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June 3, 2020

Dear Summit Families and Caregivers,

I am writing to provide an update about what's happening at Summit and to give you information about the things we're doing to prepare for our eventual reopening.

First, I must acknowledge how challenging this time must be for many of you. There is certainly a lot on your shoulders with concerns about the pandemic and your own personal health, combined with fears about the economy and job security, the stress of managing your child's distance learning, and the absence of any break from the routine. Although I am not in your shoes, I can imagine some of the difficulties.

Although there's no substitute for in-person instruction and support, we have done our best to provide virtual high-quality educational and social opportunities for your child. I've heard inspiring success stories from families whose children have made good progress and many who have learned to do things independently at home for the very first time. I'm very pleased that several adults we serve in STEPS are participating in virtual meetings with peers. I couldn't be prouder of our team or the people we serve for their resilience and perseverance.

Additionally, thanks to strong fiscal management and help from the Paycheck Protection Program, as of right now, The Summit Center is financially strong, and we are poised to continue to support your child and your family as we move forward.

As we look toward reopening, our team is reviewing guidance from the Centers for Disease Control, New York State, and other entities as we build our plan to create an environment where you, your child and our staff will feel comfortable. We know that many changes will be required and that our "new normal" may look very different from what we've grown accustomed to. I appreciate your continued support and cooperation as we navigate these uncharted waters.

We would like to know more about your concerns as we move ahead with our planning. Please send your top two concerns/questions to [parents@thesummitcenter.org](mailto:parents@thesummitcenter.org) by Monday, June 8. We will collect your responses and give you an update later in the month. Although we likely will not have answers for everything, we will certainly share what we know. The success of our reopening will depend on our continued strong partnership with you.

In addition, we are working diligently to put a plan in place to gradually resume some respite services on a small scale. We appreciate your patience as we work through many complex details and hope to share that information with you soon. Although much is still up in the air, one thing remains constant: Our commitment to serve your child and support your family.

Thank you very much for your continued trust in Summit.

Sincerely,



Stephen R. Anderson, Ph.D., BCBA-D  
Chief Executive Officer