



**Dear UCP Seguin Staff, Foster Parents, Families, and Friends,**

It is with great sadness that we inform you that we have lost our first UCP Seguin program participant due to complications of COVID-19. Joe K. passed away earlier this week at the age of 68. He started receiving services from the agency in 1965. He was a quiet guy with a truly artistic eye. He loved all forms of art, but especially painting and drawing. He was very proud of his work in ceramics classes. Joe loved going out and attending activities but also truly valued peace and quiet. He spent his “alone time” relaxing in his favorite chair, thumbing through magazines, and listening to the radio. Joe will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

In the last month, the state has graduated from Phase III of Restore Illinois and moved on to Phase IV of Governor Pritzker’s comprehensive plan to reopen services and businesses. This phase has been coined “Revitalization”. As positive as our movement into Phase IV was and is, however, coronavirus continues to rage through much of the country, and infections have begun to gradually grow in Illinois in the last week, especially in just the last day. All of us want to get back to “normal” but we must continue to be diligent about safety. Only exercising good and safe judgment will keep COVID-19 from resurging in our state, so we can avoid the significant uptick in infection seen in Florida, California, Texas and 37 other states. Important to note is that we will not move to Phase V until there is vaccine for COVID-19; to address any resurgence we would need to revert to earlier Phases up to and possibly including another “shelter in place” order. If we practice safety guidelines, we will remain in Phase IV until a vaccine is widely available and that should be the goal of all of us in Illinois. Please follow the link below to learn more about Phase IV.

<https://coronavirus.illinois.gov/s/restore-illinois-phase-4>

UCP Seguin has continued to support families to visit with their loved ones with continued safety rules such as outside visits, appropriate social distancing, and mask requirements being applied for everyone’s safety. Other visitation arrangements, or variations from the standard, require communication with the individual’s case manager or home manager in advance. Family members and friends will continue to be welcomed to our CILA group homes to visit while adhering to the following guidelines:

- Visits must be scheduled in advance by contacting case managers or the appropriate residential managers to make arrangements;
- Visits will occur **outdoors only**;
- Social Distancing as outlined by the federal Centers for Disease Control (CDC) will be required;

- Wearing of masks by visitors will be required;

You can read about Social Distancing and other CDC guidelines related to COVID-19 by clicking on the following link:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>

Community Day Services (CDS) sites continue to be closed for participant activities as ordered by the Illinois Department of Human Services – Division of Developmental Disabilities (DHS-DDD). Since mid-March, residents in UCP Seguin CILA homes have been receiving day services Monday-through-Friday at their homes, with in-person training, enrichment classes and other supports provided by direct care staff. Some training/therapy/social engagement has also been provided via telecommunications (Zoom classes, phone calls, FaceTime, other means). But DHS-DDD has presented the option for a “soft” re-opening in August, although under very strict protocols:

- Providers “should reopen with a maximum of 25 individuals or 25% room capacity, whichever is smaller. This is a maximum and providers may and are encouraged to start more gradually. Providers can increase capacity after at least 2 weeks of steady operations.”
- Providers “must complete the Illinois CV Provider Preparedness Self-Assessment... complete a Risk Benefit assessment of each potentially participating individual, with the DDD or a comparable tool, prior to that individual participating and...provide an operational plan for meeting soft opening guidelines.”

Based on these guidelines, UCP Seguin has drafted a “Community Day Services Reinvention Plan” to re-open these day services centers scattered throughout the area. This plan is focused on a mid-August “soft” re-opening. Any such re-opening will be subject to above noted self-assessments for each center and risk-benefit assessments for each individual with developmental disabilities, plus innumerable other procedures. Proper social distancing, hygiene, mask-wearing, frequent disinfecting and sanitizing of areas in each site, and many other protocols will be strictly enforced in any such re-opening. Participants choosing to return must present a negative COVID-19 test result within 14 days of returning, while also undergoing daily health screenings. Staff must also present negative test results. UCP Seguin will of course amend any plans based on a resurgence of COVID-19 and State directives to prevent infection. At the same time UCP Seguin will continue to provide Community Day Services for many individuals who may need to remain in their CILA homes given their underlying conditions, and due to the more severe restrictions on numbers who can be served in the CDS centers. With extreme caution and due diligence, we are hopeful to again utilize our centers to provide these crucial day services to individuals ready to get back into action.

According to experts, testing remains key to stopping the spread of COVID-19. With that in mind, starting July 15<sup>th</sup>, all agency employees who are working in any of our administrative buildings or CILA homes are required to submit a negative coronavirus test lab result to Human Resources for tracking. Over the past few weeks as more and more Illinoisans seek testing, obtaining results has sometimes taken up to 10 days when completed at drive-up testing sites. Keeping that in mind, we have allowed some leeway but by the end of July, our expectation is that all of us who are required to submit results will have done so. As is always the case, safety and peace of mind for our staff, families, and people we serve are of the highest priority. In addition, UCP Seguin now requires that any staff member who travels out of Illinois to an area designated as a “hot spot” must self-quarantine for 14 days and submit two negative COVID-19 test results prior to returning to work. This mandate corresponds to CDC guidelines along with emergency travel orders issued by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), the City of

Chicago, and Cook County, and which is strongly encouraged by DuPage County. Follow the below link for guidance from IDPH, Chicago, Cook County, and a news clip regarding DuPage County's recommendation for self-quarantine for travelers:

<https://www.dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/diseases-and-conditions/diseases-a-z-list/coronavirus/travel-guidance>

<https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/sites/covid-19/home.html>

<https://cookcountypublichealth.org/communicable-diseases/covid-19/covid-19-travel-guidance/>

<https://www.nbcchicago.com/news/coronavirus/dupage-county-health-department-encourages-self-quarantine-for-travelers/2301300/>

Below is the most current snapshot of data that illustrates UCP Seguin's ongoing management and monitoring of the COVID-19 pandemic and its effect on the agency. We continue to do our best to ensure that all employees, foster parents, families, friends, board members, and stakeholders remain well-informed of the many safety measures we have put in place and continue to adjust accordingly.

The following data is current as of July 23, 2020:

<b>ADULT SERVICES SCORECARD as of 7/23/20</b>	
<b>Adult participants confirmed COVID-19</b>	28
<b>Adult participants with a fever</b>	0
<b>Adult participants with other COVID-19 symptoms</b>	2

<b>CHILDRENS FOSTER CARE as of 7/23/20</b>	
<b>Children confirmed COVID-19</b>	0
<b>Children foster parent or household member confirmed COVID-19</b>	1

<b>STAFF TESTING DATA as of 7/23/20</b>	
<b>Number of staff tested</b>	323
<b>Total staff</b>	610
<b>Number of positive results</b>	2
<b>Number of negative results</b>	321
<b><i>53% employees have submitted test results to date: 50 staff are scheduled for testing on 7/24 and many staff continue working from home with no contact to individuals served or co-workers.</i></b>	

Our COVID-19 Task Force and its sub-groups continue to remain active and meet several times each week to ensure communication is distributed agency-wide.

We continue to be thankful for each one of you for all you have done and all you continue to do as we navigate this journey as a strong and determined team.

#weareallinthistgether  
#strongestwhenweworktogether  
#proudtobepartofucpseguin  
#brighterdaysareontheway

Be Well,

Michelle Sanders  
VP of Organizational  
Management  
COVID-19 Task Force  
Spokesperson

John Voit  
President/CEO

Jim Haptonstahl  
Executive Vice President



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