



## Message from the Executive Director

April 24, 2020

Greetings to The Arc of the South Shore community. Today we are 31 days into the Governor's March 23<sup>rd</sup>, emergency order requiring all non-essential businesses and organizations to close their physical workplaces to workers, customers, and the public until May 4.

If you have been watching or reading about the Governor's daily briefings, you know we are now in "the surge" of the pandemic.

We have been working diligently to keep all our individuals, clients, and employees safe. Patrick, our facility manager, and Abby, our COO, have been focused on keeping our staff supplied with any needed Personal Protection Equipment. They have been scouring sources for supplies to keep up with the need. *A shout out to the volunteers sewing masks and gowns for us. Thank you!*

As reported last week, we have two group homes in quarantine. For the remaining homes, we are being proactive and are using a live-In isolation model. In this model staff Live In for one to two weeks. It is our goal that the Live-In model will prevent further spread of the virus.



Our residents are enjoying active and engaging events every day through remote sessions provided by our day and residential staff. Daily offerings include music, exercise and fun dance sessions, human rights discussions, current events, and much more. Four different classes are offered daily Monday through Friday. There is no reason for someone to get bored during this home isolation period.



Our group home residents also enjoy special meals and treats sent by thoughtful family members and friends.



Our clinical team staff have been very busy supporting our day and residential staff in providing enriching activities. They also are busy every day providing information and resources for families who reach out to our Autism Resource Center for support. They have researched and curated many resources available to our individuals and families, such as a

*Coronavirus Anxiety Workbook*

*A Tool to Help You  
Build Resilience  
During Difficult Times*

There is link to resources on our website [www.arcshouthshore.org](http://www.arcshouthshore.org)

All of the employees at The Arc of the South Shore have been faced with unprecedented challenges over the past several weeks as the Coronavirus pandemic continues to spread. I am proud of our excellent workforce for stepping up and taking on these challenges.

**Our employees demonstrate our *community in action* at its *BEST!***

Every day a new challenge emerges that we tackle together as a team. I could not be prouder of the Senior Leadership Team who have been the driving force for staying on top of this crisis we are managing day to day. Despite the huge chaos we are faced with, they are getting the work done!

Even though this pandemic is taking its toll on our budget because of increased costs in staffing, protective equipment and supplies, and technology needs for working remotely, Ben, our CFO assures all that we are doing great with our cash flow and we are able to cover our payroll and pay our bills. In addition, we received funds through the Paycheck Protection Program. This funding will be a huge help in getting us through this financially stressful period.

All employees working from home have access to their office phone extension voice mail and email. Please feel free to leave a message and someone will get back to you.

### **Ongoing Updates**

**Our website is the best place to find the most current information related to The Arc of the South Shore actions in the coming weeks and months.**

[www.arcsouthshore.org](http://www.arcsouthshore.org)

For the most up to date state information go to [www.Mass.gov/2019coronavirus](http://www.Mass.gov/2019coronavirus)

We are prepared to respond accordingly and navigate through any challenges with our clients, employees and community in the forefront. As this is a rapidly evolving event, we will continue to monitor and communicate information as needed. You are our members, part of our family, ***and together we will get through this situation.***

Sincerely,

*Daryl Cook-Ivan,*

Executive Director