



Aspire of WNY's Mission:

Our mission is to support children and adults with developmental and similar disabilities, helping them to live their lives to the fullest by providing individualized assistance based on personal choices.

What's Inside This Edition of Transition Times

1. Newfound Independence
2. Quality Partnership on Transition
3. Satisfaction Survey

Save the Date

HOLIDAY SPIRIT AT ASPIRE OF WNY'S CENTER FOR LEARNING ON DECEMBER 13th 2024

For event information, please email intake@aspirewny.org

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TRANSITION TIMES

Aspire of WNY's Success Through Transition

Newfound Independence

Aspire of WNY's Self-Directed Services is excited to highlight an amazing story of one family's move to independence.

Giuliana and Erin Pachioli have been participants with self-direction since 2015. Their goal, along with their family, is to live as independently as possible in the community. While Giuliana and Erin lived at home with their family, they were able to secure long-term employment (with Supported Employment programming) and work on their independent living skills. In September 2019 and September 2021, Giuliana and Erin moved into the same certified supported apartment to continue their journey toward independent living. While the supported apartment provided some independence, it also presented barriers. The minimal support available at the apartment left their family responsible for providing a large portion of the transportation and recreational opportunities for the young women. It soon became evident that the young women were ready to move out of a certified setting and into an apartment of their own. With assistance from their family, an apartment in the community was identified, and they began the moving

process. With the support of their team, the young women secured two stipends through the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD); one to assist with moving expenses and the other to support the cost of rent. With those in place, in October of 2023, the women successfully moved into their apartment together!



Giuliana and Erin love their newfound independence and life in the community! They have secured staff who assist the young women with laundry, independent living skills, and community inclusion opportunities. Congratulations to Giuliana and Erin on their successful transition!



Supporting the Life Journey with Aspire of WNY's Quality Partnership on Transition



QUALITY PARTNERSHIP ON
TRANSITION

QPT, formerly the Student Adult Life Transition Services (SALTS) Committee, is one of the longest-standing committees at Aspire of WNY. The committee was initiated to support individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) who were preparing to exit high school and were seeking adult services. In addition, the formation of this committee allowed for an internal focus on breaking down silos among the service divisions. In 2023, the SALTS Committee became the Quality Partnership on Transition. Although the committee's primary focus continues to be a student-to-adult life transition, the committee's focus has expanded to providing resources, education, and support to individuals with IDD in all transitions across the life span.

QPT comprises representatives from across the agency who directly or indirectly impact agency services related to transition.

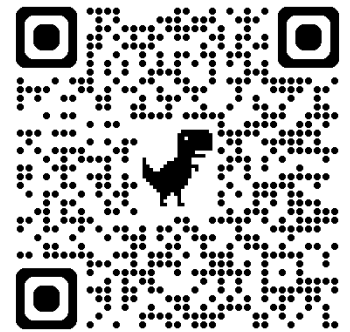
The committee works on creative ways to reach all stakeholders, including individuals, parents, Care Coordinators, school district personnel, the medical community, and other community organizations. The goal is to get access to individuals with IDD as early as possible so they feel educated and empowered and can get the services and support they need at or near the time of diagnosis, not just after high school.

If you want more information on QPT, email intake@aspirewny.org to connect and receive information.



We Want Your Feedback!

Do you or someone you support receive services from Aspire of WNY?
We want to hear from you! Please consider filling out our Satisfaction Survey and letting us know your feedback. We rely on the input from the people we support and their committed staff, family members, and advocates to make our determination relative to quality and satisfaction. Scan the QR code to take the survey or visit www.aspirewny.org/satisfaction-surveys



**SCAN THE QR CODE TO
TAKE THE SURVEY**

Comments, Suggestions, or Ideas?

If you have any comments, suggestions or a subject you would like to see in an upcoming newsletter, please contact Paula Kerber at 716-505-5262, or email paula.kerber@aspirewny.org.

Want an electronic copy of Transition Times?

Send your email to: paula.kerber@aspirewny.org and we'll send you an electronic version of Transition Times. Thanks for your interest!



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