Memorandum

To: Families and Care Providers

FROM: Karen Gustina, Executive Vice President

Re: Cluster Action Initiative

Date: 11/11/2020

The Governor of New York has implemented a system throughout the state that provides a color coded designation to geographic areas based on their COVID infection rates. The codes range from green (lowest risk), yellow, orange and red (highest risk). Due to the new system and the potential increased risk from COVID, we are required to implement mitigation actions depending on the color code designation of the geographic area where the Day Program is located. The actions we will have to take may involve continuing to follow the precautions outlined in our safety plan such as when the facility is located within a green or yellow zone. If there is an increased risk of transmission, additional mitigation efforts will be required which could include limiting non site based program capacity or suspending certified site based services if the geographic area is in an orange or a red zone.

These zones are determined by the state as well as the corresponding actions to be taken. OPWDD will be providing notification to sasi of any of our certified facilities falling within a zone requiring additional action. We will ensure that we keep families and care providers updated regarding the status of our certified sites and non-site based Day Programs as we receive this information. We want to ensure that people understand that there may be changes to services for their family member or person in their care.

Additional information on maps, zones and risk can be obtained at: <https://forward.ny.gov/> . COVID has presented many challenges and the situation will continue to evolve. We at sasi are committed to ensuring that we communicate updates to families and care providers in a timely fashion. If it becomes necessary to close any of our certified site-based programs or if there is a capacity change that will impact community pre voc or WOW, we will notify people via the same process we use for snow closings. This will include texts, phone messages or direct phone call from a site manager.