

BARC

Bristol Adult Resource Center

Serving adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities since 1957

*Jerome Ave Day Programs * 621 Jerome Avenue * PO Box 726 * Bristol, CT 06011-0726 * P (860) 582-9102 * F (860*

Individuals, Parents/Guardians, Residential Providers and BARC Staff

From: Ivonne Daigle, Associate Executive Director, Program Services 

Date: June 4, 2024

RE: New programs at 225 North Main Street and 621 Jerome Avenue

We are excited to announce that BARC has received a grant from the City of Bristol's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. The grant funding will make it possible for us to relocate BARC's administrative offices and some day programs from 621 Jerome Avenue to the 5th floor of 225 North Main Street. Two new recreation/leisure programs will be developed at the new location, one of which will focus on autism and other sensory needs. The vacated program spaces at Jerome Avenue will be transformed into new programs. These changes will allow us to expand the types of services we offer and provide services to more people.

Since we are still in the early stages of planning what the new programs at Jerome Avenue will involve, we do not have a lot of details about exactly what they will look like. We anticipate, though, that they will involve work skills training. These new programs will help the people we serve to build skills and will also provide a framework for staff to assess their abilities and interests. Moving forward, this will help us select programs or jobs that will be the best fit for the people we support.

The new space at 225 North Main Street is going to be renovated into beautiful and functional offices and program spaces. There will be 2 conference rooms, a training room, and a small sensory room in the new location, as well. Bathrooms have been taken into special consideration and numerous accessible single-stall bathrooms will be available, one of which will be equipped with a changing table.

We have been working closely with DDS during the planning process and will continue to do so as the project progresses. We wanted to be sure we had worked out the details before making an official announcement to everyone at BARC. Team meetings will be held to discuss plans with each individual team that is impacted by the move. As the project gets further along, we will develop an overall transition plan outlining how changes will take place. The transition plan will include visits to the new site and moving programs in stages. We will, of course, consider individual needs based on feedback from team meetings. For example, some people might prefer to see pictures of the new space, make multiple visits, and move over after their peers have settled in. Others might do better without as much build up and prefer a more direct transfer to the new location.

Art, IAP, and IAP2 Programs will be relocated to the new building. We understand that some people might face obstacles in moving to the new building and we will develop plans to support them. If a person cannot move to the new location, we will discuss alternate options with their team. With that in mind, a small DSO program space will be allocated at Jerome Avenue to serve the people who are unable to make the move to the new location.

If you or someone you support attends one of the programs that will be relocating to 225 North Main Street, the day program manager will be reaching out to schedule a team meeting. We are so pleased that BARC has the opportunity to expand our services and be part of downtown Bristol! We look forward to collaborating with everyone to make these changes as successful as possible.