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**Saratoga Bridges receives a NY State Balancing Incentive Program (BIP) Transformation Fund grant**

Saratoga Bridges is thrilled to announce that their proposal, "Collaborating Towards Managed Care," was awarded a grant from the New York State Balancing Incentive Program (BIP) Transformation Fund in the amount of \$449,626. This grant comes at a fortuitous time for them as they acknowledge the viability of the Managed Care initiative. They are embracing these systems and are excited about the possibilities they will create!

Working with AIM Services, Inc., their project consists of implementing an Electronic Health Record (EHR) System. The necessity, benefits and outcomes of said EHR System will enhance the efficiency of their organizations. The BIP grant will provide an opportunity for them to make strategic investments in their transition to Manage Care as many of their individuals receive services from both agencies. Since they value excellence within their service delivery systems and management operations, they want to demonstrate this towards the people they serve, their families, staff and other stakeholders. They want to ensure that their dedicated staff members continue to place extraordinary emphasis on giving the proper tools to create life plans that promote independence, individualization, inclusion and productivity. At the same time, they will be investing in their employees to ensure that they maintain the highest level of quality services and organizational governance. They will be implementing an EHR delivery system to better communicate and interact -- thereby strengthening their partnership with the ultimate goal of improving the health care for their individuals. EHR will ensure they are offering the highest level of person-centered services for the people they support.

- Providing accurate, up-to-date, confidential, legible, easily accessible and complete information
- Enabling shared access to records for more coordinated, efficient care in a secure setting
- Helping to improve productivity and reduce costs with less paperwork and duplication

The second collaborative effort of the grant focuses on quality measures and person-centered planning. For years, Saratoga Bridges and AIM Services, Inc. have demonstrated a commitment towards individualized supports. Upon admittance to every program and every meeting thereafter, the person

and his/her circle of support, reviews and discusses goals, desires, dreams, likes and dislikes. From this, valued outcomes are developed and once established, the individual and the circle of support decides how the person can be successful in achieving these. The goals, with safeguards and identified supports, become the basis for program services.

Collaboratively, both agencies will advance these opportunities as an extension of their individualized service delivery system. In order to meet this goal, they will be pursuing the Council on Quality and Leadership's (CQL) Personal Outcomes Measures Training. This training will help them develop expertise in achieving outcomes; thereby increasing the quality of life for the individuals they support. Upon completion of this program, both agencies will have qualified trainers in the CQL process. The next step will be for each agency to then pursue accreditation with CQL.

*As one of the largest non-profit organizations in Saratoga County, Saratoga Bridges has been proudly providing the highest level of services and programs to people with developmental disabilities and their families for more than 55 years by promoting their abilities and achievements in every aspect of community life. Throughout their history, family members, staff and volunteers have been committed to ensuring that the individuals they serve are able to realize their goals, hopes and aspirations as they work, volunteer, socialize and recreate while leading full, productive and contributing lives. The agency employs close to 600 conscientious people who work diligently and with great compassion to be responsible for the 24/7 care of over 830 individuals. Saratoga Bridges' philosophy is that every day is full of possibilities!*

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