



MEMORANDUM

To: All Employees of OPTIONS NORTHWEST
From: Anna-Marie Eckensweiler, Executive Director
Date: April 3, 2020
Re: Update on Group Home Guidelines

Good Day

Not all Superheroes have capes.....some work in the field of developmental services...adapted by AME original author unknown.

Thought I would start out with a quote I saw the other day that I chose to adapt for our purposes. Someone said to me that OPTIONS is an agency that deserves recognition under the “hero” category, and I said yes you are correct. But I further said, the real superheroes are the employees who daily come to work to do their jobs with a smile and understanding of how important their work is to us. And so, I begin by a word of thanks for continuing to do your work in the face of this pandemic and for your support of all the individuals within OPTIONS care. We appreciate all that you are doing.

As you may know, our Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services has been working with the Ministry of Health to try and get information as it relates to our sector. The focus for the Ministry of Health as we can appreciate, has been very directed to hospital procedures and Long-Term care needs. We now have a document called the **Group Home guidelines produced by the Ministry of Health** to guide us in our work. While our community is now seeing cases being tested as positive, as an organization we have been fortunate that we have not had to experience this firsthand, but we want to be prepared if we do. These guidelines will also be available on our website for anyone wanting to refer to them online.

We continue to meet daily and keep updated on what is going on not only in our own community but also across the province. We were put in touch with a supplier in Southern Ontario who I have been working with to get masks and shields for our organization. We are also working with suppliers for hand sanitizer (which we hope will be available to us in the next few days) and we are assessing our need for supplies for thermometers in each area. Each day brings a new challenge and our efforts are always focused on the safety of the individuals we support and our employees.

We will continue to update you on new information as it is known. The State of Emergency for the province of Ontario has been extended for another 2 weeks therefore all previous correspondence about attending community events remains unchanged; all non-essential services remained closed as does our direction to

not participate in anything outside of the locations except for walks/sitting on your patios. All parks, public and communal areas are also now closed to the public as a result of the extension of the order. We know how challenging it is to stay positive during this time, but we are hearing such wonderful stories of the creativity you are showing in keeping people motivated and busy in these exceptional times. Feel free to share those stories with us; they are an inspiration to others. Social distancing by the fellows at Nicholetts.....



As always, reach out to your supervisor, a manager or one of the directors including myself, if you feel you need to. Thanks everyone!!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Eckensweiler'.

Anna-Marie Eckensweiler