

UCP Team:

It has been close to a year and a half since I took this position and I have found myself very pensive lately. I have been reflecting on all that I wanted to do, all that we have done and everything which we have to look forward to - as we bring forth new ideas while also working to carry on or even bring back to life our honored traditions.

I did not think I would write about a core value today; that was not my plan, but it always seems to come back to these. I looked back at the first message I sent out as CEO and I could not help but to think about excellence. I wrote about the realities of the world and challenges that seem insurmountable; yet this team refuses to give up or give in and continues to provide the highest quality of care. And most importantly to make a lasting difference on this Agency, the children, adults and families we serve and this community. That to me is the embodiment of excellence. Your devotion impacts more people than you know, in immeasurable ways. You change people's lives. Never forget that.

I strive for excellence in all that I do, to aspire and not to be satisfied with anything but the best from myself. I want our services to exceed expectations and I want this organization to exceed YOUR expectations. I am not sure that we always do that, but I try to move closer each and every day. Of course, I do not do this alone, but it is my responsibility to make this the best place possible. I want you to look forward to coming to work.

Please feel free to come see me anytime. It is a safe space. I will also hold team meetings, we can have casual conversations and pretty soon, invitations will be going out for 'Brunch with Beth,' something I have wanted to do for a long time, and which will be held at least monthly going forward.

Many of you have met our new Director of Development, Deborah Goldstein; please make her feel welcome. I assure you that she also strives for excellence, brings new ideas and has a mission to make UCP even stronger, along with all the members of the leadership team. We have been advocating with the legislature for better rates; I am working with UCP National to learn what others are doing (I actually will be seeing many affiliates at their conference next week); and our Board of Directors is committed to UCP's vision for the future.

But true impact comes from you. YOU make this place excellent, and I want to help you do that. I know it has been a tough time for many and appreciate your continued commitment and hope you know we are here for you.

Take care, be well, and thank you for all you do,

Beth