

July 14, 2020

I am pleased to report that the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) announced on 7/12/2020 that branch-based Day Training and Habilitation (DTH) and Pre-Vocational services are now allowed to serve people who live in licensed group homes. Previously, the Commissioner authorized services for persons living in their homes or with families. These life enrichment and employment services are offered by Accord and about 100 other organizations throughout the state.

Accord managers and coordinators have started to contact persons served and guardians to determine if they are interested and ready to begin services again, after being at home since March 20, 2020. Accord encourages people to exercise their right to make an informed choice on whether to receive services once again. In doing so, please consider individual circumstances and whether the person served has any underlying health conditions that present a risk of a significant illness if the COVID-19 virus were contracted.

Accord has developed a Preparedness Plan that explains in detail what an underlying health condition is and the extensive precautions we will be using to ensure that those who choose to return to branch-based services will be as safe as possible. However, we cannot guarantee that those returning will not contract the virus, so we will require that people choosing to come back to sign a waiver of liability. Accord's Preparedness Plan and Waiver of Liability form can be found here.

Returning to branch-based services is not mandatory to continue our relationship. We are honored to be a part of your life and we are willing to provide other alternatives to branch-based services. Just let us know what you need and desire and we will go from there.

We are also happy to report that during the shutdown we completed the renovations for our newly consolidated Vadnais Heights and Hillcrest branches. All persons served who were attending either of these branches will have the opportunity to attend this new and improved branch. We think you are going to love it and we can't wait to see you there!

If you have any questions or concerns about our branch-based services, please feel free to call me at 651-248-4590 or send me an email at bbrick@accord.org. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Bob Brick

Executive Vice President