CEO Message to the Community

Dear Sequoia Healthcare District community member,

You are at the heart of everything we care about. And our hearts are heavy as we witness the devastating effects the pandemic – and now the wildfires – have on the lives of our residents. We recognize that in this moment of collective trauma and crisis, the negative effects are compounded for those who are already vulnerable in our community—those in poverty, immigrants, the undocumented, people of color, those with disabilities, those in foster care or without safe and loving family structures.

Like you, we are holding so much in our hearts and minds:

We hold concern for those who are sick and the sorrow of those who have already lost a loved one to this virus.

We hold concern for our community members who may be housing or food insecure.

We hold concern for the older adults and those at higher risk for illness who may be isolated.

We hold concern for medical providers and front-line workers who are providing direct services to those affected.

We hold concern for children who are trying to learn online and the social-emotional toll distance learning is taking on their development.

We hold concern for the teachers and education leaders who are trying to figure out how to support children and families, and how to do so equitably.

We hold concern for the parents who need to work either at or away from home while caring for young children.

We hold concern for our non-profit partners whose many vital programs are being disrupted at a time when people need them more— all in a context of tremendous and extraordinary uncertainty.

In many ways, we are heartened by the way everyone in this community is rising to these challenges. As we hold concern for these significant issues, we want to reaffirm our commitment to you during these anxious times. We are committed to supporting essential public services every step of the way, that we help tackle the health inequities
that these crises are exposing, that we work with our local health officials and policy leaders to create a community where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

As we do this, we will need to find solidarity and community in new ways. We can remain connected through our common purpose and work. Our efforts should start in our homes and communities through kindness and caring to protect each other’s health and wellbeing and take actions to social distance but not disconnect. We demand something different and better for our community through strong investments in community health and safety. Sequoia Healthcare District remains committed to this mission especially in these times of challenge and uncertainty.

Our COVID-19 Emergency Grants Fund has already provided over $1,000,000,00 in flexible resources to community-based organizations within our region to supply essential aid to the individuals and households who are most impacted by the pandemic. Those resources currently include access to emergency food and basic supplies, mental health services, and PPE.

With gratitude,

Pamela Kurtzman
CEO, Sequoia Healthcare District