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Logistics!

So now for the big question: How to reconstruct five households in an occupied building? Way back at the idea stage, that question was the biggest and most important concern for all of us—board, staff, and design team. Now that we are ready to launch our long-awaited project, we will need to begin to vacate the first household, to make it ready for its transformation.

The construction process will go as follows: Mesquite Suite first, which is on the second floor on the north side. That unit will take the most time—because it is first, and because the patio work will also take place at that time. Work will proceed upward on the North side, to Azalea then to Monarch, then over to Bluebonnet on the second floor south side, then up to Cardinal.

Once finished, each household will need to be inspected and relicensed by DADS, residents will move in, and the whole process begins on the next unit. We expect the first phase of the project to take three to four months to complete, from inception to licensing, so we will have our first “move in” sometime in February. The additional households should take less time—eight to twelve weeks each.

Our administrator Joey Berck and the whole team have worked on a plan for emptying the Mesquite Suite, and although it does involve relocating at least some residents in each of our suites, much care has been taken to consider the best room locations for each of those who will need to be moved. Personalities, health and emotional challenges, and roommate matches have all been well-considered, to create as peaceful and successful a transition as possible. We know that each of you will have some anxiety about these moves, and we fully understand your concerns. Over the next two weeks, our team will be contacting each of you directly, to discuss your loved one’s relocation (if any), answer any questions, and to make a plan for each person’s move to their new room.

Together we can make this most challenging part of our project a success. We’ll share more next week, and in the meantime let us know if you have any questions.

Susan Farris, Executive Director

PS: You will be receiving a customer survey in the mail very soon. Please take time to fill it out—it is a customer expectations survey—slightly different from satisfaction, and designed to provide us with guidance in your expectations, which will be very helpful as we finish our plans and prepare to train staff for their new roles. Timing this during room moves is perhaps not the smartest thing I ever did, but we do need and appreciate your input, so thanks in advance!