



Administration
4343 W. 123rd Street
Alsip, IL 60803
p: 708.371.9700
f: 708.371.9747

Martha Polacek Facility
4100 W. 127th Street
Alsip, IL 60803
p: 708.371.9700
f: 708.389.3984

**Community Mental Health
and Counseling**
4331 W. Lincoln Hwy
Matteson, IL 60443
p: 708.748.1951
f: 708.748.1962

August 28, 2020

Dear Sertoma Stakeholders:

It is hard to believe that almost six months have passed since the closure of our buildings and day program services. Since that time, we have all had to work through major life changes that the pandemic has imposed on us. Some of the changes have now become more routine; however, the uncertainty of how and when this will all end is ever present as we see the spikes in positive cases of COVID-19 in various states and communities.

Although our community-based mental health and residential programs have continued to provide services throughout the pandemic, our site based programs were more significantly impacted. Over the past several months the staff and the board of directors have been discussing and planning, as we can, to set a path for the reopening of services that have been closed or significantly reduced. We have already reopened some of our individual and group clinical program services provided through our community mental health and counselling programs on a small scale. We are also close to having final plans to open our community day services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The projected reopening is for the end of September or beginning of October. The initial reopening will be limited based on safety guidelines and assessments have been or are being completed for those who may be able and are interested in returning.

One significant decision that we have made concerning the future of our community day services is that we will no longer be offering sheltered work as part of our services. After much deliberation by our staff, board of directors and other stakeholders, our subcontract packaging business is being closed and we will no longer have paid work at our facilities.

In planning the reopening of our community day services we are excited to focus on meaningful activities that foster personal development and community engagement. We are looking at this as an opportunity to reopen services that better supports community integration and builds the vocational and life skills that create a path toward employment. When the pandemic allows, and as funding provides for, we will move our services out of our facilities and into the community to the extent possible. We will also be focused on assisting individuals to prepare for and secure community integrated employment. We will provide an updated list of current program opportunities on our website and through ongoing communication with all our consumers, families, and other stakeholders.

Please know that all of us here at Sertoma Centre are working to reestablish services that meet the needs of those we serve and their families. This will be a fluid process as our new reality with the pandemic hopefully settles with more certainty. To all of you that have provided support to our consumers and staff we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. My personal thanks go out as well to all the Heroes at Sertoma that are working to implement services and plan our new normal as the pandemic continues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gus van den Brink".

Gus van den Brink
Executive Director