

DATE: 3.30.2020

Hi All,

Today this was a short call. Joining in were some of the Family Associations as well as SANYS. Kate Marlay continues her deliberations with CMS about Day Hab Retainer Days, with the hope of creating a similar construct for SEMP, Article 16s and other services. As of now, we are still on hold.

Emergency Housing: Abiba reported that she will be sending out a document possibly by today, that lists conditions for setting up emergency housing for individuals returning from the hospital who are still positive and recovering from the virus. There are still issues concerning a second group up of folks who go to the ER with symptoms and are sent back home to recover at the certified residence. The PAs and the CCOs believe that this population should also be included for this emergency housing option at the same Intensive Respite rate as those coming from an inpatient hospital stay. The population of people living with their families is another consideration that is being developed. We are sending a correspondence to the Governor that articulates the dire need for staffing and an adequate reimbursement to the providers capable of opening such housing. Our residences and vacant Day Hab properties are now being seen as the community resource for people in these circumstances. The point was made that our staff are now acting as primary health providers as the people we support, and they as well, are testing positive.

OPWDD website: Jennifer O'Sullivan reported on the new look of the website and asked if people would weigh in on the content, layout and ease of use.

NYS Budget: no news here as the OPW budget may proceed with no new resources added, a "status quo" budget according to Kevin.

COVID-19 Contact form: again, we have worked with OPW to remove the volumes of paperwork where we can, and they have responded in this instance. A guidance document should be issued tomorrow that will provide an overview of the phone interview process that OPW investigators will undertake as we report new positive cases of the virus and the levels of Quarantine or Isolation the individuals and staff are under. OPW has also repurposed their Investigators from IMU to track and communicate about the virus outbreaks and collect the necessary data. Speaking of data, we have asked Roger and the Commissioner to share their data collection so far, and a more formal request from NYDA will ask for the number of positive cases as well as deaths resulting from the virus. As they respond or not to this request, we may develop our own survey, via Survey Monkey to see what it is we are facing statewide in our community.

That's it for tonight. The next meeting with OPWDD is scheduled for Wednesday. I'll keep you posted as information comes in.

Good evening all,

Tom