



NEWS RELEASE

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Liberty Hosts Crisis Response Forum

Amsterdam- Representatives of two area police departments, the Montgomery County Sheriff's office, Montgomery County Emergency Management office, GAVAC, Rural Metro Ambulance and five local fire departments were in attendance at a forum hosted by Liberty ARC on September 17th. The forum, which was held at the Montgomery County Emergency Operation Center, was aimed at developing a discussion between Liberty and community providers regarding management of behavioral crisis events at the agency's sites throughout Montgomery County.

"It was our intent to share information regarding Liberty's policies and procedures, state-mandated regulations and ways to better manage resources for the best possible outcomes for all involved in crisis response", said Liberty Safety Manager Heather Vecchio.

Liberty presenters included Ms. Vecchio; Tracy Sarabia, Clinical Manager; Jennifer Lang, Corporate Compliance Audit Coordinator; and Megan Martin, Behavior Specialist. The presenters provided information about specific issues related to various disabilities of people supported by Liberty as well as giving an overview of the regulatory requirements Liberty must follow as an agency funded through the NYS Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD). The reporting and oversight requirements of the NYS Justice Center were also reviewed.

The information presented at the forum is available to any law enforcement, fire department, ambulance or other emergency response provider in the county. Please contact Heather Vecchio at (518)954-3225 for more information.

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