



ALINA LODGE

Operated by the Little Hill Foundation

61 Ward Road PO Box G Blairstown, NJ 07825
(908) 362-6114 www.alinalodge.org

Updated March 18, 2020

Dear Community:

Over the course of the last several days and weeks as fear has risen over the pandemic outbreak of COVID-19 it has been helpful to take a moment and reflect on the principles of our long-standing institution to guide our current response. I have been moved by our staff's willingness to lean into the fear of this evolving crisis with courage and commitment to our mission and ensure that the health, safety, and welfare of our Alina Lodge students and Haley House residents are protected. Equally important is the protection of our staff that strive each day to help our men and women move towards a life of sobriety.

Our senior leadership continues to monitor this health crisis daily. We are engaged in regular contact with our county department of health, NJ state agencies, as well as monitoring information disseminated by the Center for Disease Control and the World Health Organization. While the development of contingency plans to ensure safety continue the following preventive measures have already been implemented and remain in effect until further notice:

- Alina Lodge and Haley House will be closed to visitors and volunteers at this time. Our gates are now closed and no one outside of essential staff is permitted onto our campus unless it is absolutely imperative and only after completing a screening process.
- Alina Lodge and Haley House remain open to Admissions. All incoming admissions will be screened carefully by the admitting facility, as well as, our own Medical Staff to ensure the safety of all students and staff.
- Deliveries have been reduced to the essential deliveries only and additional safety protocols have been put in place. All deliveries, outside of food deliveries, are being dropped off at the front gate.
- We have increased sanitization of our facilities by our housekeeping staff, in particular "touch points"
- We have encouraged social distancing on campus among staff and students including refraining from traditional hand holding/hugging at the end of 12 step meetings, counseling groups, etc.
- Notifications of increased handwashing have been placed throughout our campus.
- We have elected to cancel our Annual Spring Luncheon planned for April 14. While this biannual event is a wonderful opportunity for our local community to gather, our focus needs to remain steadfast on the health of our students, residents, and staff.
- Lastly, as a measure to reduce as much exposure to our employees we are allowing as many staff as we can to work remotely.

There is no doubt that this crisis will remain fluid in weeks to come, however I am confident we have the plan and expertise to manage these challenges as they continue to unfold. In our clinical work with our men, women, and their families we often reflect that through adversity our greatest growth takes place. That time is upon our community now and I have no doubt that we will continue to lean into fear with courage and conviction.

Be well, stay safe.

William P. Robbins, LCSW
Executive Director