Dear IAHSS Members,

As the 2020 President, I am honored and humbled to follow a long line of former Presidents. On behalf of myself and the members of the IAHSS Board of Directors, I want to let all of you know that there are many of us praying for you - and those you serve on a daily basis. Although it has been stated in many ways, I want to reiterate that these are unprecedented times around the world.

Stresses on the healthcare workers and providers only adds to the anxiety and fear of the unknown. Today, as always, we are all pulling together and there is comfort in knowing we are working towards the same goal - excellence in healthcare security, safety and emergency management.

The U.S. military is sending field hospitals to various states. The field hospitals are capable of providing additional beds and can be deployed in a matter of days. Two of the U.S. Navy’s hospital ships, the USNS Comfort based in Norfolk and the USNS Mercy based in San Diego, are being prepared to deploy and assist. Both of these scenarios provide for additional medical bays that are close together, but it is not ideal for treating potentially infectious diseases. The goal is for the military to be utilized to reduce the strain placed on hospitals by treating other ailments allowing the hospitals to focus on the potentially infected patient.

We know that local governments are taking drastic measures to provide additional physical security assistance by supplementing hospital security services with local law enforcement. Remember your colleagues, your front lines, and your families. Everyone’s mental wellness is just as critical right now as social distancing and physical wellness. Be aware of the increase in calls to suicide hotlines across the nation due to isolation and anxiety over the COVID-19 pandemic and know the warning signs for suicide. Intervene early when needed. The website, www.ReportingOnSuicide.org offers tips, and the U.S. National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is 800-273-TALK.

In Canada, Crisis Services Canada is 833-456-4566. Recognizing a need, local citizens have started a movement called “caremongering” with the intent of forming local networks to help each other in their local communities with mental wellness being one concern. In less than a week, they boast more than 30,000 members between them. A great initiative of how people are helping people.

Kevin Hall, author of “Aspire” writes, “Your gifts are not about you; Leadership is not about you; Your purpose is not about you. A life of significance is about SERVING those who need your gifts, your leadership, your purpose.”

YOU embody the philosophy of a servant leader. You have the ability to empower and uplift your team members and communities. This leads to building ownership within your teams, increased trust, more engagement, and strong long-lasting relationships.

I personally want to thank ALL of you for your continued servant leadership.

Respectfully,

Roy Williams III, MBA, CHPA
President, IAHSS