

BARC

Bristol Adult Resource Center

Serving adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities since 1957

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Individuals, Parents/Guardians, Residential Providers and BARC Staff

From: Ivonne Daigle, Associate Executive Director, Program Services 

Date: September 12, 2024

RE: 225 North Main Street and 621 Jerome Avenue update

BARC's project utilizing grant money received from the City of Bristol's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds is moving forward! The bulk of demolition has been completed and construction has begun on the 5th floor of 225 North Main Street. This will be the future location of the Art Program, IAP, IAP2, a new recreation/leisure day program for people with sensory support needs, and administrative offices for BARC.

We are still in the preliminary stages of planning the skills training programs that will backfill the rooms vacated at 621 Jerome Avenue. As stated in my previous memo, these new programs will help the people we serve to build skills and will also provide a framework to assess their abilities and interests. Moving forward, information gathered in these skill building programs will inform decisions regarding selecting programs or jobs that will be the best fit for the people we support.

The new space at 225 North Main Street is beginning to take shape. During a tour yesterday, we learned that the majority of the framing is completed in the offices and the bottom tracks for framing have been installed on the program side. This progress has allowed us to see just how well these spaces are going to meet our needs. We are evaluating how soon we can arrange a tour for participants and their caregivers, specifically for those in Art, IAP, IAP2, and those interested in the new program to support people with sensory needs.

We continue to work closely with DDS as this project progresses. Team meetings will continue to be held to discuss plans with each individual team that is impacted by the move. As previously mentioned, we will develop an overall plan regarding the transition to the new space. 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.

Feel free to visit BARC's website at bristolarc.org to see photographs and project updates.

If you have any questions, please contact Mary Etter (860-582-9102 x125 or metter@bristolarc.org) or Ivonne Daigle (860-582-9102 x131 or idaigle@bristolarc.org)