

Dear RSS Family, Friends, and Staff:

As a board and as an organization, we hope to engage more with you and our group home community by providing timely and relevant information affecting our residents and group homes. With the surge of the Omicron, we felt it necessary to share with you how we are dealing with this current crisis.

Since the last update, we have added two new board members. Karen Kenney became a board member a couple months ago. She is the mother of one our residents. Lucinda (Cindy) Husby is a retired internal medicine physician from the Billings Clinic who just recently joined our board and attended her first board meeting. Because we, as a board, are trying our best to insure the health and safety of all of our residents, we felt that the addition of a physician to our the board would greatly facilitate those efforts.

As you know the day programs have reopened their doors and have welcomed the return of our residents. Going back to “normal,” however, has presented some ups and downs with the integration of our two programs. As you all know, the group home residents are not immune to this recent surge of Covid. In our last board meeting, we authorized the use of more testing and keeping our residents at home when they are ill. After five days of quarantine and cessation of symptoms, they are re-tested. With any positive test, the resident will remain in quarantine for an additional five days. For a test that is negative, the resident is allowed to return to the day programs, but must be masked.

Omicron does not discriminate in its selection of victims. Therefore, it is not only our residents who are susceptible to the infection, but our staff is as well. Many of our staff are performing double duty by covering their own shifts and many times the shifts of their infected co-workers. They truly have our thanks for their dedication and commitment to caring for our residents.

In times likes these, there can never be enough communication. We are committed to keeping the community updated through social media. However, not everyone subscribes to social media and, as a consequence, we are revamping our communication process to the day programs, families, and staff. If you have concerns or suggestions about the communication process and how it can be improved, please share them with our main office. Our goal is to continually do better.

A CALL TO ACTION

The staff has been working hard. For our front-line employees, we have increased the rate of pay. There is, however, yet more to be done by all of us, families included, to retain our staff and to let them know how appreciative we are of their services. We truly feel they are doing God’s work. In this call to action, we ask you to give them praise and thanks. And, if you can, send the group home a care package or sponsor a pizza night for the group home. Your thoughtfulness and acknowledgment of their efforts means the world to them.

To end this newsletter on a positive note, there are some exciting events coming up, two of which are the Valentine’s Day dance and a return to bowling. If you would like to volunteer and give the gift of your time, please contact the front office and let them know how you can help. The more of us who pitch in, the merrier.
Sincerely,

The Board of Directors, RSS, Inc.

Board of Directors

Seth Blades, Randy Thomas, Janet Brown, Kevin Sweeney, John Luse, Sue Schuld Karen Kenney, Lucinda Husby MD