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Serving Children Throughout Madison County

November 12, 2020

Dear Riverbend Parents and/or Guardians,

As you are likely aware, there has been an increase in COVID-19 cases. As a result of that increase, staff will be working from home November 16th - January 3rd. The goal is for staff to return to their original work spaces on January 4, 2021.

To help answer any immediate questions, we have provided more information below:

- **Riverbend Head Start and Family Services will still provide virtual learning.** Center Based children will still Zoom or turn in activities to their assigned classroom teacher(s).
- **Family Advocates will still do Zoom visits or home visits with Early Head Start (EHS) and Home-Based students.** However, we will limit face to face home visits as they will be on a case by case basis. If you have questions, we ask that parents contact their Family Advocate.
- **At this point, it is our goal to have children resume in-person classes in February 2021.** Of course, we will continue to assess any high risks on an ongoing basis to ensure that is the best course of action at that time to protect the health and safety of each child, parent and staff member.

As a testament to our staff diligence in implementation of our mitigation plan, to date, we have had zero instances where the virus was passed from one staff to another, client to staff or staff to client. It is our hope that this remains the same as we have staff return home to work remotely.

While we know that we do our best work in a “face to face” setting we are seeking to find a good balance between best practices for service delivery and best practices to keep you, your children, our staff and community partners safe and healthy.

I thank you for your support and patience as we work through this public health crisis together.

Take care and be well,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eugene A. Howell".

Eugene A. Howell, MPA
President and CEO