

## Listening Session #1: Town Hall on Community Participation June 10, 2020

Marian Baldini shared a brief PowerPoint highlighting the purpose of the Community Participation Meetings. [Click here](#) for a recording of session #1 held on June 10, 2020.

A summary of comments from the meeting participants are below.

- YMCA is an example of where we like to go. With the YMCA being closed, could we tap into summer swim clubs? Some of these summer swim clubs are not doing teams currently. We think they are required to have lifts.
- When will the special teen bowling resume? This question is in reference to the location in Croydon AMF on Route 13 in Bristol.
- Comment regarding a resident whose parents often visit and often take him home for visits.
- A suggestion, with being at home, if people are interested, they can foster kittens and puppies. PetSmart is looking for volunteers to play with the kittens or puppies in the stores.
- Always look at people like family and opportunity to meet their friends that can carry through our lifespan.
- What about tapping into volunteer efforts? What can we do to build our networks?
- Joe McGuire and Julie Daly had a conversation with community development specialist from Microsoft. They are excited about talking about what they can provide virtually or in store. The message is that their goal is to be accessible for everyone. There is another call next week. No details yet, but will expand to others on the team.
- Where can we find the video on masks? Look for materials on SharePoint. Training is coming soon.
- A comment on new age thinking, such as virtual vacations. Next step is to get some equipment. Frank Guthridge is looking into funding. Wear headsets and provide virtual experience. It can be for a few minutes, few hours. It may be a virtual trip to Italy, a museum, or a ball park. We are hoping to roll out in mid-July. It is not just fun but also skill building.
- A Concern mentioned - ultimately would love to see community participation to be seamless. What qualifies and how do we make it seamless?
- To make it seamless, people normally in day program and now they are in smaller ratios 1-2/1-3/1-4. This is a perfect opportunity.

- Think about it like *choose your own adventure books* (from the 80s). Find the place they want to go...employment, pleasure. Ask where you want to go...and that takes you to the next question. ... easier to find...some may not be open... figure... find alternative
- Some parents have concerns for when we open up. Staff who come into their homes and staff taking them in own cars. Where do we stand on recommendations? Staff may have shift after or before another one.
- We need to know about the cleanliness issues. There are lots of places still closed. We are contacting the residential homes and sending activities to keep people engaged. Working on next steps such as protocols for sanitizing.
- Bigger concern is about mask wearing.
- Participant saw a study that compared masks with shields. There are practical issues such as number of people in vans, what if you get somewhere and the individual takes the mask off.
- Some parents are concerned about us coming in to their homes.
- Biggest hope is that when things resume we do things differently and take time to restructure and regroup. Hear from families is they are concerned with where will they go, and how are we transporting people.
- Hope is to gain and integrate more technology to keep in touch, go to meeting, online resources, and academic resources in virtual settings.
- Reimagine facilities and not waiting to go out. Develop creative way to teach skills, and advance skills in their lives and career.
- PSN Community Connection Coach agree with tech and remote activities. Hoping we can keep some of the new ways of doing things such as chair yoga, book club, meeting new people, and keep remote services.
- Concern as we move into yellow and if there is an uptick potential.
- Exton Supervisor concern. Currently in school and doing a program evaluation of CPS. Goals of ODP fostering relationship in community.
- People look at people differently in the community.
- What are our beliefs about people with disabilities?
- Discuss what new program will look like such as reduced ratios, already struggle with staffing.

- Language is different. I don't say I am going to participate in the community. I say I am going for coffee... if we expect every one is a grown person than we should say "do you want to go..." Rather than its time for community participation.
- Important for me to talk about the life span and listen to what we do across the agency. Challenges and concerns for birth to five for interventionist and families. We need to do face to face as safely as we can.
- One thing that has helped them is our coaching model that we promote. Practice as grown and strengthen the skills when we are farther apart.
- Coaching model is to train the parent. What makes sense to the family and implement a way that is easy for the family, integrate into the family routine. You model and do hand over hand with parents to empower the parent.