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EP!C Families, Guardians, and Advocates,

4-4-2020

I hope this letter finds you well. We put behind us another week of challenges and accomplishments as EP!C continues to be infection-free thanks to our dedicated staff. From all of us at EP!C, I want to thank the families and friends that are creatively staying engaged and providing kind words to our staff. We will get through this together.

Due to Governor Pritzker extending the Shelter in Place order through Thursday, April 30th, EP!C is extending our restrictions and closures beyond April 15th. EP!C will continue to restrict entrance to our group homes to anyone other than EP!C staff until Friday, May 1st. Townline and Day Services will remain closed until Monday, May 4th. We hope everyone in our community and state honors the Shelter in Place Order, so we are not looking at another extension.

One of the concerns discussed in the news is the shortage of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). EP!C **has a inventory** of masks and other protective equipment that thankfully we have not needed to use. However, since this crisis has begun, we have placed orders for additional supplies and continue to look for sources, so if we need them, our staff and your loved ones are well protected based on CDC guidelines.

As with all of us, everyone at our residential sites are getting restless, and our staff is working hard to provide meaningful and interesting opportunities and activities to pass the time. (Please follow us on Facebook and Instagram to see what is happening).

Some of our families have asked how they can help. Starting Monday, you will find on our website under wish list or in the Family Portal ideas like craft materials, supplies, and other items each group home or the Host Homes could put to use. Please coordinate with the Group Home Manager or Case Manager for Host Homes to assist you. (EP!C Website – www.epicci.org or log into the Family Portal for information specific to families, guardians, and advocates of the people EP!C serves.

There are several ways you can help to make this crisis and the challenges that go with it easier on your loved one and the dedicated staff providing services and comfort during this time.

Some examples are:

- As Easter approaches, some of our families have coordinated to drop off a home-cooked meal.
- Providing Easter basket with treats for everyone in the house.
- Cover the cost of a meal delivered to the house from one of our local restaurants.
- Send a note or message to the staff to thank them for their service. (We can assist in delivering)

This past week, Administrative staff from Residential Services reached out to guardians to touch base about their loved one and answer or address any questions or concerns. Please give Stephany Buhs, Director of Residential Services, a call if we missed connecting with you. It's times like this that it is vital for us to have updated contact information for you. For those of you who are not in our residential program, please feel free to call Alex Quillen (Educational Services) or Katie Murphy (Employment Services) if you have any questions. We look to stay in touch with all our families, guardians, and advocates during these challenging times.

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| Residential Services | Stephany Buhs | (309) 635-9432 |
| Educational Services | Alex Quillen | (309) 265-4178 |
| Employment Services | Katie Murphy | (309) 369-0461 |

EP!C will continue to do its best to provide a safe and healthy environment for all the people we serve, our staff, and to be a respectful and cooperative member of our community. We will keep you informed as changes occur.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding,

Kim Cornwell, CEO

