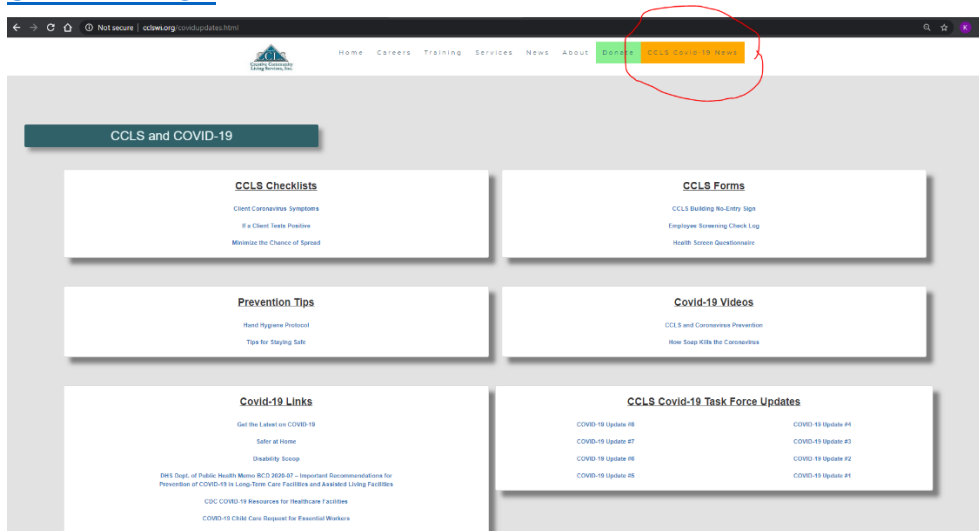




To: All CCLS – CLE staff
From: Jim Zache, CEO
Subject: Concerns Update #9
Date: April 3, 2020

We have a new resource page on the CCLS website!! There are links to forms, prevention tips, videos, and other useful websites. Please take a moment to familiarize yourself with the information page. [CCLS COVID UPDATE PAGE](#)



The CCLS COVID-19 Task Force has prepared some practical checklists for a variety of situations. You will find all of these links on the new resource page.

- If a client is showing symptoms of the Coronavirus and next steps: [Client Coronavirus Symptoms](#).
- [If a Client Tests Positive](#), we have provided procedures to keep you and your client safe and directions on who to share the information with.
- And finally, in addition to links to previous updates, we are also including a recap of ways to [Minimize the Chance of Spread](#) and a link to the [Hand Hygiene Protocol](#).

Volunteers

We are looking for volunteers. If or when we have a positively tested COVID-19 client/resident, we would first turn to volunteers. Our different companies have different names for direct care staff, but we are looking for *staff that work directly, face-to-face, with our clients/residents*. Volunteers would have access to proper PPE, guidance, proper protocol for decontamination and they would receive double pay. If interested, confidentially send your name to your region leader:

Susan.PEEK@cclswi.org,

Rick.Cerwan@cclswi.org

Tenisha.Love@cclswi.org

Bonnie.Lee@maghillmp.com

At the moment none of the leaders have any more information. How we staff and which volunteers we ask depends on each situation, each building, and each program. Staffing will vary depending on the needs of the clients/residents. This is a preliminary plan. If or when this becomes necessary volunteers would be contacted and given the chance to decide whether to participate or not.

Cross Program Staff Sharing

Thank you for being ahead of the curve on this. Trying to minimize the number of different employees entering a program is the goal. (R.D.C.P.'s are excluded). So, the fewer number of different employees entering a program will reduce the odds of cross-program infections. We appreciate the extra efforts you are all making to care for our clients!

Hazard Pay

Some hospitals, ER's and nursing homes are paying hazard pay to staff that are working in units, on floors or in buildings with positive tested COVID-19 patients or residents.

CCLS is looking into the \$2 trillion stimulus relief package for some possible temporary funding for our employees. We have heard of a Madison provider that is funding or looking into this as well. Our association DSPN does not know of any of its members currently offering this funding. I feel most providers are searching for a source of funding because like CCLS, they cannot afford this on their own.

Regardless, of whether a client has COVID-19 or not, I feel you deserve some level of a temporary increase in pay. I cannot promise this, but I can promise you that I will do all I can to find a source.

Direct Care Workforce Funding

Although this doesn't have anything to do with COVID-19 I thought this was worth sharing.

The last e-mail I sent to the employees regarding the Direct Care Workforce Funding was last fall. I have not had an update since. I have as recently as last week asked our association DSPN to press for an update. To find instant answers yourselves I suggest you check the DHS website. <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/medicaid/ltc-workforce-funding-faq.htm>.

It's my source of information that I in-turn share with you. Here's what the site says:

Funding Update:

The 2019-21 biennial budget provided \$60.3 million in state fiscal year (SFY) 2019-20 and \$68.0 million in SFY 2020-21 for Direct Care Workforce Funding Initiative payments. The funding is more than double the 2017-209 budget amount.

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services plans to make the first direct care workforce payment authorized under the 2019-21 biennial budget in the first quarter of 2020, pending the Centers of Medicare & Medicaid approval.

The site hasn't been updated in four months. Note the last line: "... pending the Centers of Medicare & Medicaid approval." They do have a few other things on their mind right now, however, NOT approving the payments to the Direct Care staff, would be very shortsighted. I'll let you know the instant we have any information.