



June 9, 2020

As one of Maryvale's principal supporters, I wanted to personally inform you of an important change in our programs.

For 164 years, Maryvale has met the changing needs of the community. In 2016, we began the process of converting to the Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP) that was mandated by the State of California as part of its Continuum of Care Reforms (CCR). While some chose to close their residential programs, Maryvale transitioned its program to the new model. Unfortunately, the STRTP has failed to meet the needs of too many of the youth we serve.

We believe that the intent behind the State's Continuum of Care Reforms and the STRTP mandate is noble. In our hearts, we all want more youth to transition to family settings. The result of the STRTP model, however, has left residential programs like Maryvale's almost exclusively populated by youth requiring the most intensive treatment as a result of the multiple traumas they have experienced. This concentration creates a challenging therapeutic environment resulting in poor outcomes, increased staffing levels and other costs that are crippling our agency.

For nearly four years, we have all worked hard to develop and operate a quality STRTP to serve the youth referred to us. During that time, even with the tremendous work of our STRTP staff, we have seen poor outcomes for youth, significant impacts on staff and an increasing financial burden. **Therefore, the Board of Directors, in consultation with the Executive Leadership Team and the Daughters of Charity, has decided to close the STRTP effective August 5, 2020.** Sadly, this means we will also need to terminate the employment for many of our Associates.

Over the next 60 days, we will work closely with the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services, the Department of Mental Health as well as the Probation Department to make sure the residents in our care are transferred to the most appropriate settings. We will also work closely with staff to provide support and employment services.

Maryvale continuously assesses its programs and operations, and now, in conjunction with our board, staff, supporters, the County and other stakeholders, we will update our overall strategic plan and chart a new path forward for the agency to serve the community. As part of this process, we hope to hear your thoughts on Maryvale's future. We also hope, in accordance with our Core Values of Advocacy for the Poor and Compassionate Service, that the State, County and other service providers take note and learn from our experience with the STRTP to make policy changes that improve how we all serve California's youth.

Unchanged is our enduring Mission: to heal, empower and educate children and families to instill hope for a more fulfilling future in an environment of dignity, love and respect.

My door is open to you during this time, and always.

Blessings,

Steve Gunther, MSW
President & CEO

PS. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Serena Bernolak, Director of Development, at 626/537-3364 or sbermolak@maryvale.org.