

**September 2021**

# NEWS



## Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week 2021

Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) are vital to the life experiences of many people with disabilities in Maryland. These essential employees provide supports in the homes, communities and workplaces. They are the heart and soul of everything we do to help people with disabilities feel, and be, included in their communities.

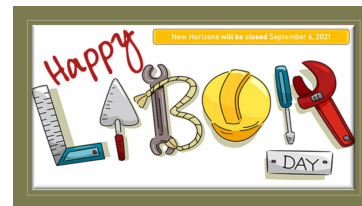


New Horizons joins with The Maryland Department of Disabilities and the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) and others throughout the United States in recognizing September 12th through September 18th, 2021 as Direct Support Professionals (DSP) Recognition Week.

As Direct Support Professionals on the front lines, these dedicated heroes are the key difference between community participation and isolation for those with disabilities.

## Labor Day Weekend

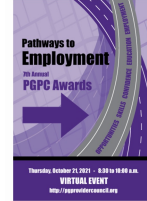
New Horizons will be closed on Monday, September 6, in observance of the Labor Day holiday. The staff at New Horizons would like to wish you a very safe and happy Labor Day weekend.



## 7th Annual Prince George's Provider Council Employment Awards Ceremony

This year's 7th annual awards ceremony will be a virtual event held on Thursday, October 21, 2020 from 8:30

a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Please log on to <https://pgprovidercouncil.org/events/> for more information.



To purchase tickets for the event, click on the link below.

<http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=dawb5eqab&oeidk=a07eigdvorbf7f8889c>

This year marks the 31st anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The PGPC Employment Committee feels it is important to take the time to celebrate the accomplishments of those individuals and agencies who are part of the progress made toward increasing employment for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the County.

## Prince George's County COVID-19 Vaccination Update

- Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks announced that the County will reinstitute an indoor public mask mandate which began Sunday, August 8, 2021 at 5:00 PM, due to a continued rise in COVID-19 metrics.
- Beginning Sunday, August 8 at 5:00 PM, all residents and visitors over the age of five are required to wear masks in all indoor public venues and businesses in Prince George's County, even if they are fully vaccinated.
- This includes, but is not limited to, restaurants, gyms, retail stores, entertainment venues, conference centers, and office settings.
- Similar to previous mask mandates, some exceptions apply, such as when an individual is actively eating or drinking or individuals who have a recognized disability that prevents them from wearing a mask.
- The new mandate is based on the latest Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance that individuals in areas with "high" or "substantial" transmission of COVID-19 should wear masks in indoor public settings, even if they are fully vaccinated. According to the CDC, Prince George's County is now in the "substantial" transmission category.
- The County's positivity rate is 4.7% as of August 2, up from 0.9% on July 5. The average daily case rate has increased to 11.6 cases per 100,000 residents as of August 2, the highest rate observed since May 5. Finally, the County's infection rate is 1.33 as of July 28, which places the County in the "high risk" range.
- If you have not been vaccinated, please do so as soon as possible, not only to protect you and your loved ones, but also to prevent the County from sliding back further in our recovery.



## A Celebration of Life

In honor of a life well lived, New Horizons celebrated Rob Moy on

Friday, July 30 at our Upper Marlboro location with a memorial service honoring his memory. His fellow staff members and friends spoke about what a fun and loving person he was and about how much he will be missed by all who knew him.



## Staff Promotions

Please join us in congratulating the following staff members:

- Rhys Greenlee, previously Community Resource Coordinator, has been promoted to Personal Supports Manager.
- Charmaine Williams, previously Lead DSP Transportation Specialist, has been promoted to Supervisor of Day Program.



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