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Creative Alternatives Preparedness Planning- Coronavirus (COVID-19)

By: Joy Biddle, Executive Director

Date/ Time: March 16, 2020- 5:00pm

In response to the most current updates from state and federal government recommendations, along with knowledge of placing counties beginning to issue “shelter in place” orders, Creative Alternatives will be taking immediate action to prevent the spread of the virus to our staff, clients and communities. The agency is communicating all intent to modify business operations to necessary regulatory entities. These modifications will be placed into effect immediately but may be reinstated at any time by direction of the agency or at the urging of regulatory departments.

Non-Public Schools (NPS)

Effective Thursday, March 19th we will be closing each of our NPS campuses. We are planning to be closed from ***Thursday, March 19th through (tentatively) Sunday, April 19th***.

Intake Referrals

Creative Alternatives will not be accepting new clients in the STRTP, FFA, or THP+FC programs. The agency will continue to take measures to maintain ample staffing to serve all existing clients in our care during the everchanging coronavirus orders by state and federal government. In order to do so, we will need to minimize the number of clients served in our STRTP facilities to allow for employee absenteeism and school closures. This will prevent the agency from accepting any new STRTP clients at this time. This plan will remain in effect from 3/16/20- 4/2/20. We will continue to re-evaluate the agency’s ability to serve new clients throughout and hope to remove this measure as soon as possible. In the meantime, the Intake Referral e-mail for Raul Mata will not be responding to inquiries for placement. We will continue to provide the best care possible to youth in our care and are eager to resume accepting new clients once things stabilize.

Trainings and Meetings

In accordance with federal and state recommendations, the agency has assessed the non-essential gatherings that are scheduled to occur within the next month. Please be advised that trainings and large meetings of 10 or more people will be cancelled until further notice. Among those cancelled are:

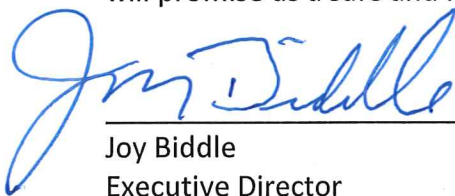
- In-Service Training (3/26/20)
- All March STRTP Facility Meetings
- SW/ Clinician Meeting (3/18/20)

Although Creative Alternatives will not host or attend Child and Family Team Meetings in person, participation of clients and staff will continue by teleconferencing. This may be done via another agency's teleconferencing resource or by one of the resources supported by the Creative Alternatives Informational Technology Department. Among those available are GoToMeeting, Facetime, Skype, and Discord.

Travel and Visitation

"Shelter in place" orders for at least 6 counties have been issued as of 3/16/20. This has prompted Creative Alternatives to suspend travel to and not allow visitors from outlying counties effective 3/17/20. STRTP and FFA employees will only continue visitations within Merced and Stanislaus counties. Requests for special circumstances must be submitted to the Program Director for approval.

We appreciate the cooperation of our staff, placing agencies, and community partners during this time of unprecedented circumstances. The extreme measures we take today will promise us a safe and healthy tomorrow.



Joy Biddle
Executive Director

3/17/20
Date: