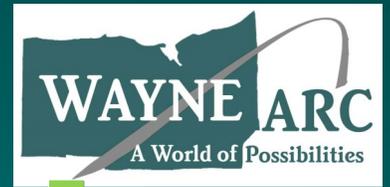


# Transforming Possibilities



A Supplemental Newsletter Providing Information & Updates on Progress Resulting from our Balancing Incentive Grant

## Relevant Terms & Concepts:

### **Balancing Incentives Program (BIP):**

The Balancing Incentive Program authorizes grants to States to increase access to non-institutional long-term services and supports (LTSS). The Balancing Incentive Program will help States transform their long-term care systems by:

- Lowering costs through improved systems performance & efficiency
- Creating tools to help consumers with care planning & assessment
- Improving quality measurement & oversight

The Balancing Incentive Program also provides new ways to serve more people in home and community-based settings, in keeping with the integration mandate of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), as required by the Olmstead decision. The Balancing Incentive Program was created by the Affordable Care Act of 2010 (Section 10202).

### **Olmstead Act:**

Supreme Court's decision in Olmstead v. L.C., a ruling that requires states to eliminate unnecessary segregation of persons with disabilities and to ensure that persons with disabilities receive services in the most integrated setting appropriate to their needs.

Earlier this year Wayne ARC was awarded a Balancing Incentives Program (BIP) Grant through the Office of People with Developmental Disabilities. The BIP funding was created to provide unique opportunities to engage developmental disabilities providers, advocates and local governments in developing systemic improvements that address barriers encountered when working to transform the system of care for individuals with developmental disabilities.

The \$203,570 grant awarded to us is underwriting three major initiatives:

1. the transformation of the sheltered workshop program and current vocational services into a series of new and expanded micro-businesses that will offer competitive employment opportunities to the people we serve.
2. the development of residential options that comply with the Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waiver and the Olmstead Act, offering individuals living in residential programs greater choice in housing and integrated supportive services.
3. the education and training of staff in Personal Outcome Measurements (POMs) to ensure that the services we provide are person-centered and reflect CQL certification outcomes.

This grant will allow the Agency to develop and plan staff development needs and training to prepare individuals and their families for these transformations. Consultants have been hired with expertise in the areas of business creation and residential redesign to assist and guide the Agency in these endeavors.

**-David Calhoun, Executive Director**



Wayne ARC, a parent based organization, advocates for and serves persons of all ages with or without special needs. The Agency assists individuals in taking their full, independent, productive place in society through an array of quality individualized services.

## *Home & Community Based Services (HCBS):*

Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) provide opportunities for Medicaid beneficiaries to receive services in their own home or community. These programs serve a variety of targeted populations groups, such as people with mental illnesses, intellectual or developmental disabilities, and/or physical disabilities.

## *Personal Outcome Measures (POMs):*

Developed by the Council on Quality and Leadership (CQL), POMs is a list of 21 personal outcome questions designed to measure if the person is supported in a way that achieves the outcomes that are most important to them. These outcome measures focus on a person's uniqueness and evaluate the effect of the supports in place through the lens of the person.

## *Council on Quality Leadership (CQL):*

Provides training, accreditation and customized consultation to human service organizations and systems that share their vision of dignity, opportunity and community for all people. *Wayne ARC was recently awarded 3 Year Accreditation following an extensive review process.*

## *Transformation Agenda:*

A series of shared goals identified by New York State and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) that will improve opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities in the areas of employment, integrated living, and self-direction of services.

## *3 Major Initiatives ...*

**1. the transformation of the sheltered workshop program and current vocational services into a series of new and expanded micro-businesses that will offer competitive employment opportunities to the people we serve**

We have contracted with the New York City based group **Catapultian** who is advising us on how to establish new businesses and partner with existing businesses to provide the people we serve with vocational training and employment opportunities beyond the scope of what we currently can offer. Catapultian is engaging in intense research regarding logistics and demographics to assist us in determining the types of businesses that would be most beneficial and successful within our region given our unique goals. This new approach promises to bring many exciting options for the people we serve in terms of employment and training.

**2. the development of residential options that comply with the Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waiver and the Olmstead Act, offering individuals living in residential programs greater choice in housing and integrated supportive services**

**Chris Liuzzo**, former Director of Residential Services at the Arc of Rensselaer, has been hired as a consultant to provide analysis, technical assistance and practical recommendations regarding this redesign as well as to build our internal capacity to carry on the work after the BIP grant ends.

Chris was able to bring **David Pitonyak** to Wayne ARC for three days, June 17-19, 2015. David operates the consulting practice, "Imagine". His practice is dedicated to supporting people who experience disabilities and exhibit, what some have called "difficult behaviors". David has consulted with families and professionals throughout the United States, Canada, England, the Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland, and the Netherlands. On June 17<sup>th</sup> he delivered a powerful workshop to 65 Wayne ARC employees, entitled "Beyond Behaviors": Supporting Confidence, Competence, and Well Being. During the rest of his stay, David met with individuals who receive services from our organization and their staff, offering insight and assistance with support plans.

Chris has also scheduled **Beth Mount** to consult with our newly formed 'Lead Team' and our Executive Team July 29<sup>th</sup> on developing creative housing opportunities. Beth uses the artistic process as a metaphor for the design of a meaningful life and as a pragmatic tool for listening, visioning together, and mapping the present and the future. .

**3. the education and training of staff in Personal Outcome Measurements (POMs) to ensure that the services we provide are person-centered and reflect CQL certification outcomes**

**Shelby Fisher**, Director of Medicaid Service Coordination and **Derek Janto**, Program Coordinator of Day Hab Services completed an intensive 4 month training to become CQL certified POMs trainers. They have now begun training staff to interview the people we serve utilizing CQL Personal Outcome Measures. The Personal Outcome Measures include 3 factors; 1. My Self 2. My World and 3. My Dreams. The factors include 21 indicators with specific questions to be asked to develop an accurate assessment of the desires each individual person we serve has for their lives. This information assists us in helping them to create gratifying life situations. Ultimately every person served by Wayne ARC will be interviewed via this progressive method.