



April 29, 2020

To the Lifeworks & Arc Community:

The rainy (and unusually cold days) of April are about to pass and hopefully this will lead to the sunshine and some warmth in May. Sadly, along with so many other things, April did not bring Red Sox opening day, it did not bring the Marathon and early May will not be bringing the Kentucky Derby or college graduations. On behalf of all of us at The Arc and Lifeworks, we do hope that May is bringing good health and please know that all of you are in our thoughts each and every day.

Yesterday, on April 28th, Governor Baker announced that he was continuing to extend his "stay in place" order throughout the Commonwealth for all essential services and businesses, social gatherings and the guidance on social distancing to May 18th. This directive means that the Day and Employment programs operated by Lifeworks and The Arc of South Norfolk will be closed till at least May 18th. The Commonwealth has also issued a directive that states that the Visitor Policies implemented in agencies such as ours, are extended till May 18th.

The past month has been enormously challenging for many. The isolation, the inability to see your friends at day programs, the enormous challenges for families and for residential providers and the incredible strain this has placed on our employees are just a few of those challenges. Please know that hear all of you. We hope as the month evolves, that this will change.

We also know that we have an obligation to keep supporting all of you. We will be greatly increasing our zoom, skype, facetime and phone call outreach to all. We will be increasing regular online programming available through all of our day programs. Our funding sources have mandated that we must be contacting all of the members of our program, individually at least one time per member per week in order to receive the financial support necessary to keep our programs operating. We hope all of you will join in, in supporting this initiative. Thank you for your support. We know that this challenge will pass, hopefully as healthy as possible for all whom we support, their families, our staff and our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Daniel Burke', is written over a blue circular background.

Daniel Burke
President/CEO
Lifeworks Inc. & The Arc of South Norfolk