



July 14, 2023

Dear Employees, Individuals and Family Members of Liberty ARC and Schenectady ARC,

We have some exciting news to share with you regarding the future of our two organizations. Liberty ARC and Schenectady ARC have long worked together to collaborate and support one another, and our relationship as sister agencies of the Arc New York has grown stronger over the years. Working together on a statewide level and on a local level, both agencies have emerged as powerful advocates and are respected providers of services for people with disabilities.

To take this relationship further, the Leadership and Board of Directors of Liberty ARC and Schenectady ARC have begun a conversation to explore the possibility of the unification of our two agencies. With Kirk Lewis announcing his plan to retire at the end of 2023, this was the right time to look at a new arrangement that will strengthen both chapters for the coming years. We believe that the unification of our two organizations will greatly improve our ability to fulfill our mission of supporting hundreds of families in both Montgomery and Schenectady Counties who have come to rely on us to support their loved ones.

This process takes a good deal of time and involves several steps to ensure a transition that will be beneficial for both organizations, the people we support, and our staff. Our leadership teams will be working closely together to bring the best of both cultures to the whole. The Boards of Directors and leadership of both organizations are all committed to transparency and open communication throughout this process and we welcome any questions or concerns that you may have.

We are confident the unification will leverage the strengths of our two organizations, allowing us to share our expertise and services for the benefit of the people we support. We are both encouraged by the opportunities this will provide for our agency - strength in numbers, the possible expansion of services, and new and exciting ways of leveraging the expertise that our staff and supporters bring to the organizations.

Our two agencies share more than just a geographic border – we share a common mission, values, and goals. We are thrilled to be moving in such a positive direction and excited to see the growth that will result from working together.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to our mission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Saunders".

Jennifer Saunders, CEO
Liberty ARC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Lewis".

Kirk Lewis, CEO
Schenectady ARC

