

April 17, 2020

Dear Kinship, Foster and Congregate Caregivers,

Let me start by again thanking you for everything you do to support our children in care. Although over the last month I have shared my gratitude in writing each week, please know that my appreciation existed well before this public health crisis and is just furthered by your continued support during these challenging times.

Your commitment to support children, their parents, our DCS Specialists and the countless others you engage with each week is much appreciated. I want to acknowledge your personal effort to support children participating in virtual parenting time with their parents. I know that meeting virtually can be taxing. This is not an ideal situation, but the effort and commitment to supporting shared parenting during this stressful time has been amazing. Thank you!

Last week we communicated the release of our shared parenting campaign and I was so pleased to see that several hundred requests for shared parenting journals were received over the first weekend. Please know that we have plenty more journals available and would love to get you a copy. Visit dcs.az.gov/sharedparenting to learn more.

With the President's and the White House Task Force's communication on a phased approach to reopen our communities, the Department has been discussing and refining the directives released last month regarding Social Distancing. The current directives will remain in place until the Governor advises that communities are prepared to move into Phase 1 reopening. It is our desire to communicate those plans in the near future, hopefully late next week and ahead of any changes in the Governor's executive order to Stay Home, Stay Safe and Stay Connected. We appreciate your patience and continued support of these time-limited directives.

Again, if you are facing barriers with any basic needs please let us know by contacting the Department at Volunteer@azdcs.gov or calling the Warmline at 1-877-543-7633 Option 3. We will do everything in our power to help our community through this difficult time.

Again, thank you for all you do to care for the children of Arizona. Be safe!

Mike Faust
Director