

June 19, 2020

Dear AABR Families,

As the State moves from Reopening Phase 1 to Phase 2, we, albeit extremely cautiously, are moving forward, too. Our main office reopened to staff this past Monday and, while the State has now approved visitation within residences, **AABR will begin making visitation appointments via phone on Monday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> for visits to occur later in the week.**

The reason for this date is so that we can implement protocols as mandated by the State and so that we can gain further approval for extra safeguards for individuals and staff that will help facilitate your visit. When planning your visit, please understand the following:

- As stated above, appointments can begin to be made 6/22/20 for visits later in the week.
- Visits must be scheduled at least 48 hours in advance.
- Visits will be confirmed the night before.
- Visits will be limited to one (1) hour and staggered with at least a half hour between visits to allow for thorough cleaning and disinfecting.
- Visitors must be 18 years of age or older.
- The number of visitors in a party should be limited and, where multiple visitors are permitted, then such visitors should be, to the extent possible, members of the same family or household.

Our number one priority is the health and safety of our individuals and staff. So while we are excited for you, our incredible families, to reunite with your loved ones, we will be implementing strict COVID-19 guidelines. All visitors must follow the same protocols as staff for monitoring, social distancing, and PPE, which include the following:

- Visitors must wear a mask. If you do not have a mask, one will be provided. The mask must be properly worn throughout the entirety of the visit when social distancing cannot be maintained.
- Visitors must use hand sanitizer prior to beginning a healthy systems check screening and perform meticulous hand hygiene throughout the visit.
- A healthy systems check screening includes:
  - The visitor's temperature being taken by a designated AABR staff member.
  - Being asked the following questions: Are you experiencing any COVID symptoms (fever; chills; cough, shortness of breath; difficulty in breathing; fatigue; muscle or body aches; new loss of taste or smell; sore throat; congestion or runny nose; nausea/vomiting; diarrhea)?
  - Have you been in contact with someone who is COVID+?

If a visitor refuses to comply, does not meet the above criteria, or is showing COVID symptoms, which includes a fever over 100 degrees Fahrenheit; unfortunately, we must ask that person to leave the premises.

During your visit, please understand these guidelines pertaining to where visits are and are not permitted to take place:

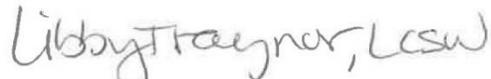
- Visitation is encouraged to occur outdoors if weather permits, with masks worn by all parties when social distancing cannot be maintained.
- Visitation exercised inside the facility shall occur in designated common areas where disinfection, social distancing, and separation from other residents can be safely implemented.
- If the resident is in a single bedroom, visitation will be permitted there. Visitors must remain in the resident's room throughout the visit except when directed by staff to leave.
- **Visitation is prohibited anywhere except within sight of the residential facility. Individuals may not leave the property. Please understand that this includes trips off-site for home visits or meals.**
  - Instead of going out for a meal, you are allowed to bring in food to enjoy with your loved one.
- Residents are not permitted to sit in non-agency vehicles.
- The State is preparing guidelines regarding off-site protocol to be released at a later date.

While the State has provided these allowances, final say is based on the facility, the needs of the individual, health status of that person, as well as the rest of the individuals in the home. **If anyone in that residence is in isolation or quarantine, we will not allow visitors during that period.** Furthermore, if deemed to be in the best interest to the health and safety of individuals and staff, AABR reserves the right to cease visitation access. Should this occur, we will notify families and OPWDD of this decision.

While we understand that some of these policies may feel intrusive, we ask that you please politely work with staff to ensure the safety of the individuals and those who care for them. Please remember, our residential staff has gone above and beyond during this pandemic, they've risked their own safety and worked many long hours, so we encourage you to please be thankful and courteous.

We thank you for your support and patience during these times.

Sincerely,



Libby Traynor, LCSW  
Executive Director