



## Community, Work & Independence, Inc.

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July 13, 2020

To all served at CWI Day and/or Pre-vocational sites,

Finally! On Friday evening, July 10<sup>th</sup> we received an email from the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) Commissioner lifting the previous orders established in March; and, gives their Guidelines for areas that are in Phase 4 to allow re-opening of Day and Pre-vocational Services, residential community outings as well as the resumption of visits to and from family's homes. ***Please understand that reopening of Day & Pre-vocational Services will be a gradual process.***

We realize that these are the updates you have been seeking while the Guidelines and Effective Date, are what our Board and Management Team have been awaiting. Now each agency must develop their own implementation protocols, policies, procedures and contingencies.

*Please note these Guidelines are quite detailed in that they follow very specific conditions for health and safety protocols and that they will be strictly enforced.*

The information states that OPWDD Guidelines will take effect on **July 15<sup>th</sup>** which is just a couple of days from now. We thoroughly understand your hope and wish to return to your 'normal' schedules; however, we are asking for your patience as our Reopening Committee continues to work diligently to implement our own protocols, policies and procedures. These include re-envisioning transportation routes and program delivery with limited capacity, restrictions and other required mandates. In addition, we will need to train our team on all of these requirements. It is most important that we do this properly and not rush now that we have a green light to re-open. It is also important that we understand the COVID-19 pandemic is not over and that if we see spikes in our region again, that we could face shut down once again.

Our focus has been and will remain on the health and safety of those we serve, and, our staff. We are committed to remaining as transparent as possible with the clarifications we have received from the Governor's office and OPWDD. We will continue to share information - by email of those we currently have and on our website <https://cwinc.org/letter-from-cwi-president-ceo/> - on how and when services and other opportunities will resume so everyone is aware of what to expect.

We ask for your continued patience as we work through the guidelines over the coming weeks. Our thoughtful and compliant approach has supported our team over these past 4 months. The vigilance and commitment of our team continues to impress us. Thanks to them, as of today, we still have no confirmed cases of COVID-19.

We must all stay committed to the priority of healthy service delivery. Thank you!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in green ink that reads 'Nehra Powell, VP/COO'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Nehra' being particularly prominent.

Cc: Families and Advocates

*Enriching lives one story at a time.*

[www.cwinc.org](http://www.cwinc.org)