



Supporting Individuals with Disabilities  
SINCE 1954

### **LARC Update: Thursday, November 19, 2020**

It's hard to believe we are half way through November and the holidays are upon us! We wanted to share what's been happening here as we continue to make LARC the best place possible to learn, work, and serve in a world where the risk of COVID-19 exists.

LARC reopened the Adult Day Training programs on Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup> and has been offering a full range of day services for the past 5 months. Daily, participants are in activities that develop skills for work and daily living while enjoying a full day. Whether it's earning money (workshop/woodshop), recreational or educational programs (LAB) and/or peer interactions, they are engaging in meaningful activities and doing so as safely as possible.

All LARC services include new behaviors seeking to reduce risk and screen individuals for presence of the virus. All staff and participants are using face masks, practicing social distancing and aggressive hygiene and cleaning/sanitization practices are the new "norm". Our arrival and departure routines demonstrate the additional care being taken to reduce risks and to date these collective efforts have been successful.

We continue to keep participants in small groups or "teams" throughout the day with no large group activities. LAB (Learn-Achieve-Become) programming has continued for on and off-campus participants. On campus, participants are able to join LAB classes using an iPad while staying in their room/with their team. iPads were acquired this past year through grant funding and is allowing LAB services to be delivered virtually. Technology has also given LARC the ability to deliver services virtually to eligible off-campus participants as well.

Participants who wish to work have returned to LARC's Workshop program. LARC's Business Partners are grateful to have this enthusiastic workforce and have been supportive of all efforts to mitigate risks. Workshop participants have been paid to pack or assemble over 580,000 items since returning in June – that's a "win-win" for all involved! The woodshop is a booming area as well, and engraving orders are increasing as capabilities to engrave glasses for gifts have been developed.

We are excited to welcome new participants who have joined LARC's day training program since our re-opening too!

We encourage you and your family to remain vigilant, continue to mask up and stay safe. It is still extremely important to take precautions in our daily life. Families, group homes and staff have all been excellent at staying at home if any signs of illness emerge and we encourage you to do the same. This commitment to safety for all concerned is appreciated and is invaluable to moving forward.

Please stay safe!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kevin B. Lewis".

Kevin Lewis  
Executive Director