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**Wednesday, February 15, 2017
6:30PM at the OnCenter Complex**

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Agency Services

AccessCNY offers person-centered services that empower individuals of all ages and abilities to reach their full potential as part of our shared community. Services are provided with dedication, compassion, innovation, and commitment.

Services for those with a Developmental Disability or ABI

Adaptive Equipment Loan Program	Early Intervention Services	Physical Therapy
Advocacy	Environmental Modifications	Preschool Evaluations
Assistive Technology	Family and Individual Supports	Self-Direction
Augmentative Communication	Home and Community Based Services	Sensory Integration
Certified Residential Settings	Inclusive Preschool Education	Social Work Counseling
Community Habilitation	Individualized Support Services	Speech and Language Therapy
Consumer Directed Homecare	Medicaid Service Coordination	Supported Employment
Day Habilitation	Occupational Therapy	

Services for those with a Mental Health Issue

Certified Residential Services	Housing Supports	Supported Education
Community Supports	Peer-Based Support	Supported Employment
Family Supports	Social Skills Training	Vocational Rehabilitation

Affiliations

Association for Community Living	New York Association of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services
Association for Persons in Supported Employment	Supported Housing Network of New York
Cerebral Palsy Associations of NYS	United Way of CNY
National Association for the Education of Young Children	



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PAUL JOSLYN

In my brief few months since joining AccessCNY I've seen some amazing things.

I've seen a group of young adults laughing and enjoying each other's company as they prepared and enjoyed a meal together.

I've seen people sharing their experiences with mental illness in an effort to inspire others to their own recovery.

And, I've seen, or rather heard, a group of musicians rocking out on some classic rock favorites.

What's amazing about these experiences is that at AccessCNY they are far from amazing, these are everyday occurrences. Every day, at every turn individuals with developmental disabilities, mental health issues or acquired brain injuries are finding they can achieve more than they ever thought. The tasks are goals; whether it be learning to provide for yourself, learning to be part of a community or relearning how to use a hand through the joy of music.

Learning can't happen without great teachers. At AccessCNY those teachers are called Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) and there are over 1,000 of them working in Central New York. Their classroom is our community. There's no book to teach from, they call on their own life experiences to help an individual with a disability. DSPs make possible that meal, that conversation, that song. *Continued inside...*



Recently State Senator Dave Valesky toured AccessCNY to learn about the services offered and issues impacting people with disabilities. (Pictured: Paul Joslyn, Board Member Virginia Felleman and Senator Valesky)

Visit
www.accesscny.org/advocacy
to get involved!

ACCESSCNY WINS SELF-ADVOCACY AGENCY OF THE YEAR, ADVOCATE STANDS OUT

At this year's Self-Advocates of New York State Conference, AccessCNY was recognized for the support of its Self-Advocacy club. The award is given each year to an agency nominated by a Self-Advocate group. At this year's conference, organizations across the state lauded AccessCNY's program, which supports persons with disabilities who learn how to speak up for themselves, help others and build skills along with friendship. "It's nice that AccessCNY is recognized for the unique opportunities we provide people," said Tammy Dietrich, Assistant Program Manager of Community Networks. "AccessCNY is different. We build the schedule of events around what the advocates want to do."

"That's what makes us different. I am so honored that our program was recognized for that, and I am so proud of all the advocates for writing a great nomination," said Mike Sieklucki, Assistant Program Manager. According to the President of the Self-Advocates, Danielle Gladle, the program embodies what being person-centered is all about. "AccessCNY is always there to help us. They help us travel, and the staff is always great."

In October, Self-Advocate Emily Sherman put her knowledge into action. Sherman spoke to represent the views of Self-Advocates at a joint rally and press event AccessCNY held with Arc of Onondaga to



The AccessCNY Self-Advocates Club stands with the agency award.

raise awareness of low wages for direct support professionals (DSPs). "The services (DSPs provide) like job coaching helped me get a job at Wegmans, which has helped me be more confident in myself," Sherman said, speaking passionately about why AccessCNY staff mean so much to her and why she believes they should be paid fairly.

DAVID CLARK LEARNING CENTER ON THE MOVE, NEEDS YOUR HELP



At the David Clark Learning Center, “people who have had a life changing injury receive services that are just as life changing”, says Nicole Felix, Director of the DCLC. “The Members of the Center come here to learn about themselves, to explore through art, music and writing after they have been through something that has altered the path of their life.” The premier programs at the DCLC include painting, 3D art work, poetry, cooking classes, educational sessions, guest speakers and more.

For over 15 years, the David Clark Learning Center (DCLC) has been on State Street. However, along with several other AccessCNY programs, the DCLC will be moving to East Syracuse. “A lot of things came together that made a move work,” said Paul Joslyn, Executive Director of AccessCNY. “It’s always better to have programs together where they can support each other. On top of that, we have this amazing space that’s like a blank canvas. We have an opportunity to create a facility to meet the exact needs of the members.”

“When members first start here, they are often at a loss. They’ve just suffered an injury that limits them. People say what they can’t do. Then they come here and learn everything they can do,” Felix said. “I am really excited about the move. The new space will allow us to do more and serve more members.”

What the David Clark Learning Center and its members need now, says Joslyn, is support from the community. “We can make a new Center that perfectly matches the needs of the members, but we need help. Together, we need to raise about \$245,000.” With the official introduction of the DCLC Capital Campaign at last year’s AccessToday event, the campaign has so far raised over \$50,000 from individual donors and grants from community partners.

“We have made progress, but we still have work to do,” Joslyn says. “The David Clark Learning Center means so much to the people in our community with acquired brain injuries and this is a project we believe the community is ready to support.”

Fill out the donation slip and send it in to leave your mark on the new David Clark Learning Center!

DAVID CLARK LEARNING CENTER DONATION FORM

Your Full Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

GIFT AMOUNT

☐ \$30 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$75 ☐ \$100 ☐ Other: _____

☐ I would like to make a monthly credit card gift of: \$ _____

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Exp. Date: _____ CCV Code: _____

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Please cut out and return donation form to:

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Give securely online at
www.accesscny.org/dclc-give
or call us at 315.455.7591.

FOCUS ON HEALTH: WELLNESS GRANT FROM EXCELLUS BLUECROSS BLUESHIELD TAKES SHAPE



Thanks to a grant from Excellus BlueCross BlueShield, AccessCNY has been able to offer a new program for participants in AccessCNY’s mental health programs. The Health and Wellness group, a collaboration with the YMCA and AccessCNY, is off to a great start. So far, 25 AccessCNY participants have gone to group sessions, where topics like healthy eating, stress management and fitness are discussed. Together, the group talks about how keeping in physical shape can help with their mental health too.

Thank you
Excellus
BlueCross
BlueShield!

“It’s really about what they want to work on. Some people are really focused on fitness, some on stress management,” explains Melanie Greene, Program Manager Community Support Services & Wellness. “The goal is to help people get involved in their community and be healthier both physically and mentally. Thanks to Excellus BlueCross BlueShield, we have the funds to do it.”



The wellness group gathers outside before the meeting starts.

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR *Continued*



DSPs work tirelessly to make our community a better place. The individuals we serve cannot succeed without DSPs. Sadly staff are falling behind after eight years without a significant salary adjustment. It’s becoming harder for them to do a job they love and continue to make ends meet. While AccessCNY relies on community support to enhance our programs, government support is the driving force behind DSP wages.

That’s why AccessCNY is part of the #bfair2DirectCare coalition. We’ve raised the issue and our voices in rallies, in the media and with our elected officials. We are pleased that members of our Central New

York delegation in Albany, including Senators DeFrancisco and Valesky and Assemblymembers Magnarelli, Finch, Stirpe and Hunter have shown their support. We will continue to fight for what’s right for those who care for individuals with disabilities and our shared community.

AT BLUE SPRUCE LOUNGE, INCLUSION WORKS



At Blue Spruce Lounge, a restaurant off of I-81 and 7th North Street in Liverpool, AccessCNY participants with developmental disabilities are afforded a unique experience. For almost a year, participants from the community habilitation program have been learning job skills by working and volunteering at the Lounge. This includes a spirited group of ladies (pictured here) who work hard to impress each shift. “People become family here. The girls are part of that family now,” said Joe Borello, the owner. “We treat them just the same as anyone else who works here.”

Executive Chef Rob Ballard sings the groups praises to anyone who will listen. “On the first day, I made everything. Now, they put on the gloves and get to work. They have learned so much.” The lessons go beyond restaurant skills like food prep, cleaning and taking orders. For the participants, practicing communication and social interactions are just as important as the job duties they master.

This spirit of inclusion and teaching was what first got the attention of AccessCNY and led to Blue Spruce’s Community Visionary award at AccessToday. The award, given out at AccessCNY’s annual recognition dinner, is given to a community member or group whose progressive actions have worked to create a more inclusive community for people of all abilities. “There is no doubt that the staff at Blue Spruce have worked hard to create an inclusive environment for people of all abilities,” said Matt Seubert, Associate Executive Director of Development and Communication at AccessCNY.

“What I always say is that there shouldn’t even be an award for this. Treating people the same is what everyone should do. This should be the norm, and one day it will be,” said Liz Buchmann, who coordinates the program at Blue Spruce Lounge.



AccessCNY program participants stand with Blue Spruce staff.

Honorees from AccessToday

Shawn Mack: The Terry Byrne Empowerment Award

Mary Murphy: The Dick Pratt 1,000 Small Gestures Award

Blue Spruce Lounge: The Jack McCrea Community Visionary Award

The Enright Family: Grossman Family Innovation Award

Mary Handley: Special Recognition Award