

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**Community Options, Inc. Welcomes Kathleen Kelly
As New Clinical Services Program Manager for the Red Ribbon Academy**

Community Options, Inc (COI) announces Kathleen Kelly, R.N., as its new Clinical Services Program Manager.

Ms. Kelly holds a B.S. in Nursing from Seton Hall University, where she graduated cum laude and was a member of Sigma Theta Tau, the National Honor Society of Nursing. She is currently completing coursework toward a Master of Science in Health Science at the New Jersey City University Graduate College of Professional Studies. Ms. Kelly brings with her over sixteen years of experience in the nursing sector.

Ms. Kelly will be instrumental in the success COI's new Red Ribbon Academy, a medical day program with the goal of improving the quality of life of persons with severe medical needs using an innovative and novel model. She will be responsible for delivering care to individuals with disabilities at the Medical Day Care utilizing the nursing process of assessment, planning, intervention, implementation, and evaluation.

The idea for the new Medical Day Program came from a need to provide alternative solutions for families with loved ones with severe disabilities. A problem facing many parents of children with significant disabilities is that they are not provided with many options. Historically, they have had limited options such as a developmental center or community based providers.

In the past, there have not been enough suitable choices for day services for families who are able to keep their child home with them once he or she reaches adulthood and can no longer be supported by the educational system. The ideal option for most families is to keep their children at home while having access to appropriate and safe day programming. That is what the Red Ribbon Academy will provide for these families. This program will offer parents the support needed to allow them to care for their loved ones at home.

"The Parents Group," headed by five mothers who have children with special needs, took the lead representing a large group of families with young adults who have a myriad of conditions. They hoped to inspire the creation of a day program that not only provides support and supervision by highly trained medical professionals, but also allows access to all the benefits of a community-based program, physical therapy, occupational therapy, and volunteerism. The parents specifically requested that COI operate this program.



Supporting People with Disabilities since 1989

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Media contact: Kathryn (609) 352-5280

E-mail: Kathryn.Sampson@comop.org

16 Farber Road, Princeton, New Jersey 08540

www.comop.org

The COI Red Ribbon Academy will be open to anyone who qualifies for services under NJ Division for Developmental Disabilities. It will be located in Wayne, NJ at 506 Hamburg Tpk, which is currently undergoing renovations.

Community Options Inc. is a national nonprofit organization incorporated in 1989 and headquartered in Princeton, New Jersey. The agency provides housing and employment supports to people with disabilities in eight states: Kentucky, New Jersey, New York, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas. www.comop.org

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If you would like more information about this topic, or to schedule an interview, please call (609) 352-5280 or e-mail Kathryn at Kathryn.Sampson@comop.org.