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March 17, 2020

From: Sara Wahl, Executive Director

The priority of the Southwest Crisis Center has always been the safety and well-being of the individuals we serve, our program participants, and our staff. We are taking all the recommendations of the Minnesota Department of Health seriously and will be adhering to each recommendation as well as additional measures to ensure the continued safety of everyone and to do our part of slowing the spread of the COVID-19/coronavirus.

***For those that we serve, we are still here for you. We understand that not everyone is in a safe place and we want to continue to provide you options and support.***

**Effective today, March 17 until further notice, the Southwest Crisis Center will remain open, but will be making the following changes to our services:**

* We will have only essential meetings with all program participants – including youth, children, and adults and will adhere to 6 feet social distancing. Individuals in need of immediate services will receive them.
* We will be offering alternative ways to connect with advocacy – including via phone and video conferencing. We will meet with walk-in clients on a limited basis and recommend calling in advance.
* We will be cancelling and/or rescheduling all in-person meetings with professionals and community partners. We will be offering phone or video conferencing options.
* We will be cancelling all trainings – including those we facilitate and those that we attend.
* We will be canceling all groups including youth groups, school groups, and support groups. We will be offering virtual support groups for youth and adults who wish to connect with group support.
* We will not be accepting donations at any of our office locations.
* We will be restricting all travel between offices and for meetings/consultations.
* For the safety our employees will not be providing transportation assistance outside of emergency safe housing. We will provide access to bus tokens, taxi vouchers, and gas cards for individuals who need it.
* All sick employees will stay home.
* We will take precautionary measures in each of our office locations that include extra office cleaning and social distancing.

For more information, contact Sara Wahl, Executive Director, at (800) 376-4311.