

June 5, 2020

Board of Directors,

Here are a few highlights over the past month:

- **It continues to be a different world...**but it is a little better now that we are in Phase 3. It means that we can carefully reopen with staff classified as “non-essential,” meetings of 10 or less and office capacity limited to 50%. Currently it looks like Illinois is doing well so I am cautiously hopeful that we will be able to transition into Phase 4 by June 27 which would allow gatherings of up to 50. I am guessing that Phase 4 will also allow us to resume, with guidelines, parent/guardian visits and outings for our residents.
- Since March 12, I have sent 24 **Parent-Guardian-Staff Updates** to keep them, as well as the Board, informed of what we are doing in this constantly changing environment to keep their loved ones and our staff healthy and safe. During this entire time we have had one resident and six staff test positive for COVID-19; all of them recovered without hospitalization. ☺ I cannot say enough about the fabulous staff that Marklund is blessed to have. We have been giving our direct care staff a 10% bonus; this will end on June 26. All of our staff have been paid this entire time.
- IDPH required us to apply for the **Personal Paycheck Protection** program (PPP). We worked through our bank (Wintrust) and received a loan for **\$3.9M** on May 6. We are working with the bank and our auditors (KPMG) to determine how much of the loan is forgivable. As in other areas, the rules are continuing to evolve. There are no downsides to getting the loan and we have already identified areas where the funds can be used under the rules of the program.
- I learned last week that as part of the **Cares Act** we are going to be receiving \$50K for each of our eight facilities (MHC – 6, MPC & MWC) and \$2500/bed for a total of **\$835K**; this funding is a grant. We haven’t seen the rules for use of the funds but understand that it is for general support. The money is supposed to be transferred to us...any...day...now. ☺
- Since my last report, Marklund has received **\$2.0M** from the State of Illinois. Our aging for Residential and Community Day Services, through May, stands at \$4.2M; this includes the temporary rate increase of 20% for the residential program. The entire \$7M line of credit continues to be available.
- The **State of Illinois** passed the **FY21 budget** on May 31. Basically, the state budget was held at the FY20 level except for Human Services which received a significant increase. Included in the Human Services funding is a sizable wage increase for our PSP. They are to receive the following:
  - Retroactive increase of \$0.26/hour on March 1
  - \$1.00/hour increase on July 1
  - \$0.50/hour increase on Jan 1, 2021

This will bring the starting wage of our PSPs to \$14.50/hour. As you might expect, this is a significant increase to our budget. We are waiting to see the final language of the funding bill to see if it will be an increase to our overall reimbursement rate or is specifically tied to that position. It is never simple!

- An aspect of our strategic plan was to expand our **Community Day Services** to help support those transitioning out of our school and for those who will be residents of a future CILA program. The heartbreaking question that every parent, who has participated in our parent/guardian panel each year from our school, have asked the board is, “**What’s going to happen to my child after they transition out of our school?**” To help answer that question, we made the decision to lease a 4500 sq. ft. facility in Roselle that will serve up to 36 community clients. It will serve clients very similar to those we currently have in our school program. We hope to have the new facility operational by early October. I will have more to share at the June board meeting about this exciting opportunity.
- We received the Certificate of Occupancy for the new **Marklund Day School - Geneva** on May 11. We still have a few items on the punch list to finish up and a lot of furniture to set up. The building is absolutely beautiful and is going to be a wonderful resource for the area. I hope that you have the following dates on your calendar for the opening of the ***Foglia Education Center***:
  - **Board/Major Donors – “First Look”** **6 - 8 pm**
  - Thursday, July 23**
  - **Ribbon Cutting – Grand Opening** **10 am – 1 pm** **Friday,**
  - July 24**
- In lieu of our April board meeting, the Executive Committee on May 6 affirmed the unanimous recommendation of the Governance Committee and added two terrific new members to the Board of Directors: **Yaneth Medina** and **Jerry Finis** (bios attached). They are both serving on the Finance Committee. I look forward to you meeting them at our June board meeting.
- The **38<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Classic** is now going to be a virtual event since we cannot host large events this summer. Please consider joining us for this fun and “unconventional” **VIRTUAL Cyber Classic** on **Thursday, August 27 from 6-7 PM**. Participation is **FREE**, but you must register to receive the link. Registration and sponsorship opportunities can be found at: [www.marklund.org/cyberclassic/](http://www.marklund.org/cyberclassic/)
- I want to thank **Jeff Risch, Esq.** for being so generous with his time and the excellent counsel that he provides us. As you can imagine, and many of you have experienced, the pandemic has led to many revisions of current employment policies as well as the creation of new ones. I want the board to know that whenever we have a question (and there have been many!), Jeff is always there for us. We are very fortunate to have one of the smartest labor/employment attorneys in all of Chicago on our board. Thanks, Jeff!
- Just as a reminder, here are the remaining Board dates for **2020: June 25**, August 14 (Board Retreat) and **October 22**. Here are the new Board dates for **2021: January 28, April 8**, May 20 (Finance only), **June 24**, August 12 (Board Retreat) and **October 21**.

Mary will be sending you Outlook invitations for **2021**, the 2020 dates should already be in your calendar. I look forward to seeing you at the June board meeting. We will have masks available and practice social distancing.

Stay safe and well.