



UCP SEGUIN – SPECIAL UPDATE ON COVID-19

April 10, 2020

Good Morning, UCP Seguin Staff, Foster Parents, Families and Friends,

We want to first reinforce what a yeoman's job everyone in the UCP Seguin community of support has done in both the initial response to the COVID-19 pandemic and then in the subsequent ongoing monitoring and management of the crisis over the last several weeks.

Our goal is to keep you informed about what we are doing at UCP Seguin and, as we all know, the situation is unpredictable and we need to continually adjust to ensure we are meeting everyone's needs.

As we continue to closely watch the impact that COVID-19 has had and continues to have on our communities – across Illinois, the country, and the world – we are writing to provide you with some UCP Seguin-specific updates. They relate to this unprecedented crisis including specific data that clearly illustrates the areas to which we have been paying very close attention for the past several weeks.

First of all, we want to assure you that the UCP Seguin COVID-19 Task Force meets every single day to assess our actions and maximize our agency's effectiveness. The Task Force is comprised of UCP Seguin's Executive Leadership, and various subcommittees include staff from various programs and support departments agency-wide. These subcommittees meet several times a week as well. We are especially focused and attentive, working diligently to provide a coordinated team effort.

As you would expect, we have continued to focus on the health, safety and well-being of our program participants, our staff and foster parents, and the community at large. Over 400 residents in UCP Seguin's CILA and Children's Foster Care programs continue to hunker down in their homes in adherence to Governor Pritzker's executive order to shelter in place and are only going out into the community if absolutely necessary. We are continuing to monitor temperatures of all staff and residents. In the event of a temperature that registers over 100 degrees Fahrenheit, we respond according to recently established agency guidelines and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommendations. Groceries are being delivered by the agency's Food Hub. Medications are being delivered to the homes by designated staff. Exposure to the community has been significantly reduced and, in many cases, has been eliminated altogether. In several of the CILA homes, staff have moved in with the participants and have made commitments to stay for two consecutive weeks or more, further reducing exposure and helping to contain the virus.

Over the course of the last two weeks, we have had a total of eight (8) confirmed cases of

COVID-19 in our immediate UCP Seguin community. This is scary news to hear, particularly considering how hard this virus has struck nursing homes and group homes/organizations nationwide. It's important to note, however, that with over 400 adults and children served and hundreds more foster care providers and employees working every day, this number might be significantly higher if not for so many protective measures firmly in place agency-wide. We are incredibly relieved and happy to report that each of the eight individuals is recovering. Equally significant is that we have had no new confirmed cases as a result of additional exposures and no new cases of COVID-19 since Monday of this week.

To provide a snapshot of the key points we are monitoring on a daily basis, we have included the tables below, reflecting data from Thursday 4/9/20:

Daily COVID-19 Scorecard

EMPLOYEES	
Employee confirmed COVID-19	5 Total
Employee exposed to COVID-19	28
Employee unknown if they were exposed to COVID-19	2
Employee is not coming to work because they are concerned about a potential exposure	3
Employee unable work due to childcare/school closures	15
Employee unable work due to pre-existing medical issues	26
Employee presented at work with a fever or other symptoms and was sent home	6
Employee filed for Unemployment	17
Employees needing re-assignment but refused and are not working	11
Employees willing to be reassigned but we were unable to reassign	6
Total number of employees off of work related to COVID-19	102

ADULT SERVICES SCORECARD

Adult participants confirmed COVID-19	3
Roselle – 1 (lives independently in own apartment)	
Naperville- 2 (live in own condos with drop-in staff support)	
Adult participants exposed to COVID-19	14
Adult participants with a fever	0
Adult participants with other COVID-19 symptoms	1
Adult participants that went to the ER or Urgent Care since 3/22/20	10 (1 person has been to the ER twice)

CHILDRENS FOSTER CARE

Children confirmed COVID-19	0
Children exposed to COVID-19	1
Children foster parent or household member confirmed COVID-19	0
Children foster parent or household member exposed to COVID-19	1
Children foster parent or household member with a fever	1
Children foster parent or household member that went to the ER	None known
Children foster parent or household member with COVID-19 symptoms	None known

The financial impact to UCP Seguin is likely to be immense, particularly as it relates to staff payroll. As we always do, we are closely analyzing agency payroll and all other organizational expenses. We will be able to better project long-term financial impact in the coming week or two following subsequent pay dates and continued replenishment of

crucial supplies including but not limited to soap, sanitizers, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and cleaning supplies. It is unclear at this time if there will be much governmental aid provided to UCP Seguin to help offset the costs because we are not covered under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) which applies to companies and organizations with 500 or fewer employees. UCP Seguin currently employs almost 700 people.

Even as we do our best to keep everyone working, some employees are unable to continue to come to work for a variety of reasons and are filing for unemployment benefits. While hopeful that we will receive partial relief of out-of-pocket unemployment expenses from the federal government, we do not have confirmation regarding how this relief will be delivered.

We have successfully secured some foundation grants and other private contributions – including nearly \$150,000 raised so far from nearly 300 donors for the [UCP Seguin COVID-19 Emergency Fund](#). We have been blessed with in-kind donations of lovingly sewn fabric masks and other emergency supplies. Expect more appeals to your generosity as this crisis continues.

Each Direct Support Professional (DSP) who reports to work during this crisis is receiving a temporary rate increase as both an incentive to keep coming to work and a measure of gratitude for their commitment and dedication to the individuals they support. During this past pay period, 356 determined DSPs reported for their shifts. In addition to DSP rate increases, we have put temporary incentives in place for supervisors, nurses, foster care providers in both the adult and children's foster care programs, and clinical staff who might need to make in-person visits to homes to ensure the well-being of those living there. Other temporary employee support measures are in place that will provide additional paid time off for those personally affected by COVID-19. All of these incentive programs will have enormous impact on agency finances, but they are necessary expenses that barely scratch the surface of the thanks that our amazing workforce deserves for their bravery in the face of this virus...and their utmost commitment to the people we serve. You can see for yourselves, as a dedicated UCP Seguin DSP was recently featured in this story on ABC 7 Chicago News:

<https://abc7chicago.com/health/volunteer-moves-in-to-care-for-covid-19-patient-with-disabilities/6066676/>

And Ana's selflessness was again featured in this morning's Chicago Tribune column by Rex Huppke:

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/columns/rex-huppke/ct-coronavirus-pandemic-chicago-disabilities-covid-huppke-20200410-7t5ozbofjz7b6wg5hls6sppm-story.html>

We are very proud of the planning, implementation, hard work, and commitment of all of UCP Seguin's staff. We are grateful to our friends and families for helping us to navigate this difficult journey by following agency guidelines and adhering to the CDC's recommendations to stay home. We believe that our collective efforts are having positive impact and helping to minimize the risk of exposure and contain this aggressive virus. The combined efforts of our staff, families, and friends along with the prayers and well-wishes of our entire community of support reinforce how strong we are when we work together to take care of each other.

#weareallinthistgether
#strongestwhenweworktogether
#proudtobepartofucpseguin

Be Well,



Michelle Sanders
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