

Dear Edwards Center Families,

We still have no known confirmed or suspected cases of COVID-19 among our residents or staff.

Last week in my update to families, I mentioned our homes have been having trouble getting sufficient groceries for our residents. I got overwhelming responses from our families – I can't thank you enough!! One of our families directed us to Sysco as a supplier to restaurants. We signed a contract with them yesterday and hope to receive our first order next week. We're so grateful for all of you!

I've quoted the following two paragraphs from my updates to our Board of Directors and staff members:

*"The governor will likely convene a special legislative session in the next couple of days. The focus of this special session will be the state's response to the pandemic. Besides the obvious logistical response, the state budget is estimated to be down \$2B to \$3B. The interim Committee on Coronavirus Response met four times and summarized requests into the attached document ([Click Here](#)). Although it seems like ancient history now, you'll recall there was a lot of legislation pending when the last legislative session ended abruptly. One of those pieces of legislation was our bill to fix the \$12.2M mistake and get fully funded for our DSPs. I'm sure this and the other hold-over bills will not be discussed in this special session, but we're hearing that they will be included later as legislators develop the 2021-23 budget. It might not seem significant compared to the overwhelming challenges the state faces, but our DSPs are every bit as much on the front line of this as other medical personnel. They're still showing up for work every day and supporting a population that, in many cases, doesn't recognize their own vulnerabilities. We can not let our DSPs fall beneath the radar. ANCOR is doing a tremendous job keeping us in the spotlight federally; it's up to us to keep the attention of our state legislators.*

*Please know, **you are the frontline heroes and are worth fighting for!** We will not give up our efforts to get you the recognition and compensation you deserve. With all our hearts we, your Executive Team and Board of Directors, thank you for your deep commitment to the people we serve."*

Our DSPs really are part of our community's frontline defense. They knowingly risk their own well-being to show up for work to support the people we all love. Please help us to acknowledge them (from a safe distance!) as opportunities present themselves.

Very sincerely,

**Allen**

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### Fun At Home

Our house managers and DSPs have been working especially hard to make this difficult time easier for all of the residents of our group homes.

Check out some of the residents at 138th, Jesse and Lori, working on some chair exercises! Residents have been using this time to be creative, stay active and spend time with their Edwards Center families.



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### Stay Up To Date

We have dedicated a page of the website to keep you up to date on all things related to COVID-19 at Edwards Center.

[VIEW THE PAGE](#)

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### We're In This Together

In these uncertain times, our highest priority is the health and wellbeing of all Edwards Center participants and staff as we work hard to get back to business as usual. We are dedicated to high-quality communication and welcome any questions at any time.

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