



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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**Amsterdam** - Liberty today announced that the agency and its subsidiary, in Delaware, Choices for Community Living (CCL Delaware), have been awarded the four year CQL Person-Centered Excellence Accreditation from CQL | The Council on Quality and Leadership. This award confirms that Liberty and CCL Delaware shares CQL's vision for person-centered solutions to improve the quality of life for people receiving supports and services.

Liberty has previously received CQL accreditation; a four year award in 2009 and a two year award in 2007 and 2005. CCL Delaware was previously accredited in 2009, as well. It is the first organization in the state of Delaware to be accredited by CQL.

"We are very honored to have been awarded this prestigious four year accreditation from CQL, said Liberty COO Candy Opalka. "We have an amazing team of people who work hard to ensure that the quality of life of the individuals we support are enriched and what they value. We thank CQL for recognizing Liberty and CCL Delaware with this great achievement!"

When Liberty and CCL Delaware partnered with CQL to pursue accreditation, they undertook a rigorous process to review and improve services and supports. Their efforts were focused on empowering the people who receive support from their organization to make choices in how they live their lives ... where they work, where they live, how they create a community.

Both Liberty and CCL Delaware have been awarded CQL accreditation as a result of demonstrating proficiency in the following areas:

- Basic Assurances ( ensuring fundamental safeguards related to health, safety and human security)
- Personal Outcome Measures® (supporting and empowering people to achieve their goals and dreams)
- Person-centered Excellence (demonstrating organizational commitment to continued enhancement of systems directly related to person-centered services)

Cathy Ficker Terrill, President and CEO of CQL, stated, "CQL commends Liberty and CCL Delaware for their success in increasing the quality of life for the people they support. We are pleased to partner with them on this journey."

Founded in 1957 by local parents and family members of people with disabilities, Liberty is a not-for-profit, member chapter of NYSARC, Inc. a statewide organization serving over 60,000 individuals throughout New York. Liberty is the largest provider of services to people with developmental disabilities in Montgomery County, offering day, residential, vocational, family support and health-related programs to over 650 individuals with disabilities and other persons with special needs in the community.

Based in Maryland, CQL is a recognized leader in developing and measuring quality indicators and standards for services for people with disabilities, emphasizing values-based supports and services, individualized planning and personal outcomes.

For more than 40 years CQL has been a leader in raising the bar for human service organizations and systems to continuously define, measure and improve the quality of life of all people. Organizations that are awarded accreditation by CQL meet a stringent set of criteria and demonstrate an on-going commitment to person-centered excellence.

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