



## **CHS Reopens Operations Post-Pandemic**

The world at large is slowly emerging from the results of an unprecedented global pandemic unlike any event in recent history. Cooperative for Human Services is also in its recovery phase where the organization is beginning to expand operations beyond its sole priority focus over the past twenty nine months of health and safety for all individuals served and employees.

Based on guidance from the Department of Developmental Services, emergency measures were lifted beginning July 1, 2022. Starting July 11, 2022 CHS is focused on initiatives such as reconnecting people served back into their local communities and providing venues for meaningful sibling and family gatherings such as the Summer Family Barbeques. The company is re-engaging those receiving Individual Support Services with peer support groups such as the much-loved weekly Cooking Class and is expanding its capacity to serve more young adults coming into residential settings for the first time.

CHS continues to address the national workforce shortage with a variety of recognition programs and compensation strategies for its employees. Staff will be required to participate in mandatory surveillance testing for Covid-19. However, it will be on a bi-monthly basis instead of weekly.

The organization fully re-opened its Lexington and Malden offices and Dartmouth Center, lifting visitation restrictions for individuals, employees, vendors and other visitors. From the onset of the pandemic, the CHS senior leadership team made a definitive decision to keep both offices operating as usual in order to ensure the health and safety of all individuals served and staff. Of particular concern were the people living in the community in their own homes who had the highest potential to experience isolation. A cross-functional team was formed who made daily status phone calls to all served as a way of strengthening our connections during a stressful time.

Kevin J. Leahy, Chief Executive Officer stated, "This has been a very challenging period in the company's history. The past is now behind us and we are looking ahead with great optimism and enthusiasm to accomplish the work at hand. We are proud of the way the organization navigated the global pandemic, we are extremely proud of our dedicated workforce and we have not wavered in our mission to empower, support and provide meaningful lives to the people we serve. As always, we are striving to do more."