

DATE: 3.28.2020

OPWDD briefly mentioned the interim guidance related to essential personnel including DSPs returning to work following the COVID-19 Infection and their releases from home isolation.

They are:

[Protocols for Essential Personnel to Return to Work Following COVID-19 Exposure or Infection](#)

[Health Advisory: Updated Protocols for Personnel in Clinical and Direct Care Settings to Return to Work Following COVID-19 Exposure or Infection](#)

[Health Advisory: COVID-19 Release From Home Isolation](#)

Emergency Housing: OPW is asking providers to consider the opening of Emergency Housing opportunities or centers to provide housing support for individuals who may have the COVID-19 virus but may be ready to be released from a hospital. The desire is to develop these settings as a community resource and “decompress the inpatient hospital units.” Kerri Neifeld from the Governor’s office joined the conversation and indicated that there may be options for people who live with their families as well as IRAs. Abiba Kindo will be finalizing the proposal that will be reimbursed under Intensive Respite.

Regional Office Crisis Response: Abiba also spoke to the development of two crisis teams in each Regional Office. One team will respond to issues surrounding housing due to the COVID-19 virus; the other will respond to other emergency housing needs from the community unrelated to the health crisis. More to come there.

PPEs: nothing new here, but again Kerri Neifeld joined the conversation stating that she and OPWDD are speaking with the Department of Homeland Security about our needs. It was still a case of the shortage that pits our needs against that of primary health care, especially hospitals. She stated that they are continuing to press there. They will also look at issuing additional Guidance that mirrors the DOH issuance on maximizing the use of PPEs.

COVID-19 Contact Tracing Form: we successfully reached agreement with OPW who worked with DOH to have a more streamlined process, eliminating the forms and gathering information by phone. They will also seek to have one primary contact for the agency should the need to contact and follow up. We have asked for final guidance and were appreciative of the efforts that Leslie Fuld and others made to streamline our communications.

Other unresolved issues include the Criminal Background and Fingerprinting requirements; the PAs are working on that one and will seek to elevate the request to the Executive Chamber.

Another is the rate setting issues including an enhanced Residential payments (the 6 extra hours during the day).

Lastly, the issue of minimum staffing requirements and the reporting needed to send to OPW was mentioned. This one will be taken up more at tomorrow’s meeting.

Also for the agenda tomorrow is Supported Employment.

Good Saturday Evening,
Tom