



The Outreach Vision Winter 2021

Welcome to the reboot of “The Outreach Vision,” Outreach’s newsletter reflecting our unified view into how we fulfill our mission and meet the needs of families and communities. After a short hiatus brought upon by the unprecedented COVID pandemic, we are refreshed, renewed, revitalized and ready to come back! Though our voices were quiet for a while, there have been many good and exciting developments at Outreach. We’re happy to share some of these with you...

PRESIDENT’S CORNER

Thoughts and Reflections on 2021



DEBBIE PANTIN
President/CEO

Happy Holidays to you and your family, as we approach the halfway mark of this 2021 winter season of celebrations. I hope you have had the opportunity for warm and safe gatherings with family and friends marking Thanksgiving and Hanukkah, and that you will continue to do so as Christmas, Three Kings, and Kwanzaa draw near. I’m certain it’s still of concern to many of you that COVID 19 infection rates may continue to give pause to our holiday plans.

As we get ready to close out 2021, I must again pay tribute to all in our Outreach family, for your amazing work and diligence in delivering quality and innovative care to over 3,000 clients and their families, thus far in 2021. Though the pandemic persists and keeps throwing curveballs our way, we continue to provide outstanding, quality services, while we move forward to develop and enhance our vital health, behavioral health and mental health services. Remarkably, I am happy to share with you some of the major initiatives that, through your many contributions, we began to actualize this year, and that we will continue to move forward into 2022, such as:

- Expanded access for opioid use disorder treatment services in Nassau and Suffolk Counties and in Brooklyn, with an eye toward further increasing our opioid/MAT portfolio;
- Extension of our residential services to include adult residential **rehabilitation treatment**;
- Addition of peer counselors to our staffing complement;
- Introduction of mobile treatment services;
- Strengthening of the work we do with families and increasing our case management services;
- Introduction of centralized intake;
- Partnering with Western Suffolk BOCES to open a new Recovery High School, The Aspire Academy, in Babylon- an initiative years-in-the-making; and
- Finalizing a Mental Health license with OMH.

The full implementation of these initiatives are, and will of course, be impacted by the considerable staff turnover that we and other agencies in the industry are experiencing. Outreach’s 2019/pre-COVID Strategic Plan - Outreach being ahead of our time, as usual - identified “Workforce Development” as one of our four (4) areas for priority attention. As with any strong organization, our strategic goals drove our course of action. So in 2021, we convened two workgroups that met regularly to discuss ideas to improve **Workforce Development** (staff recruitment and retention efforts) and **Rewards and Recognition**. In addition to our internal efforts, we worked with provider organizations across the State to advocate nationally and locally about workforce issues, which led to one-time funding opportunities to improve staff retention and recruitment. We utilized these State funds to begin to execute some of the ideas being discussed in our workgroups, including: Retention incentives that accompanied our December 3rd payroll; ‘Sign-on’ and ‘Referral’ incentives; CASAC 350-hour course and CASAC prep scholarships for staff; and more.

In addition to these substantial accomplishments, we have also seen progress in advancing our long-in-the-planning Capital projects, namely the intensive residential service for young adults to be constructed on our Brentwood campus, and the women’s community residence that will be situated adjacent to our Richmond Hill headquarters. We all can look forward to seeing potential groundbreaking and other activities this Spring!

None of this happens without you! So in closing, once again, thanks a million for your tremendous commitment to Outreach and our clients, this past year and always, and for the very special role each of you plays in our accomplishments and service to our communities. I wish you all the best for the holidays to come and the New Year, and hope to see you at our holiday party on January 7th... please RSVP, if you haven’t already!

Take care, stay safe and best regards,
Deb

Staff Barbecue Gathering

Following a year and a half of social distancing because of the COVID-19 pandemic, Outreach reconvened its summer staff celebration at Outreach House II in Brentwood. Colleagues across Outreach’s 10 physical locations across New York City and Long Island were reunited after months of meetings on Zoom and Microsoft Teams. Organized by a small internal committee, staff enjoyed food on the grill, a gelato cart, photo booth sessions, and games.

STAFF FEATURE

Let’s Meet: Linda Woodard!

Linda Woodard is a case manager for Outreach’s Richmond Hill outpatient program, but she serves as a quintessential “ambassador” for all of Outreach. Marking her 7th year with the organization, Linda sat down with us to share some insights! A direct hire following completion of Outreach Training Institute’s CASAC program, Linda has a unique perspective in her role as a case manager for clients and families. On a regular basis, Linda meets with those in her care to complete a needs assessment to guide clients in identifying and accessing resources that will help advance their participation in treatment and set them firmly on the journey to recovery. She sees an essential part of her role to also include community outreach, working with vital provider-partners to shepherd easy access to Outreach’s treatment services, in addition to attaching her clients to the extended resources in their community. Over the past year and a half, during and following the height of the COVID-19



TOP, STAFF ENJOYING A DAY OF FUN AND GAMES. BOTTOM, CATCHING UP! (L TO R) KEVIN WADALAVAGE, JOHN VENZA, DEB PANTIN, ASHA VEREEN (IN BACKGROUND WITH ORANGE HAT) AND CHRISTAL MONTAGUE (SEATED) TAKE A BREAK IN THE SHADE FROM THE ACTION OF THE DAY.

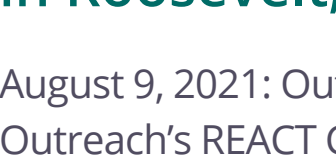
pandemic, bridging relationships in the community took on more challenging importance. Like many others, Linda shifted inward, focusing less on physical presence out in the community, and more on offering the best possible case management support to clients within Richmond Hill. The results are demonstrated in her clients’ continuing success. Linda shares her pride in her clients and colleagues every day: “I love working ... at Outreach, it’s like a big family here. There has always been room for growth, and people are always willing to help each other.”

6th Annual Brower Walk: Walking for a Cause, Making a Difference Together

In 2014, days before Outreach’s traditional Spring luncheon, a family who had tragically lost their son to an opioid overdose reached out to inquire if donations might be sent to Outreach in lieu of flowers. So then, the family of John Brower Jr., led by his parents John and Jody and their children Kristen and Robert, have been on a mission to prevent lives from being taken by the opioid epidemic.

In 2015, the John Brower Jr. Foundation – Heroes Against Heroin was established to raise awareness of drug abuse and help raise funds to end the opioid epidemic on Long Island. In meaningful collaboration and partnership with Outreach, that same year, the “1st Annual Outreach John Brower, Jr. 5K Walk” was held. On a perfectly sunny Saturday, September 11th, this year, the 6th Annual Walk took place at Jones Beach State Park, LI. Our first gathering in person since 2019, a wonderful turnout of more than 200 friends and family honored lives lost to the opioid epidemic, in a spirit of hope, awareness and mutual support for a brighter future.

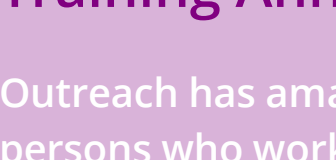
See more scenes from this meaningful day




NYS OASAS Commissioner, Nassau County Executive Welcome Outreach’s REACT Center in Roosevelt, Long Island

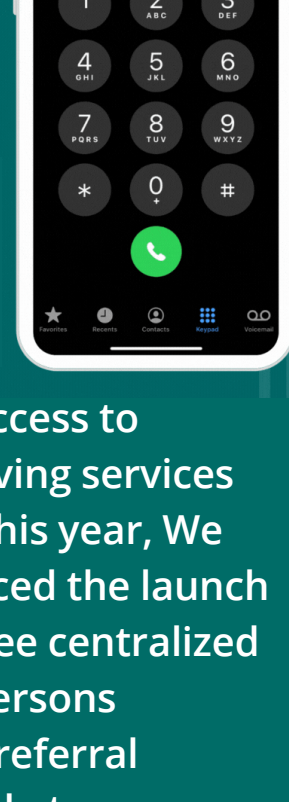
August 9, 2021: Outreach hosted a welcome reception for our Outreach’s REACT Center in Roosevelt, Long Island, on Monday, August 9th, with former OASAS (Office of Addiction Services and Supports) Commissioner Arlene González-Sánchez presenting opening remarks, and Former Nassau County Executive Laura Curran offering a congratulatory declaration. The REACT Center, with a deep history serving communities in Nassau County, officially joined Outreach’s continuum of care facilities in January 2020, but due to world events, the official welcome ceremony was a year in the making!

“Joining the Outreach family allows REACT to sustain and build upon its impact in the community, while further extending our range of life-changing services in Nassau County,” said Debra Pantin, president and CEO of Outreach. “With the impact of COVID-19 and economic challenges, the need for supportive care for those with addiction issues on Long Island has never been greater.”





WE HAVE A FREE TOLL NUMBER!



Enhancing easy access to Outreach’s life-saving services is a top priority! This year, We excitedly announced the launch of our NEW toll-free centralized call number for persons seeking help and referral information on substance use disorder issues. To be connected to any of our programs in NYC or Long Island, reach us at **1-833-OPINYORG (1-833-674-6967)**

Grant Announcements

Outreach was awarded a grant under the The New York State Office of Addiction Services and Supports (NYS OASAS) Youth and Family TREE project, titled Enhancing the Quality and Integration of Treatment for Youth (EQUITY). This project will expand and enhance the substance use service continuum for transition age youth (ages 16-25) with a substance use disorder (SUD) and/or co-occurring substance use and mental health disorders (COD) and their families.

Training Announcements

Outreach has amazing #EvidenceBasedPractice trainings available for persons who work in a NYS OASAS certified setting in Brooklyn or on Long Island! Upcoming courses include:

- Anger Management
- Medication-Assisted Treatment
- Relapse Prevention
- Mapping-Enhanced Counseling

And more! All courses provide continuing education hours and are FREE to those eligible. Please spread the word! Visit opiny.org/sor-trainings/ for more information and to apply!



Program Highlights

We work as one, but there’s always shared news to be proudly shared from Outreach’s diverse programs!

Outreach Outpatient Services at Bellport

Received “Adolescent Endorsement” from the NYS Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS)! The unit is now certified as an ambulatory program that specializes in the treatment of adolescents with substance use disorders.

Outreach House I

Darryl McDaniels, Hip Hop pioneer rapper known as “DMC” of the famous “RUN-DMC” duo, returned to Outreach House I (OHI) for the first time since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic and resumed his tradition of providing a motivational presentation to residents. At the conclusion of his talk, in response to a performance recorded by three OHI residents, DMC offered to pay for a studio recording session to record lyrics written by our residents. The newly affirmed ‘recording artists’ did just that during one of their music therapy sessions under the guidance of OHI’s music therapist, Wyatt.

Outreach’s Recovery High School

At Aspire Academy, students in grades 9-12 who have the diagnosis of Substance Use Disorder are supported in their transition to recovery and sustained sobriety as they work toward academic achievement.” Outreach is thrilled to announce our partnership with @Western Suffolk BOCES in a new Recovery High School in North Babylon, LI – an initiative years-in-the-making! Using the recovery-based educational model, Aspire Academy will provide Regents-level academic instruction in a comprehensive program that incorporates clinical supports that help students grow through their recovery as they work toward graduation along with their peers.

Outreach Services in Islip

“All of our Outreach Services in Islip, including Suffolk Avenue, 400 Crooked Hill Road and Pilgrim State were proud to partner with “Islip Goes Purple” throughout Recovery Month to raise awareness of substance use disorder and celebrate people in recovery!” See more: www.facebook.com/OutreachNY/posts/10158587708141317

Outreach House II

Throughout the uncertainty and pandemic pause of 2020, and into the period of recovery and restoration of 2021, Outreach’s clients and staff united in creative expression. In 2020, this surrounded a theme of “Hope and Courage,” with beautiful and moving artwork produced such as butterflyflies, sidewalk chalk art, and ‘virtual high fives,’ intended to inspire and encourage everyone to stay strong, stay well, and stay connected.

This year, in a place of “Hope and Promise,” our youthful clients channeled a renewed spirit in much more colorful and dynamic ways to share positivity, love, hope, and gratitude, looking toward a healthier and growing future! The results were performing arts - singing, dancing, poetry readings and skits - that were shared with their peers and family via the virtual world. But also, Outreach House residents created magnificent and vibrant paintings that now adorn our facilities and have been featured on our web pages and media platforms.

Enjoy a short virtual showing of the creation of these lively ‘masterpieces’

