



*Seeking Employment, Equality and Community for
People with Developmental Disabilities*

SEEC E-News

July 2021 | Issue Thirty-Four



What's Up with Services?!

A monthly update on re-envisioning SEEC services post pandemic

By Sherry Beamer, Director of Services

Maryland's Governor lifted the pandemic state of emergency as of July 1. So SEEC's Community Engagement services, that were the most affected by the pandemic, have accelerated plans to return to in-person supports - recognizing our communities are back in business differently.

There are several typical practices that were suspended during the pandemic that need to be updated first. There is required staff training by the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) with portions that require in-person presentations like medication management, CPR/First Aid, and behavior supports. Also, many people supported let their transportation service registration and identification cards lapse when service offices and services were disrupted due to the pandemic.

The steps to phasing in service include:

- Two groups of 30-40.
- Creating individual schedules including a mix of in-person and virtual supports by the day based in neighborhoods.
- Letters to the person and family announcing the scheduling.
- Phase in of in-person supports in August.

We will be tracking progress closely as we continue to learn what is possible and what works best.

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Introducing Marielis Jansen



Please join us in welcoming Marielis Jansen “MJ”, SEEC’s new Executive Operations Manager who reports to Sherry Beamer and Karen Lee. Prior to joining SEEC, MJ worked over 5 years at Johns Hopkins International as a healthcare cultural broker consolidating treatment plans and processes for international patients within all specialties. She also completed physician outreach events and campaigns overseas. She holds a bachelor’s degree in Public Relations, and a Masters in Sociology from Morgan State University. In her free time, she enjoys hosting game-nights and cooking with family and friends.

Project SEARCH Graduation

Congratulations to the Project SEARCH Class of 2021! We recently celebrated the successes of the intern class for our Project SEARCH NIH, Smithsonian Institution, Montgomery County Government and Embassy Suites/Capital Hilton programs. The interns persevered through a challenging year and gained valuable skills to help launch their futures. We are incredibly proud of the work put in by each intern as well as the collaboration and commitment of our team and many partners in Project SEARCH. Thank you to our partners Ivymount and Montgomery Parks!

The graduates from **Project SEARCH National Institutes of Health (NIH)** and now employees of NIH had the opportunity to meet Dr. Anthony Fauci, Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) and Chief Medical Advisor to the President. Dr. Fauci held a meet and greet for the post hires, at the NIH Clinical Center, in recognition of their essential work throughout the pandemic. Each of the post hires introduced themselves and told Dr. Fauci about their role at NIH. What a fantastic experience!



In this photo (l-r) Mirna Pleitez, Meghan Dworschak, Quincy Henry, Marina Callear, Ruth Shipps, Dr. Anthony Fauci, Patina Washington, Isabel Grinker, Jack Nail, Rachel Williams, Chane Wade-Goodwin, Van Berg, Monica Aisenberg, Melissa Tebi.

Mark Your Calendars: FootGolf 2021 Presented By HUB

We are excited to announce that SEEC’s 4th Annual FootGolf event will take place on Saturday, September 25th from 12-4p at the Sligo Creek Golf Course and will be **presented by HUB**, the World’s Largest Privately Owned Insurance Broker.

We encourage attendees to form their own teams and we will have a play-from-home option again this year.

If you'd like more information on the event or are interested in becoming a sponsor, please contact Katrina at kkugel@seeonline.org.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2021

SLIGO CREEK GOLF COURSE

STAGGERED TEE TIMES BETWEEN 12:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.



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Wellness Corner with Kaiser



Take a moment to check in on your mental health and the people you care about. If you've been feeling down or you're concerned about a loved one, there are things you can do to help.

- **Be honest with yourself.** Use the [depression self-check tool](#) to see how you're feeling and what you can do to feel better. Visit our [support center](#) for more assessment tools, including for anxiety, addiction, and children's symptoms.
- **Connect with other people.** We're all in this together. From family and friends to coworkers and neighbors, talking can make a real difference in your mental health. Lean on others for support — and check on people who might be struggling.
- **Reach out if you need help.** Depression and anxiety are treatable, and people do get better. Talk to someone you trust and reach out to your doctor if you have any concerns. If you or someone you know needs support, [explore resources](#) to see how you can help.

Staying connected will help us stay strong. Kaiser Permanente has many resources to help you find the support you need with [mental health resources](#) available to you. Get started at [FindYourWords.org](#) today.

Volunteer Spotlight: Kaitlyn Choi, Hallie Wells Middle School

Kaitlyn Choi is a rising 8th grader at Hallie Wells Middle School, and she has been teaching drawing classes to the individuals we support as part of our virtual hangouts curriculum.

“Every time I volunteer, the people who participate and enjoy my class inspire me to do more of it! What I love most about volunteering is the excitement and energy from the individuals supported by SEEC. Every class, the individuals have a smile on their faces and are ready to engage with me and that is what I love seeing.

People should volunteer with SEEC because of the amazing experience! Everyone is kind and engaging and the organization is organized and nice.”

Interested in learning more about volunteering with SEEC? Sign up here to grab in person or virtual coffee with Ethan Litvin, our Volunteer & Intern Coordinator!

We Love Our Volunteers!



volunteer@seeonline.org

[SIGN UP HERE](#)

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