New Directions Early Head Start 321 South College Avenue Newark, DE 19716 Phone: 302-831-0584 Fax: 302-831-0474

March 12, 2020

Dear Partners:

As you may be aware, state officials have announced that there are known exposures of Coronavirus, or COVID-19, in the State of Delaware. While these individuals are affiliated with the University of Delaware, they have no direct connection to New Directions Early Head Start (NDEHS).

The health and safety of NDEHS participants and staff is our highest priority. We are monitoring this developing situation carefully. Out of an abundance of caution, we are cancelling home visits and socializations for the rest of the week. In light of this evolving situation, we are also cancelling the annual conference scheduled for March 20th. As we learn more, we will make a decision about the upcoming Board and Policy Council meeting on March 24th.

I know you have been taking the utmost care to follow health and safety policies to keep children, families, staff and yourselves healthy, long before this announcement.

The regional office has advised that we continue to follow the recommendations from the Delaware Department of Public Health

https://dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dph/epi/2019novelcoronavirus.html and the CDC https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/summary.html.

We will continue to promote healthy behaviors of our staff and families, including hand washing, health monitoring and social distancing, as we continue to monitor the situation.

I will be in touch regarding rescheduling or providing an alternative option for the annual conference. I realize you may have questions. Please bring your questions and concerns to me at 302-831-0584 or hlbeck@udel.edu.

Sincerely,

Heidi L. Beck Director

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