

April 2, 2021

Board of Directors,

Here are a few highlights over the past month:

- Since my last report, Marklund has received **\$1.9M** from the State of Illinois. Our aging for Residential and Community Day Services, through March stands at \$4M. The entire \$7M line of credit continues to be available.

We have until August to apply for the **PPP loan forgiveness** but our goal (working with our consultants) is to submit before the end of April. Our consultants from Plant Moran feel very confident that we will get our entire loan (\$3.9M) forgiven.

- We passed our BALC (Bureau of Accreditation, Licensure and Certification) interview on March 11 as part of our efforts to become a **CILA provider**. We will be sending off a packet of policies, plans, procedures and a sample budget on April 12 for the next leg of the “journey.” Once our packet is reviewed, we should be issued a provisional license.
- We finally received, after a number of years of work by the state, the revisions to 59 Ill. Admin. Code 115 (**Rule 115**) on February 26 from DHS. This is the rule that governs the policies and procedures regarding CILAs. We are now in a 45-day public comment period and are working with our attorney on a formal response. The new language drops the rule that disallows group homes from being within 800-feet of each other but has substituted it with the following:

CILA sites shall be located to promote integration of individuals with mental illness and developmental disabilities within the range of communities throughout the State. **The location of CILA sites shall avoid concentrating individuals in CILAs in a community or in the same neighborhood.** (Objectionable wording in **bold**)

There are a number of issues with the new language. It is:

- **Vague** - What is concentrating?
- **Inconsistent and incompatible with the federal Fair Housing Act** – The Act prohibits discrimination in housing, including for those with disabilities
- **Clearly an overreach of CMS rules (42 CFR 441.301)** – CMS does not mandate these restrictions
- **Unwise** - Limits innovation

In addition, this only comes into play if the homes are “owned or controlled” by the CILA agency. We could literally have seven homes next to each other as long as Marklund did not own or control them.

We are working with the IHCA and will be submitting our own comments by April 11. The good news is that the new language will come before JCAR (Joint Commission on Administrative Rules) in Springfield for final approval. Our Geneva State Representative, **Keith Wheeler**, is the co-chair of that committee. In addition, our Elgin State Representative, **Anna Moeller**, is the Chair of the House Human Services Committee, which oversees DHS.

- An additional 48 staff (& 2 residents) are scheduled to get the Johnson & Johnson vaccine at our 10th **vaccine clinic** on April 7. This will bring our staff vaccination rate to over 75%!

- I am very happy to share that our **Community Day Service** resumed on Monday, March 29 and programs for the community clients will begin on April 12. Thankfully, we were able to include our community clients and their caregivers in our vaccine clinics.
- I want to thank **Howard Brandeisky, Laura Karlins and Frank Murnane** for agreeing to serve on the **Claire Haverkampf Award** committee. We had 110 eligible staff this year; to be eligible you must have at least seven years of Marklund service. After two ballots, the field is reduced to the top three (we had a tie, so it will be the top four this year) who then become the Claire Haverkampf Finalists. We have two finalists from the Hyde Center, one from the Day School and one from the Wasmond Center.

The award committee will select the winner who will be announced at the **Employee Appreciation Dinner** on Saturday, September 11. It will be held at St. Andrews Golf and Country Club in West Chicago.

- Please consider registering yourself, family and friends to participate in the **Run, Walk and Roll 5K/1M** in Bloomingdale, April 15 - 18. It will (unfortunately, hopefully our last!) be a virtual event. Please go to <https://www.marklund.org/series/5kbloomingdale/> to register. I want to thank the **Fitch Foundation** for being our Presenting Sponsor this year. You can either have your packets mailed to your home or get them at our “contact-free” drive thru packet pick-up at MPC on April 14 or 17.
- Our 39th **Annual Golf Classic** will be held...IN PERSON...on June 10th at Cog Hill Golf and Country Club. Please visit <https://www.marklund.org/golfclassic> for registration and sponsorship options. There is also a unique opportunity to sign up yourself or a foursome to play Rich Harvest Farms on October 14. See the golf website or contact Heather for more details!
- Just as a reminder, here are the remaining Board dates for **2021: April 8**, May 20 (Finance only), **June 24**, August 12 (Board Retreat) and **October 14**. All of these dates should be in your Outlook calendar.

I look forward to seeing you next Thursday. **Happy Easter!**

God bless you!

Gil

GILBERT FONGER
President & CEO



Making everyday life possible for individuals with profound disabilities

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