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October 20, 2020

Dear Sertoma Stakeholders:

After eight months of living through the pandemic, it is still at the forefront in our minds and affecting all of us on a daily basis. Here at Sertoma Centre, we are working to bring some routine to the new normal, focusing on keeping those we support, their families, our staff, friends and advocates, and our business partners both safe and healthy. Please know that we are aware of how hard the pandemic has been and is for the individuals and families we support. Especially those with the most severe disabilities and/or medical conditions that do not allow them to safely return to services as they begin to reopen. It is times like these that we especially need all of us as family and community to be caring and looking out for each other.

Here at Sertoma Centre, we continue to make changes in our daily lives, work, and within our services as we move forward with the pandemic in our lives. A few of the most significant ones include:

- We will no longer provide Sertoma Transportation Services and instead fully rely on public transportation, Pace Paratransit services, and families to transport individuals to and from day programs.
- We have closed our 127th Street facility completely and are utilizing our Matteson and Alsip 123rd Street facilities for all day program services.
- We will no longer operate a sheltered workshop but will work to provide integrated community employment and day program services.
- September 28, our IDD Community Day Services (CDS) reopened on a small scale at our 123rd Street facility.
- We are relocating all staff to work remotely or at our Matteson and Alsip 123rd Street facilities.
- We are relocating our Janitorial Services (J-Team) business to our facility located in Alsip in what was formerly our transportation garage.
- We have put in place screening and safety protocols for all individuals we support, staff, vendors and visitors at our facilities and in our services.

We will continue to re-evaluate things as the pandemic continues and make changes as necessary to keep people safe and healthy as services continue to reopen and/or find a new normal. I would expect things will continue to be fluid over the next six to twelve months.

The Pandemic has hit Sertoma Centre hard as it has most other businesses across our country. However, we have been blessed these past months with public relief funds, one-time grants, and gifts from many individuals and families that have kept us financially stable. Please continue to remember Sertoma Centre and all those we support in the coming months and year. This next period of time will be the most critical to regaining and sustaining the stability of our services and finances.

Thanks again to all of those that help us. Wishing you a beautiful, safe and healthy fall season.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gus van den Brink".

Gus van den Brink
Executive Director