Upstate Cerebral Palsy is once again on the cutting edge of service provision to people across New York State and their families. The agency is excited to announce that it is a founding partner of a new entity, LIFEPlan CCO NY. Effective July 1, 2018, The Office for People with Developmental Disabilities is changing how services are coordinated for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Currently, services are facilitated through Medicaid Service Coordination, or MSC. Medicaid Service Coordination is transitioning to Health Home Care Management being overseen by Care Coordination Organizations. Health Home Care Management is a whole person approach to care, combining developmental disability services with health and wellness services. LIFEPlan is one of six designated CCOs across New York State.

LIFEPlan CCO NY is a partnership of 72 non-profit organizations, rooted in communities, with a long history of providing supports and services to people with developmental disabilities. LIFEPlan CCO will cover a 38 county territory in Central and Northern New York, as well as the Capital Region, Southern Tier and Hudson Valley. It will take a regional approach, tailored to fit the specific needs of the people within each community. LIFEPlan CCO is committed to a partnership with existing Medicaid Service Coordination providers to maintain continuity of care for the people we support and their families.

LIFEPlan CCO is centered on connecting people to the full spectrum of services that will support optimal health and wellness to create opportunities for people to have meaningful lives. LIFEPlan’s core values are Person-Centered Services and Supports, Community Inclusion and Participation, and Independence and Self Direction. Person-Centered Services and Supports focus on a person’s vision of what he or she would like to accomplish in the future. Community Inclusion and Participation provides assistance to people looking for volunteer or job opportunities or overall involvement in their communities. Independence and Self Direction educate people about resources and services for their individual needs and empowers them to pursue interests that lend to those needs.

According to Louis B. Tehan, Upstate Cerebral Palsy President and CEO, “Our new care coordination organization has been formed to meet the complex and often evolving challenges and needs that people and families face when navigating our healthcare system in search of the crucial services they require. Their needs are changing and as a responsive agency we have stepped up to be pioneers in navigating that change and in creating a new system that more appropriately addresses those needs.”
Nicholas Cappoletti has recently been appointed as Chief Executive Officer of LIFEPlan CCO. Since 2006, Mr. Cappoletti has been the Executive Director of the Upstate Caring Partners newest affiliate, Advocates Inc. According to Cappoletti, “It is important for family members to have the peace of mind that the supports and services their loved ones require are readily available. As a parent of a child with a disability, we will work together to ensure that LIFEPlan will provide that peace of mind for all of our loved ones.”

For More Information:

LIFEPlan CCO NY will make this transition as seamless as possible for the people and families we support. We look forward to providing the best level of care to those we serve and to our collaboration with our local partnering agencies. For more information on how LIFEPlan CCO NY will affect your or a loved one’s services, please visit lifeplanccony.com or call LIFEPlan CCO at (315) 565-2612.
39 years

of empowering people

through exceptional

opportunities

20 Year Honoree:
MENTAL HEALTHCARE
Collaboration
a lasting legacy.......  

WORDS OF REFLECTION

It's time to move on...

As we've consistently reported in past agency newsletters, our world is changing around us at a pace no one could have anticipated, much less planned for.

Technology, funding, regulatory demands, work ethic and overall values and expectations of the people we support, families, community and staff have made achieving our values and agency mission even more challenging and critical in meeting the expectations of all of our constituencies.

Amidst this transformation our agency certainly has not stood still. From humble beginnings when I first entered the doors of United Cerebral Palsy 39 years ago in the basement of Kernan School, we have focused all of our energy, passion and efforts on starting services for approximately 300 physically handicapped children, ages birth to 10 years of age with 40 plus full and part-time staff.

Today, as the transfer of leadership takes place, our Parent Corporation - Upstate Caring Partners, Inc. - has eleven affiliates and is positioned to serve 39,000 people with over 3,000 staff and an annual operating budget of over $200,000,000.

While I've learned many things over the past 39 years, I believe the most important lesson learned comes from our courageous pioneers that started our agency, and is that it is our honor and privilege to serve every person as if he or she were the only person receiving our services. Really quite simple, and has allowed us to focus on “one person at a time...through Everyday Miracles.”

I absolutely love this place, the energy and enthusiasm that is so obvious in every facet of our great agency. Committed board members, senior administrative staff second to none in our field and the thousands of staff at all levels, providing direct care services that are simply amazing and the backbone of our agency. All partners, from parents, community members and the people we support...our agency has matured as the leader of quality, individually based innovative services of which I am so proud.

I am pleased and encouraged to announce that the Board of Directors has approved Geno DeCondo as the Upstate Cerebral Palsy Executive Director, effective May 1st, 2018.

I'm sure you will find Geno's steadfast leadership and drive for the highest level of quality measurable services to be the continued hallmark of our great organization.

For me it's not goodbye but more appropriately, Thank You...for the privilege and opportunity to be, in some way, a part of your lives.

Sue B. Tolan
As Louis B. Tehan makes his transition to focus his efforts now fully on our Parent Organization, I am truly humbled to assume the lead position for Upstate Cerebral Palsy. I have had the privilege during the past ten years to work with and learn from Lou directly, who is undoubtedly a once-in-a-generation leader.

He has brought the agency from the basement of an elementary school, to the leader of services for people with differing abilities in central New York and beyond. It is hard to imagine that even the founders of our great agency, with all of their hopes and dreams for their family members, could have foreseen the impact the agency has had over the years on so many people and families.

The agency, and our industry, are facing times of unprecedented change. These changes have challenged every human service organization. While others have been deterred and have retreated, we have been able to find innovative ways to provide services against ever-growing needs, while navigating a system ill-prepared to handle the demand. Upstate Cerebral Palsy will continue to enhance its services, and despite the obstacles it faces, is committed to continue as a market leader.

We have assembled an impressive group of professionals who work together on a daily basis to ensure that each person we support is able to reach his or her fullest potential. Our dedicated staff across the agency, board members and community partners are all driven to provide quality outcomes for the people we serve. This group, in conjunction with families, have provided tremendous opportunities to people to fulfill their life choices, dreams and aspirations, which are core to our mission.

I look forward to working side by side with each of you to build our great organization which we are all truly blessed to be a part of in some way. Although the system transformation challenges ahead are many and varied, we are uniquely positioned to not only meet those challenges but to exceed them and continue down the path of what has made us the premier human service organization in central New York.
CELEBRATING OUR LONG-TERM EMPLOYEES

Congratulations to our long-term employees who were recently celebrated at an awards dinner in their honor. Thank you for creating exceptional opportunities for the children and adults we support each day!

MENTAL HEALTHCARE Collaboration

Exciting news for Community Health and Behavioral Services (CHBS) is that it has recently been approved to participate in the New York State Behavioral Health Value Based Payment Readiness Program as a Behavioral Health Care Collaborative (BHCC), as part of the transformation of the State’s Medicaid system. This collaboration will follow in line with the high quality of care currently provided at CHBS, ultimately rewarding better health outcomes rather than the volume of services provided.

Community Health and Behavioral Services, working in conjunction with Syracuse Brick House Inc. d/b/a Syracuse Behavioral Healthcare (SBH), Liberty Resources, Syracuse Community Health Center and the leadership of the Inclusive Alliance IPA and Upstate Community Health Collaborative (UCHC) plan to form a single BHCC in the region. This merger provides better coordination of services for people within central New York and the BHCC was awarded a total of $2,418,000 to be distributed over a three-year period. Funding will assist CHBS in enhancing the quality of care patients receive in order to improve behavioral and physical health outcomes. It will be used for a wide variety of operational needs, including identifying gaps in the continuum of care to better connect patients to the next level of integrated healthcare and identifying opportunities for performance improvement and cost reduction.

Louis B. Tehan, Upstate Cerebral Palsy President and CEO states, “Quality mental healthcare is more vital now than ever and this important funding and commitment from the State will ensure that we can better reach those most in need. CHBS is pleased to collaborate with other established providers and this partnership will allow for more value-based care for people throughout all of central New York. Our combined expertise and resources will ultimately mean greater service opportunities and outcomes for those we serve.”
Enclosed is my gift of $100.00, $75.00, $50.00, $25.00, Other

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Method of Payment (check one) □ Check □ Visa □ Master Card □ American Express □ Discover

Credit Card #

Billing Zip Code Exp. Date:

Please make check payable to Cerebral Palsy Association 3899 Oneida Street, Suite C, New Hartford, NY 13413

Donate online at www.upstatecp.org/ways-to-give/donate

Soar to New Heights this Summer!

Sign up for our Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) and enjoy healthy, fresh, local vegetables throughout the summer. Host a team building activity for your company on our ropes course and zip line or enjoy daytime, evening or weekend horseback riding lessons whether you are a new or an experienced rider. Call 315.520.7046 or visit rootfarm.org for more details on all of these opportunities.

I would like to be a part of Every Day Miracles for...

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☐ Education Programs
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☐ Please send information about creating LASTING LEGACIES through my will

This gift is...

In Honor of

In Memory of

Please notify the following of my gift

Kristen Vennero

INTRODUCING THE COMMUNICATIONS & DONOR ENGAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

Upstate Cerebral Palsy and agency affiliates continue to expand and evolve to meet the ever changing needs of children, adults and their families within our community. To that end, a new agency department has been formed to effectively meet those needs. The Communications and Donor Engagement Department, located at 258 Genesee Street in Utica, is responsible for maintaining the agency’s channels of communication, relationship with the community and media, and presence with potential donors and funders. The department oversees all messaging, community relations and fundraising for the agency as well as the affiliate agencies which also fall under the Upstate Caring Partners parent corporation.

“We’re really excited about being able to serve both Upstate Cerebral Palsy and the community through our department,” said Kristen Vennero, newly-appointed Vice-President of Communications and Donor Engagement. “As the team that is very actively involved with communication both inside and outside of our walls, we are in a unique position to serve as the link between one of the largest human services providers in central New York and the community it calls home, ultimately providing the best quality of care to the thousands of children and adults with differing abilities who come through our doors each year.”

Vennero, a long-time resident of the Mohawk Valley, brings a wealth of knowledge about the local region and its needs to her new role. “With years of corporate leadership experience and an extensive background in financial management, I know that Kristen will offer steadfast direction and valuable insight that will be imperative to providing support to our children, adults and their families along with staff and community members,” said Louis Tehan, President and CEO of Upstate Cerebral Palsy. The new department serves all Upstate Cerebral Palsy and many affiliate agencies regionally. Community members who are interested in learning more or getting involved can contact the Communications and Donor Engagement Department by visiting upstatecp.org or calling (315) 927-3460.

Kristen Vennero
Thank you, Lou, for 39 years of everyday miracles!