

From: Tom McAlvanah

Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 8:34 PM

Hi all,

Here is today's updates from OPWDD.

Day Hab Attestation/1115 Waiver: they are coming soon. Kate explained that they are close to finalizing the Attestation, hopefully this week. Work on the 1115 Waiver, which contains the allowances for day services in the ICFs and the Article 16 retainer payments, may be completed by next week.

Enhanced IRA rates: Kevin Valenchis was up first and let us know that the new enhanced rate package would be available for providers to view, via OPA, probably by COB Friday. Please keep an eye out for your agency's rates. These rates will be calculated based on the individuals who are in your IRA and attend another provider's Day Hab program. It will not be a simple calculation as most all agencies have a mix of individuals and each person's units of service are in the calculation.

Questions were asked of Kevin by a parent about the 2% cuts planned for 7/1/20. As Kevin spoke about the OPW spending plan, he received challenges about the spending that agencies were engaging including PPEs, hazard pay for staff and other extraordinary expenses. At that point, Paul Francis from the Executive Chamber referred to efforts by the State and Governor to push for funds from Washington.

Federal Stimulus Benefits: a review of the benefits that many of the people we support will receive as a result of passage of the Economic Impact Payment was provided. People with disabilities are eligible and will receive stimulus checks that will not impact limits on income or assets for 12 months. More to come and unpack about how the payments are received.

Testing: OPWDD continues to work on rolling out testing, initially for individuals in residential settings and for those who may have symptoms or have been exposed to the virus. As explained by Jill Pettinger, they are looking at testing on a 'risk stratification approach' and working with DOH as the challenges of testing supplies still remain an obstacle. They recognize that a long term systems approach is necessary as the presence of the virus is long term.

Discussion continued about the need for a comprehensive and aggressive approach for testing as we consider the mortality rates for this vulnerable population. While there was no policy forbidding an organization or anyone from accessing testing, the roll out for a broad based testing program is not there yet.