

From: Tom McAlvanah
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2020
Subject: OPWDD COVID-19 Update

Good evening all,

Firstly, the release of updated Hospital Visitation guidance was made available and copied here:

https://opwdd.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/04/doh_covid19_hospitalvisitation_4.10.20.pdf

The issue of concern over the possible discrimination in care for people with developmental disabilities trying to access care and life sustaining treatment was raised. Roger was aware and noted that it was under discussion with DOH.

Weekend and nightly communication by individuals and families to the Regional Offices: Abiba outlined the process for people to contact their offices. The Regional Offices are opened and staffed with a reduced staff present as well as at work remotely. During evenings and weekends, people are asked to contact the OPWDD emergency number: (855) 696-7933. The Regional Office Directors state their continued work for those experiencing behavioral challenges with outreach by their START teams. The CCOs also stated their ability to be the first call for families during emergencies to help facilitate the contact with the Regional Offices.

Contact Tracing: Leslie Fuld spoke to their meetings with DOH in securing sufficient information about the individuals and staff who contract the virus. She acknowledged that she heard loud and clear from the providers that there needs to be a streamlined format for reporting this necessary information. She asked us to view the Interim Guidance that should be released tonight or tomorrow. We'll see the results then won't we.

Data: OPW will be reporting on a weekly basis to this group about the toll the virus is taking on people in our system. As of yesterday, 1,898 people in our service system had tested positive with virus or are presumed positive. Sadly, 173 people have died related to the virus. During the discussion, the question was asked to include the number of staff similarly affected. Roger will bring that request to DOH.

Fiscal Update: Kevin Valenchis briefed the group about progress in moving the various rate packages. The enhanced IRA rates are loaded into the system, but still need the final approval from the Medicaid examiners at DOB. The final package that includes the 2% increases for both 1/1 and 4/1/20 are awaiting the DOB sign off as well. The IRA rates should be next week; Kevin expects the 2% increases to follow maybe the following week.

Questions from families and self advocates:

A number of questions from families were addressed. One related to providing notification to families who have loved ones in a residence where a person has tested positive or is presumed positive. The family does have the right to know that a person is positive but not the identity of the person. Other questions followed and OPW will be issuing additional protocols on isolation and quarantine in residential facilities next week.