

- **Sibling Group Virtual Meetings at 5:00pm. Contact Colleen Tapia at ctapia@ahrc.org for details on how to connect.**
- **December 3, 2020 – Sibling Holiday Party, 6:00-8:00 p.m. in Brookville. On hold.**

Board Physical Plant Inspections by Colleen Tapia

At the present time, inspections are suspended to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

The annual Physical Plant Inspections (PPI) meeting was held on March 11, 2020. Policy and procedures were reviewed, sites assigned, questions or concerns addressed. The PPI process remains an integral component of our success as a COMPASS agency.



Members of the Board of Directors along with management staff during the annual Physical Plant Inspection meeting.

Three physical plant inspections were completed from January to March 2020 (when inspections were suspended). There were zero new work orders generated, zero hazardous citations, and zero physical plant deficiencies that remained open after 60 days.

Thank you to Sue Dowling who coordinates this process.

Annual Council Presentation To Be Held Virtually

Citizens Board of Directors have been meeting virtually over the past few months, due to COVID-19, and have been successful in coordinating and maintaining agency operations. Weekly Board of Directors COVID-19 update meetings share information and coordinate efforts.

It has been a busy and challenging time. Up next is the annual Council presentation to the Board of Directors in the fall. This will be done virtually.



Who is Steven Barsh? by Helene Ramer

The best word to describe Steven Barsh is ADVOCATE. On a conference call in September with Governor Andrew Cuomo, Steven protested the proposed 20% budget cuts and told the Governor the cuts should be 10% or less. The Governor told Steven that he hoped both parties would agree.

I had the pleasure of interviewing Steven Barsh and learning about his many jobs, interests and committee responsibilities. Steven works as a QA Advocate for AHRC. He attends weekly meetings and sits on a committee that reviews incident reports. He gives his opinions and makes recommendations to the team. He is always advocating and loves feeling very informed.

As a peer specialist with Silo Independent Living Center, Steven visits nursing homes, day habs, people's homes, and prisons. He introduces himself, develops a rapport and explains how he can help. He has helped with math and money skills, travel training and provides companionship and friendship.

Steven is very excited about the AHRC-Citizens Reading Group that began meeting in Plainview in 2018. Currently, the group meets online, where Steven joins others from their hub sites or group homes to hear Colleen Adler read a book aloud or listen to an audio book and engage in book discussions. They are currently reading about Trevor Noah, a South African comedian, writer, producer, political commentator, actor and television host of The Daily Show. Steven would like to have Trevor speak to the group. Steven loves being part of a book club where he can voice his opinion without having to worry about his reading level. Anyone is welcome to join by emailing ctapia@ahrc.org.

One of Steven's many great ideas is to form an online Peer Mentoring Group to discuss topics such as peer pressure, living with a disability, and having a voice. He would also like to expand this idea to a family group.

Steven is 50 years old, and lives in the Citizens house on West Broadway in Cedarhurst, a former FEGS house. He would like to have his own apartment one day and use self-direction. He wants everyone to remember to vote, and use their voice. He even works as a Poll Election Inspector on Election Day. Keep up the great work Steven, and thank you for ADVOCATING.



A Rising Star! by Jerri Walker

Chelsea Daley wanted to be an actress since she was a little girl. Pursuing those dreams included performing in the Camp Loyaltown drama program and being a part of the FREE Drum Corps. But that doesn't compare to her recent experience.

On July 21st, 2020 Chelsea appeared on primetime television! Chelsea has been advocating for television roles and was thrilled when she was called by the producers of "What Would you Do?". This program is a situational hidden camera television program that is broadcast on ABC.

Her scene reflected a true story about a young woman denied acceptance into a sorority because of her diagnosis of down syndrome.

Being on television and having the opportunity to speak out against bullying was special to Chelsea. Her favorite part was having her make-up done and speaking with the host, John Quinones. Chelsea's advice to everyone, "Keep trying and doing your best to have your dreams come true."




Chelsea shown above on "What Would you Do?"



Zoom

During these hard times, staff and people supported by Citizens are staying connected with each other through an app called Zoom. Similar to Skype or Facetime, Zoom allows you to see people and connect virtually. Zoom is a great way for families to stay connected with loved ones in our residential program. Here are some of the things Citizens has been doing through Zoom these past couple of weeks:



- hosting Council meetings each Wednesday.
- Jerri Walker has created “Camp Connections”- a series of cultural activities with music, art, and culture, and evening activities like Jeopardy, learning sign language, and a nice dance with camp counselors.
- Heidi is hosting fitness activities such as yoga, Zumba and dance.

I would like to thank Colleen, Heidi and Jerri for hosting these Zoom sessions so we all can stay connected with each other and brighten up our days through these difficult times.



CAMP CONNECTIONS



It was virtual fun this summer with Camp Connections! Campers showed off their biggest smiles in July, 2020 during Camp Connections Wheel of Fortune evening activity, and at Friday Feeling, Camp Loyaltown campers were challenged to make their silliest faces!

Campers enjoyed “Tool Time Talk” with Gary! Then they got glamorous! We addressed all our beauty needs by learning the basics of skincare, how to blow out and curl hair, and create our own makeup look! People followed along with their own products at home or simply observed some new beauty tips for their next night out!



During Creative Arts for New Orleans day, Camp Connections participants made Mardi Gras-themed crafts! Camper Shelby made a FABULOUS hand print mask to celebrate.

Keeping camp traditions going, Camper Anthony Rossi joined Camp Connections at our Hawaiian Luau! Other campers put on their dancing shoes and joined us for our weekly Saturday night dance. One week's theme was 'Come as your favorite pop star!'



Another Camp Connections group wrote a special poem saying “thank you” in many different languages, to all our guests from around the world! Check it out!

Dahlia Cole, guest speaker on Camp Connection, helped us create rainbows during our virtual programming, lifting spirits and connecting us even while apart! Thank you Dahlia and all of our guest speakers from around the world who help keep Camp Loyatown connected! It was all amazing and fun

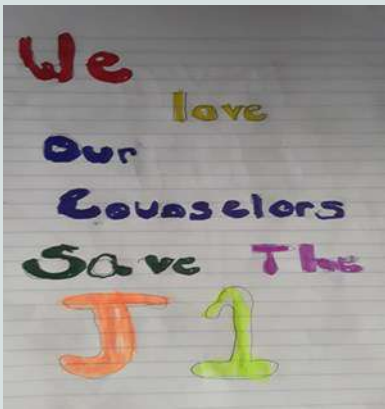


Stanford Comes to Camp by Michelle Rudoff

Camp Loyaltown's virtual Camp Connections performing arts program is run by Nyle Hohan seven days a week from 1:00-2:30. But on Wednesday, July 22nd the program met at 2:00 p.m. so all the full time staff could join. Kate Wilson, from Australia, got up at 4:00 a.m. her time to join, and Dom Doolin joined at 6:00 a.m. New Zealand time. Everyone who logged on to The Camp Loyaltown Camp Connections performing arts program had the pleasure of meeting and speaking with Executive Director, Stanford Perry.

We spent a week putting together a nice little performance of two Makaton sign language songs, "Try Everything" and "This Is Me". We also sang "You'll Be in My Heart". We quizzed Stanford with camp related questions. Stanford really enjoyed the performance and was surprised when we told him that we learned Makaton over Zoom! Stanford had a big smile on his face the whole time and maybe a few dance moves in his seat as well. The performing arts group is looking into performing for other people on Fridays... so stay tuned.

Advocating for the J-1 Visa by Jerri Walker



Through the J-1 Cultural Exchange Visa Program, Camp Loyaltown has hosted counselors from all over the world for over 40 years. With each counselor's presence, we are awarded the opportunity to learn more about different cultures and celebrate diversity. It also provides the opportunity to share our progressive work as an agency and have that work shared throughout the world.

Sadly, on June 22nd there was a presidential executive order to stop the J1 Visa Program. The rationale for the order was preventing entry of immigrants and nonimmigrants into the U.S. who present a risk to the U.S. labor market during the coronavirus outbreak. The order was placed and will be reevaluated in January, 2021.

Once campers and families heard this news, they inquired and the campaign began. Campers and families shared stories of the positive impact the counselors from Camp Loyaltown have on their life. Some wrote to elected officials, made videos and shared their stories with the Community Resources department for a social media campaign. One thing that stands out is the amazing advocates that are a part of our agency and recognize the importance of the counselors in their lives. If you would like to share your story of the impact the J1 Visa has had on your life, please email Jerri Walker at jwalker@citizens-inc.org.

Virtual ComeUnity Recreation and Camp Loyaltown

Don't miss out on the fun! Virtual Camp Loyaltown and ComeUnity Recreation applications are open! This summer, our Camp Connections group hosted its first virtual campfire via Zoom! Campers gathered to enjoy the campfire burning on camp soil, sing songs, and listen to spooky stories—and there is so much more to come!

For more information, check out our new brochure here: <https://www.citizens-inc.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2020/06/Virtual-Program-Brochure.docx.pdf>

Join the fun—submit your application at: www.bunk1.com



University of Personal Growth by Helene Ramer

School is Back! We are now remote and have room for everyone!

I am pleased to announce that the University of Personal Growth has returned for the fall semester, and we are doing it remotely.

On Tuesday, September 15, from 11:00 to 12:00, eight sites participated in a class about NUTRITION, taught by Jordana Sanders. Jordana did a great job making fruit salad and discussing healthy food choices for breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks.

- Tuesday, October 13 RECREATION will be taught by Jerri Walker.
- November 10 brings us MENTAL and EMOTIONAL HEALTH
- December 15 INTERNET SAFETY will be discussed

Anyone is welcome to join in the fun. Please email me at hramer@ahrc.org to reserve a spot. I will send you the link on Monday for the following day's meeting. Please email me with your ideas for class topics for 2021.



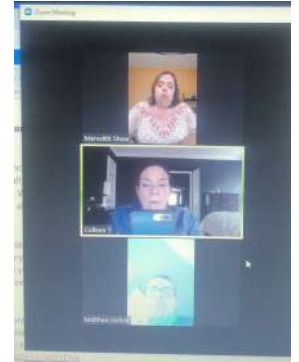
Call-a-Thon

On September 24, 2020 there was a call to action for an advocacy campaign to call our Governor and legislators and share our concerns for budget cuts and the therapeutic leave cuts proposed.

People shared their personal stories, explaining how cuts to therapeutic leave infringes on their right to choose where, when and how time is spent away from their families.

These cuts affect our agency's overall budget and leaves advocates with tough choices to make about whether we vacation or sleep in our family's home. Our field has been so financially burdened by the pandemic. Introducing additional cuts only hurts us.

We all need to speak out to save our services.



Executive Council

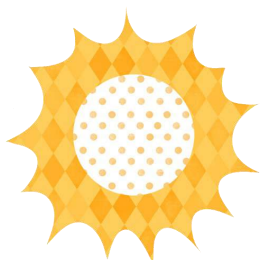
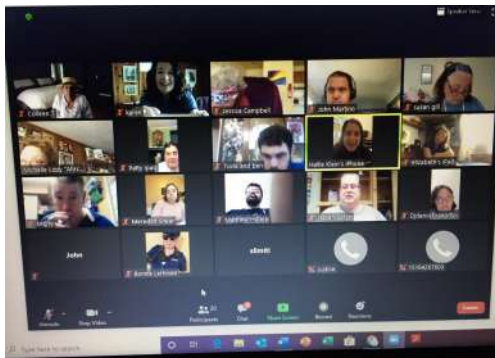
- The Executive Council has been meeting via Zoom since March with Pam Boyle giving inspirational encouragement during these hard times.
- Michelle Rudoff and Sue Gill have been presenting the "I am the Expert" initiative for the Camp Connections program. Sue has held a few meetings to discuss plans for the "I am the Expert" initiative.
- Stanford Perry dropped by one of our May Zoom Council meetings to talk about what is going on in the agency and the plan to reopen.
- Hallie Klein, President of Citizens Board of Directors, attended a Council meeting in July to discuss what the Board has been doing during the pandemic.
- Chris O'Connor attended the Council meeting in September to discuss day hab re-opening.
- Several voting trainings have been offered as well as voter registration drives.



Citizens Council

The Citizens Council was thrilled to meet virtually on September 10, 2020. While council members have enjoyed attending the weekly Executive Council Meetings over the past few months, and meeting with Citizens Board President Hallie Klein at a recent Council meeting, it was wonderful to be back together. Below is a summary of items reviewed and discussed.

- Rights Training was provided on due process and voting.
- Steven Barsh reviewed items discussed at the last COMPASS meeting.
- Thanksgiving dinner plans.
- Participation at the upcoming virtual AHRC Walk and Rights Rally.
- Morale as it relates to COVID-19 and the lifestyle changes, including overnight visits to families which now results in reduced agency reimbursement.
- Staff appreciation, and how the Council can show their appreciation.
- The Council would like to have a face to face meeting. In order to have a safe meeting it would have to be outside, with limited people, social distancing, masks, etc. It was agreed that for now, virtual meetings are best.
- Board member responsibilities, and whether or not an election should be held, since members did not have a full term due to the limitations of the pandemic.



I Am The Expert of My Life!

Matt Hofele

I am an expert at knitting and gardening.

I plant a garden every spring and harvest in the fall.

I knit all the time. I sell my knitting inventory to raise money for diabetes.



Self-Advocacy!



MTA settled a Federal lawsuit filed by three disabled train riders, including our very own Gina Barbara. The lawsuit claimed that the Amityville, Copiague and Lindenhurst Long Island Railroad stations were not accessible to them, nor in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. An agreement was reached, and the MTA is installing elevators for the first time at these LIRR stations! Station bathrooms will be handicap accessible, and improvements will be made to doors, curb cuts and ramps.

Gina Barbara, 40, of Wantagh, one of three people in the class action case, said it "brings justice" to those who have been unable to use the three Suffolk stations. Gina could not use the railroad to visit family and friends due to the limitations for her wheelchair. "It should never have come to this," said Gina. "People with disabilities are not second class citizens."

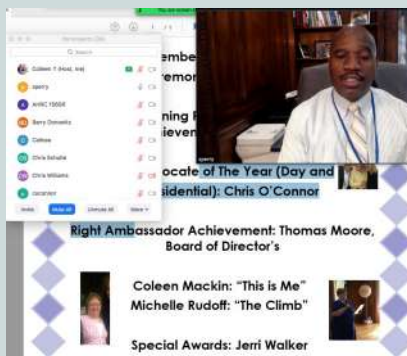
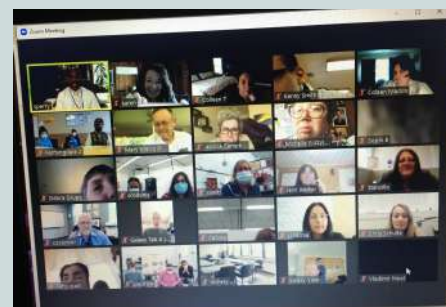
Gina is Coordinator of Downstate New York ADAPT and for anyone interested in joining her advocacy efforts, please contact her at ginambarbara@gmail.com

Rights Shout Out 2020

On September 23, 2020, the Executive Council hosted its first ever Virtual Rights Rally. Things were different this year but the spirit and intent of the rally remained the same—to honor and celebrate people's rights.

Michelle Rudoff, from the Executive Council, was the Master of Ceremonies.

Karaoke was performed by Coleen Mackin and Michelle Rudoff and people took the opportunity to share the rights that are most important to them. Tom Moore/AHRC Board member presented Rights Ambassador pins to people who have promoted rights for their peers and themselves. It was a fun and inspirational event!



Camp Loyaltown Superhero!

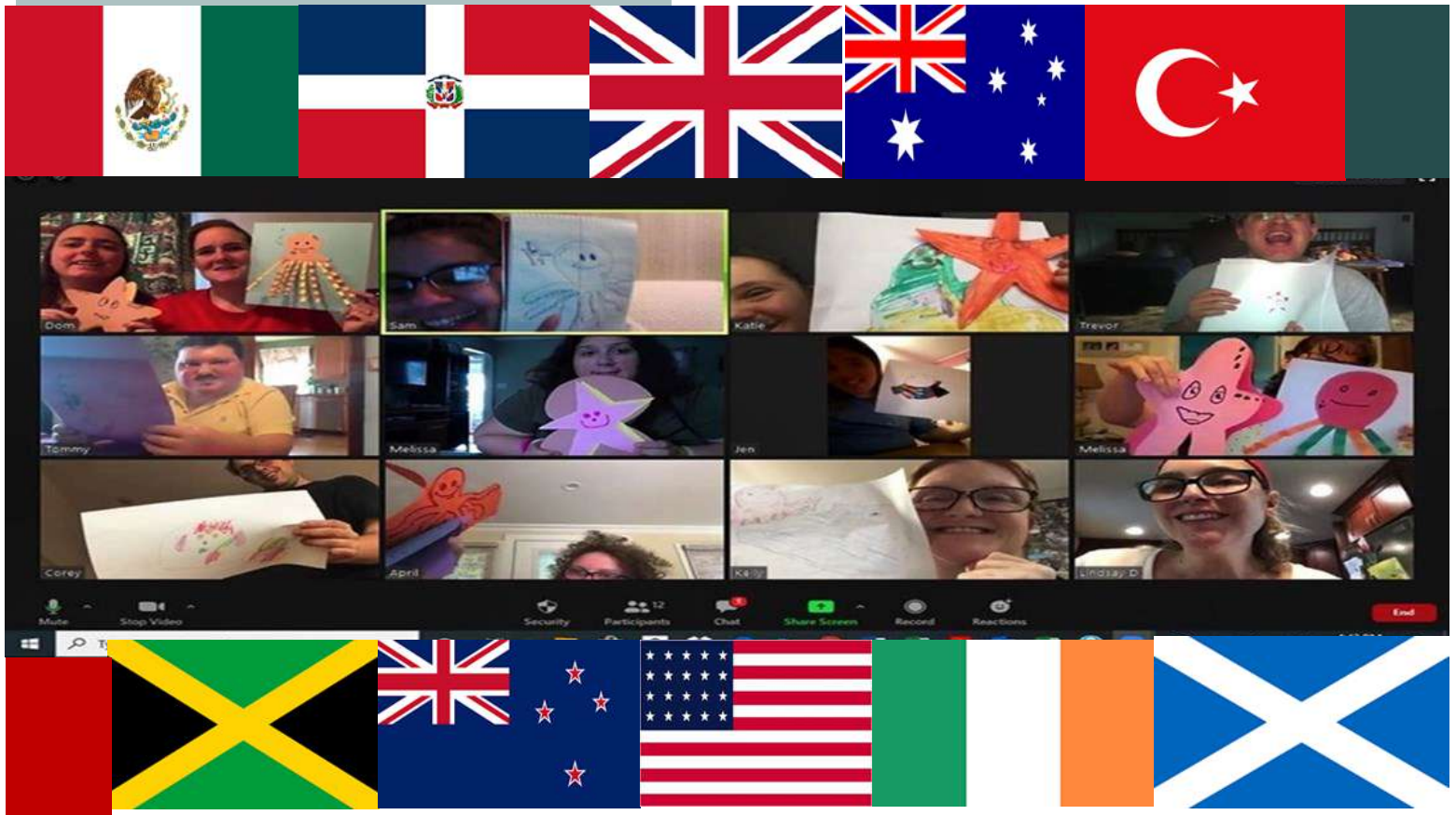


During the October Rights Rally, Jerri Walker, Associate Director of Camp Loyaltown, presented Michelle Rudoff with the Camp Ambassador 2020 award. Much thought went into this award and it was well deserved.

When Camp Loyaltown first recognized that New York State was not going to grant camps a permit to operate, our virtual program began. *But how can we spread the word and encourage others to join?* We turned to Michelle Rudoff. Michelle reached out to peers so they would feel less isolated and join in. She invited people from other programs so they can have the same experience. Michelle supported the staff, guest speakers and volunteers by extending her gratitude and appreciation. She made introductions so that everyone felt welcome and valued. Often, Michelle shared her role as a Quality Assurance Trainer, promoting agency incentives and training peers how to navigate ZOOM meetings.

One thing is certain—Camp Loyaltown's virtual program would not have been as successful without Michelle Rudoff. She went above and beyond in advocating and supporting the Camp Connections 2020 program. From all of us at Loyaltown, we appreciate it!





Diversity at Virtual Camp Connections

by Melissa Mazure, Michelle Bontempo, Michelle Rudoff, Cristina Giovinco,
Patricia Fran, Kelly Kildare, Stephanie Quesquen & John Galvin

Summer 2020 was a unique summer for all of us. Camp Loyaltown was no exception. One thing that continued throughout this uncertain time was the amazing efforts of the Camp Loyaltown counselors. The diversity of the program was truly celebrated. Many counselors continued to meet with campers through ZOOM. Campers had the opportunity to get to know the counselors in the very country they were ZOOMing from. They shared experiences about their cultures through lessons about dancing, music, languages, cooking, exercising and playing games. A counselor from Australia taught lessons in Makaton, which is a form of sign language. Spanish lessons were taught by a counselor in the Dominican Republic and we all celebrated Jamaican Independence through cooking lessons. Traditionally, counselors participate through the J-1 Visa and although it is suspended, our advocacy continues, to ensure it will be once again reinstated.

Celebrating Direct Care Professionals

Celebrating and honoring Direct Support Professionals is even more important this year. Staff at the ICF were honored, celebrated and recognized for their ongoing dedication to Citizens Options Unlimited. Senior Director, Karen Tanzillo, is pictured below doing just that.



Personal Outcome Measures Update

The Quality Improvement Department created policies and procedures that utilize Personal Outcome Measures (POM) to develop meaningful, person-centered, valued outcomes that help people improve people's quality of life. When feasible, POM interviews are to be completed 1– 2 months prior to a person's Life Plan meeting and if possible, every two years.

The Personal Outcome Trainers/Interviewers continue to track all data for the person's outcomes and the agencies' supports in order to implement improvement initiatives. Due to COVID-19, interviews have been completed remotely, to assist people to understand CQL and Personal Outcomes.

The POM staff continues to participate in Council meetings and COMPASS meetings. Personal Outcome Trainers/Interviewers provide supports to people at their Life Planning meetings, as requested. They also provide support to staff members at reviews. The COMPASS initiative set forth for staff in both the day and residential settings continues to offer monthly training to people supported on specific individual rights.

Advocates are members of the Board of Directors, COMPASS, Human Rights, Incident Review and Guardianship Committees. People supported attend Human Rights Committee meetings as they wish, with support staff, as needed, to discuss the current rights restriction in their plans regarding medications. They are involved in discussion about the need for continued or discontinued use of medication, and the process of tapering off medication in a safe and healthy way, if indicated. POM interviews continue to be conducted prior to referral for a psychiatric evaluation.

Empowerment training is offered to people receiving supports on various topics: voting, mask wearing, how to make a complaint, what happens if you get sick and social distancing. Training on POMs continues to be provided at New Hire Orientation. Staff also sign an attestation to indicate their commitment in facilitating that people supported work on and attain their outcomes. POM training is offered through the year to existing staff. Each year the POM department interviews a different set of people supported by both AHRC Nassau and Citizens, through various services (Residential, Day Program, Supported Employment, Community Habilitation, Self-Directed Services). POMs are typically conducted every two years, or as requested, with the exception of people with formal Rights Restrictions who are interviewed annually.



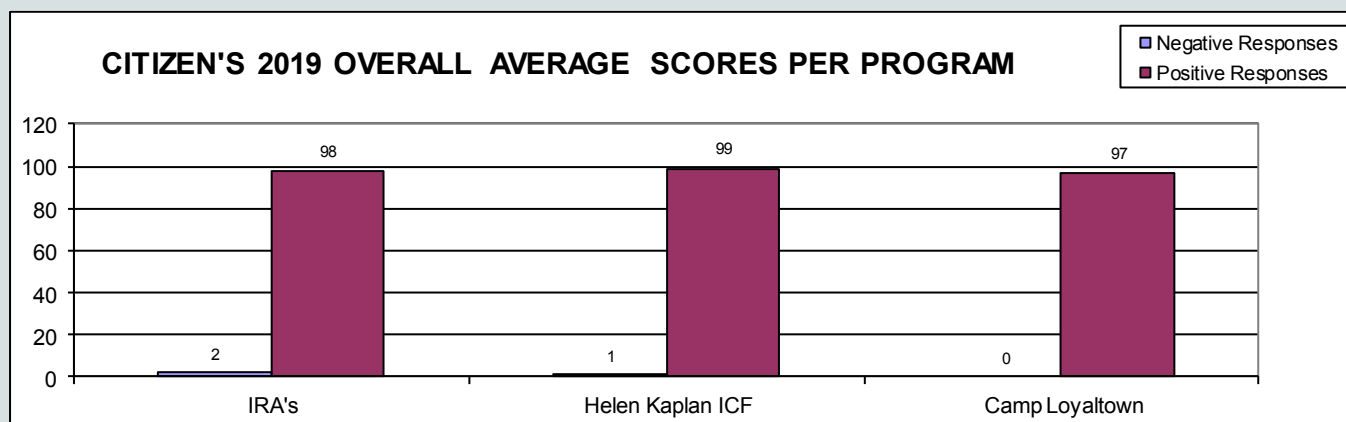
The week of September 13, 2020 kicked off Direct Support Professional (DSP) Recognition Week! Despite the many challenges we have faced this year, DSPs continue their dedication to our mission, empowering the people we support day in and day out. We used the week to highlight stories and share photos celebrating our amazing team of DSPs. Thank you all again for the amazing job you do!

Our Heroes!

What does a hero look like to you? To us, it's the Citizens Options Unlimited nursing and Direct Support Professionals teams in action! We continue to give thanks for our Citizens teams and essential workers for all they have done and continue to do each day. Thank you!



Individual Questionnaire Results—2019



Citizens provided people who receive services with a questionnaire to obtain their individual feedback regarding program services. An agency wide trend is noted if more than ten percent of those surveyed identified a concern to a particular question. Individual advocates assisted people who requested or required help completing the questionnaire. Please refer to individual program reports for more specific information. The following programs completed individual questionnaires:

Residential IRA's
Helen Kaplan ICF
Camp Loyaltown

An agency wide template was created in 2010 by the COMPASS Committee to correspond with the National Core Indicators of Home, Relationships, Health and Productivity and also reflects CQL's Basic Assurances. Camp Loyaltown does not use this template due to the different services offered. No agency wide trends were identified. The results across programs were excellent, with each program scoring at or above 98 percent overall. An agency wide score of 98% satisfaction was reported. This is consistent with previous years. A trend is noted when a score is 89% or less. There are no trends noted for 2019.

Employee COVID Survey

This year, a COVID-19 survey was completed to assess how employees were meeting work and home demands during times of uncertainty and upheaval. 455 responses were received, which represents 13.4% of employees from all companies who shared their candid feedback to help us understand how they are managing during this time.

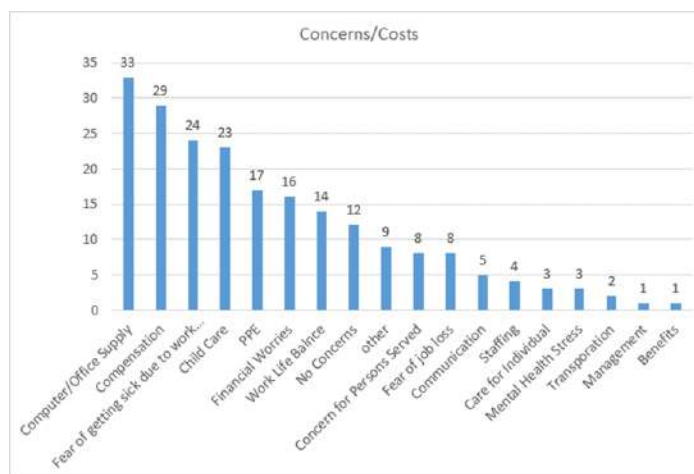
The feedback collected is being used to help provide insight into what resources Citizens and our family of companies can provide to support and to help plan for managing future crisis situations. The goal is to be sure everyone has the tools and help to balance work and home demands.

"I trust that our company will use this survey as an opportunity to help our employees meet their needs"

We received a score of 3.2 on a scale of 1-4

Responses to the question "Please tell us about any other work-related concerns/costs you may need help with due to the current crisis, and any suggestions for how we might help" are shown here.

Plans continue to be enhanced to assist all employees during these challenging times. Thank you to everyone who completed the survey, and stay safe!



The COMPASS Committee & The Quality Enhancement Process

It's not business as usual! The COMPASS Committee, along with the rest of the country, has been busy reinventing itself due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This involved a pivot to virtual activities for meetings and quality improvement initiatives, and we are happy to report that remote meetings, trainings, questionnaires and events have worked and been successful. There are no doubt challenges and a sense of isolation due to COVID restrictions, but we have found ways (Zoom!) to engage with colleagues, people supported and families.

The message is clear. It's up to us to share the future and reap the benefits of this new experience. Let's make sure that includes being more empathetic, more compassionate, more understanding and a better nation.

Rainbows and flowers bloom and brighten everyone's day at the Helen Kaplan ICF.



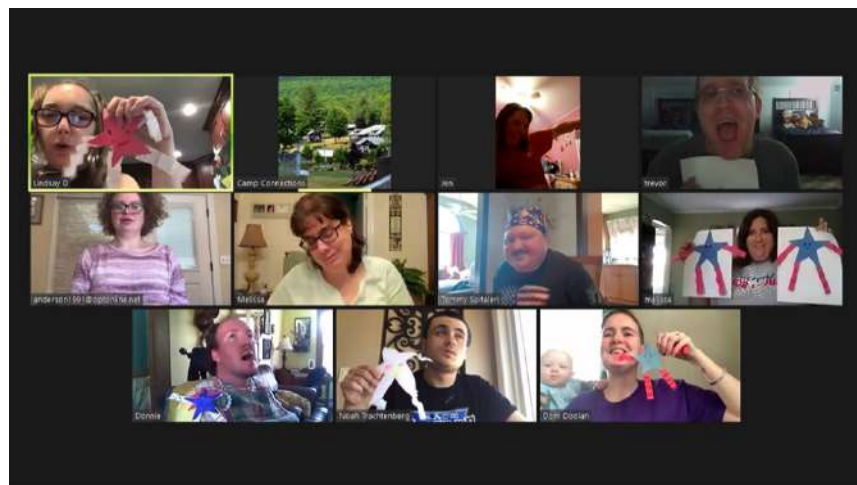
Regulatory Affairs by Eric Rosen

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a single site survey was completed between March 2020 and September 2020 as all site-based survey activity was suspended as of 3/18/20. A version of OPWDD's Site-Based Protocol was utilized for this site-based survey.

During this timeframe, Regulatory Affairs staff were redeployed to assist the agency with other needed activities, including contact tracing for people supported and employees who tested positive for COVID-19 or were deemed presumed positive for COVID-19 by a healthcare practitioner.

Enjoying Summer Days!

Campers enjoyed many summer days with beach themed arts and crafts sessions. Bring on the sunshine, sand and summer nights!



EMPOWERMENT TRAININGS

For information or registration:

Call: 516-293-2016, ext. 5362

INTERNET SAFETY

11:00 A.M.

OCTOBER 28, 2020 VIA ZOOM

PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOR IN THE WORKFORCE

11:00 A.M.

DATE TBD

For information or registration,
please visit our website at AHRC.org
or email ctapia@ahrc.org or
Call: 516-293-2016, ext. 5492

FAMILY SEMINAR SERIES

**Join us for future webinars via WebEx
right from your own home!**

**Open to members of the community,
family members and advocates**

WILLS AND TRUSTS DATE and TIME TBA

For information or registration,
please visit our website at AHRC.org
or email ctapia@ahrc.org or
Call: 516-293-2016, ext. 5492

**We are excited to announce that the
Empowerment Series
trainings and many activities
have gone virtual!**

For many people, getting connected with friends and doing activities “together” is now possible through TVs, tablets and phones. Classes such as music and movement, yoga and fitness are now offered through Zoom.

**Please visit AHRC.org for more details on how to
join these fun and exciting activities.**

Empowerment Series

A virtual empowerment training was held on May 14, 2020 to discuss COVID-19, the changes we’re facing, what to expect if someone gets sick, as well as rights if hospitalized. Additional trainings followed: Virtual Meeting Etiquette, May 20, 2020; the Complaint Process on July 15, 2020; and a Voting Seminar on July 29, 2020.



**Let's dance! Join us for
Zoom [#ComeUnity](https://zoom.us/j/8548548548)
dance.** Put on those dancing shoes and connect with your ComeUnity from the comfort of your home.

If you are interested in attending, please contact Citizens for more information.



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TO:



**HELP US SAVEJ1
 YOUR VOICE CAN MAKE
 A DIFFERENCE!**

Our Camp Loyaltown community depends on the invaluable contributions of our international team members. A proclamation was issued by The White House on June 22nd suspending some J-1 Visas effective June 24 through December 31, 2020, with the possibility of continuation. The proclamation can be modified, but we need your help! Please raise your voice and help us #savej1! **Share your stories and tag us @CampLoyaltown so we can repost!**

What We're Asking For: We need your voices! Campers, staff, parents, community members—please share stories about cultural exchange and the positive impact international team members have had on the Camp Loyaltown experience. Don't forget to tag us @camployaltown using hashtag #savej1 when sharing your stories on social media!