

DIRECT SERVICE PROFESSIONALS WEEK

Letter from the Chief Executive Officer

David C. Reiss

September 17, 2020

It's been a while since my last letter to you all. I trust you are all in good health and spirits. We are in week 27 of this pandemic, but who's counting?

This is national direct service professional (DSP) week. As an agency our DSP's are doing an amazing job keeping everyone engaged, comfortable and safe. We have had our share of drama and tragedy, as have many developmental disability agencies, but with our DSP's and the assistance of our wonderful nursing and administrative leadership teams, we have been slowly getting back into a "normal" way of life.

Our day programs have re-opened cautiously, our family and friend visitation protocols appear to be effective so far, and the residential folks are gradually entering the community as well. Our children's services have been awesome in their approach to providing services. It's because of your dedication, respect and common-sense approach to prevention, that we are able to do these things.

We are and will continue to be in total Prevention mode until there is a vaccine. Our daily policies of social distancing, cleaning, wearing of masks, hand washing/sanitizing, virtual meetings, etc. have been effective.

While all of the above has been effective, my concern continues at a heightened level. Schools and colleges are re-opening, flu season is here, workers are again re-entering the offices. Holidays mean increases in family gatherings. There has been a systematic increase in Covid positive tests and deaths in RI during the last 4 weeks, and I expect it to continue to rise through the fall season.

Keep up the good work everyone. Stay vigilant! We all need to be safe at home, in the community and at work. We will get through this.

And to all the DSP's, THANK YOU! You have a greater daily impact on the lives of the people we provide services to, than any other team members do! It is an awesome responsibility and we grateful to each of you.

Please be well!

Try to do at least one nice thing for someone each day!