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## HAVE AN IDEA FOR THE NEWSLETTER?

Contact us via e-mail at [newsletter@accesscny.org](mailto:newsletter@accesscny.org), or drop an idea in one of the suggestion boxes located at each of our administrative buildings.

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## What is Respite Services?

AccessCNY is excited to welcome a new program to the agency: Respite Care. Spaulding has operated this program for 28 years, starting with the Guest House, which opened in 1990 on South Ave., and is now located on the East Side of Syracuse. Later, they took on the opportunity from another agency to run Crystal House, on Syracuse's South Side, as well.

The primary objective of Respite Service is to provide caregivers with a break from the day to day care needs of their family members. It focuses on short term, planned respite at a friendly supervised setting by trained staff who provide a level of care to meet the needs of each individual.

Both houses run two separate programs. First is the weekend overnight program which runs from Friday afternoon until Sunday afternoon. Groups of 5 individuals rotate weekends with other groups (usually five to six weeks between respite stays). This allows the



participants to develop relationships as they share recreational activities, meals and downtime to socialize together. Secondly, each house also has an afternoon/evening weeknight program that takes place from 4-8 p.m. This includes recreation time and meals, often following work or programs.

The Respite Program is funded through the OPWDD waiver. The individuals must live either at home with family or a caregiver. Both locations are wheelchair accessible.

Currently, the programs are working with adults, but have historically had sessions with older adolescents as well. Each group is pre-screened to allow individuals with similar interests and abilities to build friendships with others who share their same passions and pursuits.

If you have interest or questions about this important program, you are encouraged to reach out to its Program Director Leslie Thompkins at 315-410-3376.

## For all...

- ◇ Does your pet love people? Our Networks program loves pets! Contact Lynnette Sherwood at [lsherwood@accesscny.org](mailto:lsherwood@accesscny.org) if you'd like to bring your pet in to visit our participants.
- ◇ The Education Department is accepting volunteers to read to the children in Exploring Your World. Contact Rachel Harry at [rharry@accesscny.org](mailto:rharry@accesscny.org) for more information. Participants and staff are welcome!

## Employee Enrichment

### Relationships and Sexuality (includes HIV/AIDS, Hep B & STI's)

Wednesday, 6/3/18  
9:00 am-1:30 pm

1603 Court Street, Room 108  
(For ALL employees)

### Person Centered Thinking

Wednesday, 6/27/18  
9:00 am-3:30 pm

1603 Court Street, Room 108  
(For staff supporting Individuals with Developmental Disabilities)

## Join us for Anything That Rolls!

We welcome all staff, participants and community members to join us on July 15th from 9am-12pm at Onondaga Lake Park for Anything That Rolls! Everyone is invited to walk, roll, skate, bike and run (or anything else!) as far as they'd like down the course.

Come on out for family friendly activities like face painting, crafts, balloon art, games and fun treats. The event will feature awards for most team spirit, rookie roller, largest team and more! This year, the agency's goal is to raise \$50,000

to support programs and services throughout the agency. Every dollar raised comes right back to supporting those we all serve.

Do you think staff, participants, friends or family want to roll with us? Check out



[www.anythingthatrolls.org](http://www.anythingthatrolls.org) to get started or learn more. No matter if you join a team, make your own, or raise money, we are happy to welcome all of you to 2018's Anything That Rolls.

## Supervisory Leadership Training Series

If you have wondered where your supervisors are disappearing to every month for a few hours, you should know that AccessCNY has implemented leadership training sessions to help those in supervisor, manager and director roles to develop their skills to be even better leaders and assist their teams to build on the successes they have already achieved.

Under the direction of Amy Eells, Associate Executive Director for Quality Enhancement, a group of AccessCNY leaders from a wide range of programs and experiences undertook the task of developing and rolling out the program to all members of Leadership, a daunting task given the varied schedule and staffing complications such time away from people's regular tasks would cause. However,

The Executive Team supported the belief that this series would enhance our leaders to build stronger programs and encourage and champion all staff in their efforts to maintain our high level of quality services, as well as promote retention and satisfaction levels for employees.

The trainings started in January and run through June this year. Topics include: Professionalism, Effective Communication, Professional Boundaries, HR 101, Staff Motivation and Team Building and Person Centered Leadership. Feedback has been positive so far and it is hoped that these trainings will continue to be presented annually to those staff who take on leadership roles at AccessCNY in the future.

# CDPS - A Great Idea That Is Catching On!

by G. Joseph Gross, Associate Executive Director for Clinical Services and Consumer Directed Personal Services

If you look back at the origins of many of our services, they usually started because someone asked, "Isn't there a better way?" This is true for AccessCNY's Consumer Directed Personal Services (CDPS) department. Rather than an agency assigning anonymous staff to come into a participant's home to complete tasks ranging from housekeeping to personal care, wouldn't it be better if they were given more choice about who was assisting them, and when that person came?

With CDPS, the participant gains control over their own care. They recruit staff to work with them - staff

that can even include family members! They instruct staff on how they like things done, and they set the schedule according to their own needs. In order to qualify for the program, an individual must be enrolled in Medicaid, have a need for assistance, and either be able to direct their own care, or designate another person who can direct care on their behalf.

Each of the more than 550 participants in our CDPS program work with a Program Manager and our Human Resources Department to make sure that staff meet the requirements to be a Personal Aide, and complete all of the necessary paperwork for

AccessCNY's payroll. AccessCNY tracks the hours worked by each Personal Aide, makes sure that the proper taxes are paid, and issues paychecks. AccessCNY works with Managed Care Organizations (MCO's) and Onondaga County to receive payment for the services provided. If questions arise, the Program Managers work with the participant, whether there are issues with Medicaid, an MCO, or a sticky situation with an employee.

For further information about this amazing program, contact myself or Lance Lindner, Program Director.

## JP Morgan Corporate Challenge

AccessCNY and Spaulding Support Services employees have joined forces to participate in the JP Morgan Corporate Challenge! This will mark the first time the two merging agencies are participating in a joint event. Both AccessCNY and Spaulding have had Corporate Challenge teams for many years.

The 3.5 mile run/walk will take place at Onondaga Lake Park at 6:25 p.m. on June 6th, 2018, and will include teams from companies all across the Syracuse area. Registered participants can compete for either team or individual awards, and even a chance to qualify for the Series Championships, but it's not required.

More than anything the Corporate Challenge strives to promote health and wellness within the workplace, and to make a difference by way of a donation to a not-for-profit organization within the city. AccessCNY and Spaulding Services are joining the fray, complete with special t-shirts featuring the official logos from each organization. Best of luck to the newly combined team!



# Employee Match Game

How well do you know your fellow employees? This month features a new segment with some fun and games. Below are a list of 5 agency employees and a list of 5 book titles. Try to match the correct staff member with their favorite book. Email your guesses to the [Newsletter@AccessCNY.org](mailto:Newsletter@AccessCNY.org). The first person to guess all 5 correctly might just win a little prize. Correct answers will be found in next month's issue.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Jessica Mitchell<br>Program Director, DD/ABI Services | A. <i>Walden</i> , Henry David Thoreau                    |
| 2. Eric Boye<br>Program Director, MH Residential         | B. <i>Complete Works of Winnie the Pooh</i> , A. A. Milne |
| 3. Rachel Garcia<br>Accounts Payable Specialist, Finance | C. <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> , Harper Lee              |
| 4. Lance Lindner<br>Program Director, CDPS               | D. <i>Cane River</i> , Lalita Tademy                      |
| 5. Noella Simone<br>Employee Development Specialist, QA  | E. <i>Evicted</i> , Matthew Desmond                       |

## Welcome to AccessCNY

We're excited to welcome the following new employees who joined our agency in May:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| • Donte Adams, DSP-Community Habilitation      | • Ar'Reca McMullen, DSP-Respite                  |
| • Rita Barbato, DSP-Community Habilitation     | • Zamika Rogers, DSP-Networks                    |
| • Brittani Brynien, DSP-Networks               | • Teeda Ros, DSP-Certified                       |
| • Dion Collins, DSP-Networks                   | • Janelle Rozzano, Children's Support Specialist |
| • Teikia Holifield, DSP-Community Habilitation | • Niara Scott-Jackson, DSP-Certified             |
| • Alyssa Kirley, Behavior Support Specialist   |  |

### QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give."

- Winston S. Churchill