



ALINA LODGE

Operated by the Little Hill Foundation

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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 and volunteers 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:

- 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.
- Outside visitors have been significantly reduced. For the few volunteers that continue to assist our treatment team our medical staff has implemented a screening tool to ensure minimal exposure to our students and staff.
- 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