



July 9, 2020

Dear Residents, Families, Friends, and other stakeholders,

As we enter a new fiscal year, we are in for a bumpy ride filled with uncertainty. We are still waiting anxiously for news on our budgets for this year, we are particularly interested in how day services will be funded.

We have been working with the SEIU to craft a one year roll over of our current Collective Bargaining Agreement. I believe that we are close to an agreement so watch for that announcement.

As of 6/30/2020 the Memorandum of Understanding regarding premium pay expired. Funding from the state for premium pay was terminated and as a result, the \$2 premium pay ended. Fortunately, WSC can continue to offer the \$5 premium pay for employees working in Covid positive sites.

On 6/1/2020 WSC opened our administrative offices to an expanded capacity. The expansion went well. Until further notice the office will continue to be closed for visitors, meetings, trainings, and deliveries.

On 7/3/2020 WSC received reopening guidance for our day programs. The guidance is very specific and restricts who can attend, the size of groups, activities allowed and many other aspects of operations. WSC is developing a plan for a phased reopening:

- On 8/3/2020 Phase one will begin and will include those participants in the lower risk categories. Participants that are able to independently social distance, need limited physical assistance, will wear face mask for long period of time and are not in a high-risk category according to the CDC (under 65 years of age, no serious concurrent medical conditions),
- Sometime in October Phase two will begin if there is no spike in illness or other unforeseen complications. This phase will include individuals that need assistance with social distancing and other Covid preventative measures and require hands on assistance but are not considered high risk.
- Once there is an effective treatment or vaccine Phase three open to all participants including high risk folks.

This is a brief summary of part of the reopening plan. Reopening will also include Covid screenings, smaller groups, limited movement in the building, no community outings and other new protocols. A more detailed description will be going out to participants and their families the end of next week.

Transportation and its impact on reopening day programs has been another area of discussion. In the beginning months of reopening transportation will not be available. Initially, our program will only be open to people that can provide their own transportation or live in our residential programs. Transportation companies are working on plans to abide by the recently issued guidance and will let everyone know when they will be open.

Like the Commonwealth of MA WSC is encouraged by our numbers. Currently, we have no newly diagnosed residents in our homes, and we hope to maintain this status. We have one resident recovering in a rehabilitation facility.

Thank you very much for everything you are doing to keep our residents and facility staff safe and healthy. We will continue to monitor the situation in our community and keep you informed.

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