

Cedars

Creative, Productive, Joyous Lives



In the spirit of Independence Day...

Dear Cedars Family Members,

As an organization supporting individuals with I/DD, independence is a driving force to carry out our mission of inspiring creative, productive, and joyous lives. Independence means something different for each person – it may be receiving a first paycheck, cooking a healthy meal, finishing a piece of artwork, helping someone in need, or moving to a new place after living with family for many years. **This week we celebrate the ongoing journey of independence; the day-to-day and the big picture.**

In 2018 Cedars received a grant from the Department of Developmental Services to establish a procedure for person-centered thinking principles to be documented and ingrained in our work. This project serves both as **a necessity for compliance** in Home and Community Based Services regulations and as **a practice of our value** – that the personal preferences of each individual are considered in thought, feeling, and action across the organization.

We are thrilled to announce that we have received another grant this year to not just continue, but **further** the work of our Person-Centered Planning Coordinator by building on learnings and processes from the last two years. We've set clear yet comprehensive goals and roadmaps for delivery, including:

- Distilling what can be complex Person-Centered Thinking concepts into digestible and applicable tools and practices that can be utilized by staff and participants.
- Rolling out the Person-Centered Planning process developed in the previous grant cycle to all Cedars programs.
- Developing ways to facilitate increased inclusion of participant preferences in program operations, including establishing a Board Advisory Committee made up of residents and participants.

- Developing and documenting sustainable practices: key concepts and tools will be developed for realistic use and organized in accessible ways to ensure that the value of the project can be embedded in ongoing organizational operations.

More information on the project will be shared in future updates as well as Cedars Family Association meetings. We are grateful for this opportunity to continue our work to ensure every individual at Cedars has the opportunity for a life built on their own choices – **a life of independence.**

Sincerely,



Chuck Greene
Executive Director