

FROM: Tom McAlvanah  
DATE: 3/25/2020  
SUBJECT: 4 PM Call

Hi all,

Here is today's news:

There is still optimism on the part of OPWDD for the agreement on the Appendix K waiver that include the Day Hab and other regulatory waivers. OPW is still looking at the authorities that fall under the 1915 K, the newly submitted 1135, the 1915 waivers and what CMS, who is also issuing preliminary and general direction for these applications by all the States, is asking; at this point in the process, they are seeking mostly technical and not substantive answers to questions for New York's application.

**Day Hab:** yesterday there was the Webinar on filling out the Template, and those who needed to sit in most likely did; Wini has again shared the Power Point with the Day Services Committee; the interim guidance for billing Day Hab was also issued yesterday. More to come there.

**Four Guidance memos issued:**

COVID-19 Interim Guidance Related to General Management of COVID-19, Staffing Guidance, Respiratory Illness, and Article 16 Clinic Management. Most are more general in nature and speak to the most optimal conditions for procedures to follow during the crisis.

**Other service areas:** the Providers and CCOs raised the level of urgency about finalizing the concerns for many of you about Community Hab, Respite and Self Direction. We asked them to consider some relief as many of the staff are beginning to seek other employment opportunities; families are getting beyond frustration, and failure to act quickly will jeopardize the people who need those services. They heard us and are looking into it. No comment needed.

**Recoupment payments from 7/1/19 rates:** OPW acknowledged that they are working on a plan to temporarily suspend the recoupments. However, they also suggested that when the recoupments restart, they would seek to capture their "lost payments" in less revenue cycles. We will need to have more discussion with them there.

**Fingerprinting:** OPW is working with DCJS on identifying certain hot spots around the State where on-boarding of newly hired staff is being held up without the fingerprint clearance. Under consideration is a mobile fingerprinting unit that will travel and process hiring candidates. Working on that over the next few days.