



**NEWS RELEASE**

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**Liberty Implements a Regionalized Approach**



**From left to right: Carrie-Ann Schmidt, recently appointed Regional Director for Amsterdam, Melissa Thompson, individual in program and Maggie Rowley, new Regional Director for the mid-county area hosted the “Choice Train” at the Council on Quality & Leadership (CQL) visit in March 2011. Liberty’s is accredited by CQL, an international organization that provides accreditation to agencies supporting people with disabilities.**

AMSTERDAM –Liberty, the Montgomery County Chapter of NYSARC, has announced the implementation of a regionalized approach to management of its residential, day and clinical departments in an effort to offer more individualized, efficient services to the people the agency supports. The plan was put into place after Liberty benchmarked with other agencies that have successfully utilized this model of service delivery.

Under this new service model, the administrative teams for Day and Residential have been combined into four geographic regions with two in Amsterdam, one in Canajoharie/Fort Plain and one in the mid-county area. Medical and Clinical team members are also being assigned by region to work with the people who live and receive day supports in these communities. One administrative team oversees both Day and Residential operations and is headed by a Regional Director. The Regional Directors for the Amsterdam Regions are Traves Bethel and Carrie-Ann Schmidt. In Canajoharie/Fort Plain, the Regional Director is John Glode, and for the mid-county area, the Regional Director is Maggie Rowley.

The Regional Directors report to Chief Operating Officer, Candace Opalka. “Liberty is very excited about this new model of service and the improvements it will create throughout the agency”, said Opalka. “The combination of Day and Residential programs will result in a more efficient process by lessening the administrative layers and increasing the quality of services provided to the individuals Liberty supports.”

Founded in 1957 by local parents and family members of people with disabilities, Liberty is a not-for-profit, member chapter of NYSARC, Inc. a statewide organization serving over 60,000 individuals throughout New York. Liberty is the largest provider of services to people with developmental disabilities in Montgomery County, offering day, residential, vocational, family support and health-related programs to over 650 individuals with disabilities and other persons with special needs in the community.

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