



ALINA LODGE

Operated by the Little Hill Foundation

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Dear Family Member:

There is an adage in the rooms of Alcoholics Anonymous regarding meeting attendance: "Go early and stay late." The phrase is in reference to the importance of fully investing in one's recovery and that merely attending the formal hour-long meeting is not enough. Recovery is not about 'checking the box' per se but it requires a thoroughness in order to be sustained. It is in going early and staying late that you connect with others and let others see you. I was in a discussion with a staff member the other day and heard this phrase used and thought, while the meaning is very different, the phrase accurately reflects our COVID-19 response. "Go early" represents the rapid response we had to the early warning signs of COVID-19. In my previous letters to you, our families, I reflected how quickly we were able to respond to the crisis and put necessary policies and procedures in place to maximize the safety of our students and staff. Now as various states and local municipalities begin to "open" by easing various restrictions, I want to inform you that we are going to "stay late" and incorporate changes very slowly. While this may be frustrating to some of you that are anxious to come to our campus and see your loved one, it is imperative that we follow various CDC, state and county guidelines to limit the potential exposure to COVID-19 especially in light of the potential for an uptick in cases. Therefore, for the time being our gate will remain largely closed and all regular visitors (family, AA and NA volunteers, etc.) will continue to be suspended from visiting our campus. That being said, we postponed several maintenance and IT projects over the last 10 weeks that require attention. We intend to have several contractors come onto our campus beginning this week for relatively short periods to allow them to complete various projects. These contractors will be expected to adhere to all policies that our staff do including daily temperature checks, signing an affidavit that confirms they were not exposed to the virus, and wearing a mask at all times. They will predominately be in our administrative buildings and have no direct contact with our current students.

During the coming weeks ahead my senior leadership team, in counsel with the executive committee of our board of trustees, will continue to assess when we can ease restrictions while ensuring social distancing and other measures that can mitigate exposure. This will be determined with the continued reality that bringing more people onto our campus provides an inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19.

I want to extend my continued appreciation for your patience and support of our policy decisions during this pandemic. It certainly has not been easy for you, our students, or our staff, but the ability to come together has made this challenging time easier to accept.

Be well, stay safe.

William P. Robbins, LCSW
Executive Director