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August 2021

Dear Participants, Facilitators, Instructors, Board Members, Volunteers and Friends,

The events surrounding COVID-19 created an unprecedented set of challenges for our community, a challenge that continues. We have made protecting our patients, caregivers, and families our priority. Thank you for meeting us online, utilizing support and programs through technology.

Beginning this summer, we were able to successfully bring back a few programs *outside* at our New Castle County location, and in Sussex County. We continue to be cautiously optimistic that we will be able to bring groups back in-person *inside* at our locations across the state this fall, and we continue to monitor the situation closely.

In-person programs held inside CSCDE will begin gradually, and specific guidelines are in place. These include:

- Masks being worn indoors at all times. We recognize that many of our
 participants have compromised immune systems and to ensure everyone's safety,
 masks are required when on premise at all CSCDE locations, regardless of
 individual vaccination status.
- 2. Observing physical distancing to the best of your ability.
- 3. All participants and volunteers should be fully vaccinated to come indoors. All CSCDE's employees, facilitators and instructors are fully vaccinated.
- 4. If you are not fully vaccinated, for the safety of our vulnerable population, we request that you continue to participate virtually.
- 5. Bring your own drinks, as needed. The kitchens will be closed for participant use.
- 6. We request everyone use hand sanitizer upon entering the building. Our facilities are cleaned weekly, and participants will have access to wipes, disinfectant, and hand sanitizer to use as needed.

We will continue to communicate and keep you updated on programming through our weekly emails and social media, including what groups will be meeting in person, what groups will be hybrid, and what groups will remain virtual. (Hybrid signifies a program held simultaneously for individuals onsite and online. Participants will have the choice to attend live or via Zoom from the comfort of their home.)

The schedule and pace of the support and programs re-opening will depend on the current CDC recommendations and DE state guidelines, and with consideration for our vulnerable population. As previously stated, protecting our patients, caregivers and families is our number one priority.

We thank you for your patience as we move forward into this new season of offering support to cancer patients, caregivers, and their families throughout Delaware and beyond.

Nicole Topkis Pickles Executive Director

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Erika Narducci LSW Program Director