

COVID-19 Update

April 13, 2020

North Metro Community Services

I've been harping in these updates about the importance of social distancing and the use of masks. I realize all of that is an inconvenience at best but in Colorado you can definitely see how it is making a difference. A few weeks ago COVID cases were doubling in a matter of two or three days but now it is taking 10 days or more for the number of cases to double. The purpose of all those precautions was to "flatten the curve" and keep the virus from growing faster than the capacity of our medical systems and we seem to be accomplishing that. Congratulations to all of you for being part of the solution and slowing this deadly virus.

Having said that we aren't out of the woods yet. The Governor's current shelter in place order expires on April 26. Though I don't have any inside information on this front I certainly expect the order to be extended. We are making progress locally and nationally but that doesn't mean we have this thing beat. As I mentioned last week I think all of your efforts are the reason that we haven't had an outbreak at NMCS so thank you and keep up the good work.

When we do come back I am also certain it's not going to be all at once, we are not going to suddenly have all staff report and have the atrium full of people getting ready for Day Program. We are starting to plan now for how things may look post-COVID. One good thing is that by the time we do come back every one is going to be pretty adept at working remotely and using all the technology it requires. This will make it easier for us to bring staff back on a rotating basis and possibly do something similar with people who attend our Day Program.

Speaking of Day Program I want to thank our managers and staff in that area for their ongoing efforts to get people more engaged via technology while they shelter in place at home. They've got a number of classes and activities available including the First Chapter Book Club and are adding more. These classes can be accessed by anyone who has an interest, not just people who were attending NMCS Day Program before.

The COVID-19 Pandemic brought the Colorado Legislature to a halt and with it the process of crafting a new budget for the fiscal year that begins July 1, 2020. It was announced this weekend that the legislature will reconvene on May 18th or 19th. Their goal will be to have a budget on the Governor's desk by the end of May. This won't be an easy task. Estimates are that state revenues will be down between 2 and 3 Billion dollars! So we will be working to keep legislators apprised of the importance of your work as they make the tough decisions that will be required to balance the budget.

These updates keep getting shorter. I guess I could repeat all the stuff you've now heard a million times like they do in the newspaper but that stuff drives me nuts after a while and I don't want to subject you to the same thing. One thing that does warrant repeating though is my thanks to all of our staff and host home providers that are supporting our folks and keeping them safe during these trying times. All this

staying at home and social isolation gets pretty frustrating for everyone and in the face of that you guys just continue to do your job and make the lives of the people you serve better on account of it. I know I speak for the Board and all of our Directors when I say we really can't thank you enough.

Randy Brodersen
Executive Director