



October 8, 2020

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FOR INDEPENDENCE**

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Dear Families and Parents:

I am writing to you as we try to keep you informed of what is happening at Innovative Resources for Independence (IRI). We have no known positive case of the coronavirus with the people we support or our staff and had no death during this continue pandemic. We have stockpiled enough PPEs to last us for the next nine months based on our burn rate calculation. We continue to train our staff in infection control and COVID-19 precautions, to enforce strict cohorting protocols, and to limit outside trips.

We appreciate those of you who have advocated on behalf of everyone with intellectual and developmental disabilities as well as those who have supported us financially and prayed for our health and safety. Our direct support professionals continue to show us every day that they are special people. We thank all of you who have written to acknowledge their hard work. As some of you are aware, the field and specifically, IRI has sustained some significant cuts from the state. This is partly due to the fact that the support from the federal government has not been forthcoming.

We have had reduced revenues from individuals not returning to day programs to the tune of over \$300,000 per month. In addition, as of October 1, 2020 when people who live in our residences are hospitalized or go on a home visit, the agency will be paid at 50%. It is unclear why the cuts are targeting people who are more sickly or behaviorally involved as they tend to more likely be hospitalized or to target people whose families may want them home for a visit. **IRI position is clear: we want families who wish to have their loved ones home with them for a week end or a week or a month to continue to do so.** We want your involvement with your loved ones, we appreciate your involvement in whatever form to include home visit, phone calls, and quick day trips. Twenty five years of clinical experience tells us that family matters in all of our lives and particularly in the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities who might feel lonely. **During these unprecedented times, we need to maintain closer contact than ever with each other and with our loved ones and to do so safely.**

Finally, we have received 2 inquiries from families wanting their loved ones to go back to their day programs. While we appreciate the benefits of going back to our pre-pandemic routines to include attending day program, we have a person centered process in the context of community living that we use to process such requests. We will note that across our residential system, we support people with very significant and complex medical needs which make contracting the coronavirus a particularly



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(IRI Update)

risky and dangerous proposition. Again, we believe it is a direct result of our practices, luck, and prayers.

As always, if you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (718) 805-6796 Ext. 1106.

Best regards,

Gilbert Louis, Ed.D
Chief Executive Officer

Cc: File