



PRESS RELEASE

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Liberty ARC Opens New Sensory Room

AMSTERDAM- Today, Liberty ARC, the Montgomery County Chapter, NYSARC, Inc., held a ribbon cutting to mark the opening of a new Sensory Room in its Day Supports building. This state-of-the-art room will be used to support a variety of individuals with an intellectual and developmental disability (I/DD) diagnosis.

“The sensory room represents Liberty ARC’s continued commitment in providing excellent supports and pioneering programming to individuals with I/DD. Opportunities, like this room, are essential for the individuals we support to strive and succeed in meeting their individual needs,” said Liberty ARC CEO Jennifer Saunders. “I’m proud that our agency is able to envision much-needed supports, like this room, make them come to fruition and know that those we support will gain a wide variety of health benefits from the use of this sensory room. We appreciate, this important funding, made possible through a grant from the Alliance for Better Health.”

The new sensory room will be used to support individuals with diagnoses such as, those on the autism spectrum, those who have a dual diagnosis (coping with both I/DD and mental health issues), those who struggle with anxiety, those with sensory impairments like sensitivities or limited vision as well as individuals with dementia/Alzheimer’s. The space offers a calming, relaxing atmosphere and promotes a variety of health and well-being benefits such as: sensory awareness and aids in decreasing anxiety and stress levels.

Funds for the room were made available through New York State’s Department of Health Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) Program. The DSRIP program is how the state aims to transform the delivery of health care, with specific attention paid to Medicaid and uninsured patients. Funding for the DSRIP program was made possible through a waiver between the federal government and New York State. As a performance driven plan, DSRIP incentivizes each of the state’s 25 Performing Provider Systems (PPSs) to work collaboratively to reduce hospitalizations and emergency department visits that are considered avoidable, increase quality of care and slow the cost curve. Alliance for Better

Health, one of New York's approved PPSs, is the organization in which Liberty ARC worked with to obtain these funds.

Also made possible, through the DSRIP grant, is a full-service library located in the Day Supports building. The library offers a laid-back atmosphere where individuals can stop by and read a book, take a book with them to return, as well as interact with others through board games and book clubs. Two murals depicting lovely outdoor scenes were painted by individuals in Liberty ARC's garden program.

About Liberty ARC

Liberty ARC, the Montgomery County Chapter of NYSARC, Inc., was founded in 1957 by parents of children with developmental disabilities who wished to establish special education programs in the local community. For over 60 years, the organization has provided the area with top-quality supports and has grown to include vocational, recreational, residential, day, family support and health-related services to nearly 580 individuals with physical, developmental and other disabilities.

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