

To our Arc of Howard County Families:

We are truly experiencing unbelievable times in our community, in our state, in our nation and in the world. As we move into the early weeks of the COVID-19 virus, many of us in the provider community have been working feverishly to get a handle on how this will affect the long-term status of our programs and services. Right now, the closing of day programs and minimizing personal supports and employment supports has forced us to shift the majority of our attention on our residential program. The pinnacle of our services; which is community integration, is now the least important goal of our person centered supports.

Sheltering in place, social distancing and a strict attention to the details of cleanliness are the top priorities for the people we support and our staff. If we are to be successful in bending the curve of this pandemic, we need to be ever so vigilant in all that we do. It is important for each of you to know that we are doing everything we possibly can to ensure the health and safety of your loved ones and our staff who provide exceptional supports. Thank you to our Direct Support Professionals, Managers and Advocates who are continuing to work days, evenings and weekends in our residential programs, providing needed supports during this pandemic. Their service to others has been selfless and exceptional.

I would be less than truthful if I said we know when we will be back to normal service provision. What we do know is that we are doing everything our Governor has asked us to do. Our office is open for shorter periods of time to allow for deliveries of supplies, food, donations and the mail. We also have some staff who are in the building to perform essential duties that keep the agency functioning.

Unprecedented is a word I have used a great deal in the last two weeks. Never before have we experienced such global disruption to our everyday lives. As Americans, we are used to taking our liberties daily – going to work, grocery shopping, dinner out, socializing with friends. For the unforeseeable future, these simple things that we sometimes take for granted will be halted. This is a time we should all use for great reflection. We should remind ourselves of the things that are so important –our families, our friends, and our community. I encourage everyone to stay safe and healthy. Please stay home, away from crowds and large gatherings. Wash your hands frequently and refrain from hugging and handshaking for the time being. We will be doing the same on our end at The Arc of Howard County.

Best regards,



Cindy Parr
Executive Director
March 24, 2020