



Nonprofit Residence for Hospice & Palliative Care

March 12, 2020



[Celia's House](#)  
217 S. Modoc Ave.  
Medford, OR 97504

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## **Covid 19 Update: Letter from Board Chairman, Fred Bockstahler, JD**

Dear Southern Oregon Friends of Hospice (SOFH), Celia's House & HUB Employees, all Volunteers and all other Friends of Hospice



As Board President, I want to update our amazing community as to the responsive steps we have been taking to protect residents, volunteers, and staff at both Celia's House at Holmes Park (Celia's House) and the Hospice Unique Boutique (HUB) regarding the recent Coronavirus (Covid 19) situation. SOFH is fortunate in many ways, one of which is the presence, on our Board of Directors, of extremely knowledgeable clinical leaders like Ken Rhee, MD, and Jerrye Wright, RN. We are also blessed with a wonderful and extremely talented Celia's House Administrator, Elyssia Krenzer.

Since late February, Ken Rhee, MD, Jerrye Wright, RN, Kathy Apple, RN, and SOFH Board Executive Committee Members, (Fred Bockstahler, Chuck Reiling, Kathy Apple, Norman Fincher, and Erik Glatte) have been working towards finding practical and effective ways to properly respond to this Coronavirus threat. This informal task force has helped identify steps that can be taken to reduce the potential impact on our residential care facility, by monitoring and limiting the nonessential visitor traffic coming to Celia's House.

Some of our actions include:

- A) All group meetings, including SOFH Board meetings, have been relocated off premises.
- B) All Celia's House visitors are greeted (by our volunteers) at a single/restricted entrance, and asked specific questions regarding their health status.
- C) To the extent possible, in an "End of Life" setting like ours, we are attempting to limit resident visitors to family members (or others, with the resident's permission).

Other reasonable protective steps already identified include the following measures:

- 1) We have posted plastic laminated signs at all entrances informing incoming persons of our need to protect our facility from avoidable virus infection.

2) Enhanced surface cleaning efforts. We have enlisted Celia's House volunteers with this important infection control effort.

3) Judicious use of masks, gloves, and other "Personal Protective Gear" to protect our care staff and volunteers.

4) Adherence, within the capabilities and needs of our facility, of guidelines shared with us by member organizations like OHCA (Oregon Health Care Association) and the State of Oregon (ie Oregon Department Human Services), especially dealing with "Visitor Restriction Policies ", and infection control. [I should pause here, and report that, only a few days ago, Mr. Joshua May, a representative of the Oregon Department of Human Services, visited Celia's House to specifically assess our Coronavirus preparation efforts. After meeting with our Administrator, Elyssia Krenzer, and taking a tour of Celia's House, Mr. May was complementary of the state of our preparedness. He made one recommendation of note related to the frequency of our current "high-risk surface cleaning" efforts. We are now looking for ways to increase the frequency of those "door knob, light switches, stair rails" regarding sanitizing efforts.]

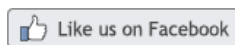
The steps set forth above, are only a fraction of the Coronavirus issues being considered by our Board and management team. As SOFH Board Chair, I can't express the gratitude I feel for the time and energy being freely given by the Board Members mentioned above, in addition to our House Administrator, Elyssia Krenzer, our Executive Director, Susan Hearn (who has been very effectively "working from home" since her 3/8/20 return from Japan ) and our wonderful Volunteer Coordinator, Sue Carroll.

I suspect there are multiple areas that I failed to mention in this brief summary attempt. Please feel free to call me or send me an email with your question, comment or suggestion. I want to benefit from your input, and perhaps answer your question or concerns.

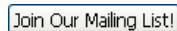
I look forward to hearing from you good folks.

Thanks,

Fred Bockstahler, JD  
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