Dear CAU Friends and Families,

Community Access Unlimited (CAU) wanted to take this opportunity to share an update with you regarding our response to coronavirus/COVID-19.

CAU is in frequent communication with officials and experts to ensure we are following the timely, relevant information available to maintain the health and safety of our members and staff. We regularly share COVID-19 safety instructions and guidelines with staff and continuously cultivate new ways to keep our members active at home. Unfortunately, in following CDC-recommended safety measures, we cannot accept visitors to programs at this time. This temporary policy is simply aimed at reducing the possibility of spreading COVID-19 and keeping your loved ones safe.

Though mandated limitations on gatherings have called for us to pause some of our programs (Day Habilitation and others), we have been implementing creative in-home activities to keep our members engaged and thriving despite changed routines. Activities like painting, scavenger hunts, making a healthy meal, advocacy and other projects have been a bright spot for many of our members and staff. Photos from our “CAU 7-Day Challenge” (extended due to popular demand), are posted on our Facebook page – please visit and scroll to see our members and staff in action at home. Members are also enjoying video and board games, puzzles, brisk walks, or other individualized activities. Rest assured that in addition to our attention to equipping staff to follow COVID-19 safety practices, CAU remains committed to making sure the time at home is being used as an opportunity to learn and grow.

CAU provides essential services to our members, and essential staff are screened before entering a residential program to ensure that our staff and members stay safe and healthy. This screening policy for CAU DD and TOP programs is in line with the CDC guidelines, and includes screening questions and a checklist before each shift to ensure staff do not have symptoms of the virus, have not been exposed to an infected person or travelled to an area deemed high risk. Staff members have been instructed not to come to work and contact their medical provider if they are not feeling well and have a fever.
or dry cough. If staff are tested for COVID-19, they must notify Human Resources and their direct supervisor so we can take the necessary precautions to keep everyone safe. Staff are also sent daily reminders to wash their hands properly.

As we gather information and resources on the virus, we are sharing them with you on our website at caunj.org. There you can find links with resources for and by people with disabilities, as well as updates from DDD, the State of New Jersey and more.

Here is one example of CAU staff creativity from staff member Cassandra Dorcely and member Nicholas from our one of our Residential Programs. This story was both emotional and powerful and puts everything into perspective: https://spark.adobe.com/page/VoiZzv5UE0vxK/

We are thankful for our amazing staff and their unwavering commitment to our program participants during this challenging time.

Thank you and stay safe,

Bernadette Griswold  
Executive Director  
Community Access Unlimited