



# Be Well for Life

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## New Name and Strategy Reflects New Directions

It's a time of change, challenge and a unique opportunity for accomplishment. For individuals and families coping with a wide range of mental health, intellectual disabilities and drug addiction issues, human service agencies continue to seek viable solutions while facing new scrutiny from government and other funding sources on how to measure results, maintain efficiency and improve service delivery.

Reflecting these new priorities is **WellLife Network**.

"WellLife Network," formerly known as PSCH/Pederson-Krag, has announced the launch of a rebranding campaign, beginning with the introduction of a new name and logo – the first of a number of exciting new initiatives that are intended to broaden public awareness about the agency's mission and work, expand its fundraising base of support, and strengthen relationships with existing partners in government, business and the voluntary sector.

WellLife Network operates its programs in over 300 locations across New York City and Long Island. A dedicated and skilled workforce of over 1,800 staff, volunteers, interns and consultants assists it in delivering high quality and highly-accountable services.



### Mission-Driven Agency in a Changing Healthcare Environment

"For some 80 years, WellLife Network has been an integral part of the New York and Long Island community, providing hundreds of vital services to those who are among our most vulnerable citizens," said **Alan M. Weinstock, CEO**, WellLife Network. "Our new name and logo more clearly convey the vitality, purpose and essence of the WellLife Network mission – **To empower individuals and families to realize their full potential for achieving meaningful goals, guided by principles of independence, health, wellness, safety and recovery.**"

"The need for WellLife Network services has never been greater," said **Shavone Hamilton, COO**, WellLife Network, "As New York State embraces technology to redesign its vast and costly health care system to integrate and manage care, government faces reduced revenues in addition to an aging and more chronically disabled population. WellLife Network is implementing a data warehouse that will deliver information combining clinical, financial, quality, cost and patient experience data and highlight its organizational performance relative to peers and national benchmarks." This data will help to ensure that each person served receives the best range of services and level of care to reach their life goals. ■

**5,500**

Individuals and families are offered a network of health and human services by caring and compassionate staff who are committed to our mission.

## Compassionate, Caring and Fiscally Responsible Services Enhanced through Partnerships



### Partnerships that Make a Difference

WellLife Network has been inspired by a committed board of directors, dedicated staff, caring volunteers, collaborations with partners, the many individuals who support our work, and most importantly by the 5,500 people who each day seek our assistance.

### Offering a Broad Network of Services

WellLife Network is proud of its services to 25,500 New Yorkers each year and its leadership role in the development of new models of care. Our broad network of high quality, outcome-based health, disabilities, youth, family, housing, addiction recovery and community education services are supported by a robust infrastructure and sophisticated technology platforms. WellLife Network will increase our scale and capabilities to thrive and grow in a changing health

care environment and allow us to compete more effectively and with sustainability in the health and human services arena.

### Compassionate Services & Fiscal Responsibility

Our vision of the future is based on the following tenets:

- **Compassion and Caring** – the understanding, support, guidance and dedication of an outstanding staff, whose expertise is augmented by a cadre of generous and devoted volunteers;
- **Partnerships** – comprehensive, integrated programs built upon the deep and long standing partnerships WellLife Network has developed with the public, private and voluntary sectors;
- **Fiscal Responsibility** – WellLife Network will have a break-even budget for 2016 and has completed

a long-term debt restructure that will provide a strong basis for implementing a five-year strategic reduction of administrative cost.

**Sherry Tucker, CFO**, WellLife Network, stated, “This is a time of rapid change and transformation in the health and social services sectors, as New York State and other funders, both public and private, transition to new service models. WellLife Network’s realigned service areas – which include Behavioral Health, Developmental Disabilities, Child & Family, Housing, Addiction Recovery and Community Education and Awareness – position the agency to maintain its leadership role as a dynamic partner and solutions provider to our funders, and to continue to make a difference for all New Yorkers in assisting them to **be well for life.**” ■

**1,400**

Persons with intellectual/developmental disabilities participate in WellLife Network's residential, day habilitation and entitlement and eligibility services.



## Fulfillment through Cooking for Farah's "Home Family"

We see the results of our efforts every day, often in small, simple ways: Farah, one of the more than 1,100 residents with an intellectual/developmental disability or behavioral health challenge, enjoys cooking in her residence kitchen each morning. From scrambling eggs to baking chocolate chip cookies, Farah is the lead cook to four of her "sisters" – the residents in the Queens home they share. "I learned to cook for everyone in the house," said Farah, "I like that people really like my food, it makes me happy."

Each day they gather around the dining room table to exchange stories and prepare to begin a new day of experiences. They are family, five active participants of the more than 1,400 individuals with a developmental disability for whom the WellLife Network provides a warm, nurturing and safe living environment. The home direct service professionals who manage the house are central to the family and bring the caring and loving services that transform a house to a home. ■

**294**

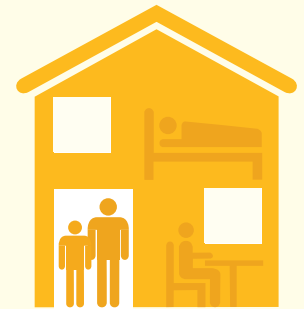
Persons with intellectual/developmental disabilities live in a safe and nurturing residence where they participate in community integration/inclusion activities to maximize their level of independence.

**180**

Parents learned to access benefits and become advocates for their adult children's special needs.

**330**

Persons with intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD) who attend one of WellLife Network's four day habilitation programs which help to develop the acquisition of skills, appropriate behavior, greater independence and personal choice.



**65%**

Percentage of persons who volunteer daily in the community to acquire socialization and vocational skills, in settings such as nursing homes, libraries, soup kitchens and more.

**372**

Persons with I/DD who receive Medicaid Service Coordination (MSC), which helps them to access vital services and supports and plan for their future.

**\$60,000**

Family Reimbursement – funds given to families this past year for goods and services associated with caring for family members with disabilities at home, including: clothing, mattresses, bedding, attendance at activity-based camps and more.

# Triumph from Adversity

## Jeremiah's Story



Jeremiah, 36, is a man who faced many challenges. He fought mental illness almost all of his adult life. He was depressed and had little hope for a better future when he first came to WellLife Network. He still did not have any direction after being released from a state psychiatric hospital. With the assistance of caring case managers and counselors, Jeremiah started talking to his

doctors and attending his day program. Although he was nervous, he started getting accustomed to attending groups and he also started expressing himself – this made him feel better.

Jeremiah took control of his life, went to community college and trained to become a peer to help others who have been facing mental health issues. Jeremiah has more goals to accomplish. He has his driving permit and will soon be taking his road test. He is saving money to buy a car so he can take his roommates shopping, go to his program, and socialize, instead of staying home all day. Jeremiah has also been actively looking for employment, which is his present goal.

He is taking control of his life with the help of his clinical team, the supervision of WellLife Network and just the will to do better. He is living a good life, once again. Jeremiah said, **“I am so grateful for the opportunity to have a good place to live and the help I get is wonderful. Thank-You WellLife Network”.** ■

WellLife Network programs are licensed by the New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH), the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) and New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS). Capacity and expertise to deliver HARP/FIDA services, including Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS), provide both care management and a network of direct services.



For more information visit WellLife Network at:

[www.WellLifeNetwork.org](http://www.WellLifeNetwork.org) or call 866.727.Well

### BE WELL NEWS TEAM

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## Employee of the Month

Join us in congratulating our monthly outstanding employees who embody the WellLife Network mission.



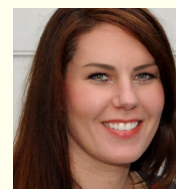
### SEPTEMBER Rosa Avellan

Rosa is ambitious, honest, confident, hardworking and passionate about her position as Billing Associate at WellLife Network. Rosa is a leader and team player. Her dynamic personality ignites the department to work collaboratively. She has been a loyal employee of WellLife Network since 2004.



### OCTOBER Holly Whitfield

Holly is the heart of the QA department. Her thoughtful, supportive demeanor is an added perk for the team. As the QA Secretary, her smile and kind words ensure that the department is running at top speed. She has been employed at WellLife Network since 2002.



### NOVEMBER Janine Colasuonno

Janine, Director, HCBS Waiver Program on Long Island, is an outstanding advocate for the rights of children and families who are coping with the challenges of mental health issues. In April, 2015 she was recognized by the Suffolk County executive and legislators and the Department of Mental Hygiene with a Certificate of Achievement. Janine is a “go to” person who inspires her staff to reach out and help others. She has been with WellLife Network since 2003.

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