



Ballou Home for the Aged, Inc.

October 18, 2020

Dear Families:

I hope you are well. I wanted to send you a short letter in regards to the topic of emergency preparedness, and it's relevance in today's climate. Since the events of September 11th, 2001, Hurricane Katrina, Covid-19, and all recent natural, public or emergency disasters, Americans have become increasingly aware/cognizant of these emergencies. To that end, long term care facilities are among the most vulnerable populations during a public health or a natural emergency. Therefore, it is paramount for all caregivers, ancillary, and administrative staff who care for our residents living in these facilities to be prepared and knowledgeable as to how to respond in the midst of any emergency.

Emergency preparedness refers to the steps we implement to ensure safety before, during, and after an emergency or a natural disaster. Nursing homes are held accountable to federal/state regulations, and must remain compliant. Our number one objective is to keep our residents safe.

We at Ballou Home/ BallouLife Communities continue to do our utmost to always live up to that calling. More recently, some of our staff, under the auspices of R.I. Long Term Care Mutual Aid Plan (LTC-MAP), attended a three-day seminar on disaster planning. Additionally, on October 8th, our Department heads and the attending staff completed a tabletop exercise session, wherein potential emergencies were simulated, with staff responding to designated scenarios through problem-solving, responding to each potential eventuality as if in a real life occurrence, all within the framework of a multidisciplinary focus. Pursuant to the classes/sessions, we will be reviewing, and updating our current policies, and educating all of our staff as it concerns emergency preparedness, all to ascertain that our primary mission of maintaining resident safety can be well satisfied.

We will continue to keep you apprised of further efforts vis-a-vis emergency preparedness as they emerge. Should you have any questions, you may contact me or Jocelyn DuBois RN MSW LICSW, and we will address any concerns that you may have.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barry".

Barry Zeltzer, Ph.D.
Executive Director