

Hi Everyone,

Today, two days after Martin Luther King Jr. Day our 46th President of the United States has been inaugurated. The transition takes place amidst extraordinary political, public health, economic, and national security crises. Joseph Robinette Biden begins his term as our historically oldest president at 78 years of age. Kamala Devi Harris will be the first woman, first African American and first Asian American to serve as this nation's vice president. As we celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s legacy, our democracy, and a peaceful and orderly transfer of power, let us each play a part in continuing to respect and empathize with each other with hopes for a healthier and kinder nation.

I thank the 84 of you who completed the recently released staff survey. We are now reviewing your responses to determine how to respond in word and in action to underline the value we place in your feedback. While the majority of you appear to be satisfied with all aspects of your UCP employment, we understand that there is always room for improvement, and we are committed to being the best employer we can be.

We have committed to offering updates on Agency related COVID positive cases. Sadly, we have seen additional staff members fall ill to this disease. A LeafBridge staff member was diagnosed last week which led to a two-week closure of a portion of our LeafBridge Day Program. Also, a staff member of Administration received a positive diagnosis yesterday. All who have come in contact with these two individuals have been notified. Therefore, if you have not been notified, you can assume you have not been in close contact with these staff members.

As we grieve the more than 400,000 Americans who have died due to COVID-19, I urge everyone to continue your diligence to combat the further spread of the virus. I was excited to be one of 54 staff/clients to be vaccinated this past Monday! I had slight soreness to my arm for a day or so but otherwise feel great. I understand from Brittany that no one experienced any unexpected or major reaction, and all are doing well! Fifty-three more are currently scheduled for vaccination on January 29th. If you have not contacted Brittany, our Registered Nurse, to arrange for your vaccination, please email her at bgeorge@ucpcleveland.org or call her at 216-299-6995. She is also happy to answer your questions or concerns about the vaccine. I thank Brittany for taking such good care of all of us during a very vulnerable and stressful time. And I hope for a time that we will not be reporting any staff or client COVID-19 disease at UCP.

Enjoy the rest of your week. Stay warm, stay healthy, stay strong!

Trish