



SERVING PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

April 24, 2020

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Dear Families and Guardians,

Things have been challenging, to say the least, having never been faced with a situation like this before. However, we continue to be blessed that none of our clients and staff have been diagnosed with COVID-19, nor do we have anyone with virus-like symptoms. Unfortunately, we have had several employees with medical conditions not related to the virus who needed to be off work. In heroic fashion, many have stepped up to fill those open shifts, and we remain grateful to all our staff for their commitment, dedication, flexibility, and patience during these unprecedented times.

By now, many of you have heard that in yesterday's press briefing, Illinois Governor Pritzker shared some data showing that COVID-19 will not likely reach its peak in Illinois until mid-May. For that reason, he has extended the stay-at-home order through the end of May. While the Governor's executive orders may eventually ease up on social distancing, LARC's day services will remain closed until we are authorized to reopen by the Illinois Department of Human Services Division of Developmental Disabilities (IDHS/DD). Officials from IDHS/DD have been clear that careful planning and coordination must be done prior to reopening authorization.

I continue to participate in conference calls with numerous providers from across Illinois in an effort to discuss the latest information on the pandemic and the stay-at-home order; both from a state and national perspective. It is on those calls that participants are working on the necessary components for the plan to reopen. These components include ready-access to testing, personal protection equipment, and the ability to social-distance in the facilities. As the plan gets finalized and approved, I will share the information with you.

For those clients we serve in our 24-hour CILA program, we are doing our best to keep them occupied and engaged in meaningful activities. We appreciate all the donations we've received from the community such as cleaning and disinfecting supplies, homemade masks, sanitizers, games, puzzles, and other items from our needed supplies list. It's been challenging to obtain protective equipment (PPE) like others in the healthcare industry. What little supply we had on hand was initially reserved in case any CILA client was diagnosed with the virus or began to display symptoms. Based on guidance from the CDC, we began distributing the masks to our staff. Recently, we have been able to purchase 5,000 masks and 50 gallons of sanitizer. We hope to have delivery by next week.

As always, please feel free to contact me at (708) 474-1540 during business hours, or via email at EGonzalez@larclansing.com.

Sincerely,

Ernie Gonzalez
Executive Director